



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD



Virtual Meeting
March 9-10, 2021



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Agenda

March 9 & 10, 2021

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the March 9 & 10 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Phone:**
 - **March 9:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 8850 2829 5047 and password: 840503
 - **March 10:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 825 6305 3198 and password: 426566
- The board book (eBook) is available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/about-us/Pages/board/meetings.aspx>
- For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

Written and verbal public comment

OWEB encourages public comment on any agenda item.

Written Comments

Written comments should be sent to Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov. Written comments received by Friday, March 5 at 5:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Item C) at approximately 8:50 am. on March 9 and (Agenda Item M) at approximately 8:25 a.m. on March 10. In order to provide verbal comment, you must contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov, by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 8, and provide the following information:

- Your first and last name,
- The topic of your comment, and
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

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 December 16-17, 2020 virtual meeting will be presented for board approval. *Action item.*

C. Public Comment (8:50 a.m.)

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

D. Committee Updates (9:05 a.m.)

Written updates will be provided from board subcommittees. A verbal update will be provided from the DEI committee including the results of a recent board survey. *Information item.*

E. Director's Updates (9:35 a.m.)

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

F. Klamath Dam Removal (10:10 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Director Richard Whitman will update the board on the dam removal project and ask for a general indication of board support in the unlikely event that additional funding is needed to complete restoration work following dam removal. *Action item.*

G. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program Monitoring (11:05 a.m.)

Partnerships Coordinator, Andrew Dutterer, and Grant Program Manager, Eric Williams, will present Progress Tracking Reports for the Cohort 2 FIPs and answer questions from board members. *Information item.*

H. Food Security and Farmworker Safety Update (11:35 a.m.)

Tide Gate Coordinator, Jillian McCarthy, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator, Audrey Hatch, and Regional Program Representative, Coby Menton, will provide an overview of the Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program (FSFS). *Information item.*

I. Oregon Department of Transportation Fish Passage (12:45 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager, Eric Williams, will request that the board authorize the Executive Director to add \$100,000 in ODOT funds to an existing agreement for OWEB to distribute for watershed grants. *Action item.*

J. Telling the Restoration Story (11:55 p.m.)

Deputy Director, Renee Davis, and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator, Ken Fetcho, will share information about the Willow Creek Telling the Restoration Story project.
Information item.

K. Climate Change Considerations in Grant Making (12:00 p.m.)

Deputy Director, Renee Davis, and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator, Audrey Hatch, will request the board indicate their support for outreach to grantees and partners about OWEB's efforts to more fully address climate considerations across its grant programs.
Action item.

L. Strategic Implementation Areas (12:55 p.m.)

Acting Business Operations Manager, Courtney Shaff, will provide an overview of the status of the 2020 Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) and request technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring funding for the current slate of SIAs. *Action item.*

M. OS Grant Awards (1:15 p.m.)

Regional Program Representatives Katie Duzik, Mark Grenbemer, Liz Redon, Greg Ciannella, Sue Greer, and Coby Menton, and Grant Program Manager, Eric Williams, will provide an overview of the Spring 2020 Open Solicitation grant review and evaluation process and request funding for staff-recommended restoration, technical assistance, and open solicitation projects. *Action item.*

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

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Wednesday, March 10, 2021**N. Spending Plan Presentations (8:05 a.m.)**

Executive Director, Meta Loftsgaarden, will provide updates to the board on OWEB's 2021-2023 Spending Plan. The board will be asked to provide direction for staff moving forward with final options for the July 2021 meeting. *Information item.*

Meeting Rules and Procedures

Meeting Procedures

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

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

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

Voting Rules

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

General Business

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

Action on Grant Awards

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

Executive Session

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

More Information

If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call April Mack, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181 or send an e-mail to april.mack@oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise April Mack as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Barbara Boyer, *Board of Agriculture*

Molly Kile, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Mark Labhart, *Fish and Wildlife Commission*
Brenda McComb, *Board of Forestry*
Meg Reeves, *Water Resources Commission*
Jason Robison, *Board Co-Chair, Public (Tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Jamie McLeod-Skinner, *Public*
Randy Labbe, *Public*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *Board Co-Chair, Public*

Non-voting Members

Eric Murray, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Anthony Selle, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Ron Alvarado, *U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service*
Alan Henning, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Paul Henson, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
Dan Shively, *U.S Forest 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 – April Mack
april.mack@oregon.gov
503-986-0181

2021 Board Meeting Schedule

March 9 & 10, Virtual
July 27 & 28, Virtual
Oct 26 & 27, TBD

2022 Board Meeting Schedule

Jan 25 & 26, TBD

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

The Approach We Take

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

Our work is characterized by...

Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership

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

Using best available science supported by local knowledge

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

Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

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

Demonstrating impact through meaningful monitoring and evaluation

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

Reaching and involving underrepresented populations

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



OWEB Staff Culture Statement

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

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

December 16 & 17, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting

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

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT

Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Selle, Tony

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Fetcho, Ken
Forney, Miriam
Greer, Sue
Leopold, Kathy
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

ABSENT

Alvarado, Ron
Henson, Paul

OTHER

Bey, Marko
Brandt, Troy
Brick, Jim
Cupples, Jacqueline
Defrees, Dallas Hall
Fairbanks, Terry
Ferrell, Justin
McGinnis, Cheryl
Neider, Brandi
Nye, Brad
Tattam, Ian
Walz, Kristen

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:02:36)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies provided 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 (Audio = 0:54:18)

The minutes of the September 9, 2020 and October 30, 2020 virtual meetings were presented for board approval. *Action item.*

Jason Robison moved the board approve the minutes from the September 9 and October 30, 2020 virtual meeting. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment (Audio = 0:55:36)

Executive Director, Jan Lee, from Oregon Association of Conservation Districts addressed the role that DEQ is taking in land conservation and the work they are doing to build a coalition that would support the benefits of working in natural lands to help affect climate mitigation and adaptation. DEQ will review how offset programs (Alternative Compliance Instruments (ACI)) may be used to provide offsets from working lands that could comprise an ACI.

Four written comments were provided in lieu of oral comments addressing agenda item G, Spending Plan:

- Luckiamute Watershed Council (and agenda item H)
- Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (and agenda item H)
- Western Invasive Species Network
- West Multnomah SWCD

D. Committee Updates (Audio = 1:02:01)

Representatives from board subcommittees provided updates on subcommittee topics to the full board. *Information item.*

E. Director's Updates (Audio = 1:28:19)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and OWEB staff updated the board on agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information item.*

F. Budget and Legislative Updates (Audio = 2:15:17)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Deputy Director Renee Davis updated the board on the current biennium's revenues and staffing and the 2021-23 Governor's Recommended Budget. *Information item.*

G. Spending Plan Discussion (Audio = 2:37:50)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on the timeline for approval of the 2021-2023 spending plan, and requested the board provide general direction in terms of major spending plan category percentages. *Information item.*

H. 21-23 Council Capacity/Application Process (Audio = 3:15:42)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff provided an overview of the 2021-2023 biennium council capacity grant guidance and sought board approval of changes to the guidance. *Action item.*

Jason Robison moved the board approve the changes to the 2021-2023 council capacity grant program and guidance documents, as described in Attachments A through C of the December 2020 staff report. Gary Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) Funding (Audio = 3:06:35)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff provided an overview of the current status of the 2020 SIAs and requested funding for one SIA grant that is ready for implementation. *Action item.*

Gary Marshall moved the board award \$99,951 of funding for SIA grants and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds, through appropriate agreements with an award date of October 1, 2020. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHC) Appointments (Audio = 4:01:05)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams provided a recommendation to the board to reappoint Woody Wolfe and Lois Loop to the commission. *Action item.*

Jason Robison moved the board reappoint Woody Wolfe and Lois Loop to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission, as recommended by the Board of Agriculture, for four-year terms ending in January 2025. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

K. Land Trust Project Selection and Management & Easement Stewardship (Audio = 4:12:40)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Brad Nye, Conservation Director at Deschutes Land Trust, responded to board requests to better understand how land trusts determine which properties to invest in, and once legal interest is obtained, how conservation properties are stewarded. *Information item.*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

Thursday, December 17, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

L. Public Comment

None provided.

M. FIP Cohort 2-Board Presentations (Audio = 0:01:05)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer and FIP partners provided an update on Cohort 2 Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) initiatives that were awarded funding starting in the 2019-2021 biennium. *Information item.*

N. NRCS Funding to Support Local Delivery of Farm Bill Programs (Audio = 3:24:18)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff requested the board retroactively approve receipt of up to \$500,000 in federal funds from the NRCS to support local delivery of Farm Bill programs. *Action item.*

Mark Labhart moved the board approve receipt of \$500,000 from the NRCS to support local delivery of Farm Bill programs and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds, through the appropriate agreements with an award date of December 17, 2020. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

O. DEI Activity – Results of OWEB’s DEI Survey of Grantees & Board Next Steps (Audio = 3:28:56)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff, Sue Greer, Miriam Forney and Ken Fetcho provided an overview of the quantitative results of a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) survey of OWEB grantees and qualitative analysis of subsequent grantee interviews and discussed next steps for the board. *Action item.*

Bruce Buckmaster moved the board take the following actions: 1) commit that all board members will complete a DEI survey, 2) continue the DEI ad hoc committee to analyze survey results and determine strategic next steps, and 3) include DEI as a standing agenda item for all board and coordinating committee meetings. Meg Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

P. 2020 Fire Update (Audio = 4:32:35)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Small Grant Coordinator Kathy Leopold provided an update about OWEB’s recent Wildfire Response grant offering and the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force, which OWEB is co-convening at the request of the Governor’s Office to support post-wildfire recovery. *Information item.*

Q. Additional Funding for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance Grants (Audio = 4:48:05)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Coordinator Ken Fetcho requested the board approve receipt of funding from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in support of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) technical assistance (TA) grants. *Action item.*

Gary Marshall moved the board approve receipt of up to \$140,000 from Oregon Department of Forestry in support of the CREP Technical Assistance grants, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through the appropriate agreements with an award date of December 17, 2020. Mark Labhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

	2019-21 SPENDING PLAN for M76 & PCSRF Funds	July 1, 2019 Spending Plan	Mar 2021 additions	Spending Plan as of Mar 2021	TOTAL Awards To- Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To- Date	Mar 2021 Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after Mar 2021 awards
1	Open Solicitation:							
2	Restoration	31.200	5.031	24.233	15.945	8.288	8.288	0.000
3	Technical Assistance							
4	Restoration TA	3.100	0.774	3.265	1.966	1.299	1.299	0.000
5	CREP TA	1.125		1.163	1.163	0.000		0.000
6	Stakeholder Engagement	1.000	0.255	1.007	0.497	0.510	0.510	0.000
7	Monitoring grants	3.500		1.753	1.753	0.000		0.000
8	Land and Water Acquisition							
9	Acquisition	6.750		4.905	4.905	0.000		0.000
10	Acquisition TA	0.000		0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000
11	Weed Grants	3.000		1.631	1.631	0.000		0.000
12	Small Grants	3.300		1.500	1.500	0.000		0.000
13	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	1.278		0.760	0.760	0.000		0.000
14	TOTAL	54.253	6.060	40.217	30.120	10.097	10.097	0.000
15	% of assumed Total Budget	54.73%		48.79%				
16	Focused Investments:							
17	Deschutes	4.000		2.085	2.085	0.000		0.000
18	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habit	2.180		0.780	0.780	0.000		0.000
19	Harney Basin Wetlands	2.500		2.400	2.400	0.000		0.000
20	Sage Grouse	0.474		0.474	0.474	0.000		0.000
21	Ashland Forest All-Lands	2.000		2.000	2.000	0.000		0.000
22	Upper Grande Ronde	2.777		2.311	2.311	0.000		0.000
23	John Day Partnership	4.000		4.000	4.000	0.000		0.000
24	Baker Sage Grouse	1.715		1.343	1.343	0.000		0.000
25	Warner Aquatic Habitat	2.000		1.713	1.713	0.000		0.000
26	Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp	1.500		1.500	1.500	0.000		0.000
27	Clackamas Partnership	3.455		3.354	3.354	0.000		0.000
28	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.450		0.150	0.150	0.000		0.000
29	TOTAL	27.051	0.000	22.110	22.110	0.000	0.000	0.000
30	% of assumed Total Budget	27.29%		26.82%				
31	Operating Capacity:							
32	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	14.416		14.330	14.330	0.000		(0.000)
33	Statewide org partnership support	0.250		0.425	0.425	0.000		0.000
34	Organizational Collaboration	0.200		0.100	0.100	0.000		0.000
35	Partnership Technical Assistance	0.500		0.779	0.779	0.000		0.000
36	TOTAL	15.366	0.000	15.634	15.634	0.000	0.000	(0.000)
37	% of assumed Total Budget	15.50%		18.97%				
38	Other:							
39	CREP	0.750		0.750	0.750	0.000		0.000
40	Governor's Priorities	1.000		0.793	0.793	0.000		0.000
41	Strategic Implementation Areas	0.700	1.125	1.925	0.800	1.125	1.125	0.000
42	Natural Resource Emergency			1.000	1.000	0.000		0.000
43	TOTAL	2.450	1.125	4.468	3.343	1.125	1.125	0.000
44	% of assumed Total Budget	2.47%		5.42%				
45	TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	99.120	7.185	82.429	71.207	11.222	11.222	0.000
46	OTHER DIRECTED							
47	ODFW - PCSRF	11.690		11.690	11.690	0.000		0.000
48	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.321		0.321	0.321	0.000		0.000
49	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF			0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000
50	TOTAL	12.011	0.000	12.011	12.011	0.000	0.000	0.000
51	TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds	111.131	7.185	94.440	83.218	11.222	11.222	0.000

March 9-10, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Climate Committee Update

Committee Members

Bruce Buckmaster (Chair), Stephen Brandt, Alan Henning, Paul Henson, Brenda McComb, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Eric Murray

Background

The Climate Committee met on January 7, 2021 to review of action items/next steps from previous discussions; take a deeper dive into climate and/or resilience related questions in OWEB's current grant applications; get grounded in sequestration 'return on investment' for different climate actions; discuss adaptation co-benefits for different climate actions in which OWEB invests now; and explore how OWEB can 'lean into' climate action with OWEB investments.

High-Level Summary of the Discussion

The committee discussion of these topics was robust and wide ranging. Regarding how climate information might be reflected in/integrated into OWEB's grant programs:

- Grant applications could lay out three scenarios of emissions levels (pointing applicants to where information exists re: associated impacts) and ask applicants to describe how different emissions levels are expected to impact ecosystems in their project area and how their project will address this. The committee acknowledged that downscaling for all models is not complete, but some early opportunities to use these models exist.
- Building upon the previous bullet, grant applications could include a more generic question about how systems are projected to change due to climate and how proposed projects address this.
- Climate questions in applications should give applicants the opportunity to address both climate impacts (e.g., adaptation) considerations, and the sequestration benefit (e.g., planting projects that sequester carbon).
- Upcoming 5-year status reviews by NOAA will result in better articulation of climate impacts in federal recovery plans, which could then be integrated into FIP program priorities and solicitations.

Regarding timing for incorporating climate related information into OWEB's grant applications:

- Climate related questions could be incorporated into applications initially to encourage applicants to consider climate impacts and benefits in project planning and communicate to applicants OWEB's intent to ultimately add evaluation criteria that address climate considerations. The committee discussed the importance of not delaying incorporation of climate considerations into OWEB's grant-making, while being mindful of providing time for the necessary outreach to partners.
- Applicant/grantee outreach on this topic will be important, so that partners 1) know about this work by the board committee and 2) understand where/how to access information to support incorporation of climate considerations. (See Agenda Item K.)

The committee discussed other important topics such as:

- Grounding climate considerations in the requirements and expectations of different funding sources (e.g., Measure 76 funding, PCSRF funding); and

- Exploring how current evaluation criteria can account for climate considerations, while planning for longer term updates (e.g., administrative rule reviews and rulemaking) (e.g., for restoration OARs) to more meaningfully incorporate climate considerations in OWEB's grant-making.

As follow-up to the committee meeting, staff will be drafting a work plan that articulates areas of work between now and end of the 2019-21 biennium (e.g., connections to current work regarding natural and working lands and impacted community/climate equity with the Oregon Global Warming Commission under Climate Executive Order 20-04, development of climate related questions for grant applications), given reduced staff capacity), and looks toward areas of climate work moving into the 2021-23 biennium.

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

renee.davis@oregon.gov or 971-345-7231

March 9-10, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Jason Robison, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Tony Selle

Background

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee met January 28. The committee reviewed a draft of the board DEI survey and provided feedback to staff.

Summary of Discussion

Board DEI Survey

Courtney Shaff shared a draft of the survey with the committee prior to the meeting. The committee discussed the draft and provided feedback to staff, who included the suggested edits in the final version of the survey.

The board DEI survey was emailed out to all board members on Friday, February 5. The survey closed on Monday, February 22. All eighteen board members completed the survey. Staff will share the results of the survey at the March board meeting.

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Tony Selle, committee member

Staff Contact

Courtney Shaff, Acting Business Operations Manager

Courtney.Shaff@Oregon.gov, 503-986-0046

March 9-10, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Focused Investment Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Tony Selle (Chair), Bruce Buckmaster, Randy Labbe, Mark Labhart, Gary Marshall

Background

The Focused Investment Committee met on January 20, 2021 to discuss the FIP portion of the 2021-2023 spending plan, the proposed 2021-2023 FIP Solicitation Schedule, post-Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) reporting, and the proposed virtual FIP gathering.

FIP Portion of the 2021-2023 Spending Plan

Staff previewed the FIP spending plan line items to be presented to the board in March. Focused Investment line items include Implementation FIPs and FIP Effectiveness Monitoring. If the board maintains the proposed 26% of the spending plan in FIP investments, this will allow for full funding of the 11 cohort 1 and 2 FIPs plus an additional \$10 million for a cohort 3 solicitation. This is based on the November lottery revenue forecast; we will receive new forecasts in February and May, which may change funding availability.

Proposed FIP Solicitation Schedule

The committee reviewed the tentative solicitation schedule, which is planned to open in July 2021 and result in board awards in July 2022. The committee noted that the number of new FIPs is dependent upon available revenues, and that increased revenues will allow for funding more FIPs while staying within the board's desired percentage of the spending plan. Ten partnerships engaged in preliminary conversations prior the 2020 solicitation being paused, and it is expected that many of these partnerships will be interested in applying in 2021. Several of the current FIPs are discussing new applications as well. In addition, there is interest from several coastal partnerships in applying to become implementation FIPs.

Post-FIP Reporting

The committee reviewed the anticipated timeline for project completion of cohort 1 FIPs. Ashland and Tri-County sage-grouse are likely to be the first FIPs to complete project implementation, in 2023, which will drive the timeline for post-FIP reporting. Reporting should build on the outputs reporting included in Progress Tracking Reports to include outcomes reporting based on available information. Costs for post-FIP reporting also needs to be determined. Further discussion on this topic will occur at a joint FIP/Monitoring committee meeting in the spring.

Virtual FIP Gathering

Staff noted that dates are set for two virtual FIP Gathering sessions, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm on February 23 and March 30.

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047

March 9-10, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Monitoring Committee Update

Committee Members

Alan Henning (Chair), Stephen Brandt, Molly Kile, Brenda McComb

Background

The Monitoring Committee met on January 13, 2021 to debrief from the December 2020 board meeting; check in regarding status of ongoing projects; discuss the 2021-23 board spending plan and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) monitoring; discussion coordination with the board Climate Committee; and hear a brief introduction to Klamath monitoring, as follow-up from December board meeting.

December 2020 Board Meeting Debrief

The debrief of the December board meeting began with Alan Henning providing additional information regarding the Stage 0 monitoring workshop that was held in November 2020. He noted the large and diverse attendance, the excellent presentations, and the helpful identification of both available information and remaining questions. The committee discussed a potential role for OWEB in helping to establish a communication network on this topic. Staff will consider this idea during scope of the 2021-23 workplan for OWEB's monitoring efforts.

Monitoring in the 2021-23 Board Spending Plan

The discussion turned to the 2021-23 spending plan, and potential priority areas for monitoring investments. One idea was using Telling the Restoration Story' funding to assess how restored areas responded to the 2020 wildfires. The group discussed connections between FIP monitoring and interest among the committee regarding monitoring interests related to climate. The committee asked staff to be on watch for good opportunities to marry these topics. The group then revisited the concept of post-FIP reporting, which would allow FIPs that have completed their official three biennia of involvement in the program to continue to report to OWEB about progress related to implementation objectives and ecological outcomes through time. Committee members provided helpful feedback about considerations such as being clear about expectations for content (e.g., using FIP Progress Tracking Reports as a model for post-FIP reporting). The committee sees value in OWEB investing resources for FIP partnerships to continue to synthesize data and information about progress and the importance of this information to informing ongoing adaptive management. The committee noted that partnership capacity could affect the ability to engage in and the quality of post-FIP reporting. The committee flagged two key follow-ups for staff as the concept is further refined: reach out to local partners to better understand resource needs (and use this understanding to scope the funding amount available); and think about the cadence for reporting for different FIPs relative to system responses (i.e., not all habitats/ecoregions respond at the same pace).

Coordination with the Board Climate Committee

Staff updated the committee members (most of whom also serve on the climate committee) about the climate committee discussion. In preparation for a joint discussion of the two

committees about estimation and monitoring related opportunities regarding climate impacts and benefits, the members flagged several possible work areas including, but not limited to: 1) better accounting by the agency for the climate impacts, like emissions, of implementation by grantees in tandem with an estimation of offset potential from actions that are implemented with OWEB funds, like plantings; 2) addition of questions in grant applications to prompt applicants to begin thinking about emissions and sequestration issues; and 3) addition of application questions regarding the climate adaptation benefits a project might deliver.

Staff will work on drafting information for the committee that lays out:

- Existing monitoring investments in status and trends that could help inform climate impacts through time; and
- Existing monitoring investments that address climate-specific questions (e.g., blue carbon).

Introduction to Klamath Monitoring Activities

In response to a question asked at the December 2020 board meeting regarding monitoring in advance of Klamath River dam removal, Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator, provided a brief overview of work that is underway. The committee asked to be kept updated about the broader Klamath dam removal discussions, including the contingency agreement and monitoring.

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

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March 9-10, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Ad hoc Water Committee Update

Committee Members

Jamie McLeod-Skinner (Chair), Ron Alvarado, Barbara Boyer, Molly Kile, Eric Murray, Gary Marshall

Background

The committee received a report on work of a state agency 'water funding' team, and received a briefing on a legislative concept that agencies are working on with the Governor's office related to equitable participation in water decision-making at the community level. The committee then spent the remainder of the meeting discussing what the most important roles should be for the committee and board related to water and Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision.

State Agency Water Funding Committee

Eric Williams discussed the work of state agencies to increase coordination around water infrastructure funding - both built and natural. The agencies have developed an internal matrix to help identify where opportunities exist to coordinate funding by project type (e.g., wastewater, water storage, sourcewater protection, etc.). This information will be combined with conversations with applicants for water funding to determine what they see as opportunities for increased coordination and barriers to receiving funding. Feedback approaches may include surveys, focus groups or other means. Committee members identified the importance of making sure that natural infrastructure is fully included in the conversation. Finally, Eric discussed work being done by Willamette Partnership to analyze how effective Oregon has been at receiving federal funds for water-related infrastructure. Staff will provide the committee with the Willamette Partnership analysis when complete.

Water Equity Legislative Concept

Meta Loftsgaarden provided draft language for a water equity legislative concept that is being developed in coordination with the Governor's office. The goal is for agencies who provide water project funding (i.e., OHA, DEQ, OWEB, WRD, Business Oregon) to clearly be able to fund planning that includes expanded ways to engage stakeholders in the planning process. Feedback from the committee included making sure to include needs such as translation services in best practices and working with impacted communities to develop best practices that, in practicality, work to enable community members to engage. Board members also suggested considering the development of outcome measures to help agencies focus on what success would look like in this area. The final bill text will be provided when it is available.

Committee Role

Committee members discussed a variety of potential roles the committee, and the board, could serve related to water investments and Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision. The committee will continue conversations, with the goal of having this as an agenda item at the July board meeting. Generally, the committee discussed taking a deep dive into the environmental goal of the water vision and with the following concepts:

- Providing encouragement to the state agencies to consider cross-agency decision-making structures when funding water projects. This could tie well with the water funding team discussed at the meeting.
- Providing examples of what the agency already does/funds that support the water vision
- Thinking through whether the board might want to consider any ecological priorities related to water for project proposals based on input from the water vision
- Identifying gaps and how those gaps could be filled – either through OWEB funding or a different approach – this is where having board members who represent multiple organizations is helpful.

Staff Contact

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

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March 9-10, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-1 Granting Approach Update

This report provides the board an update to the granting approach transitioning into the 2021-23 biennium.

Background

When granting was paused and the spending plan rebalanced in 2020, the board decided to operate on a “checkbook” basis, awarding grants only with cash on hand. It will be helpful for OWEB grantees to understand how granting will be approached in the new biennium.

Granting Approach in 2021-23

The board awards some grants, such as council and district capacity grants, at the beginning of the biennium. While funds for these grants may not be in hand at the beginning of a biennium, the board-adopted spending plan is based on funds included in the state budget, which is based on the official revenue forecast. Since grants are paid on a reimbursement basis, revenue “catches up” to grant awards during the course of the biennium. The current revenue forecast is sufficient for robust grant making in 2021-23; however, lottery revenue could decline if lottery machines are shut down again.

Staff are confident that the board can proceed on a more typical basis in 2021-23, awarding capacity grants up front for the biennium and planning for awards on a schedule similar to pre-pandemic cycles for the remaining programs. This will allow for adaptation sufficient to accommodate reductions if needed.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager, at eric.williams@oregon.gov or 971-345-7014.

March 9-10, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-2 2020 Annual Tribal Report

This report provides an update about the agency's development and distribution of the 2020 Annual Tribal Report that describes how OWEB engaged and fostered relations with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe in 2020. The 2020 Annual Tribal Report has been submitted to the Legislature Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) and Governor's Office.

Background

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 182.166 (3) requires OWEB to submit an annual report by December 15 to the LCIS and the Governor's Tribal Liaison, that must describe; the policy developed and implemented to establish and promote relations with tribes; the names of the individuals who are responsible for developing and implementing programs that affect tribes; the effort made to promote communication between the state agency and the tribes and government-to-government relations between the state and tribes; the process established to identify the programs that affect tribes; a description of training attended; and the method established for notifying employees of legislation detailing Oregon's relationship with tribes and the agency's tribal policy.

2020 Annual Tribal Report

The 2020 Annual Tribal Report includes a description of the following:

- Agency overview to identify the key contacts responsible to establish and promote relations with tribes and a description of OWEB;
- Tribal participation in OWEB's Board and grant programs;
- Promotion of communication between OWEB and tribes, and
- Training for staff to learn more about the provisions of legislation detailing Oregon's relationship with tribes.

The annual report also includes a summary of the amount of funding OWEB has provided to tribes in 2020 and includes the amount of funding that tribes have contributed to grants through match that closed in 2020. Last year, OWEB did not provide any grants to tribes in the Open Solicitation grant offering. However, tribes received four grants for a total of \$1,062,432 through the John Day Basin Focused Investment Partnership (FIP). Across all grant programs, tribes provided approximately \$371,595 in cash and \$304,262 in in-kind support to OWEB grants that were completed in 2020.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Ken Fetcho, Tribal Liaison, at ken.fetcho@oregon.gov or 971-345-7081 or Metal Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov or 971-345-7022.

Attachment

- A. 2020 Annual Tribal Report



2020 Annual Tribal Report

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



Agency Overview

Key Contact

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Tribal Liaison

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

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

Tribal Policy

In 2018, OWEB completed its process and revised its tribal policy with LCIS and tribal input. In 2020, OWEB’s tribal liaison and director continued to work together to communicate the intent of OWEB’s Tribal Policy and how staff can work effectively with tribes.

Summary of Programs and Process for Involving Tribes

OWEB works closely with tribes and involves them in programs and decision-making processes at all levels of the organization. The following sections describe the agency’s interactions during 2020 with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe that occupies lands in Idaho and Oregon.

OWEB Board and Grant Programs Tribal Participation

Board Membership

The Governor appoints a tribal representative as a voting member of the OWEB Board. The position currently is occupied by Jason Robison, Tribal Programs Officer of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

The tribal representative helps identify opportunities for collaboration and ensures the OWEB board and staff is aware of their responsibilities to involve and consider tribal interests. Robison is fully engaged in this process and actively participates on various committees and currently serves as the Board’s co-chair to provide vital input and leadership.



Photo 1. Middle Fork John Day River, location where in 2020, restoration began by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Grant Program

Grant Applicants

OWEB grants are available to a broad range of entities, including tribes [ORS 541.375(1)]. **Since 2006, OWEB has awarded just over \$8,400,000 in grants to tribal governments.** In addition to eligibility on their own, tribes are often members of, or partners with, local

watershed councils. Oregon statute describing watershed councils (ORS 541.388) specifically identifies “federally recognized Indian Tribes” as potential members of local watershed councils. Tribes are a critical partner in watershed restoration in Oregon and often contribute vital match funds to grants that our grantees such as watershed councils and SWCDs receive. In 2020, there were 22 completed grants that included tribal contributions. **Across all grant programs, tribes provided \$371,595 in cash and \$304,262 of in-kind support to OWEB grants in 2020.**

Small Grant Program

In OWEB’s Small Grant program (OAR Chapter 695, Division 35), tribes are eligible to be members of Small Grant Teams in each of the state’s 28 Small Grant areas. These Small Grant Teams have access to \$100,000 per biennium to recommend grants of up to \$15,000 for watershed restoration projects. Other team members include watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts. All small grant teams have reorganized the composition of their Teams for the 2019-2021 biennium. Representatives of all nine federal recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe serve on 20 of the 28 Small Grants Teams. This number has increased from 15 to 20 over the last biennium and is likely due to the increased outreach OWEB completed in 2019 before the new biennium began. There are some tribes that sit on several small grant teams and some small grant teams that have more than one tribe participating together.

Regular Grant Program

The economic downturn associated with the COVID -19 pandemic has had financial impacts to OWEB. As a result, OWEB took several immediate actions to reduce costs. This includes staff reductions totaling one-third of the agency (in the form of transfers and reassignments with other agencies). Operating with fewer staff limited the ability to hold new grant cycles after the funding decisions were made on the applications received in October 2019.

There were no grants awarded to tribes through the Regular Grant Program in 2020. However, one grant was awarded to the Lomakatsi Restoration Project to perform oak habitat restoration on two sites in the Willamette Valley. One of those locations include Noble Oaks near Willamina in Polk County, on conservation lands owned and managed by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Normally, OWEB solicits grant applications twice a year through the Regular Grant Program. However, based on the financial impacts described above, the agency solicited for only one grant cycle in 2020. Applications were received in July 2020. Tribal agencies have submitted four applications in this cycle, which are currently under review. It is likely that our board will make funding decisions at the March 2021 Board meeting.

OWEB’s Regional Program Representatives (RPRs) have regular contact with appropriate tribal staff. They meet with interested tribes prior to grant application submission and throughout the life of each grant to ensure tribes can meet their goals and objectives. In addition, tribes often partner with watershed councils and soil and water conservation

districts (SWCDs) by helping manage the projects and at times receive funding to implement projects as contractors.

Regular Grant Program – 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. All six regional review teams have at least one tribal natural resource professional participating in the review process. In 2020, seven tribal agency representatives participated on OWEB Regional Review Teams, including representatives from the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Land Acquisition Grant Program

OWEB’s land acquisition grant program provides funding for projects that acquire an interest in land from a willing seller to address the conservation needs of priority habitat and species. OWEB notifies all tribes after a land acquisition application is received to solicit input in the decision-making process. In addition, OWEB notifies tribes once a recommendation has been made allowing tribes to provide additional input prior to the OWEB Board’s funding decision.

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. Similar to the land acquisition grant program, OWEB notifies tribes after a water acquisition grant application is received and once a recommendation has been made to allow multiple opportunities to provide input in the decision making process.



Photo 2. Granite Creek, site of future restoration that will be lead by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Focused Investment Partnership Program

In 2020, tribes continued to participate in the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program. The OWEB Board made the initial awards in the program in 2016.

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.

OWEB invested in five new Implementation FIPs in 2019. Among these, the Clackamas Partnership includes the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; and the John Day Basin Partnership includes the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, and the Burns Paiute Tribe. The technical review team for the John Day Basin Partnership FIP includes representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The FIP Program is another great opportunity for tribes to pursue and receive grant funding from OWEB. **In 2020, tribes received four grants for a total of \$1,062,432 through the John Day Basin FIP.** Tribes receiving these grants included the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

In 2019, the OWEB Board approved a new grant program, which evolved from the previously offered Development FIP grant program. The new Partnership Technical Assistance grants offer two tracks: 1) Partnership Development to produce or enhance a Strategic Action Plan and governance documents, and 2) Partnership Capacity to support strategic action plan coordination and implementation. Partnership Technical Assistance applications were received in October 2019 and in January 2020 OWEB awarded six Partnership TA grants. **Four of the six partnerships that received grants in 2020 include tribes as core partners.**

Other Grant Program Involvements

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs continues to be a key participant in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed and received additional funding this year to continue their important work in this long-term restoration monitoring effort.

OWEB staff also participates in the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP). The WWMP is the result of the State's 2010 agreement with Bonneville Power Administration for mitigation for the loss of fish and wildlife habitat due to the



Photo 3. John Schaefer (right), CTCLUSI biologist, working with Dr. Ben Clemens from ODFW on a lamprey monitoring project, co-funded by OWEB.

construction of 13 dams and reservoirs on major tributaries to the Willamette River from 1946-1964. Members from Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians participate in the WWMP, as they all have historic hunting, fishing, and trading areas in the Basin.

Promotion of Communication between OWEB and Tribes

Tribal Liaison

In conformance with OWEB's tribal policy, OWEB designated a staff person, Ken Fetcho, 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.

In 2020, OWEB's tribal liaison continued to emphasize the importance of OWEB's tribal policy to new employees and board members. Starting in 2019, each new employee and board member is briefed on the tribal policy and receives a copy of the current Annual Tribal Report.

The tribal liaison worked with Jennifer Karson-Engum to provide a tribal training at OWEB's All-Staff Meeting in November 2020. Jennifer is a cultural anthropologist and ethnographer for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Jennifer's presentation taught staff about the Tribe's traditional areas of use that spread across the Western United States and how the importance of the Cultural Resources being integrated into the Natural Resources Department. She highlighted their efforts to document the traditional place names for a wide geography in NE OR and SE Washington. This training was extremely valuable to help OWEB staff learn more about the importance of place names and the rich information they provide for the Tribes and the broader public.

Oregon Water Vision

OWEB has been continuing to work with the Governor's Natural Resources Office (GNRO) in communicating with tribes related to Oregon's 100-year Water Vision to prepare a secure, safe, and resilient water future for all Oregonians. In late 2019 and early 2020, OWEB coordinated with the GNRO to participate in individual water vision meetings with tribes to receive feedback regarding the importance of water and the unique connections each tribe has with water and water infrastructure. The Governor's budget has identified financial resources in the 2021-2023 biennium that include a position at OWEB to help move the Water Vision forward in the next biennium. Director Loftsgaarden participated in a Water Vision Panel at the Annual Tribal Summit to discuss the importance of continuing to work on implementing this Vision in 2021.

Tribal Coordination on Natural and Cultural Resource Recovery

OWEB is part of a team helping to facilitate conversations about natural and cultural resource recovery related to this year's wildfires. Following the 2020 fires, the state established a task force to address State Recovery Function 7 – Natural and Cultural Resources. While the task force has had participation from the State Historic Preservation Office, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services, it has been clear since its

establishment in October that a more focused conversation needed to occur with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon. The following is a summary of the structure that will be used to increase tribal engagement on natural and cultural resources across all fires.

Natural and Cultural Resource (NCR) Recovery Task Force – A letter was sent to each tribal chairman to invite an individual from the tribe to participate in the Task Force.

Tribal Work Group of the NCR Recovery Task Force – A formal work group was established in December 2020 under the Task Force to further address concerns and opportunities related to natural and cultural resources. The work group includes tribes, state and federal agencies and is convened by Danny Santos with LCIS, Keith Anderson (co-chair of task force) and Meta Loftsgaarden (co-convener of Executive Leadership group). The initial role of the group is to:

- Review assessments to determine if tribal cultural and natural resources are adequately reflected in the information provided.
- Identify best ways for tribes to participate in community-level conversations about fire recovery prioritization and investment
- Identify best ways to communicate with tribes about upcoming work on federal/state lands so tribes have the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to decision-making on public lands

As a result of the work group's first meeting, OWEB will be coordinating with the Oregon Department of Forestry to ensure interested tribes participate in reviewing assessments to include appropriate cultural and natural resource information in the synthesis for each fire.

Cultural Resources Protection Permits

OWEB continues to emphasize to grantees and grant project managers the importance of complying with regulations to protect cultural resources. OWEB grants pays for expenses to comply with cultural resource regulations to legally implement watershed improvement projects.

Focused Investment Partnership Ecological Priorities

At the end of 2019 OWEB staff initiated a process to reach out to tribes to seek their input prior to the OWEB Board approving the ecological priorities of significance to the State to be addressed by Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Initiatives. "At least every five years, the Board shall approve ecological priorities of significance to the State to be addressed by Focused Investment Partnership 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" (OAR 695-047-0030). Pursuant to this rule, OWEB staff and the focused investments committee of the board initiated an assessment of the FIP Priorities in fall 2018 with the intent of having revised Priorities in place by January 2020.

In order to seek tribal input, additional efforts were made to present the draft ecological priorities to the tribes to consider this proposal and provide oral and written comments. This process involved direct engagement with tribal NR leadership, by presenting at the Tribal

Natural Resources Workgroup to discuss each ecological priority and the areas of the state in they were being proposed. OWEB also made an effort to email the draft document to all of the tribes and extended the deadline by two months to receive feedback from tribes to allow them sufficient time to prepare their comments. This process assisted OWEB in ensuring the new priorities that were approved by the OWEB Board in January 2020 reflected culturally important considerations by incorporating information from Tribal restoration plans that identified priority areas for lamprey and bull trout.

Annual Tribal Summit and Tribal Work Groups

OWEB's Executive Director and tribal liaison attended the Virtual Annual Tribal Summit and training hosted on December 1 and 2 to engage and listen to tribal representatives to understand the issues that are important to them. The tribal liaison also began to co-chair the Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup meetings in 2020 along with his fellow co-chair Mike Wilson, Natural Resources Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. Their shared roles help to plan and convene regular meetings 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. This arrangement has helped OWEB's tribal liaison foster and develop a strong relationship with co-chair Wilson and they saw increased participation from tribes and state agencies in the workgroup in 2020. OWEB's tribal liaison will continue to co-chair the Workgroup in 2021 with the new Tribal co-chair, Audie Huber, from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Administrative Rules

In April 2020, the OWEB Board adopted revised administrative rules for both the Water Acquisitions and Monitoring Grant programs. Representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation participated on these Rulemaking Advisory Committees to assist us in developing administrative rules that are reflective of standards that tribes deem important.

Assessment of Grant Practices Impact to Tribes

OWEB is interested in performing a programmatic assessment of its granting practices to better understand if there are negative impacts to federally recognized tribes' ability to apply for and receive funds to meet their watershed enhancement goals and objectives. In 2020, OWEB initiated the planning phase of this assessment by developing a draft approach and recruiting a master's student from Portland State University (PSU) with the assistance of Dیره Callica and Rick Mogren from the Institute for Tribal Government at PSU. The tribal liaison will work with the Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup to communicate the intent of this program and contact tribes individually to schedule one-on-one interviews to better understand:

- if there is anything inherent in OWEB's granting practices (applicant eligibility, application review process, grant administration and reporting requirements) that creates a disadvantage to receive OWEB funding.
- the approach taken to decide if they should pursue OWEB funding and how that view might vary within a Tribe's organizational structure

- if they prefer to be the lead applicant or partner with another organization when applying for OWEB funds
- additional administrative or technical obstacles that create barriers to applying for and receiving OWEB funds.

This project will be implemented in 2021 and a final report that includes a recommendation of solutions to address any barriers/challenges will be shared with tribes.

Meetings with Tribes

The global pandemic affected OWEB’s ability to meet in person with the tribes in 2020. However, OWEB staff continued to work with technical staff from tribes on many levels to continue to administer grant funds for projects and respond to inquiries from them to develop and fund future watershed enhancement projects.

One effort that was greatly appreciated by OWEB included tribal participation on a Steering Committee to develop a workshop on stream restoration and monitoring. Stan Van Der Wetering, Supervising Fisheries Biologist for the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, provided his technical expertise to help develop the agenda and participated in the 2-day workshop. OWEB reached out to invite all the Federally Recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe to attend the workshop. In total 8 different tribes attended this workshop to share information and learn more about an innovative approach to restore streams to a more natural, pre-disturbance condition.

Tribal Cultural Items Survey

In 2020, OWEB’s tribal liaison worked to address the comments they received from the Task Force on Oregon Tribal Cultural Items on OWEB’s Cultural Items Survey Report. OWEB met with members of the Task Force to better understand how best to respond to their comments and discussed a concern the Task Force identified related to our grantees reporting information when they perform cultural surveys before a restoration project is initiated. The response to the Task Force’s comments was provided to tribal leaders and cultural resources staff for review on July 29, 2020. We look forward to their response as we tried to provide the information that was requested in a timely manner.

One of the pending items that has emerged from this effort is the Tribe’s review of the retention schedules with State Archives. While we understand that this conversation has been put on hold due to the pandemic and competing priorities, we do need to understand how Tribal comments will affect our retention schedule. We respectfully request that this task be addressed in 2021 and look forward to discussing how it will affect the way in which we manage our records over time.

It is through these interactions that relations are developed, and trust is built. OWEB looks forward to fostering these relationships in 2021 and in the years to come.



This report provides the board an update about the OWEB's 2019-21 budget situation, the legislative budgeting process, and initiation of the 2021 Legislative Session.

Background

As described at the December 2020 board meeting, Lottery revenues have continued to improve following the COVID related downturn that began in spring of 2020 and resulted in staffing reductions at the agency. Staff also updated the board about three staff members who were returning, effectively January 2021, from positions with the Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program. Finally, in December, staff briefed the board about the biennial budgeting process and release of the Governor's Budget in preparation for the 2021 legislative session.

OWEB's Budget for the Remainder of This Biennium

Lottery revenues that support a sizable portion of OWEB's budget during the remainder of the 2019-21 biennium are continuing to rebound. In early February 2021, OWEB received a lottery revenue distribution that totaled \$5.4 million for grants and \$.582 million for operations, both of which are approximately 55% of the amount anticipated prior to the revenue downturn. This amount was higher than what agency estimated had predicted under the 'worst-case scenario' planning last spring. This addition, combined with \$18 million held by the board, gives the board a total current grant funds balance of \$23.4 million, which is helping to support Open Solicitation awards at the March 2021 meeting. Remaining funds following the March awards, along with May 2021 distributions, will be applied to the 2021-23 spending plan. Also at the March meeting, staff will update the board about the state revenue forecast that will be released on February 24, 2021.

The 2021-2023 Budgeting Process

Oregon Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. At the December 2020 meeting, staff reviewed with the board the content of the Governor's Budget for OWEB. While the agency received some of requested positions, including a limited duration position to focus on climate and water policy issues, an administrative services position, and a tide gate coordinator position, two other limited duration positions requested were not included in the budget. In addition, the agency sustained other cuts, totaling approximately \$650,000. As a result, based on the Governor's Budget, the agency will need to continue to take substantial reductions in contracted services and other non-staff costs in its operating budget.

The budgeting process now transitions into the legislative process. During the 2021 legislative session, the first phase of the budgeting process—agency budget presentations during legislative hearings—occurs between February and May. OWEB's budget hearing is anticipated to occur during the late March to early April timeframe. As needed, additional discussion of budgetary issues may occur following the budget hearing. Work sessions with the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee may occur any time after agency budget hearings are completed. Staff will update the board as OWEB's budget progress through the legislative budgeting process. OWEB's budget is subject to change during the legislative budgeting process and is not considered final until the Legislatively Approved budget is passed by the legislature at the end of the 2021 session.

The 2021 Legislative Session

The 2021 session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly commenced on January 19, 2021. Staff developed two handouts that describe the agency and OWEB's budget request in Governor's Budget to provide to legislators during meetings with them (Attachments A and B). Over 2100 bills have been introduced during session thus far. Currently, OWEB is tracking 99 bills in the agency's top two tiers of priorities. Examples of Priority 1 bills that OWEB is tracking include (but are not limited to):

- HB 5037, OWEB's budget bill for the operations portion of the agency's budget;
- HB 5038, OWEB's budget bill for the grants portion of the agency's budget;
- HB 3160, which would establish an Oregon Wildfire Preparedness and Community Protection Fund and utilize OWEB for grant-making for a percentage of these funds; and
- HB 2257, which would allocated funding to the Oregon Water Resources Department for establishment of a Conservation Reserve Program focused on groundwater conservation in Harney County.

At the March 2021 board meeting, staff will provide an update about bills that are directly related to OWEB.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director / Legislative Coordinator, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 971-345-7231 or Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov or 971-345-7022.

Attachments

- A) "About OWEB" legislative handout
- B) OWEB budget handout



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Mission

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

About Us

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is a state agency that provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands, and natural areas. Community members and landowners use scientific criteria to decide jointly what needs to be done to conserve and improve rivers and natural habitat in the places where they live. The agency is led by a 18-member citizen board drawn from the public at large, tribes, and federal and state natural resource agency boards and commissions.

Cooperative Conservation

Since 1999, OWEB has provided more than 10,100 grants to local volunteer efforts to keep Oregon’s water clean and habitats healthy. The majority of the funds invested go directly to on-the-ground improvements of land and water such as native plantings, fish passage barrier removals, irrigation efficiencies, and other fish and wildlife habitat improvements that help protect land for future generations.

OWEB grants also support related activities such as:

- Development and design of projects
- Organizational capacity of local community groups
- Engaging landowners and stakeholders in conservation
- Data collection to determine effectiveness of the work

Statewide Total Grants (All Fund Sources from 1999 to December 2020): \$683,889,096



Dollar amounts are in millions

Primary Funding Sources

Constitutionally dedicated Oregon State Lottery revenues, congressionally appropriated Federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, and salmon license plate proceeds.

Local Economies and Communities Benefit

OWEB funds are used to pay those who design and implement projects, hire field crews, and buy goods and services they need to get the job done.



= 15 - 24 local jobs

According to a University of Oregon study, every \$1 million of OWEB investments creates 15-24 jobs in local communities across Oregon.



90¢ of each \$1 supports local economies

On average, more than 90¢ of every OWEB grant dollar supports local businesses, services, and suppliers within Oregon.



Results

OWEB has funded more than 10,100 grants since 1999, with which Oregonians have restored more than 6,100 miles of streams and have made more than 6,800 miles of habitat accessible for fish. The grants have helped landowners improve more than 1,305,700 upland habitat acres and restore, improve, or create more than 58,200 wetland or estuarine habitat acres.



Before river reconnection project



After project

River reconnection photos courtesy Coos Watershed Association

Contact

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360, Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
(503) 986-0178





Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board 2021-2023 Governor's Budget

Budget

Category	2019-2021 Legislatively Approved Budget	2021-23 Governor's Budget
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Lottery Funds	\$90,535,226	\$76,371,684
Other Funds	\$3,070,646	\$14,863,984
Federal Funds	\$45,304,270	\$48,011,159
Total Funds	\$138,916,142	\$139,246,827
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	35.00	32.00

Policy Packages – Recommended (including reductions)

REDUCTION - 070 – Revenue Shortfalls

Reduces current service level (CSL) to account for shortfalls in lottery revenues that began in the 2019-21 biennium and are anticipated to continue at some level in 2021-23. This includes elimination of 3 administrative FTE and reductions to services and supplies, including contracting funds used to operate OWEB grant programs. (\$1,077,928) (LF:Ops and FF)

REDUCTION - Statewide Adjustments (091, 092, 096, 097, 099)

Implements multiple reductions totaling nearly \$500,000, including elimination of standard inflation, increased vacancy savings, statewide adjustments to DAS charges and Attorney General rates, and elimination of costs associated Microsoft 365 consolidation. (\$448,343) (LF:Ops and FF)

125 – CSL Restoration

Restores a small portion of the expenditures reduced in POP 070 by establishing a new permanent Administrative Specialist (AS) 2 to assist with work previously completed by three (3) permanent administrative positions eliminated in POP 070. \$151,573 (LF:Ops)

110 – Program Enhancement, Water and Climate

Provides a limited duration OPA4 position and contracting resources to assist with coordination of water and climate initiatives, both of which are natural resources priorities for Governor Brown, while considering issues of equity and environmental justice. \$326,653 (LF:Ops)

120 – Tide Gate Coordinator

Creates a limited duration NRS4 position to expand partnerships with federal, state, and local partners to help plan, design, permit, and implement tide gate repair and replacement projects on the Oregon Coast and Lower Columbia River. The package will result in natural resources solutions that balance conservation and economics in rural communities. \$297,174 (FF)

210 – Additional Grant Funds – Federal Funds Limitation

Allows the agency to receive additional funding from Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund to support monitoring work by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in the Upper

Klamath Basin. OWEB is the lead applicant for PCSRF funds, and then distributes funding to ODFW. \$134,500 (FF)

220 – Additional Grant Funds – Other Funds Limitation

Allows the agency to receive additional Other Funds (\$6,000,000) to distribute as grants related to the 2016 Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement. OWEB will administer funds from PacifiCorp to address water-quality improvements in the Upper Klamath Basin, associated with the Klamath River dam removal. Also, allows the agency to receive additional Other Funds (\$1,000,000) from Idaho Power Company as part of relicensing of the Hells Canyon dam complex to address water-quality and salmonid habitat improvements in the lower sections of the Malheur and Owyhee river basins. \$7,000,000 (OF)

230 – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Grant Funds

Funding for grants to implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) to help landowners who want to keep their farms and ranches working for Oregon’s economy, healthy rural communities, and support healthy fish and wildlife populations, water quality, and other natural resources benefits. \$5,000,000 (OF)

200 – Carryforward of Grant Funds

Standard process to extend expenditure limitation for non-lottery fund grants that have been awarded and continue to be active. This package allows funds for these grants to be expended in the 2021-23 biennium. \$15,600,000 (FF/OF)

Policy Packages – Not Recommended

100-NRS-3 – Program Continuity – Conservation Outcomes Specialist

Limited duration; Assists in building structure for monitoring and reporting results of agency and partner investments in watershed restoration. Helps to implement coordinated monitoring, adaptive management and shared learning aspects of OWEB’s updated strategic plan. \$263,688 (LF: Ops)

100-NRS-4 – Program Continuity – Partnerships Coordinator

Limited duration; Manages work associated with Focused Investment Partnership program, which intends to scale up conservation to ensure progress toward quantifiable ecological outcomes. \$248,291 (LF: Ops)

100 – Program Continuity – Contracting Funds and Statewide Charges

Funding for personal service contracting, specifically to support a portion an Internal Auditor 2, through a shared services agreement with the Water Resources Department, and funding for statewide Microsoft 365 and state data center charges. The funding request of \$112,011 for package 100 contracted services was in addition to the contracted services that were previously included in CSL, but reduced in 070 by \$322,838 and not restored in 125. In 2021-23, the total reduction in contracted services is \$434,849 (LF:Ops)

115 – Coordinated Streamside Management

Request a limited duration NRS3 position to enhance the agency’s efforts to better evaluate and document the ecological return using data and results to inform the interagency Coordinated Streamside Management program, focused on monitoring of Strategic Implementation Areas in coordination with Oregon Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Quality. \$234,209 (LF:Ops)

March 9-10, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E4: Strategic Plan Update

This report provides an update about implementation of the 2018 strategic plan.

Background

At this and upcoming meetings, the board will be provided with both general updates on plan progress, and more detailed updates as needed on specific priority areas.

Strategic Plan Update

In June 2018, the board approved a new strategic plan. Beginning with the October 2018 board meeting, staff developed a template to track quarterly progress on strategic plan priorities.

Attached is the latest update of actions related to the strategic plan between December 2020 and February 2021. Other information on the strategic plan is also contained in the subcommittee updates.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at Meta.Loftsgaarden@oregon.gov or 971-345-7022.

Attachments

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Progress Report, December 2020 – February 2021

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Strategic Plan Progress

QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE: December 2020-February 2021

Priority 1 – Board awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

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

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- Oregon Lottery media campaigns have new stories every year of watershed work and progress.
- 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 Strategy that reach non-traditional audiences.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Successes are celebrated at the local and state level through use of appropriate tools.
- More Oregonians:
 - 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.
- Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches.

Near-Term Measure:

- Fall 2018 Oregon Lottery campaign featured 6 partners from 5 OWEB regions with cumulative reach of 2,347 YouTube views, 30-second feature on watershed restoration has 2,003 YouTube views (accessed 12/10/2019).
- 54 articles featured partners and OWEB in the news (January -November 2019).

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

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

Strategy: Listen, learn and gather Information about diverse populations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Engaged Tribes in providing input to Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force’s assessment synthesis of wildfire impacts and priority actions
- ✓ Completed the Interagency Climate Justice Survey for the Interagency Workgroup on Climate Impacts on Impacted Communities.
- ✓ Sent survey to board members to better understand their current perspectives on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Strategy: Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop funding Strategy with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Convened DEI ad hoc committee to provide survey to board members to understand their current perspectives on diversity, equity, and inclusion. If funding is available next biennium, this work will set the baseline to engage the board in DEI and develop potential investment strategies that fit the sideboards of OWEB funding.

So That: (Outputs)

- OWEB board and staff have been trained in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).
- OWEB has DEI capacity.
- 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.
- OWEB grantees and partners have access to DEI tools and resources.

- DEI are incorporated into OWEB grant programs, as appropriate.
- Board and staff regularly engage with underrepresented partnerships and stakeholder groups to support DEI work.

To Make This Difference: (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.

Near-Term Measure:

- Staff has participated in 365 hours of training (July 2018-August 2020).

Potential Impact Measure:

- ✓ 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.

Priority 3 – Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

Strategy: Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB’s past capacity funding

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A (on hold due to funding shortages)

Strategy: Champion best approaches to build organizational, community and partnership capacity

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A (on hold due to funding shortages)

Strategy: Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- 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.
- Local capacity strengths and gaps are identified to address and implement large-scale conservation solutions.
- 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.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Partners access best community capacity and strategic practices and approaches.
- OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds.

- Lessons learned from past capacity investments inform funding decisions.
- Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity.
- Restoration projects involving multiple agencies are implemented more efficiently and effectively.
- State-federal agencies increase participation in strategic partnerships.

Near-Term Measure:

- Under Development.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

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

Strategy: Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Coordinated discussions among agency water infrastructure funders and organizations representing community infrastructure providers to initiate a process to determine specific ways to improve access to water infrastructure funding and coordination among funding agencies.

Strategy: Align common investment areas with private foundations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Partner to design Strategy for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ OWEB continues to serve as co-convener of the Natural and cultural Resource Recovery Task Force, using recently completed post-fire assessments to prioritize key actions on natural resources recovery. A series of funding packages are in development for state and federal consideration.

- -

So That: (Outputs)

- 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.

To Make This Difference: (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.

Near-Term Measure:

- Increase in the use of new and diverse funding sources by grantees.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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 Strategy.
- 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

Strategy: Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Received approval through the Governor's budget to move forward the OAHP policy option package requesting \$5 million in other funds, allowing the agency to seek outside funding for OAHP.

Strategy: Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Completed a survey regarding natural and working lands climate solutions to timber and agricultural landowners along with conservation and natural resource organizations to better understand drivers for landowners/managers to sequester carbon/adapt to climate change.

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

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Developed a strategy to continue to engage with landowners/managers after completion of the climate survey to engage in focused discussions to increase carbon sequestration projects on working lands.

Strategy: Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Nine Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) teams worked collaboratively with Oregon Department of Agriculture and other partners to define develop local monitoring plans and those plans have been approved by the Statewide Monitoring Advisory Group.

- ✓ Eleven Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) teams worked collaboratively with Oregon Department of Agriculture and other partners to define goals and submit applications for technical assistance funding through OWEB's targeted SIA grant offering.

Strategy: Develop engagement Strategy for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Executive Director participated in annual Sage Grouse Conservation (SageCon) meeting with a focus on continuing to increase private landowner participation in conservation that improves sage-steppe habitat while supporting the local agricultural economy.

So That: (Outputs)

- 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.
- Strategy and stories are being utilized to reach owners and managers of working lands who are not currently working with local organizations.
- Landowner engagement Strategy and tools are developed and used by local conservation organizations.
- 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.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Generations of landowners continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability.
- Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands.
- Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future.
- Sustained vitality of Oregon's natural resources industries.

Near-Term Measure:

- Percentage of landowners identified within Strategic Implementation Areas that receive technical assistance.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

Priority 6 – Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategy: Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Finalized Cohort 2 FIP Progress Tracking Reports and presented to OWEB Board in December 2020.
- ✓ Completed Conservation Effectiveness Partnership fact sheets about Whychus Creek and Willow Creek case studies, quantitatively describing the outcomes of restoration and conservation investments in these two watersheds.

Strategy: Invest in monitoring over the long term

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Local teams for the Thirtymile, Eightmile, and Lower North Fork Malheur SIAs convened to develop specific monitoring proposals to understand the impacts of SIA projects.
- ✓ Offered a training webinar about OWEB's revised monitoring grant application, which reflects new requirements under revised administrative rules adopted in 2020.

Strategy: Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Convened the Stage 0 restoration monitoring workshop, which brought together approximately 100 scientists, practitioners, researchers, managers, and funders to discuss state of the knowledge regarding Stage 0, information gaps, and opportunities for communication and coordination on future monitoring and implementation.

Strategy: Define monitoring priorities

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop and promote a monitoring framework

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- Additional technical resources—such as guidance and tools—are developed and/or made accessible to monitoring practitioners.
- A network of experts is available to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects.
- A dedicated process exists for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described.
- Strategic monitoring projects receive long-term funding.
- Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level.
- 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.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Partners are using results-based restoration ‘stories’ to share conservation successes and lessons learned.
- Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs.
- Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning.
- Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring.
- 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.
- Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared.
- Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed and regional scales.
- Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results

Near-Term Measure:

- 14 outreach products were developed through staff, grants or partnerships (January-December 2019)

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

Priority 7 – Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon’s watersheds

Strategy: Invest in landscape restoration over the long term

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Held a quarterly call with the seven recipients of Partnership Technical Assistance grants, who are laying the groundwork for addressing landscape scale restoration.
- ✓ Bonneville Environmental Foundation completed progress tracking reports for each of the new cohort of FIPs.

Strategy: Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Brought on board a tide gate coordinator with NRCS funding to provide overall coordination for the tide gate partnership and associated work; announced at a tide gate partnership meeting.
- ✓ Supported the Tide Gate Partnership by continuing funding for a pipe-sizing tool to aid in the development of tide gate designs that meet regulatory requirements for fish passage.
- ✓ Supported the Tide Gate Partnership by continuing funding for the development of a funding decision support tool to help optimize funding for tide gate repair and replacement projects.

Strategy: Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB’s mission

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Climate committee is in the process of drafting questions for consideration in new grant applications to help better understand how grantees are connecting their work to climate adaption and sequestration

So That: (Outputs)

- OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community.
- OWEB’s landscape-scale granting involves effective partnerships around the state.
- OWEB and partners have a better understanding of how restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway.
- 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 encourages a culture of innovation.
- OWEB 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.
- OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk.

Near-Term Measure:

- 16.98% of Oregon is covered by a Strategic Action Plan associated with a FIP or Coho Business Plan.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.



Agenda Item F supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds, and Strategic Plan priority 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, OWEB Executive Director
Richard Whitman, DEQ Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – Klamath Dam Removal - Contingency Funding
March 9-10, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Removal of the four PacifiCorp dams along the Klamath River in Oregon and California that block fish passage has been a priority of multiple governors in both states for over a decade. After extensive work by the Klamath River Renewal Corporation and its contractors (in partnership with states, tribes, federal agencies, irrigators, conservation groups, and many others), there is now a clear path to completing dam removal in 2023. This staff report updates the board on the dam removal project and asks for a general indication of board support in the unlikely event that additional funding is needed to complete restoration work following dam removal.

II. Background

PacifiCorp owns and operates four hydro-electric dams on the Klamath River, three in California and one in Oregon. PacifiCorp has decided that it is in the best interest of the company and its customers to stop operating the dams rather than spending substantial amounts on improvements likely to be needed if they were to continue generating power. PacifiCorp has agreed to transfer ownership of the dams to the Klamath River Restoration Corporation, which in turn has contracted with Kiewit Infrastructure -- one of the nation's most experienced large project construction firms -- which will remove the dams and restore the river to a free-flowing condition. Funding for removal and restoration is being provided by California taxpayers (\$250 million in bond proceeds) and PacifiCorp customers in both states (\$200 million, already collected).

Oregon DEQ and the California Water Resources Control Board have both approved water quality certifications for dam removal. The principal federal regulatory review of the project is by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which must approve a surrender license for removal to occur. Related to FERC's action, it will consult with federal fisheries agencies on impacts to threatened and endangered species (particularly SONC

coho), and review other environmental impacts through a NEPA review and cultural resource impacts through a section 106 review. The project also require Clean Water Act section 404 permitting from the U.S. Army Corps. All of these reviews are expected to be completed over the next year.

Related to the FERC review, one issue that has been raised is whether existing contingencies and risk tools provide a high enough level of certainty that the work will be completed. Responding to this concern, the states and PacificCorp have agreed that they will jointly and equally provide additional financial support for the project in the event that it would be needed, up to \$45 million (10% of the project budget, which already includes separate contingencies, contractual guarantees, insurance and performance bonding).

III. OWEB Board Request

In the unlikely event that existing cost control and risk mechanisms are insufficient to complete dam removal and related watershed restoration, Governor Brown has agreed with California and PacificCorp to make an additional contingency available for that work. In the event that FERC wants more detail about how that would be done, state agencies in Oregon have been coordinating closely with the Department of Justice to identify the best legal route to create such a contingency fund. OWEB has been identified as a funder that would have a strong constitutional and statutory connection with the work to be completed – both for dam removal and subsequent restoration. To mitigate the budget impact of such a need, if it were to arise, the state is proposing to provide its share of contingency funding (if needed) through a loan/grant mechanism.

“Deconstruction/restoration” funds would be loaned (likely via the State Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund administered by DEQ) to provide Oregon’s share of the up to \$15 million, with the loan paid back through grants by OWEB over the course of 20-30 years. This structure would allow OWEB to invest in this critical work (if needed), but in a manner that has a relatively minor impact to the agency’s budget. Importantly, all funding by DEQ and by OWEB would be reviewed through regular processes to ensure that funding complies with constitutional, statutory and regulatory requirements.

IV. Recommendation

At this time, staff request general support in a motion from the board that OWEB is an appropriate funding source for this work, knowing that details will follow in coming months and years to ensure the investments meet the agency’s constitutional requirements. This will allow staff to coordinate with other state agencies to work out details of funding if it becomes necessary.

Attachments

- A. Klamath dam removal project history
- B. The Largest Dam Removal in US History

Klamath Dam Removal Project History

- 2009 – Oregon, California, and the US Dept. of the Interior reach a comprehensive water agreement (KBRA), dependent on Congressional approval and funding. At the same time, the states and US DOI reach an agreement with PacifiCorp to remove four of its dams on the Klamath River.
- 2010 - OPUC determines dam removal is in the best interest of PacifiCorp customers.
- 2015 – Congress fails to pass KBRA legislation.
- 2016 – PacifiCorp, Oregon, California, and the US Dept. of the Interior amend the agreement for dam removal, to provide for a private entity to carry out the project rather than the US. The amended agreement requires approval of FERC.
- 2017 – PacifiCorp and the dam removal entity file applications with FERC.
- 2017-20 – Dam removal entity conducts a competitive procurement for a lead construction firm; Kiewit is awarded the design-build contract. Kiewit completes 90% design and engineering; provisions for insurance, performance bonds, contingencies and other mechanisms to guard against cost overruns.
- 2017-20 – Review of dam removal by an independent Board of Consultants to FERC – confirming project plan.
- 2020 – FERC issues order, partially approving transfer of the dams to the removal entity, but requiring PacifiCorp to remain on the FERC license.
- 2020 – Oregon, California and PacifiCorp negotiate MOA responding to FERC concerns, and affirm commitments to proceed, contingent on FERC approvals, which include the additional contingency funding.
- 2020-21 -- Updated FERC applications filed November 2020 and January 2021; NEPA review expected to be initiated March 2021; ESA consultations expected to formally commence March 2021.
- 2021-22 – FERC action on license transfer anticipated in 2021; FERC action on license surrender anticipated in spring of 2022.



By Alexander Mattheus 10th November 2020

For over a century, one of the most important salmon runs in the United States has had to contend with historic dams – and now four of them are set to be taken down.

"My great uncle and my grandma and my great grandparents and, I'm sure, their great grandparents: they were all fishermen. That's just what they did – they fished and it was out of necessity to support their families. And it's because that's what we've always done and we've never known another life," says Amy Cordalis, the general counsel of the Yurok, and a member of California's largest indigenous tribe.

It's hard to overstate how important this livelihood has been to the Yurok people who have lived for millennia in rural Northern California. And yet this livelihood has been diminishing for decades after the Klamath River – which flows through the tribe's territory – was dammed for hydro-electricity. But now, after years of painstaking negotiations, the fortunes of the Yurok could be set to change, with the largest dam removal project in US history given the green light.

Although she grew up in Ashland, Oregon, Cordalis would often visit Requa, a tiny village near the mouth of the Klamath River in northern California, to see family, attend tribal ceremonies – and to fish. Her father – "the ultimate Yurok fisherman" – had four daughters and a son, and he taught all of them to fish.

"When I was growing up, there were still decent salmon runs," she recalls. "On good nights, you could catch 100, 200 fish. We loved it. That's when you felt like you were like being your best Yurok self: you were doing what the creator made you for. You were going to be able to fill up your smokehouse and your freezer and not only just yours, but your grandma's, your aunts', your cousins' – all the people you cared about, you could give them fish so that they had food."



Amy Cordalis, the Yurok Tribe's general counsel, was taught to fish sustainably by her father, a skill passed down in families for generations (Credit: Matt Mais)

It's like the crumbling of the way that we live. It's the crumbling of how we interact with that natural environment, because there's no fish – Amy Cordalis

The money from selling the fish they didn't need would provide money for the children's school clothes, a fridge or a second-hand car, Cordalis says. In short, fishing was a valuable income on a reservation where the median income is only \$11,000 a year.

Today the fishing experience is very different, she says. Drawing upon all the techniques and skills passed down over generations is of little use, because when she goes down to the river with her own three boys, "there are no fish to be caught".

"It's like the crumbling of the way that we live. It's the crumbling of the way that we teach our kids," says Cordalis. "It's the crumbling of how we interact with that natural environment, because there's no fish."

Anytime you put a dam on a river, it always has profound effects: it chops the river into two pieces – Michael Belchik

Research bears this out. The Klamath River, **once home to the third-largest salmon runs (the migration of adult salmon upstream to spawn) in the continental United States**, now has runs at a fraction of their original numbers. One of five Pacific salmon species, the spring-run Chinook salmon, which **historically numbered in the hundreds of thousands** has almost entirely been wiped out: the run consisted of fewer than 700 fish last year. Another species, the **Coho salmon, which grows typically to between 60cm and 76cm (24 to 30 inches) and can weigh over 5kg (11lb) in adulthood**, has been designated "threatened" under the US's Endangered Species Act.

The dams built on the Klamath River **have been identified as one cause of the drop in salmon numbers**. Eight dams were built on the river between the early 1900s and 1962 to produce hydroelectric power. The **presence of dams has been linked to marked changes in salmon populations on the Klamath and elsewhere**.

"Anytime you put a dam on a river, it always has profound effects: it chops the river into two pieces," explains the Yurok tribe's senior fisheries biologist, Michael Belchik, a tribal member who has decades of experience in fish restoration. "Rivers carry a lot more than just water. The water goes down river, fish move upriver, but not only that: there's nutrients, sediment and other organisms."



Cordalis, who fishes with her father and sister on the Klamath River, has seen numbers of salmon in the river tumble since her childhood (Credit: Matt Mais)

Without flowing sediment, the river below the dams then becomes starved of it, leaving only larger rocks on the river bottom. These rocks are ideal for bristle worms, also known as polychaete worms, to cling onto. "Normally, the mobile bed of the river prevents colonies of these filter-feeding worms from taking over every square inch of the bottom of the river," says Belchik. But now, "these worms have taken over everything".

Anytime you have fish that have limited genetic diversity and limited geographic area, you invite catastrophe to take out your fish, whether it's a fish disease or a flood – Michael Belchik

Although not harmful in and of themselves, the worms are the secondary host for *C. Shasta*, a parasite to which juvenile chinook salmon have proven particularly vulnerable. Belchik says that the Klamath's lowest dam, Iron Gate, has created overcrowded conditions that are ripe for the spread of *C. Shasta*. The salmon that don't go into the hatchery – a man-made spawning facility – spawn just below the dam. The many juvenile salmon that then gather closely here are prone to picking up the parasite.

"[These] are all the ingredients necessary to put together a runaway out of control disease problem that is now wiping out of 80 or 90% of our fish," says Belchik.

"Anytime you have fish that have limited genetic diversity and limited geographic area, you invite catastrophe to take out your fish, whether it's a fish disease or a flood."

The reservoirs behind the dams are also responsible for a significant build-up of toxic algae – which thrives in warm, nutrient-rich stagnant water. In sufficient quantities it becomes harmful to human health. In the autumn, water containing toxic algae is released and sent downstream towards the Klamath's mouth where the Yurok reservation is.

"We have just received our almost yearly announcement that the toxic levels of microcystin in the river and blue-green algae are now at unhealthy levels," says Frankie Myers, vice-chairman of the Yurok tribe. This doesn't just make fishing hazardous.

"There are pieces of our culture and our spiritual practices that we cannot do now without risking the health and safety of our people," he explains. "The place we go to pray, the place we go to heal, the place we go to do our medicine will make you sick. That has a psychological impact on our communities."

Towards renewal

The solution that Yurok and a coalition of other tribes and environmental organizations have long advocated for is the removal of the lower four of the eight dams on the Klamath. After painstaking negotiations, this led to the signing of an agreement between PacifiCorp (which operates these dams) and 40 other signatories, including tribes and state governments in 2010.

The simultaneous removal of the four dams, with a combined height of 411ft, makes it the largest dam removal project in America's history, according to the Klamath River Renewal Corporation, the nonprofit tasked with overseeing the dam removals. It is also set to be the most expensive, at a cost of almost \$450m.



The largest dam set to come down on the Klamath is the Iron Gate Dam, standing at 173ft (53m) high (Credit: Dave Meurer)

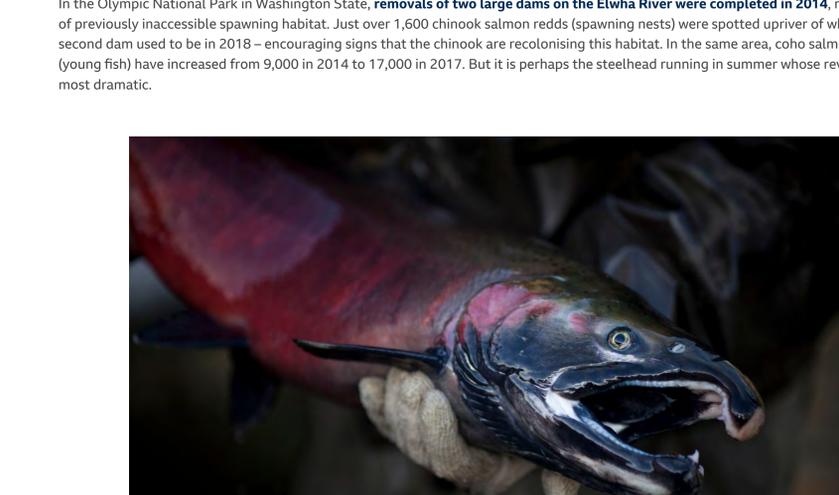
The result will be **400 stream-miles of restored habitat** for salmon and other migratory species like steelhead trout and Pacific lamprey. Opening up previously inaccessible spawning grounds will allow for greater genetic diversity and less crowding, says Belchik, which reduces the risk of disease transmission.

"I've spent my career helping design fish restoration projects of varying types," says Belchik. In terms of impact, "restoration of passage [projects] are always the most successful and most immediate".

By reconnecting springs and cold-water tributaries to the main Klamath River, Belchik says the water temperatures of the river as a whole would drop. This not only improves water quality (lower temperatures reduce the risk of algae blooms, which in turn increases dissolved oxygen and improves pH levels); it would also benefit the salmon whose spawning and migratory behaviour benefit from cooler water – and who are more vulnerable to disease when it's warmer. The return of cooler water, fed by snowmelt, will help make the fish more resilient in the face of climate change. And the return of naturally flowing sediment and a newly mobile riverbed would drastically reduce the habitat of the polychaete worms which release the salmon-killing *C. Shasta*.

With over 1,700 dams removed in the US – including 90 last year, according to American Rivers' database – there is a growing list of examples illustrating the benefits to ecosystems, especially for imperilled fish populations. The removal of two smaller dams and fish passage improvements on the Penobscot River in Maine, which were completed in 2016, **have restored 2,000 miles of habitat for Atlantic salmon and other species** compensating for lost power by improving output from other dams. The project **led to a rebound in alewife and blueback herring** returns have surged to 1.9 million compared to just 2,000 in 2011.

In the Olympic National Park in Washington State, **removals of two large dams on the Elwha River were completed in 2014**, restoring 75% of previously inaccessible spawning habitat. Just over 1,600 chinook salmon recolonising (spawning nests) were spotted upstream of where the second dam used to be in 2018 – encouraging signs that the chinook are redonating this habitat. In the same area, coho salmon smolts (young fish) have increased from 9,000 in 2014 to 17,000 in 2017. But it is perhaps the steelhead running in summer whose revival has been most dramatic.



On the Elwha River, numbers of salmon have recovered significantly since the removal of two large dams (Credit: Getty Images)

"Prior to dam removal snorkel surveys of the lower Elwha (2009-11) never revealed more than one or two summer steelhead," **writes NOAA fish biologist Sarah Morley and colleagues in a May 2019 paper**. "Sonar [research] estimated the 2018 summer run population to be at least 300 fish. Like the phoenix, summer runs have arisen from the ashes."

World precedent

To remove dams as large as those on the Klamath River will be a complex operation. In the Klamath River Renewal Corporation's **plan for the removals**, it will start with drawing down the water levels behind each dam wall. Demolition comes next – largely through drilling and blasting, with trucks removing the rubble. The newly exposed riverbed is then covered in mulch and indigenously seeded. Not only does this help restore this habitat to its natural state: both will be critical to reduce the amount of sediment washed down to the sea. **In experiments conducted by Ellen Mussman and others ahead of the Elwha dam removals**, plants reduced erosion by 33%, while mulch reduced it by 99%. Together, these could be a highly effective means to stop erosion, the researchers conclude.

And while it might seem counterintuitive that a power company would be in favour of dam removals, it actually makes good business sense for PacifiCorp. This is because to renew the operating licence for these dams, its ratepayers would have to foot an approximately \$400m bill for upgrades to ensure compliance with legislation (including the installation of costly **fish ladders** at each dam that would enable migration).

Removing the dams is a cheaper option: under the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA), customers will only have to pay \$200m, with an additional \$250m coming from the State of California. The removals have been endorsed by the Public Utility Commission of both Oregon and California as being in the interests of ratepayers. Bob Gravely, regional business manager of Pacific Power (the PacifiCorp subsidiary which runs the dams) says that the dam removals "became a better outcome for customers".

Overall, little will be lost in terms of renewable energy generation: **the dams represent less than 8% of PacifiCorp's 2,208 MW current renewable generation capacity**, and as of July 2020 a further 1,190 MW of renewable capacity was under construction. The utility anticipates **an additional 3,743MW of renewables coming on stream by the end of 2023**.

"I think one of the coolest parts about this whole project is we're setting a precedent for the world to follow," says Cordalis. "I think the approach of working together with the company, with states, with tribes, with environmentalists, to reach an agreement that allows these dams to be removed for the benefit of the dam and for the restoration of this river in a way that costs less money than it would be to relicence [the dams] – that's really a model of how you might approach sustainable river restoration across the world."

The dam removals were slated for 2022, though with negotiations still **ongoing between the company, the tribes and other stakeholders**, that date is still unconfirmed. But Cordalis says she still remains hopeful. "We're getting very close," she says.

"I think we all understand that there is an indigenous tribe [and] a culture at stake," says Myers. "I think it has held fast in these negotiations that these dam removal efforts are as much to remove the dams for the ecology and benefits of salmon restoration as they are to the wrongs that took place in this country for the last 150, 200 years against Native Americans."

For the Yurok, Myers says the dams are seen as "monuments to colonialism" and compares them to statues of Confederate generals. "These dams are statues of the war that we fought here on the Klamath River. And these statues destroy our river, the 1 and a half generations. We have to deal with them every single day." In response to this, Pacific Power's Gravely says: "We are very pleased to be part of a settlement agreement that allows the desire of Klamath Basin Tribes and others for dam removal to move forward" while also ensuring protections for electricity customers in six states.

Myer says the treaty negotiated between Yurok and the federal government in the 1850s limited the tribe to their reservation in return for a good standard of living in perpetuity. Although, he says, the federal government failed to live up to its end of the bargain, dam removals would bring that goal closer.

Anticipating the return of healthy fish runs, the tribe has already built a salmon harvesting plant – both for commercial and subsistence fishing – done sustainably, just as Yurok have done for millennia.

"We have been surviving off the river's resources and living symbiotically with it since time immemorial," says Cordalis. "Our creation story talks about how the creator made the river, the land, the animals, the plants, and then made the people and said to the people, 'This will all be here for you and you won't need for anything as long as you live in a sustainable way with the natural environment, and as long as you don't take more than you want to support your family.' That initial religious principle informs how we interact with the river, how we interact with all of its resources and the natural world."

While the dams have increasingly threatened this symbiosis, their removal will once more enable the ancient connection between the Yurok people and the Klamath River to flourish.

Update

On 17 November 2020, a new agreement was signed between PacifiCorp, the Yurok and other stakeholders to facilitate the dams' removals. Should federal regulators approve, the project will begin in 2022, with the demolitions slated for 2023.)



Agenda Item G supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – FIP Program Monitoring
March 9-10, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will present Progress Tracking Reports for the Cohort 2 Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) and answer questions from board members. Cohort 2 FIPs include:

- Baker Sage-Grouse LIT – Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction Initiative
- Clackamas Partnership – Restoration for Native Fish Recovery Initiative
- John Day Basin Partnership – John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative
- Rogue Forest Partners – Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative
- Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership – Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Initiative

II. Background

In January 2019, the board selected the five partnerships outlined above for FIP funding beginning in the 2019-2021 biennium. These partnerships comprise OWEB's second cohort of FIP initiatives. FIP administrative rules require that FIPs report to the board on the progress of their initiatives at the end of each biennium (OAR 695-047-0130).

III. Implementation

Cohort 2 FIPs presented and discussed initiative progress with the board at the December 2020 meeting. The Progress Tracking Reports shared here provide a written and visual account of that progress (see Attachment A). Progress Tracking Reports are a tool to communicate the progress and evolution of each FIP initiative as they proceed with strategic action plan implementation, outcomes monitoring, and adaptive management of the partnership. The reports summarize context of each partnership's work and synthesize actions to provide a high-level portrait of progress.

Ideally, these reports would have been available at the December 2020 meeting in conjunction with the in-person partnership presentations; however, staff required additional time to complete them due to current limited staff capacity. Staff engaged with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation through the board's FIP Effectiveness Monitoring investment to coordinate with each FIP and develop these reports.

Progress Tracking Reports for Cohort 1 FIPs were shared with the board at the January 2020 meeting, and staff aim to share a second round of reports for those FIPs later in 2021.

Based on the Cohort 2 initiative progress reporting at the December 2020 meeting and the completion of these Progress Tracking Reports, staff have included the full biennium 2 funding requests for each of the Cohort 2 FIPs in the staff-recommended spending plan (see agenda item N-11).

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachments

A. Cohort 2 Progress Tracking Reports, 2019-2021 Biennium



Baker Sage-grouse *Local Implementation Team*

Baker Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction

SAGEBRUSH/SAGE-STEPPE HABITAT

The Baker Local Implementation

Team (LIT) is working collaboratively with private landowners and managers to enhance sage-grouse habitat within Baker County to reverse local sage-grouse population declines.

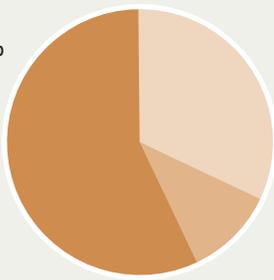


The Baker Priority Area of Conservation is considered to be the most strategically important area for sage-grouse conservation in Baker County and is the primary location of restoration efforts. Efforts also expand into general sage-grouse habitat throughout Baker County where restoration can help support thriving leks and habitat corridors.

Funding

OWEB awarded \$1,292,415 in funding that leveraged \$1,980,664 in matching funds

Restoration
\$735,904 / 56.94%



Stakeholder Engagement
\$407,426 / 31.52%

Technical Assistance
\$149,085 / 11.54%

Benefits

- Improvement to sage-grouse habitat quality and quantity
- Promoting wildfire prevention and restoration activities
- Improved understanding of sage-grouse threats including West Nile Virus, late season habitat, and more
- Grazing and land management to promote healthy sage-brush ecosystems

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2019, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership grant to the Baker Sage-grouse Local Implementation Team. This report documents projects for which funding was obligated during the first biennium of the initiative (2019 to 2021) to meet FIP initiative objectives. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, tribes, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in Baker LIT Planning Area. Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.

PARTNERS

Core Partners: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Baker County, Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area, Bureau of Land Management, Powder Basin Watershed Council, Private Landowners

Supporting Partners: Oregon State University Extension, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, The Nature Conservancy, Baker Valley Vector Control, Institute for Natural Resources, Agricultural Research Service, Rural Landowners

GOAL

Increase the quality and quantity of sage-grouse habitat and ultimately increase the Baker sage-grouse population.



STRATEGIES

- Promote awareness and enrollment in voluntary habitat conservation programs
- Prevent, treat, and adaptively manage invasive annual grasses and other noxious weeds
- Protect, enhance, and expand extent and connectivity of areas with adequate sagebrush cover
- Address key information gaps



IMPLEMENTATION (2019-2021)

Program Enrollment

28

LAND OWNERS
ENROLLED IN
HABITAT
PROGRAMS

Fill Information Gaps

15

WEST NILE VIRUS
HOT SPOT
SAMPLING SITES
IDENTIFIED
AND ADDED

5

ALTERNATIVE FORAGE OPTION
ANALYSIS MEETINGS HELD

Weed Treatment & Prevention

3,320

ACRES OF
ANNUAL GRASSES
TREATED

2,635

ACRES OF
NOXIOUS WEEDS
TREATED

1

OHV WASH STATION
PRELIMINARY PLAN
COMPLETED

Restoration & Planning

3

PLANNING
MEETINGS
FOR STRATEGIC
FUEL BREAK
PLAN

1

SITE-SPECIFIC PLAN
FOR THE CCAA IS
COMPLETED

1

SAGE-GROUSE
COMPATIBLE GRAZING
ANALYSIS COMPLETED



OUTCOMES

Near Term 0-5 YEARS

- Extent and abundance of invasive annual grasses and other noxious weeds is reduced
- Sagebrush/sage steppe plant communities including native bunchgrass and forb diversity and abundance are suitable to support all life history stages of sage-grouse

Mid-Term 5-10 YEARS

- Sage-grouse nest success increases

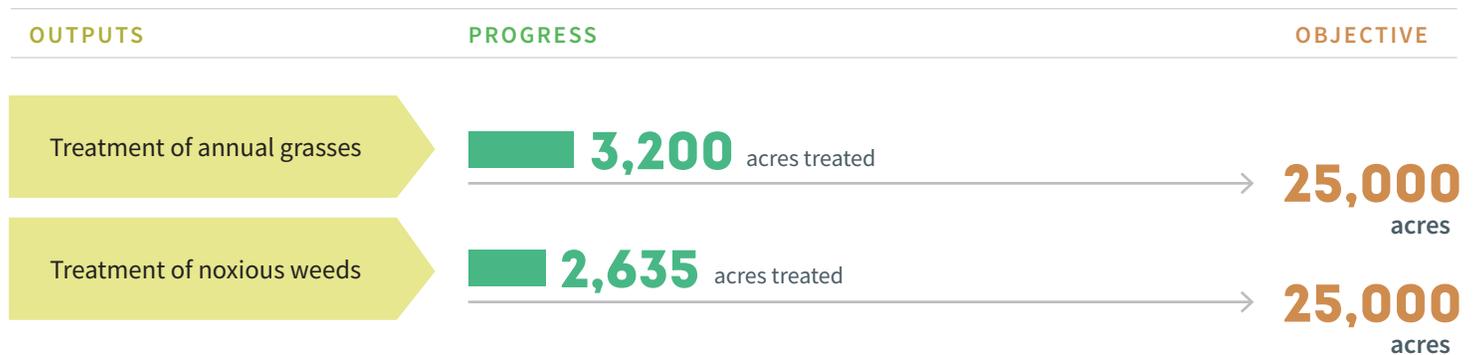
Long Term 10+ YEARS

- Sage-grouse population is stable or increases



FIP Initiative Progress, Biennium 1

Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.



Monitoring Approach

The partnership will utilize existing sage-grouse habitat monitoring methods to ensure consistency with statewide data collection in order to allow collected data to inform overall monitoring goals of Oregon’s Sage-grouse Action Plan. The monitoring protocol has been developed and implemented.

Adaptive Management

Restoration

CHALLENGES

Understanding the need and realizing the logistics of establishing a permanent OHV wash station.



LESSONS LEARNED

Hurdles, including long-term maintenance, are issues that the FIP is working through with key partners. This has led us to explore temporary/portable options for a wash station.



ADAPTATIONS

Remaining flexible while maintaining the overarching goal of the project has been a beneficial exercise for key FIP partners. Working in this way ensures that the FIP is completing due diligence and exploring all options.

Monitoring

CHALLENGES

Determining in-house capacity for database development.



LESSONS LEARNED

Upon exploration of FIP database needs, contract capacity, and through communication with partners, we discovered that FIP partners may be best suited to develop the database in-house.



ADAPTATIONS

The FIP Coordinator and USFWS are collaborating to develop a database to track projects and cater to FIP needs in a workable and reportable database.

Engagement

CHALLENGES

Maintaining landowner engagement during COVID.



LESSONS LEARNED

The FIP had to adapt communication strategies. Prior relationship building with landowners and continuing engagement helped maintain open lines of communication and expand projects.



ADAPTATIONS

Increased virtual outreach through newsletters, virtual presentations, phone calls, fliers, and social media.

Undergoing leadership transitions at partnership organizations delayed some FIP priorities.



Strong collaboration and commitment from key FIP partners maintained momentum to initiate the project once leadership was back in place.



The FIP had to delay the hiring of a CCAA Coordinator for a year. The FIP will have to overcome this delay by hitting the ground running once a coordinator is hired, and have a high degree of coordination with other FIP partners to establish relationships.



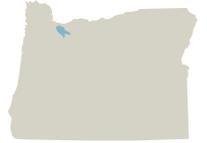
Clackamas Partnership

Restoration for Native Fish Recovery



AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES

The *Clackamas Partnership's* Restoration for Native Fish initiative is built on the content and actions outlined in the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead (2010) and contributes to the goals and objectives associated with the Clackamas Population area.



The Clackamas Partnership collaborates on coordinated aquatic, riparian and floodplain restoration, conservation, and habitat protection actions to enhance watershed health, support the recovery and sustainability of native fish populations, and contribute to the region's economic and social vitality.

Upper Clackamas River and Floodplain Reach:

Clackamas River headwaters downstream to Oak Grove Fork (31.7 miles)

Middle Clackamas River and Floodplain Reach:

Confluence of Oak Grove Fork downstream to River Mill dam (29.3 miles)

Lower Clackamas River and Floodplain Reach:

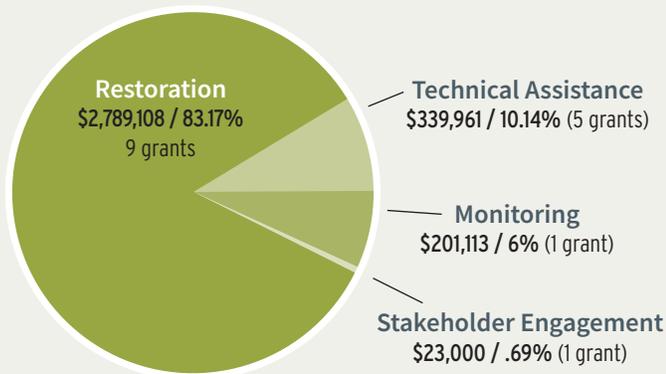
River Mill Dam downstream to the confluence of the Willamette River (23.3 miles)

Lower Willamette River and Floodplain Reach:

Willamette Falls downstream to and including the confluence of Johnson Creek (9.2 miles)

Funding

OWEB awarded \$3,353,182 in funding that leveraged \$2,376,354 in matching funds



Benefits

- Fish rearing and migratory habitat complexity and water quality in river corridors – channel floodplain, off channel, and tributary junctions improves
- Survival of downstream juvenile migrants increases
- Core native fish population performance at freshwater life stages improves
- Habitat quantity, quality, capacity, productivity, and diversity for all life stages of focal species improves

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2019, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership grant to the Clackamas Partnership. This report documents projects for which funding was obligated during the first biennium of the initiative (2019 to 2021) to meet FIP initiative objectives. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, tribes, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in the Clackamas River Basin. Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.

CORE PARTNERS

Clackamas River Basin Council • Greater Oregon City Watershed Council • North Clackamas Watersheds Council • Johnson Creek Watershed Council • Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District • Metro

OTHER PARTNERS

Clackamas Water Environment Services • Clackamas River Water Providers • Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs • North Clackamas Park & Recreation • Oregon Department of Environmental Quality • Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife • Oregon Parks & Recreation Department • Portland General Electric • USFS – Mt Hood, Clackamas Ranger District

GOAL

The goal of the initiative is to achieve targets specified by the Lower Columbia River Conservation & Recovery plan by increasing rearing and migratory habitat complexity and improving water quality in the river corridors.



The Partnership's actions fall within three main integrated strategic programs including:

STRATEGIES



- 1 Habitat Restoration
- 2 Habitat Protection
- 3 Promoting Land Use and Landowner BMPs

IMPLEMENTATION (2019-2021)

Restoration



39
POOLS
CREATED



1
RIFFLE
CREATED



2
FISH PASSAGE
BARRIERS
REMEDIATED

Monitoring



8.3
MILES OF
SIDE CHANNELS
SURVEYED AND
SNORKELED

71
MACROINVERTE-
BRATE SAMPLES
COLLECTED

Technical Assistance

73
PROJECTS
IDENTIFIED &
PRIORITIZED

43.8
STREAM
MILES
ASSESSED

3
ACTION PLANS
DEVELOPED

Outreach & Engagement

1
STAKEHOLDER
PLAN COMPLETED

4
MEETINGS
HOSTED

OUTCOMES

Near Term 0-10+ YEARS

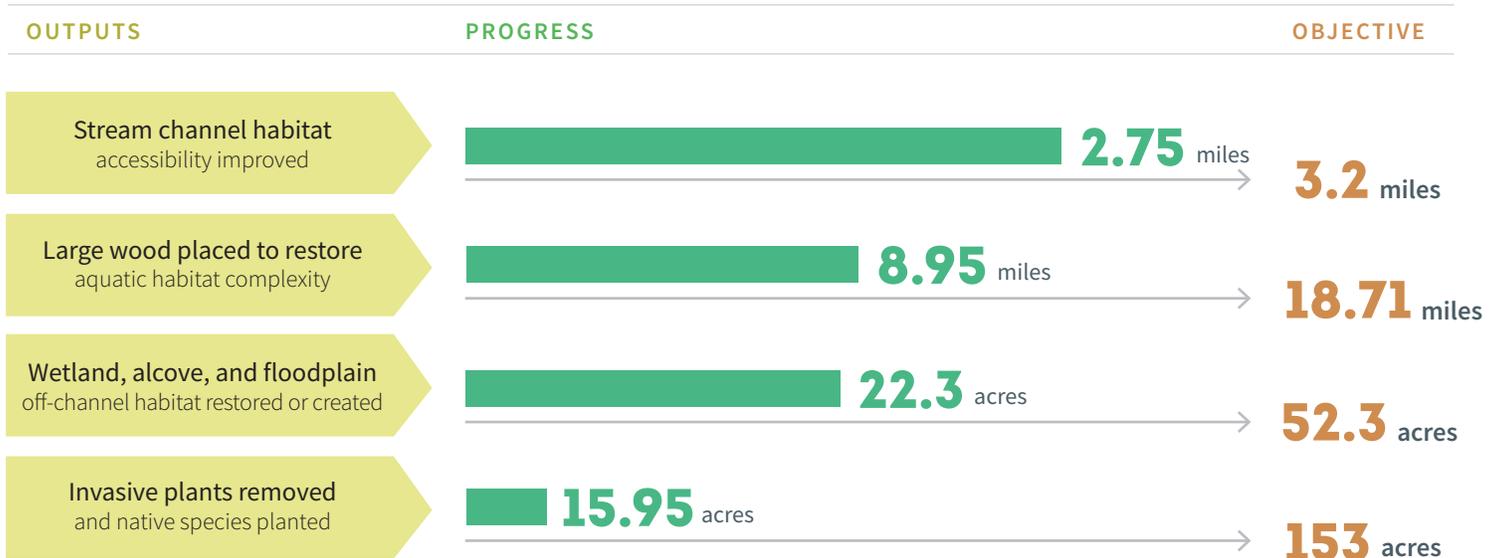
- Increased accessible habitat through enhanced passage at road crossings, small dams, and diversions.
- Channel structure and complexity including large wood is improved
- Reconnection of side and off-channel habitats
- Reduction of invasive plant species in riparian and upland habitats

Long Term 20+ YEARS

- Floodplain connectivity and function increases
- Increased large wood recruitment
- Increased habitat complexity, diversity, and persistence.

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennium 1

Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.



Monitoring Approach

The Partnership's restoration and conservation project outputs are tracked through established measures (e.g., volume of large wood placed, area planted with native vegetation) and tracked against measurable objectives. Implemented restoration project outputs, also called performance measures, will be documented in the Clackamas Project Tracker database.

Research, monitoring and evaluation (RM&E) of salmonid response to implemented projects are conducted by ODFW, PGE, the Corvallis Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) laboratory. OR DEQ has offered to assist the Partnership in the development of the macroinvertebrate sampling design, data collection approach, and data analysis methods.



Planting Volunteer



Constructed riffle and large wood at North Deep Creek



Chinook Salmon

Adaptive Management

Restoration

CHALLENGES	LESSONS LEARNED	ADAPTATIONS
Implementation of 2019 projects did not occur due to application timing, TRT reviews, and funding agreements.	Project proponents observed procedures of the 1st application cycle and nearly all remaining project proposals were submitted in early 2020.	The Technical Advisory Committee strengthened its planning, review, and operational oversight in preparation for future project selections.
Project Tracker requires project proponents to complete proposal entries and update project information as progress is made.	Partners, motivated by the project solicitation process, learn the features of Project Tracker as they enter project proposals	Refined project tracker to improve functionality making it the primary tool for managing, reporting, and sharing project information.

Monitoring

CHALLENGES	LESSONS LEARNED	ADAPTATIONS
Control reach identification presented both challenges and opportunities. COVID and fire restrictions hampered ability to conduct monitoring.	Control reaches are important for quantifying measured objectives relative to inter-annual variability.	Control reach criteria were developed to meet current and future monitoring needs.
Landowner agreements limited macroinvertebrate monitoring.	Landowner contacts need to happen much sooner.	Biennium 1 monitoring was reduced and monitoring effort will increase in biennium 2. More landowners will be contacted, and contacts will begin sooner.
Lack of project sites that received restoration to monitor.	Implementation of restoration projects remains uncertain due to issues beyond the control of the implementer.	Cost savings realized from postponement of initial monitoring effort rolled over to increase monitoring resolution of projects completed in the final biennium.

Engagement

CHALLENGES	LESSONS LEARNED	ADAPTATIONS
Traditionally underserved populations have not shared in the benefits of stream restoration.	Incorporating DEI requires new ways of thinking.	Incorporate lessons learned from partner organizations to deliver on DEI objectives for inclusion.
The COVID-19 pandemic protocols present challenges for in person meeting with landowners and partners.	Virtual meetings have been successful for the partnership and project implementation teams meeting with contractors.	Virtual meetings streamline processes precluding the need to meet in person, offering environmental benefits, and saving time.

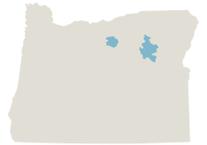


John Day Basin *Fish Habitat Initiative*

AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES

The John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP)

is focusing its FIP-supported native fish habitat initiative in three priority subwatersheds of the larger 8,100 sq. mi. John Day River Basin. These priority areas include Butte-Thirtymile Creeks in the Lower Mainstem John Day; North Fork John Day Headwaters; and the mid-upper Middle Fork John Day. Historic and present-day land and water use practices and a changing climate have altered the condition of aquatic habitat contributing to the reduction in productivity and abundance of native fish populations.



Funding

OWEB awarded \$4,000,000 in funding that leveraged \$6,366,819 in matching funds

Technical Assistance

\$951,506 / 23.78%
11 grants

Monitoring

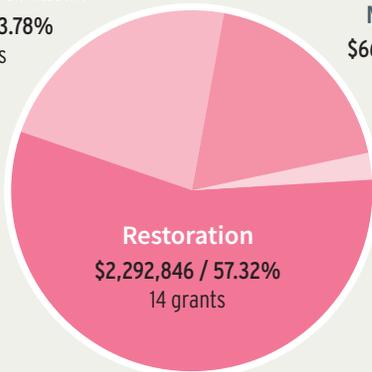
\$663,155 / 16.59%
4 grants

Stakeholder Engagement

\$92,493 / 2.31%
2 grants

Restoration

\$2,292,846 / 57.32%
14 grants



Benefits

- Protection of high-quality upland and aquatic habitat
- Increased stream flow during low water periods
- Increased connectivity and quantity of floodplain habitat
- Enhanced surface and ground water connections
- Improved juvenile salmonid rearing and overwintering survival
- Improved water quality
- Improved native plant communities in riparian areas
- Reduced erosion and sediment inputs
- Improved spawning gravel quality and spawning success
- Increased complexity of aquatic habitat

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2019, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership grant to the JDBP. This report documents projects for which funding was obligated during the first biennium of the initiative (2019 to 2021) to meet FIP initiative objectives. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, tribes, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in the John Day Basin. Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.

PARTNERS

Blue Mountain Forest Partners • Blue Mountain Land Trust • Bonneville Power Administration • Bureau of Land Management • Bureau of Reclamation • Burns Paiute Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon • Gilliam County Soil & Water Conservation District • Gilliam East John Day Watershed Council • Grant Soil & Water Conservation District • Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council • Monument Soil & Water Conservation District • Morrow County Soil & Water Conservation District • North Fork John Day Watershed Council • Oregon Department of Agriculture • Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife • Oregon Department of Parks & Recreation • Ritter Land Management Team • Sherman County Soil & Water Conservation District • South Fork John Day Watershed Council • Sustainable Northwest • The Freshwater Trust • Trout Unlimited • United States Forest Service: Malheur National Forest, Umatilla National Forest Wallow-Whitman National Forest • USDA: Natural Resource Conservation Service • U.S. Department of Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service • Wheeler County Soil & Water Conservation District

GOAL

A John Day Basin with clean water and healthy watersheds sufficient to provide for the sustainable ecological, economic, and cultural well-being of the basin.



STRATEGIES

- Dedicate land and water to restoration and preservation of stream habitat
- Reconnect floodplains
- Riparian restoration and management

- Channel modifications and side-channel/off-channel restoration
- Install large woody debris structures and rock weirs
- Fish passage restoration
- Water quality and water quantity impacts



IMPLEMENTATION (2019-2021)

191

ACRES OF RIPARIAN HABITAT PROTECTED AND IMPROVED BY EXCLUDING LIVESTOCK

1490

LARGE WOOD AND BEAVER DAM ANALOG STRUCTURES INSTALLED

283

ACRES TREATED TO INCREASE RIPARIAN PLANT COMMUNITIES

138

FLOODPLAIN ACRES RECONNECTED

Restoration

13

MILES OF RIPARIAN FENCING INSTALLED

17

MILES OF STREAM TREATED TO INCREASE RIPARIAN PLANT COMMUNITIES

Planning

251 + 36

POOLS + RIFFLES CREATED TO INCREASE INSTREAM HABITAT COMPLEXITY

5

STREAM MILES OF HABITAT MADE ACCESSIBLE TO NATIVE FISH BY REMEDIATING FISH PASSAGE BARRIERS

6

INSTREAM HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT DESIGNS PRODUCED

46

MILES OF STREAM CONNECTED AND IMPROVED



OUTCOMES

Near Term 0-10 YEARS

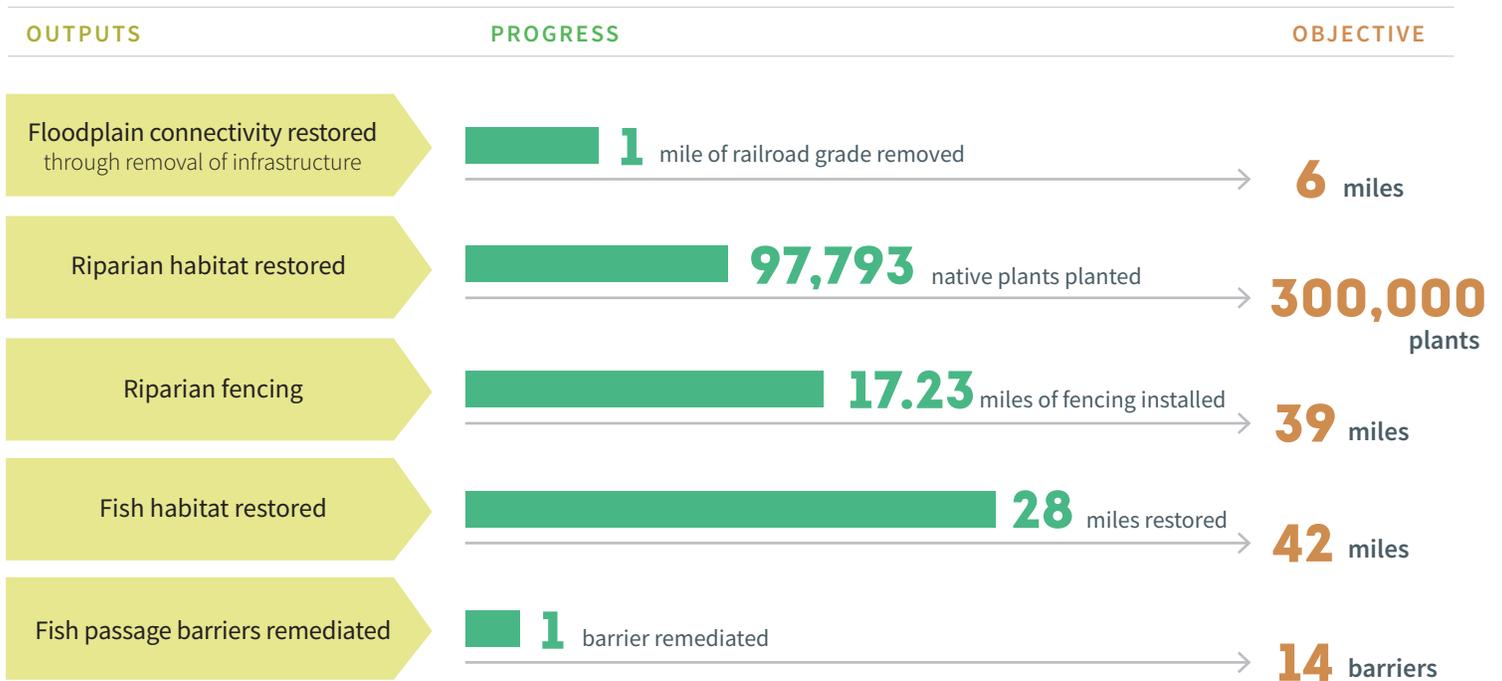
- Decreasing trend in summer instream water temperature
- Increasing trend in summer instream flow
- Improved habitat diversity index
- Increase in woody species density and stream shade potential
- Increasing trend in summer steelhead and spring Chinook freshwater productivity

Long Term 10+ YEARS

- Sustained increased productivity in summer steelhead and spring Chinook freshwater productivity

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennium 1

Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.

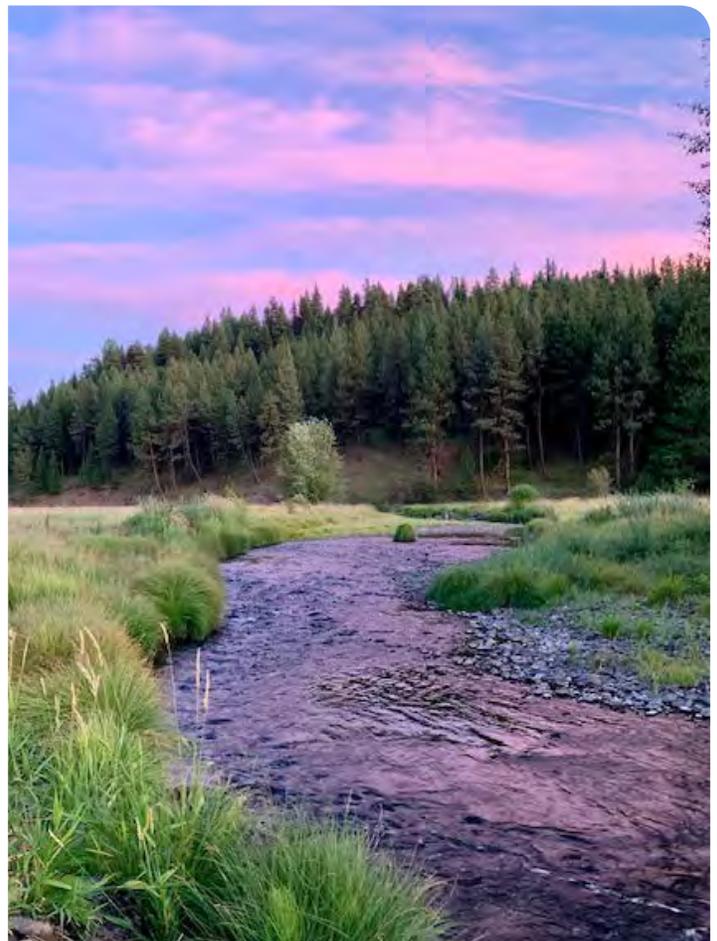


Monitoring Approach

To evaluate progress, the Partnership will use an integrated restoration-monitoring approach based in an adaptive management context. JDBP will use existing data, new monitoring, and, when necessary (and appropriately documented, such as through the BPA “Atlas” process) professional judgement, to establish baseline conditions to judge progress towards basin-wide and sub-basin conservation targets.

The JDBP will group projects into three different monitoring tiers, with variable levels of monitoring effort for each tier. Communication between monitoring and restoration partners will continue to be instrumental to ensure the appropriate monitoring tiers and targets are applied to each project. Milestones will be set for each project to allow for cost effective monitoring which provides an assessment of progress and the ability to adapt subsequent implementation years if needed.

The Strategic Action Plan will be reevaluated every two years. Modifications will be based on progress towards milestones, ancillary considerations, and lessons learned.



Adaptive Management

Partnership

CHALLENGES

JDBP structure changed in the first biennium as two steering committee members stepped down to focus on other priorities



LESSONS LEARNED

Ample community support and strong partnerships enabled the JDBP to quickly replace the steering committee members who stepped down, and to add two new partner organizations.



ADAPTATIONS

Vacant steering committee positions were filled with eager, engaged and capable partners. Two new organizations also formally signed the JDBP MOU, bringing the number of total partners up to 30.

Restoration

CHALLENGES

Issues securing permits and cultural clearance resulted in delays in restoration project implementation



LESSONS LEARNED

The JDBP's Project Decision Making Framework was modified to require that all Special Use Permits and Section 106 (cultural) Clearance are obtained prior to applying for implementation funds.



ADAPTATIONS

Project implementers are encouraged to apply for technical assistance funds to help with permitting and cultural clearance planning activities. Ensuring these preparatory activities are completed is one way to keep individual projects and the larger initiative moving forward on the intended timeline.

Monitoring

CHALLENGES

A diverse suite of restoration projects presents a challenge to maintaining consistency in what is monitored across projects



LESSONS LEARNED

Using the results chain to articulate relationships between habitat characteristics and fish production has helped to identify key parameters for monitoring across disparate FIP geographies.



ADAPTATIONS

Focusing monitoring on key parameters identified in the results chain can provide consistency across restoration projects and FIP geographies.

Engagement

CHALLENGES

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the JDBP cancelled in-person landowner assistance events that had been scheduled.



LESSONS LEARNED

Re-prioritizing activities within the stakeholder engagement campaign allowed the JDBP to proceed with actively engaging stakeholders despite restrictions on in-person meetings.



ADAPTATIONS

JDBP partners shifted their focus to implement other aspects of the stakeholder engagement campaign including outreach mailers, social media, and the JDBP newsletter, and modified projects which required in-person meetings or trainings.



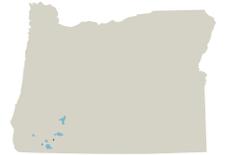
Rogue Forest Partners

Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative

DRY-TYPE FOREST HABITAT
OAK WOODLAND AND PRAIRIE HABITAT
AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES

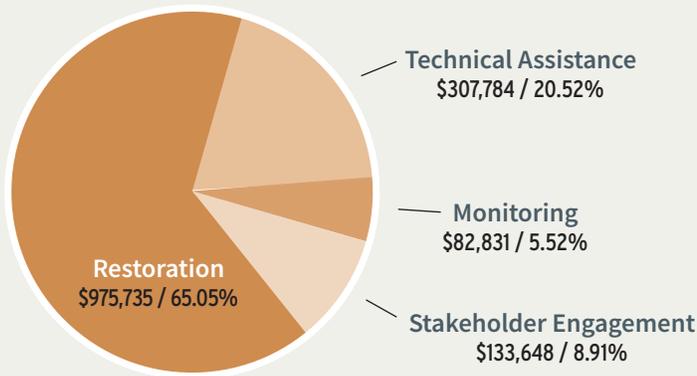


The Rogue Forest Partners are strategically implementing ecological thinning and prescribed fire in the Rogue River basin to restore forest species composition, reduce tree density and surface and ladder fuels, and prepare stands for fires that sustain forest biodiversity and ecosystem services. Disrupted fire regimes, historical clearcut timber harvest, land conversion, and recent severe wildfires have reduced old forest habitats, needed by northern spotted owls and other species, but led to excessively dense and homogenous forests. This altered landscape is at high risk from uncharacteristically severe wildfire, insects, and disease and these conditions are made worse by climate change.



Funding

OWEB awarded \$1,499,998 in funding that leveraged \$969,926 in matching funds.



Benefits

- Social conditions for using ecological thinning and prescribed fires to restore forest landscapes are improved
- Fire suppression effectiveness and safety are improved, along with increased options for managed fire
- Frequency and severity of fire and other disturbances are shifted toward the desired range of variability
- Threats of abrupt forest degradation and fragmentation catalyzed by climate change are reduced

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2019, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership grant to the Rogue Forest Partners. This report documents projects for which funding was obligated during the first biennium of the initiative (2019 to 2021) to meet their FIP Initiative objectives. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in the Rogue Basin. Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.

ROGUE FOREST PARTNERS



Implementation Review Team: Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Illinois Valley Fuels Resource Operations Group, Applegate Partnership Watershed Council, Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Sustainable Northwest, American Forest Resources Council.

Monitoring Advisory Committee: Oregon State University, Southern Oregon University, Humboldt State University, retired - PSW Research Station, National Park Service, PNW Research Station

GOAL

The Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative strategic action plan identifies five strategic goals:

Improve landscape climate resilience by restoring natural range of variability in seral structural states +
 Reduce wildfire risk to people and nature +
 Increase public support for restoration thinning and beneficial fire +
 Increase the pace of restoration treatments in the Rogue Basin +
 Provide economic outputs and develop a skilled workforce

STRATEGIES

- Apply forest treatments
- Deepen partnerships among public and private land managers, tribes, local governments, and communities

- Foster development of engaged citizenry
- Improve socioeconomic conditions and workforce capacity

IMPLEMENTATION (2019-2021)

Restoration

4,350

LEGACY TREES RESTORED

1,426

ACRES OF MIXED CONIFER/HARDWOOD FOREST AND WOODLANDS TREATED TO RESTORE OPEN HABITAT

6,110

ACRES OF DRY FOREST HABITAT PROTECTED OR ENHANCED WITH LIGHT UNDERBURNING

765

ACRES TREATED TO RESTORE COMPLEX HABITAT

Stakeholder Engagement

240

CONTACTS IN MEETING WORKSHOPS AND MONITORING EVENTS

1

COMMUNICATION PLAN DEVELOPED + MONITORING PLAN DEVELOPED + WEBSITE PLATFORM DEVELOPED + MONITORING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FORMED + IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW TEAM FORMED

194

ACRES OF PRIVATELY-OWNED LAND TREATED THROUGH RFP AND NRCS RECRUITMENT

Economic Benefits

5.97

MILLION BOARD FEET OF BYPRODUCT TIMBER PRODUCED

8.35

FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS HIRED AS RESTORATION WORKFORCE

6

PRIVATE LANDOWNERS ENGAGED, EDUCATED, AND ENROLLED

Monitoring

3,703

ACRES MONITORED TO EVALUATE RESTORATION OUTCOMES

OUTCOMES

Near Term 0-10+ YEARS

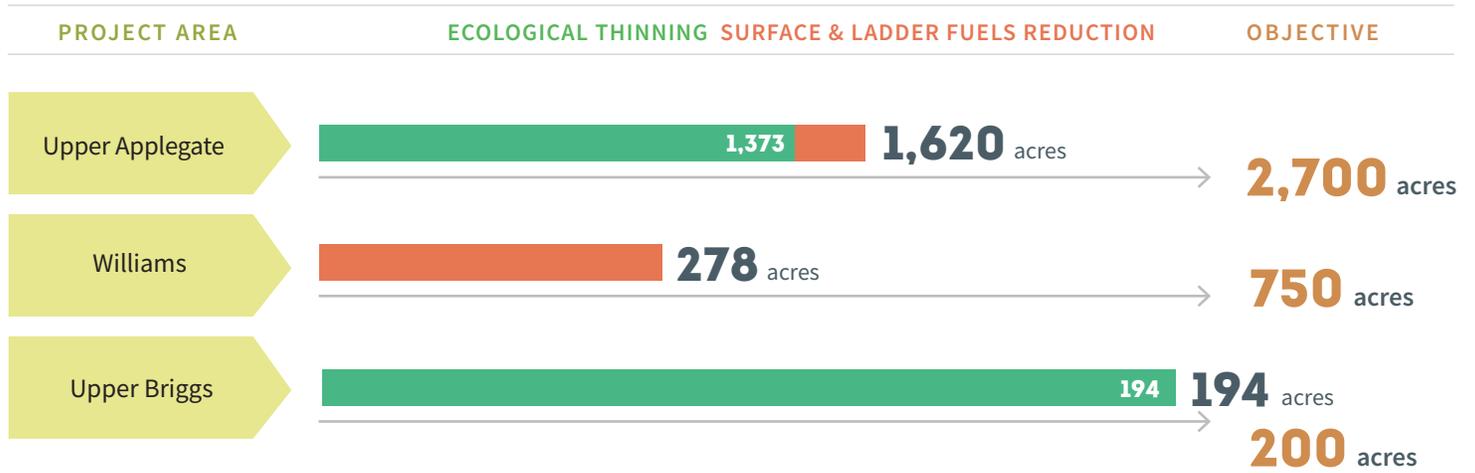
- Social conditions for using ecological thinning and prescribed fires are improved
- Density of smaller ingrowth and encroachment is reduced
- Stand proportion and vigor of fire-resistant species is restored and maintained
- Songbird indicator species shift, consistent with the planned changes in seral structural states
- Future legacy trees are promoted by growing under more open environment
- Nonnatives are reduced
- Oak habitat is restored
- Meadows are opened and maintained
- Wildfire hazard is reduced

Long Term 10+ YEARS

- Wildfire risks to forests and communities are reduced
- Risk from severe fire to critical late-successional habitat for critical species is reduced
- The proportion of open seral structural states is increased, consistent with adaptive range of variability
- Fire suppression effectiveness and safety are improved, increasing options for managed fire

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennium 1

Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.



Monitoring Approach

Progress toward achieving ecological and social outcomes will be determined by evaluating progress toward shorter-term goals and objectives. Treatment effects will be quantified in OWEB funded units where partners will collect data to quantify changes in forest structure, composition, and fuel characteristics. Effectiveness at achieving ecological outcomes at a landscape scale will be assessed at the Upper Applegate planning area, as the project was planned at a scale for a landscape effect. Social outcomes will be evaluated throughout the life of the project.



Adaptive Management

Restoration

CHALLENGES

COVID-19 impeded layout schedules for two projects because of a need to change practices and safeguard employees. Local fires burned homes of workers and families reducing ability to meet targets.



LESSONS LEARNED

Working with BLM vs. USFS requires different approaches. For example, BLM is more hierarchical about communications with partnerships.



ADAPTATIONS

Adjusted protocols consistent with CDC guidelines. Modified timelines and expectations.

Monitoring

CHALLENGES

Establishment of review teams was done entirely through email and phone calls. Songbird monitoring was delayed because of NEPA delays and layout delays.



LESSONS LEARNED

Well facilitated Zoom meetings with small breakouts can help
Adaptive management and treatment performance over time across a range of treatment types is enabled by monitoring, coupled with strategic outreach and engagement.



ADAPTATIONS

Plan Zoom meetings with small breakout rooms. Plan lots of time for modified, less efficient processes.
Adaptive management to-date has largely been preparation for external review through the development of an external review process and population of the implementation review team and monitoring advisory committee.

Engagement

CHALLENGES

COVID-19 made both field trips and meetings unadvisable. Learning how to use the more sophisticated features of zoom and other communication technologies was necessary.
Our communication plan was developed entirely through zoom. No outside events occurred.



LESSONS LEARNED

Field trips through zoom requires more preparation than an in-person field trip—assembling photos, preparing PowerPoints, rehearsals, timing. A good logo and communication plan takes time and investment.



ADAPTATIONS

Website and social media as a communication tools became more important.
Interest in expanding the work of RFP requires attention to governance through improvements in processes and clarification of roles.



Starveout Diversion Fish Passage Project

Warner Basin *Aquatic Habitat Partnership*

AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES

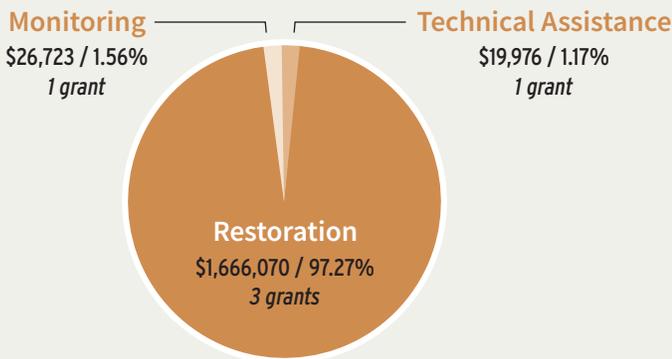
The initiative is focused on the three main tributaries (Twentymile Creek, Deep Creek, and Honey Creek) that support Warner sucker and Warner Lakes redband trout, as well as Pelican, Crump, and Hart Lakes. The three tributaries represent over 45 miles of Warner sucker designated critical habitat and the primary stream habitat for the two species.



Addressing existing limiting factors will require a collaborative effort among WBAHP members, the local community, landowners, and water users. Recovery of Warner sucker and Warner Lakes redband trout will preserve and ensure the continued existence of the valued fish community that is unique to the Warner Basin.

Funding

OWEB awarded \$1,712,769 in funding that leveraged \$556,672 in matching funds



Benefits

- Access to higher quality spawning, rearing, and refuge habitats for native fish species is improved
- Individual populations of native fishes become self-sustaining and function as a self-sustaining metapopulation
- Irrigation infrastructure is improved and enhances assurance of water availability for all needs

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2019, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership grant to the Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership. This report documents projects for which funding was obligated during the first biennium of the initiative (2019 to 2021) to meet FIP initiative objectives. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in the Warner Basin. Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.

PARTNERS



Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, River Design Group

GOAL

Streams and lakes in the Warner Basin are connected providing access to the high-quality spawning, rearing, and adult holding habitats that are necessary for Warner sucker and Warner Lakes redband trout to complete their diverse life-history strategies.



STRATEGIES

- Restore fish passage
- Screen unscreened diversions

- Increase the assurance of water availability
- Reduce non-native fish populations



IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Fish Passage

4
PROJECTS
INITIATED

7
MILES OF HABITAT
WITH IMPROVED ACCESS

30
CFS OF FLOW
DIVERTED THROUGH
SCREENS

1
FISH SCREEN
INSTALLED

Habitat Restoration

3
ACRES
OF RIPARIAN
ENHANCEMENT

Planning

3
IRRIGATION
INFRASTRUCTURE
REVIEWS
COMPLETED

Outreach

5
MEETINGS
WITH COMMUNITY
AND IRRIGATORS

Monitoring

2
FISH PASSAGE
PROJECTS
MONITORED



OUTCOMES

Near Term 0-10 YEARS

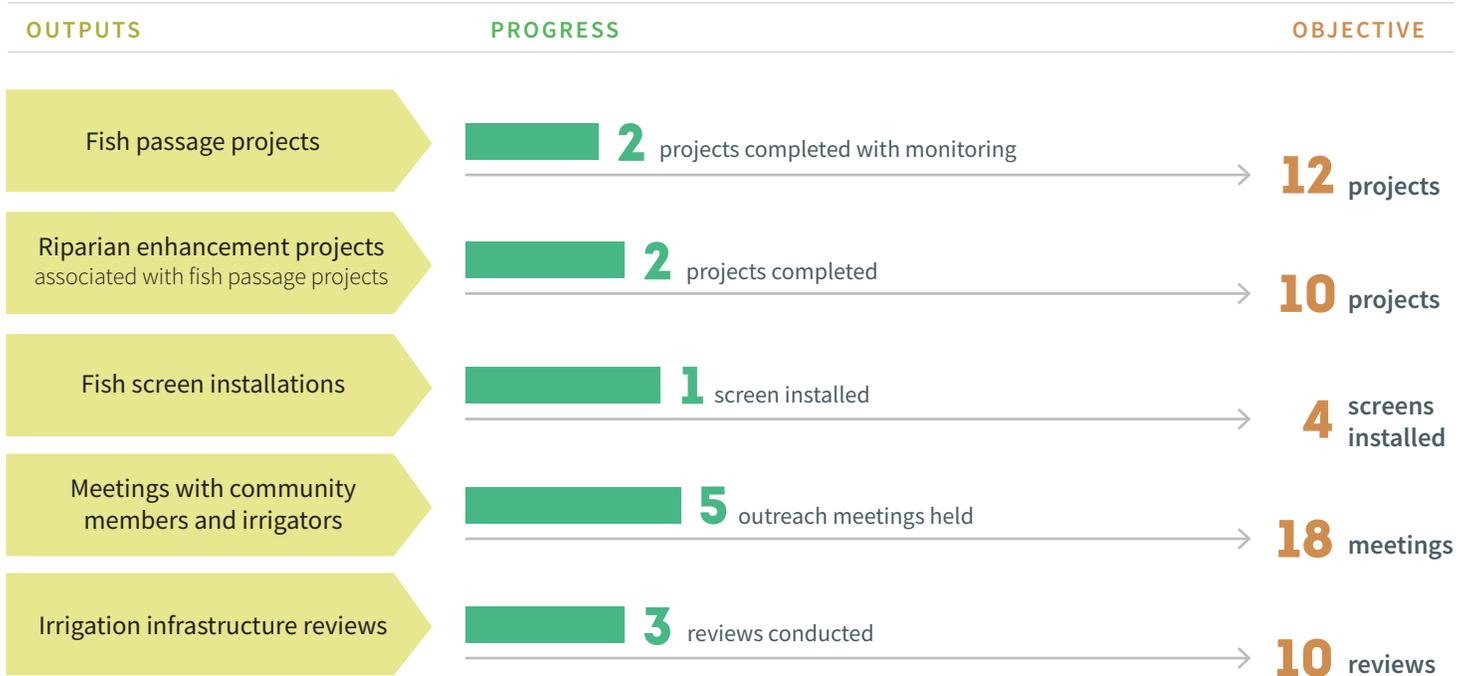
- Habitat connectivity and accessibility for native fish is restored
- Availability of water supplies is assured

Long Term 20+ YEARS

- Multiple age-classes including adults, juveniles, and young-of-year, are represented and approximate normal frequency distributions
- Population sizes of native fishes are stable or increasing

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennium 1

Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.



Monitoring Approach

Plan success will be evaluated annually at the project level and biennially at the Plan level. Long-term monitoring will be completed at 3-yr and 5-yr post-project periods to ensure longer-term project success. Long-term monitoring to be completed beyond the life of the FIP will be funded by the partnership's member organizations.

Project-level monitoring may consist of:

- 1 as-built survey and project completion documentation to ensure the project was built as designed,
- 2 out-year monitoring including site visits and repeated photo points to see how the project site has changed, and
- 3 biological monitoring to be coordinated with ODFW, which may include documentation of fish passage.

Plan-level monitoring will include tracking of project progress and overall success. Plan-level monitoring will be led by LCUWC and LSWCD. Biennial monitoring reports will include a summary of goals and objectives, actions completed to-date, project and monitoring status, and future work in the subsequent biennium. Plan-level monitoring will serve as a check on the WBAHP members to ensure program accountability.

Long-term monitoring would leverage monitoring networks and studies typically administered by USFWS, BLM, and ODFW. The long-term monitoring will be used to assess how Plan goals and objectives are being met and if native fish recovery and conservation is on-track.



Adaptive Management

Restoration

CHALLENGES

Understanding water rights and water use is critical for project designs.

Meeting fish passage and water user needs in dynamic systems with variable flows.



LESSONS LEARNED

Prepare diversion management documents that stakeholders agree to follow.

Explore project alternatives with stakeholders and select alternative that achieves the most fisheries and water user benefits.



ADAPTATIONS

Coordinate diversion management plans with water users to ensure proper fish passage structure management as streamflow declines.

Present design iterations and solicit input that is incorporated in subsequent designs. Hold both group and individual meetings with landowners.



Monitoring

CHALLENGES

Broad flow range requires strategic placement of fish monitoring equipment.

Past restrictions to private properties limited understanding of Warner sucker populations.



LESSONS LEARNED

Coordinate PIT tag antenna placement and water level loggers with design engineers to share effort and data.

Information sharing with landowners and building trust has increased access to areas not previously sampled.



ADAPTATIONS

Fish and project performance monitoring dovetail to share data collection effort and information to improve designs and understanding of project performance.

Sampling has resulted in increased population estimates and known Warner sucker presence. Fish passage monitoring will assess individual projects and reach-level passage.



Engagement

CHALLENGES

Leadership transition at partnership organizations offers new opportunities.



LESSONS LEARNED

A strong commitment to the FIP by WBAHP partners and emergence of new leaders have contributed to smooth transitions.



ADAPTATIONS

WBAHP continues to hold quarterly meetings and there is frequent interaction among members. Communication ensures support and understanding.



Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Salem OR 97301-1290
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(503) 986-0178

Agenda Item H supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Jillian McCarthy, Tide Gate Coordinator
Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
Coby Menton, Regional Program Representative
SUBJECT: Agenda Item H – Food Security and Farmworker Safety Update

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program (FSFS), including quantitative results of the grant offering, a summary of lessons learned from program staff, and a summary of results from the survey of grant program participants.

II. Background

In June of 2020, the legislature allocated \$16 million in federal funding to OWEB to administer a COVID-19 response program to help secure Oregon's food supply chain and protect essential agricultural workers. OWEB entered into an interagency agreement with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to help develop and communicate the program. Five OWEB staff developed and administered the grant program from May 2020 through December 2020.

The FSFS program was developed in response to safety needs for farmworkers who harvest Oregon's agricultural products, and to the temporary rules enacted by Oregon Occupational Safety Healthy Administration (OR-OSHA) in response to COVID-19. These requirements come with an increased cost to agricultural producers in providing farmworker housing, field sanitation, and transportation.

The goals of the program were to: 1) deploy rapid support and resources to Oregon's agricultural growers to meet harvest demands and ensure the protection of migrant and seasonal farmworkers during the COVID-19 emergency; 2) Reduce the potential for illness and death associated with COVID-19 among farmworkers, their families, employers, and other residents in rural and urban communities; and 3) enhance the public health of the state and educate Oregon's agricultural industry to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

III. Program Implementation

OWEB staff worked with ODA, OHCS, and other agency partners to develop the FSFS grant program, which went live on June 10, 2020. The grant program included Farmworker Housing (temporary modifications to existing housing, temporary alternative housing, hotel/motel assistance), Field Sanitation (toilets/handwashing stations, face coverings), and Transportation (rental vehicles, mileage reimbursement).

Final payments were reviewed and approved in December 2020, and staff completed final program reporting in early January 2021.

IV. FSFS Grant Program Outcomes

The FSFS program served 228 producers, resulting in 305 individual grant projects. In total, \$5.1 million in federal funding was spent, with over \$1.85 million in direct payments to producers, \$3 million in the purchase and distribution of 4.2 million KN95 masks to farmworkers across the state, and \$335,000 (<7% of the total program cost) to administer and deliver the program. Producers estimated that over 21,000 farmworkers benefitted from the enhanced safety measures that were supported by FSFS program funding. More information including the number of projects by fund type, the number of applications and funding awarded by county, the number of applications by farm size, and the primary crops by county are included in the *Oregon's Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program Report* in Attachment A.

V. FSFS Lessons Learned

Participating in the FSFS program was a unique job rotation for OWEB staff and presented many opportunities for learning and professional growth that translate well to OWEB's traditional programs and grant-making processes. These lessons have been documented by FSFS staff in an after-action review and shared broadly with agency partners. In addition, FSFS program staff developed and distributed a survey to grant program participants after the program ended. The survey had a 46% response rate and offered insights into the producer experience that can help OWEB improve our programs as well as help other agencies continue to support producers through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attachments

Attachment A. Oregon's Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program Report



PROTECTING THE HARVEST - WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP FARMWORKERS HEALTHY IN OREGON

Oregon's Food Security and Farmworker Safety (FSFS) Program provided \$5.1 million in CARES funding to Oregon's agricultural producers in order to help secure Oregon's food supply chain and protect essential agricultural workers from COVID-19 exposure and illness during the 2020 harvest season.

The FSFS Program provided financial assistance to comply with increased safety measures during peak harvest. This report describes the program's highlights and outcomes.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Over \$1.85 million in direct payments to producers during the 2020 harvest season (Jun – Nov 2020)
- Coordinated with local partners to distribute 4.2 million KN95 masks, and invested \$3 million in FSFS funding for mask purchases
- 228 producers participated, resulting in 305 FSFS projects
- Producers estimated 21,000+ farmworkers benefitted from the enhanced safety measures
- Assistance for housing, transportation, and field sanitation to protect farmworkers from COVID-19, including face coverings
- Coordinated inter-agency approach to develop the program, informational resources, and provide information under the emerging COVID-19 pandemic
- 33 agricultural producers were connected with Oregon Health Authority coordinators/Community Based Organizations through the FSFS Program
- Cost to deliver program < 7%. Total administrative costs: \$335,000

STATE AGENCIES AND NON-PROFITS WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE RESULTS

The COVID-19 emergency caused Oregon's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OR-OSHA) to issue temporary rules requiring increased field sanitation measures and more stringent labor housing and transportation regulations.

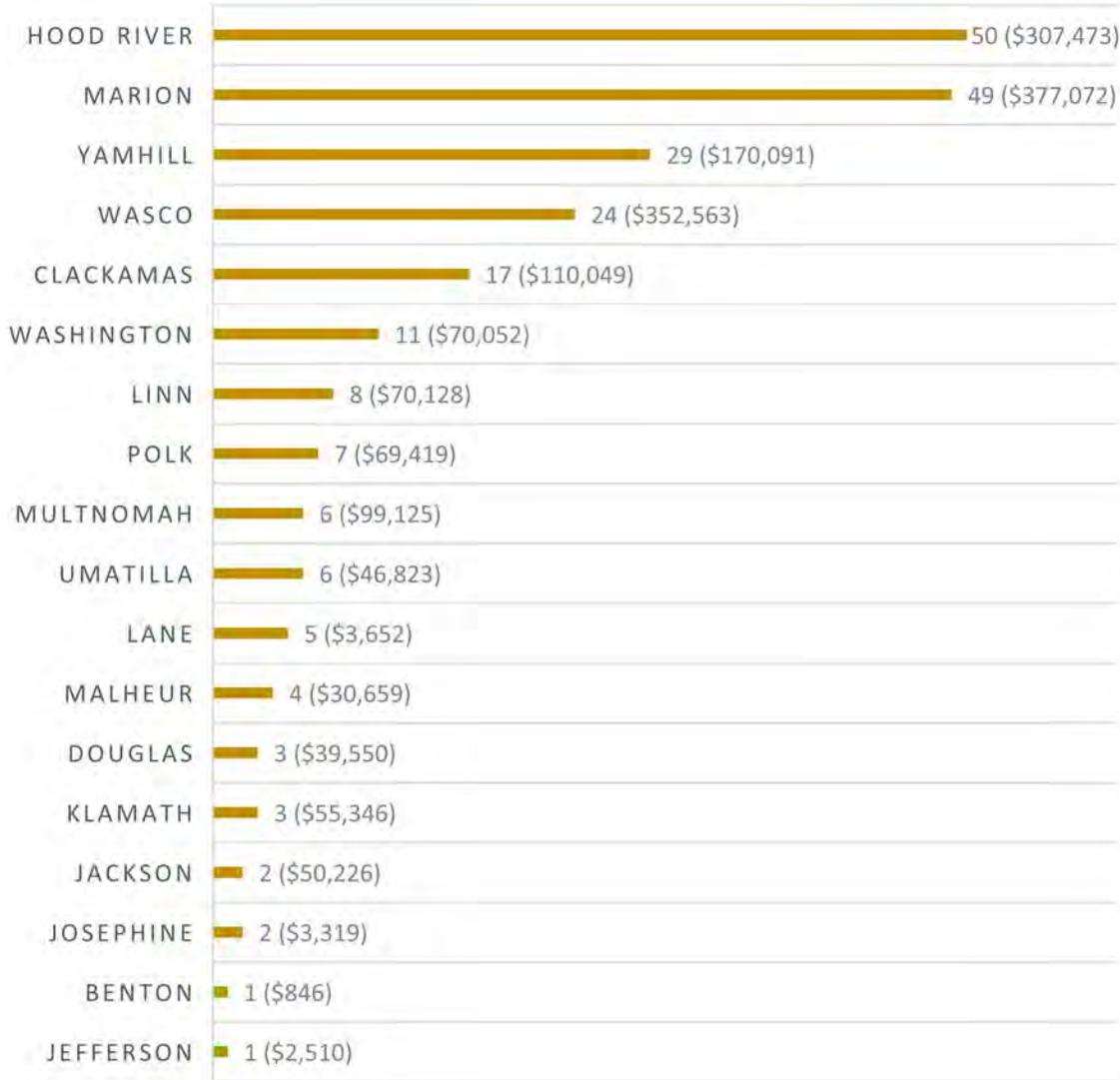
When Governor Kate Brown announced the temporary OR-OSHA rule, five state agencies came together to proactively help Oregon's agricultural producers have the resources they needed to comply and keep farmworkers healthy.

Led by the Office of Governor Kate Brown, these state agencies rapidly developed a financial assistance program for Oregon's agricultural producers.

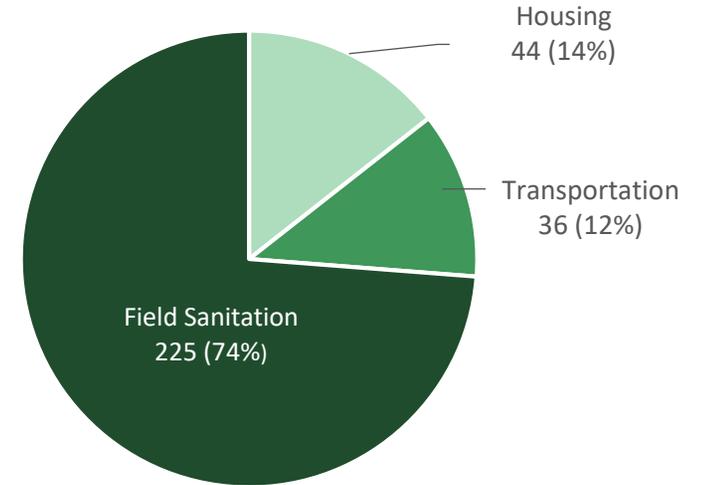
Agencies worked with farmworker advocates, Community Based Organizations, and Oregon Health Authority's Community Partner Outreach Program to identify priority needs and respond with information and resources.



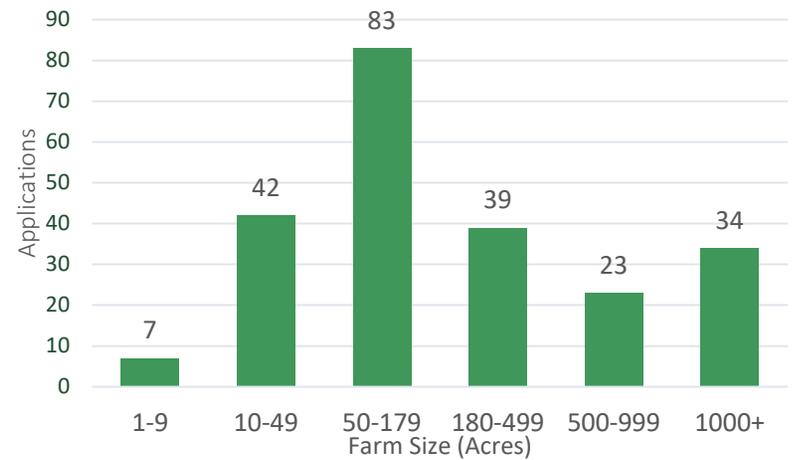
NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS & FUNDING AWARDED BY COUNTY



NUMBER OF PROJECTS BY FUND TYPE (Total Projects: 305)



NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS BY FARM SIZE





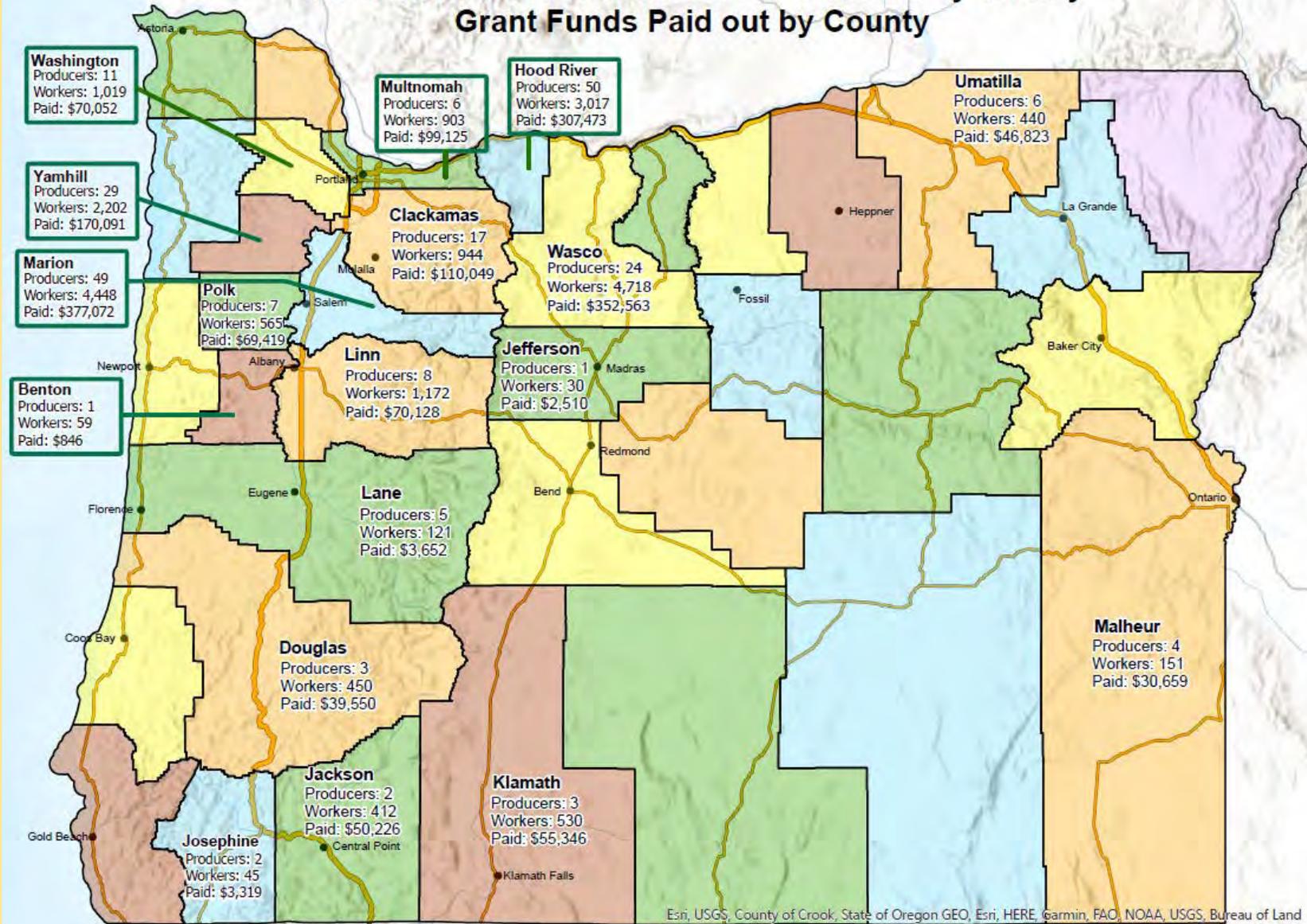
Oregon's Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program Report

January 2021

PRIMARY CROPS BY COUNTY

- BENTON**
Christmas trees, berries
- CLACKAMAS**
Berries, mixed vegetables, nursery stock
- DOUGLAS**
Grapes, berries
- HOOD RIVER**
Cherries, pears, apples
- JACKSON**
Pears, grapes, mixed vegetables
- JEFFERSON**
Carrot seed, grass seed, nursery stock
- JOSEPHINE**
Grapes, herbs
- KLAMATH**
Grains, potatoes, mixed vegetables
- LANE**
Grapes, berries, mixed vegetables
- LINN**
Hazelnuts, berries, mixed vegetables, grass seed
- MALHEUR**
Asparagus, sweet potatoes, onions, corn, beets
- MARION**
Berries, grapes, hazelnuts, hops, mixed vegetables, nursery stock
- MULTNOMAH**
Trees, shrubs, hemp, berries, mixed vegetables
- POLK**
Berries, grapes, grass seed, hazelnuts
- UMATILLA**
Apples, pears, grapes, nursery stock
- WASCO**
Cherries, pears
- WASHINGTON**
Berries, grapes, nursery stock, hazelnuts
- YAMHILL**
Grapes, hemp, berries, hazelnuts

Number of Producers and Workers Served by County Grant Funds Paid out by County



Esri, USGS, County of Crook, State of Oregon GEO, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS

MARION
Berries, grapes, hazelnuts, hops, mixed vegetables, nursery stock

MULTNOMAH
Trees, shrubs, hemp, berries, mixed vegetables

POLK
Berries, grapes, grass seed, hazelnuts

UMATILLA
Apples, pears, grapes, nursery stock

WASCO
Cherries, pears

WASHINGTON
Berries, grapes, nursery stock, hazelnuts

YAMHILL
Grapes, hemp, berries, hazelnuts



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Agenda Item I supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 4: Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – ODOT Fish Passage
March 9-10, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report requests that the board authorize the Executive Director to amend an agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to provide grant-making services for habitat restoration projects by adding up to an additional \$100,000 in funds to the agreement.

II. Background

ODOT manages a \$4.2 million per year Fish Passage Program to improve fish habitat in streams impacted by state transportation infrastructure. This program is in addition to, and falls beyond the scope of, required mitigation programs. Under the program, ODOT can allocate resources internally, hire contractors, or work with partner agencies to implement projects. Occasionally, the most suitable entity to carry out a habitat improvement project is the local watershed council. Since ODOT does not have granting authority to provide funds to councils, it entered into an Agreement with OWEB to provide grant-making services on a case-by-case basis.

In October 2016 the board authorized the Executive Director to enter into an Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement (Agreement) with ODOT to provide grant-making services to watershed councils for habitat restoration projects up to \$250,000. The board authorized an additional \$250,000 to be added to the Agreement in January 2019. All the funding has been encumbered for eligible fish passage projects. Under the agreement, ODOT and OWEB execute work order authorizations for specific projects. OWEB requests a grant application, completes technical review, and awards funds to the local watershed council.

III. Projects to Date

The following projects totaling \$500,000 have been allocated funding under the Agreement:

- a. **Highway 36 Cleveland Creek Culvert Fish Passage Design, Siuslaw Watershed Council, \$11,633:** This technical assistance grant enabled the Siuslaw Watershed Council to contract with an engineering firm to complete a Right of Way Retracement analysis for a bridge to replace an undersized and misaligned culvert delivering Cleveland Creek, a salmon-bearing stream under Highway 36 near Tide, Oregon. This right of way analysis helped determine the exact boundary of ODOT's property in the bridge construction area which will assist in building this bridge in the future.
- b. **North Fork Johnson Creek Crossing Fish Passage Improvement Project, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, \$88,709:** This restoration project retrofitted a culvert on the North Fork of Johnson Creek at Highway 26 to eliminate a barrier and slow velocity, allowing fish to pass through the culvert on this salmon-bearing stream.
- c. **Cleveland Creek Bridge Replacement Advance Design, Siuslaw Watershed Council, \$257,514:** This technical assistance project will result in a 95% design for a 70-foot span bridge to replace the current culvert at Cleveland Creek. When constructed, the project will result in access to 1.5 miles of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat and provide cold water refugia from the mainstem Siuslaw River.

ODOT has indicated that it expects to have more projects eligible for funding, including the next phase of the Cleveland Creek Bridge design, under the Agreement in 2021.

IV. Recommendation

Staff request that the board authorize the Executive Director to amend the Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement (#217-901) with Oregon Department of Transportation by increasing ODOT's contribution from \$500,000 to \$600,000, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with grantees under the terms of the Agreement.



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Agenda Item J supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 6: Coordinated Monitoring and Shared Learning.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – *Telling the Restoration Story* Grants Update
March 9, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Telling the Restoration Story is a targeted grant offering that helps OWEB and grantees better communicate the ecological outcomes of restoration funded by OWEB. At the March 2021 board meeting, staff will share information about Willow Creek to learn what emerged from the board's investment in that effort. This is an information item.

II. Background

Telling the Restoration Story grants support compilation, analysis, and/or interpretation of existing data from a watershed restoration project or projects, and production of outreach materials that describe outcomes from that work. Outreach products aim to reach a broad audience, including board members and legislators. Grantees also identify specific audiences, so the materials developed can be used to communicate with landowners, restoration practitioners, and natural resource managers working to restore similar landscapes in Oregon.

Eight projects have been funded under this offering so far. An online map provides short summaries and links to completed products as they become available:

<https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7bc381f4422944778431a65f2b9b7fd6>

III. *Telling the Restoration Story: Willow Creek*

Willow Creek is a 57-mile tributary to the Malheur River near Vale, Oregon. Irrigated farming in the basin produces sugar beets, onions, potatoes, corn, mint, grain, alfalfa seed, vegetable seed, and hay. Between Brogan and Vale, the creek has been turned into a drainage and irrigation canal. The Malheur Watershed Council (MWC) selected Willow Creek as a focus area after conducting water quality monitoring throughout the Malheur Watershed in the 1990s. Water quality data identified Willow Creek as one of the most impaired tributaries to the Malheur River. Flood and furrow irrigation systems can create water quality and water quantity concerns because as irrigation water moves over the surface of cropland or pasture, it picks up bacteria and nutrients from manure, and additional nutrients and sediment from cropland soils.

Furrow irrigation also is water intensive, requiring large quantities of water to provide sufficient infiltration in the lower part of the field.

Since the 1990s, the MWC has worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, irrigation districts, the Malheur Soil and Water Conservation District, landowners and other partners to implement projects to address these water quality concerns. Some of the main conservation projects implemented have included piping irrigation water laterals, conversion to sprinkler irrigation, fencing livestock out of the creek, and conversion to no-till cropping systems to reduce runoff. Monitoring has shown these practices to be highly effective in reducing sediment and nutrient runoff from reaching the creek. Water quality monitoring results has shown that on average phosphorus, sediment and E.coli have been reduced by 30% in Willow Creek since 1997.

With *Telling the Restoration Story* funds, the MWC hired contractors to assist in developing an outreach plan and a suite of products to reach a variety of audiences. OWEB staff advised the grantee on communication product design, graphics, and the story line for a video. Outreach products include 1) a two-page brochure (Attachment A), 2) a power point slide deck to deliver presentations to local groups, and 3) a short produced video sharing the accomplishments from over 20 years of watershed restoration.

The short video is available online at: <https://vimeo.com/488240406>. The fact sheet, PowerPoint slide deck, and video describe the formation of the Lower Willow Creek Working Group by local landowners and irrigation districts to address the water quality concerns. All the products quantify implemented actions and the funding contributions by the state and federal agencies. The piping canal piping efforts to conserve water and improve water quality also have resulted in lower carbon emissions by reducing reliance on diesel fuel to pump water. The MWC estimates that the cumulative investments have resulted in 15 new jobs across the local economy and involved the participation of at least 23 Oregon businesses.

IV. Recommendation

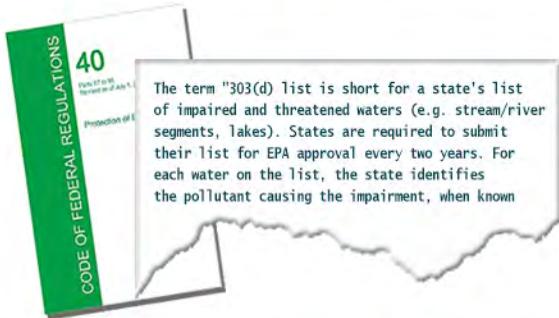
This is an informational item only.

Attachments

A. Willow Creek Brochure

The Problem

In the late 1990s, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began water quality monitoring in the Malheur Watershed that includes Willow Creek. The tests found nutrients, E.coli and sediment creating poor water quality resulting in a DEQ-303(d) listing.



Lower Willow Creek Working Group

Due to the poor water quality and the DEQ 303(d) listing, residents of the area established a proactive task force to begin to restore the watershed area. To address the water quality and pollution, the Lower Willow Creek Working Group was established.



Project Accomplishments

- ✓ 400,000 pounds of CO² emissions eliminated annually.
- ✓ 36,000 pounds of phosphorous runoff prevented annually.
- ✓ 120,000 tons of annual soil loss ceased.
- ✓ 183.5 billion colonies of E.coli per acre prevented from leaving the fields.
- ✓ Virtually all seepage and evaporation was eliminated.
- ✓ 2 to 3 million Kilowatt hours of electricity saved annually.
- ✓ 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel conserved annually.
- ✓ Water conservation benefits amount to more than 12,000 acre feet of irrigation water savings annually.

Economic advantages of this project :

- 15 new jobs ✓
- \$81,000 per year in fuel costs saved ✓
- \$115,000 in electrical pumping costs saved annually ✓
- Participation of at least 23 Oregon businesses ✓
- \$1.8 million generated for the economies of Ontario and Vale, Oregon ✓



WILLOW CREEK
WATERSHED RESTORATION

A Watershed Success Story



www.malheurwatershed.org

Willow Creek Watershed



The Willow Creek Watershed area is a tributary of the Malheur River located north of Vale, Oregon. The Malheur river drains into the Snake River at the border between Oregon and Idaho. . It is made up of 32,000 acres used for irrigated farmland and 10,000 acres of dry rangeland for cattle, wild game and upland game birds. It has a history rich in early western settlement, gold mining, agriculture, and ranching.

THE PLAN

The Willow Creek Working Group identified the following plan to deal with the environmental problems

Convert Open Ditches to Pipe



Help farmers enhance irrigation



Prevent livestock waste from entering Willow Creek



Repair and replace natural plant growth



\$5+ million invested by Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

\$2+ million invested by private landowners in projects

\$2+ million invested by Vale Oregon Irrigation District



1998 - 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

95 Individual projects

2,500 acres converted from flood to sprinkler irrigation

755 acres of rangeland improved

31 water troughs for cattle

25+ miles of irrigation mainline piped

4000 native plants, like willows, planted along Willow Creek

3 sites monitored **12** times per year

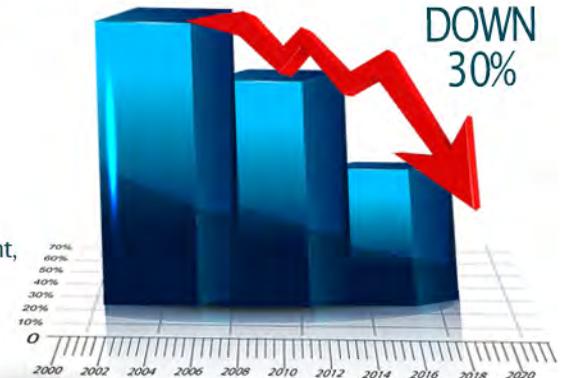
48+ miles of laterals piped

16 pump-back systems serving **1,240** acres

16+ miles of riparian fencing to protect Willow Creek.

Phosphorus
Sediment
E.Coli

Monitoring shows that, on average, Phosphorus, Sediment, and E. Coli bacteria are down by 30%.





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Agenda Item K supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – Climate Considerations in OWEB's Grant-making
March 9-10, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Since July of 2020, work has been underway by the board's climate committee to explore how OWEB can incorporate climate considerations into grant-making. This report provides a high-level overview of work to date and articulates the intent to engage with stakeholders about this work in the coming months. Staff requests the board indicate their support for outreach to and communication with applicants, grantees, and partners, to ensure the agency understands needs and opportunities on the ground and uses this information to inform OWEB's efforts to more fully address climate considerations across its grant programs.

II. Background

In April of 2020, OWEB updated its board committee structure, including creating a new board-level Climate Committee. The role of the committee is to help identify ways to more meaningfully incorporate climate change into OWEB's grant programs.

To date, the Climate Committee has been in a 'learning' mode, discussing such topics as:

- How OWEB addresses climate in its current grant-making processes and criteria, focusing on open solicitation grants and Focused Investment Partnerships;
- Increasing carbon sequestration benefits while minimizing greenhouse gas emissions associated with a range of restoration and conservation actions; and
- Climate adaptation co-benefits from restoration and conservation actions.

The committee is discussing how climate considerations could be reflected and integrated into OWEB's grant programs. Given this, outreach to applicants, grantees and stakeholders will be important, so that partners are aware of the committee's and Board's interest in and work related to climate and understand potential implications of more explicitly incorporating climate considerations into OWEB's grant-making.

III. Outreach to Stakeholders in the Coming Months

Staff propose that OWEB initiate outreach to stakeholders about the agency's climate related work following the March 2021 board meeting. Initial outreach will come in the form of a 'heads up' letter to applicants, grants, and partners about the work of the board's climate committee. This letter will include information such as:

- Background about the committee's work to date and coordination with other board-level committees.
- Notification that, beginning with the Summer 2021 open solicitation grant solicitation, OWEB will add a small number of questions to grant applications asking applicants about climate considerations they may be including in their project designs (e.g., qualitative information about projected effects of climate change on species, habitats and/or water quality and quantity in their regions; and anticipated climate related benefits from the proposed project). These questions are intended to prompt thinking by applicants about climate considerations but will not be assessed via formal evaluation criteria at present.
- Work by staff to compile some resources for grantees about regional climate effects and restoration and conservation related climate benefits.
- Potential future outcomes of OWEB's climate related initiatives.

As is standard practice for OWEB, the agency is committed to regularly communicating with OWEB stakeholders about climate related work. Staff propose that this communication occur via periodic e-mail updates (e.g., the 'heads up' letter) quarterly written updates to the OWEB board, and opportunities for engagement—for example, listening sessions—in the coming months, with timing dependent on staff capacity.

IV. Recommendation

Staff request the board signal support for initiating outreach to applicants, grantees, and stakeholders about the agency's climate related work, with the first step being a 'heads up' letter that will be circulated following the spring 2021 board meeting.



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Acting Business Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – Strategic Implementation Area Grants
March 9-10, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the status of the 2020 Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) and requests technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring funding for the remaining 2020 SIAs.

II. Background

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Management Program leads the SIA program, under which select areas around the state receive focused stakeholder engagement, technical assistance, and monitoring funding to address priority non-point source water quality concerns in agriculturally influenced areas. Water quality goals are achieved by voluntary cooperation among landowners and natural resource partners to address issues, and by ODA enforcing water quality regulations.

The pause on grant funding implemented by the board in June 2020 included nine pending 2020 SIA grants. At the September board meeting staff shared with the board a plan for OWEB and ODA to work together to refine the funding approach and bring requests for SIA funding to the board as local partners are ready to begin implementation.

III. Current Status

The nine remaining SIAs are in various stages of preparing for and beginning implementation. ODA has completed the remote evaluation of all nine SIAs. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, field evaluations have only been completed for three of the nine. ODA is working to schedule the remaining field evaluations but has determined that the remote evaluation data provided to the SWCDs provides enough information to begin SIA implementation, including developing an outreach plan and beginning landowner engagement.

IV. Next Steps

SIA applications for technical assistance and stakeholder engagement funding will be reviewed by the SIA review team, made up of ODA, ODFW, DEQ and OWEB. After the

initial grants are awarded OWEB and ODA staff will begin working with the local partners to convene a local monitoring team for the development of the monitoring plan. Once developed the monitoring plan will be submitted to the Statewide Monitoring Advisory Group for review and approval. The group meets quarterly and includes representatives from ODA, OWEB, DEQ, and ODFW.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board amend and increase 220-8010-17550 by \$1,125,000 for nine SIAs and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds, through appropriate agreements with an award date of March 10, 2021.



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M – Spring 2020 Open Solicitation Grant Offering
March 9-10, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Spring 2020 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 52 restoration grants, 24 technical assistance grants, and 9 stakeholder engagement grants.

II. Spring 2020 Grant Offering Background and Summary

Due to the pandemic and the subsequent spending plan rebalance, the application deadline was extended from April 27, 2020 to July 27, 2020. A total of 143 applications were received requesting \$18.8 million. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

III. Review Process

Staff adapted to a virtual review process where all eligible grant applications were reviewed by the agency's six Regional Review Teams (RRTs). Staff scheduled virtual site visits for as many proposed projects as possible. Per OWEB process, all RRT members were invited to 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, which are provided in Attachment B. After classifying applications as "Fund" or "Do Not Fund," the RRTs then prioritized the projects recommended for funding by application type.

The RRT evaluations and recommendations, along with staff recommendations, were distributed to all applicants. Attachment C includes the number of applications recommended by RRTs and staff for each region by project type, as well as staff-recommended award totals by application type and region. Prior to the board meeting, staff will forward to the board any written comments received from applicants regarding the RRT and staff recommendations.

IV. 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 that improve greater sage-grouse habitat. The Spring 2020 Open Solicitation Grant Offering includes 2 projects that meet this criteria, 221-5017, Addressing the Gaps in Sage-grouse Habitat, \$74,876, and 221-5023, Burns/Lakeview Local Implementation Team Coordinator, \$70,802. Total funding awarded to sage-grouse projects in all categories since April 2015 is \$9,396,918.

V. Salmon Plate Projects

Using the board’s 2015 policy related to projects funded with Salmon License Plate dollars, staff recommend distributing \$253,655 for this offering to projects shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Salmon Plate Projects

Project Number and Name	Salmon Plate Funds Recommended
221-1000 Seeley Creek Habitat Project	\$100,000
221-1005 Coal Creek Habitat Enhancement Phase 1	\$49,987
221-2000 Tenmile Lakes Watershed Beaver Analogue Project	\$53,668
221-3004 Sandy River Basin Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project	\$50,000

VI. Funding Recommendation

Staff considered the RRT recommendations and funding availability in developing the staff funding recommendations provided in Attachment D, which includes the number of applications recommended for funding by RRTs and staff by region and grant type. The funding recommendations for the Spring Open Solicitation Grant Offering are summarized in Table 2. When the spending plan was rebalanced in June to account for lottery revenue reductions, the board acknowledged that additional funds would likely accrue in sufficient amounts to award one more grant cycle this biennium. In addition to funding recommendations, Table 2 includes recommended additions to the spending plan based on available revenue.

Table 2: Spending Plan and Funding Recommendations for Spring 2020 Grant Offering

Grant Type	Current Spending Plan Balance	Additional Spending Plan Funds Requested	New Spending Plan Balance	Staff Recommendation
Restoration	\$3,257,000	\$5,031,000	\$8,288,000	\$8,287,060
Technical Assistance	\$525,000	\$774,000	\$1,299,000	\$1,298,917
Stakeholder Engagement	\$248,000	\$262,000	\$510,000	\$509,704

TOTAL	\$4,030,000	\$6,067,000	\$10,097,000	\$10,095,681
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Staff recommend the board increase the spending plan by the amounts shown in Table 2 and award funds for the staff-recommended projects listed in Attachment D.

Attachments

Attachment A. Grant Applications Submitted

Attachment B. Evaluation Criteria

Attachment C. RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations

Attachment D. Regions 1-6 Funding Recommendations

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board July 27, 2020 Open Solicitation Offering

Applications Received by Type

	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	2	11	14	27
Region 2	2	13	13	28
Region 3	4	5	16	25
Region 4	2	5	9	16
Region 5	3	7	16	26
Region 6	2	5	14	21
Totals	15	46	82	143

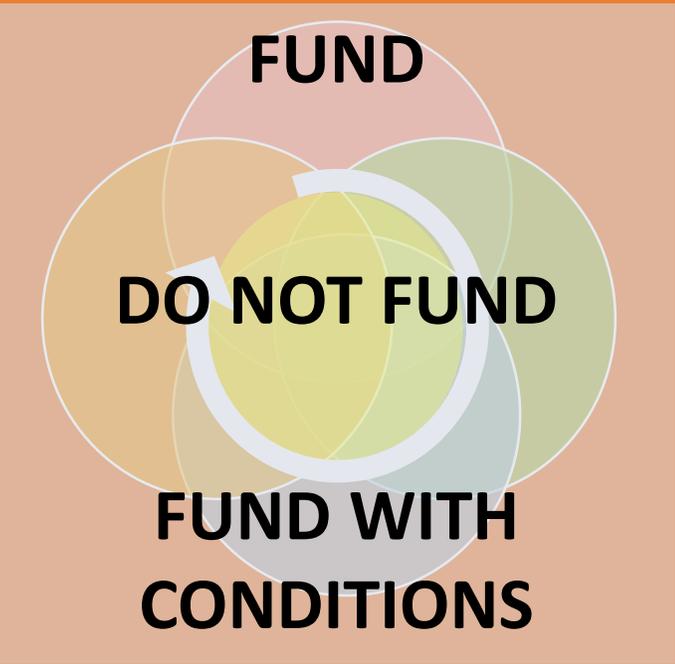
Dollar Amounts by Application Type

	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	97,409	558,362	2,287,018	\$2,942,789
Region 2	55,090	740,447	4,178,470	\$4,974,007
Region 3	293,319	266,070	3,903,334	\$4,462,723
Region 4	68,813	286,181	2,466,756	\$2,821,750
Region 5	207,454	300,767	1,563,326	\$2,071,547
Region 6	46,030	237,900	1,214,095	\$1,498,025
Totals	\$768,115	\$2,389,727	\$15,612,999	\$18,770,841

Open Solicitation – Restoration Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Recommend



Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize



CRITERIA

How well project meets criteria for project evaluation & preferences, including:

- Causes over symptoms of disturbance
- Whole watershed approach over site-specific
- Collaboration over single-party



CERTAINTY OF SUCCESS

Certainty of success, based on the organizational capacity of the applicant & the likelihood the project will meet its ecological objectives



BENEFIT TO OREGON PLAN

Benefit to the Oregon Plan for Salmon & Watersheds, as evidenced by its expected benefits to watershed functions, fish habitat or water quality



COST BENEFIT

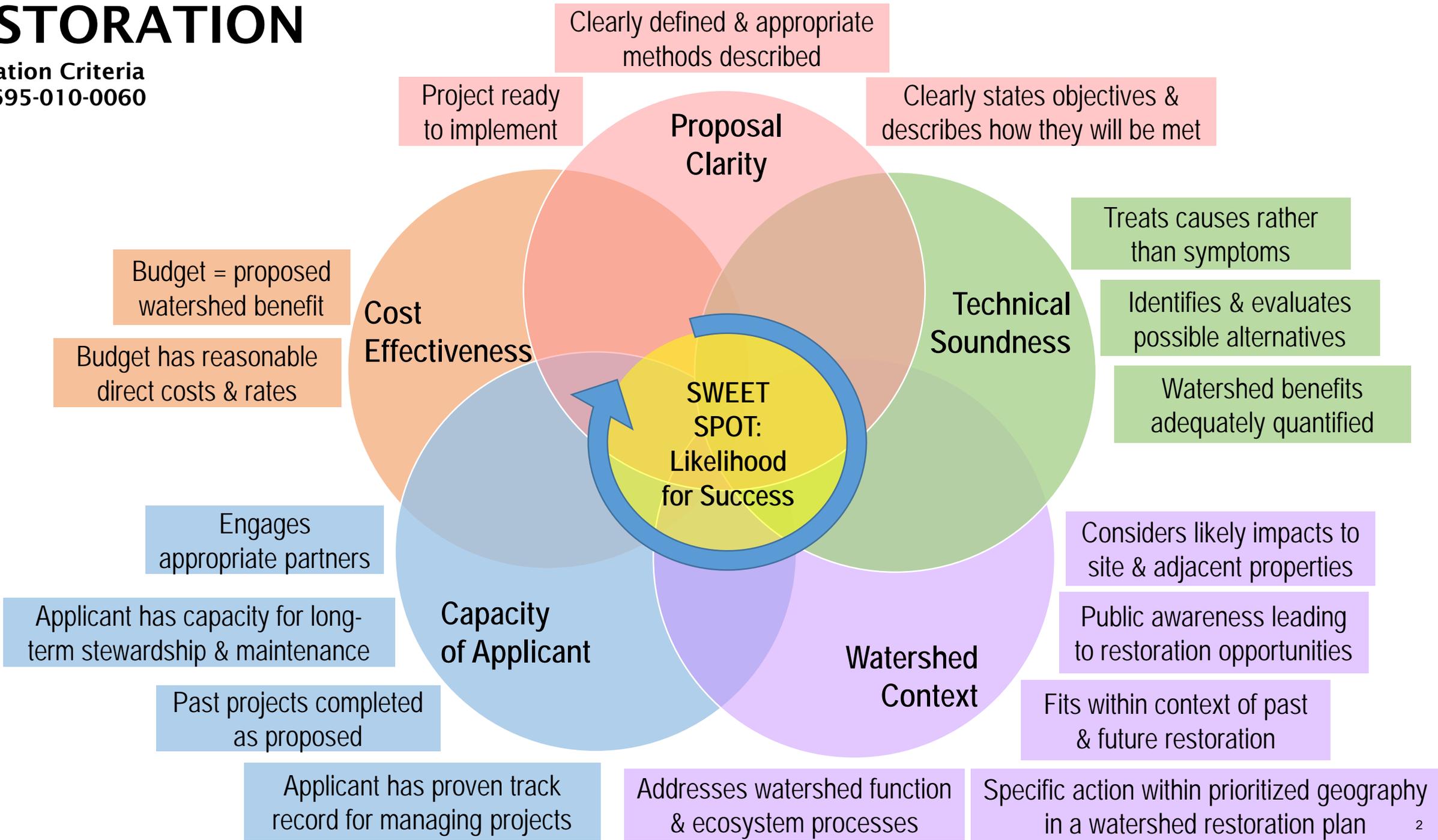
Project costs relative to the anticipated watershed health benefits

Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

RESTORATION

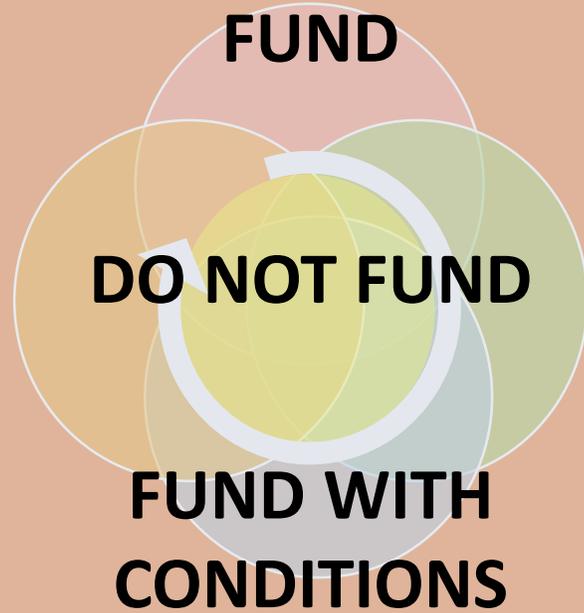
Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-010-0060



Open Solicitation – Technical Assistance Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Recommend



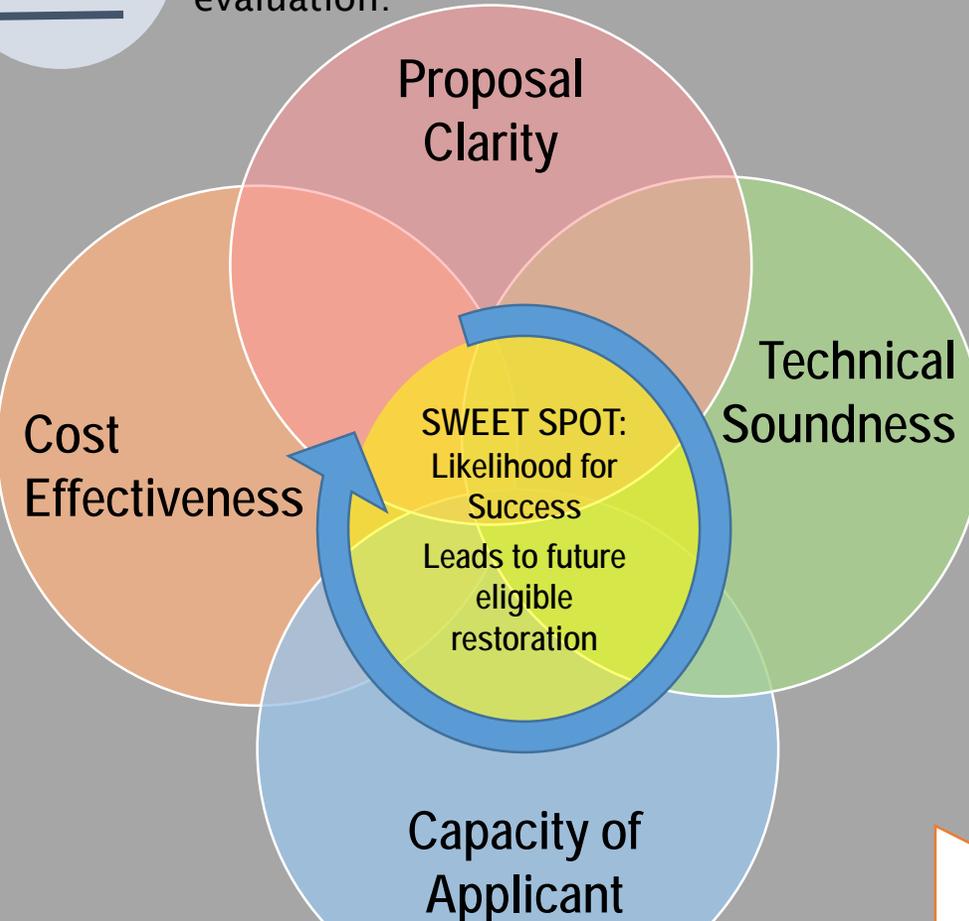
Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize



CRITERIA

How well project meets criteria for project evaluation:



Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-030-0045

Technical Design & Engineering = project feasibility reports, designs, or engineering materials that directly lead to site-specific restoration or acquisition projects within a specified timeframe

Resource Assessment & Planning = 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

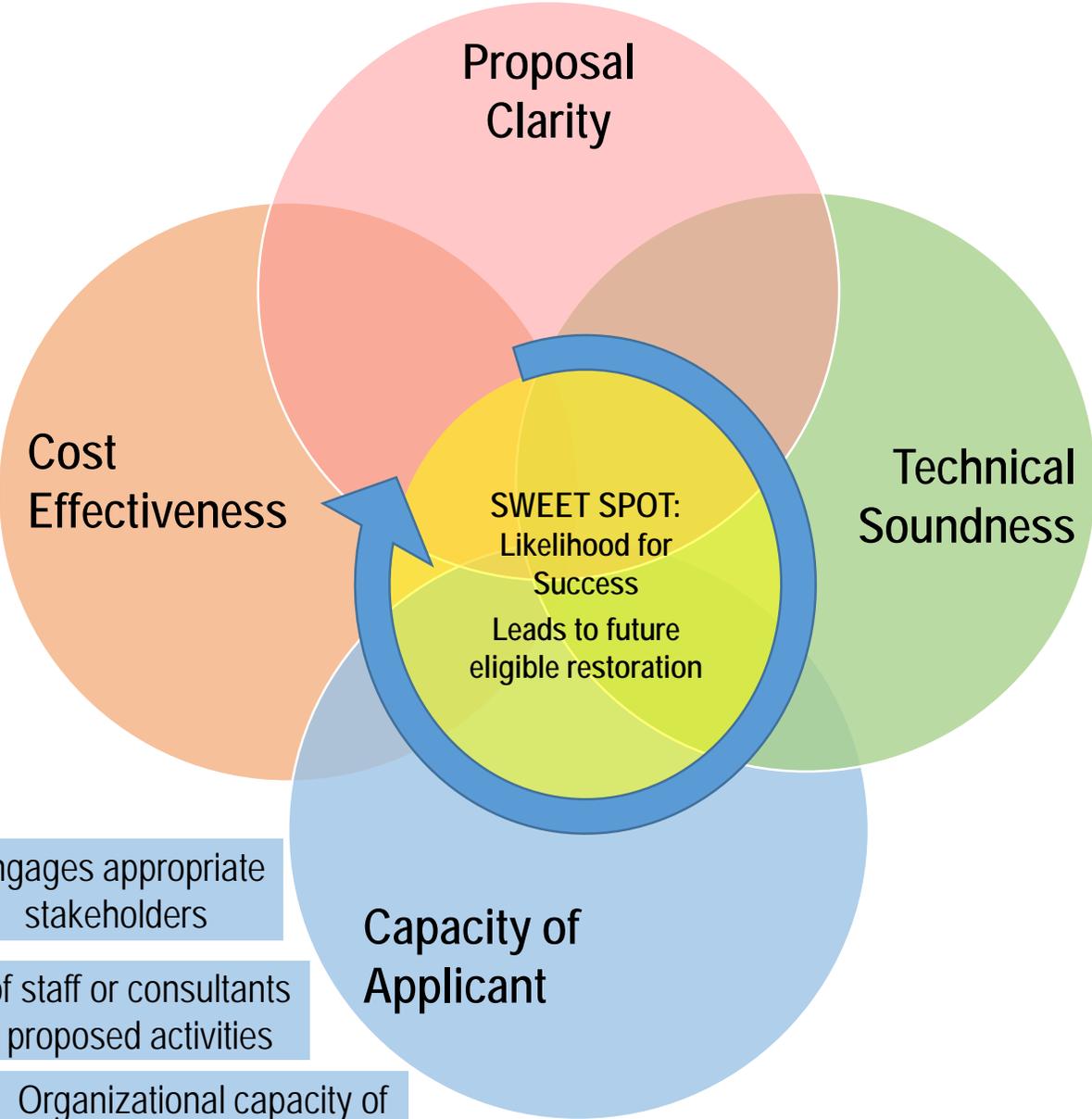
Describes a clear need

Cost aligns with work necessary to accomplish project objectives

Engages appropriate stakeholders

Qualifications of staff or consultants to accomplish proposed activities

Organizational capacity of applicant



Technical Design & Engineering

- Addresses limiting factors in existing conservation or recovery plan
- Describes alternative analysis that demonstrates a range of options were considered
- Appropriate data will be collected to inform designs
- Professionally accepted technical or engineering approaches will be used

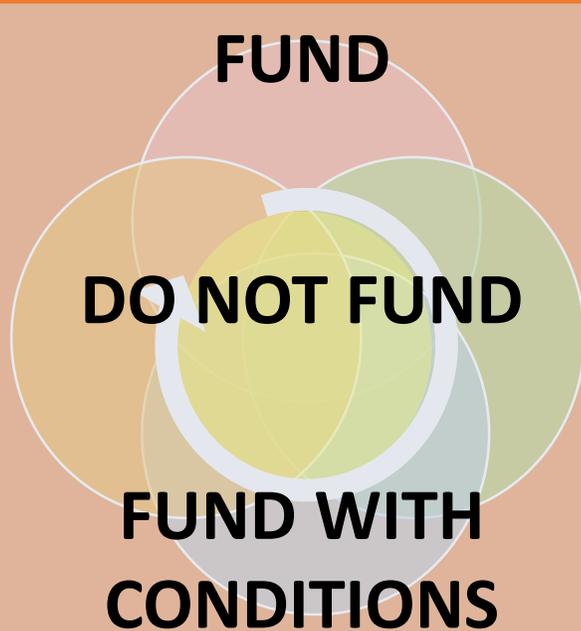
Resource Assessment & Planning

- Scope & scale is feasible, & partners have demonstrated ability in collaborative work at this scale
- Process by which data will be managed & shared with partners
- Professionally accepted methods & parameters will be used

Open Solicitation – Stakeholder Engagement Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Recommend



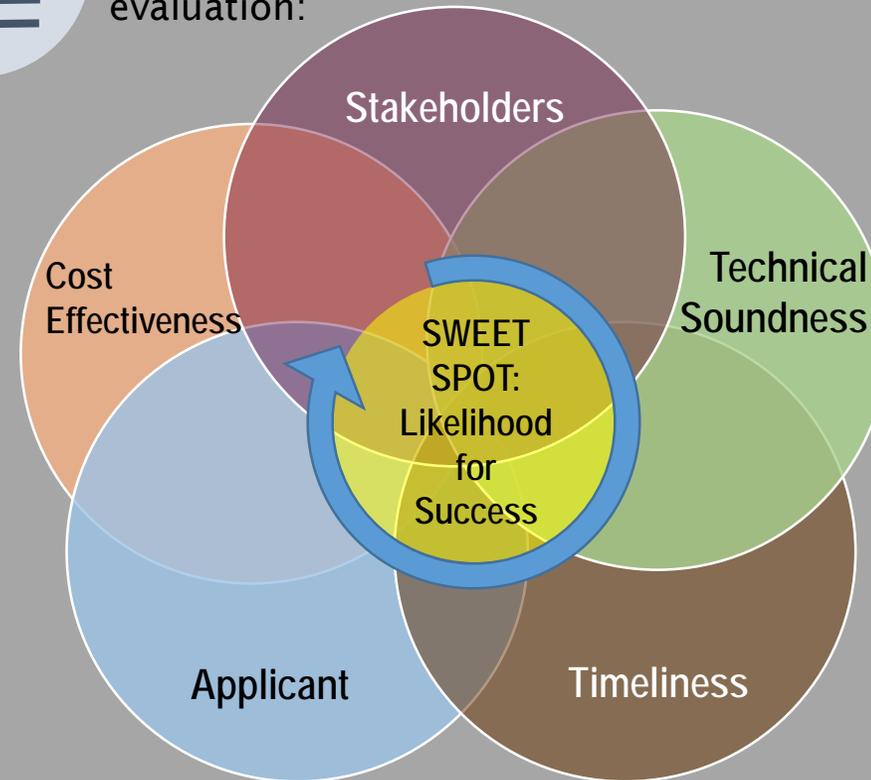
Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize



CRITERIA

How well project meets criteria for project evaluation:



CERTAINTY OF SUCCESS

Based on the organizational capacity of the applicant & likelihood the project will meet its stakeholder engagement objectives

Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

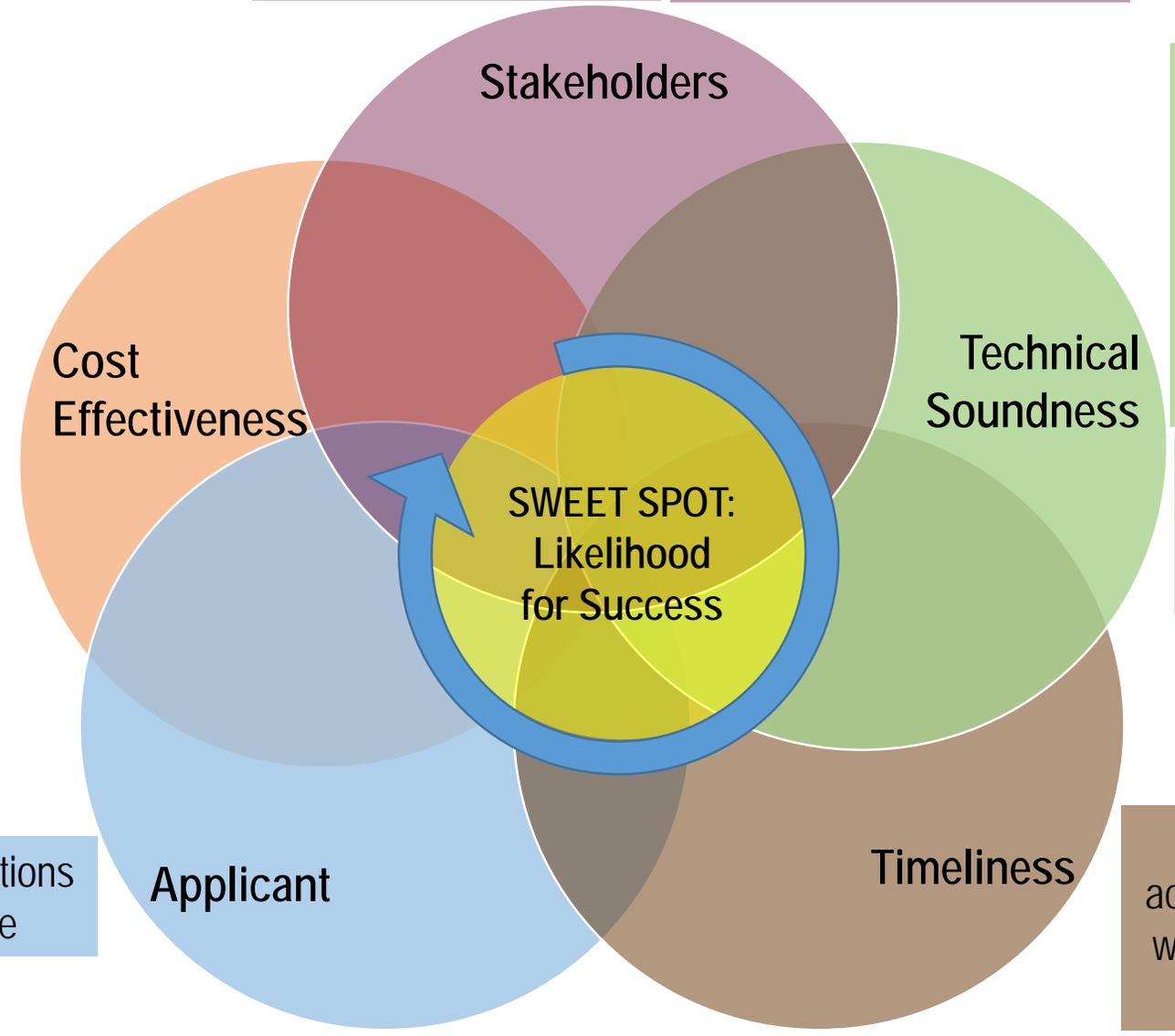
Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-015-0070

“Stakeholder Engagement Project” means a project whose purpose is to communicate and engage with landowners, organizations and the community about the need for, feasibility, and benefit of a specific eligible restoration or acquisitions project or program that leads to development of eligible projects within an identified geography.

Projects whose primary purpose is education are  NOT ELIGIBLE

Applicants engage with appropriate stakeholders in the appropriate geography

Likely effectiveness of multidirectional communication among the applicant & stakeholder



Shows qualifications & experience

Expected outcomes of resulting restoration or acquisitions include protecting or restoring fish or wildlife habitat, watershed function, and or water quality or quantity

Evidence base linking engagement to eligible project types

Resulting restoration or acquisition projects, or program will lead to timely development of eligible projects

RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations for the Spring 2020 Open Solicitation Grant Offering

Restoration

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	11	11	100%
2	13	6	46%
3	14	10	71%
4	5	5	100%
5	11	11	100%
6	9	9	100%
Total	63	52	83%

Technical Assistance

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	8	8	100%
2	12	3	25%
3	4	4	100%
4	4	4	100%
5	3	2	67%
6	3	3	80%
Total	34	24	71%

Stakeholder Engagement

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	2	2	100%
2	2	2	100%
3	2	2	100%
4	1	1	100%
5	3	1	33%
6	2	1	50%
Total	12	9	75%

Region	Restoration	Technical Assistance	Stakeholder Engagement
1	\$1,397,072	\$ 395,919	\$ 97,409
2	\$ 1,720,064	\$ 224,339	\$ 55,090
3	\$ 2,004,762	\$229,342	\$ 215,664
4	\$ 1,201,955	\$ 211,700	\$31,513
5	\$ 1,111,694	\$ 102,398	\$70,802
6	\$ 851,513	\$ 135,219	\$39,226
Total	\$8,287,060	\$1,298,917	\$509,704



Kate Brown, Governor



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Spending Plan
March 9-10, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report updates the board on OWEB's 2021-2023 Spending Plan. This item is for discussion only; no board action will be taken at this time. However, the board will be asked to provide direction to staff for moving forward with final options for the July 2021 meeting.

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 plates. The bulk of OWEB's funding comes from two major sources: Measure 76 Lottery funds and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF).

At its July 2019 meeting, the board adopted a 2019-2021 Spending Plan totaling \$104.8 million. In June 2020, the board updated the spending plan because of precipitous declines in Lottery funding, resulting in a final 2019-2021 spending plan of \$76 million. Attachment A shows the 2019-2021 Spending Plan, total board awards to date, and funds remaining in each line item as of March 2021.

III. 2021-23 Spending Plan Development

Based on the February 2021 revenue forecast, it is estimated that a total combined approximately \$104.5 million will be available for grant distribution through Measure 76 Lottery Funds and PCSRF funding over the course of the biennium. For Lottery funding, this amount is dependent on revenues received. For PCSRF funding, this amount will be dependent on OWEB's successful receipt of PCSRF funding through the competitive federal grant process. If Congressional funding is available, PCSRF provides an opportunity for

eligible applicants—including OWEB on behalf of the State of Oregon—to submit grants each year. It should be noted that there are limitations on eligible uses of the available PCSRF funds, such that these funds cannot be used for all aspects of OWEB’s grant program.

In November 2020, the board was updated on the process and timeline for approving the 2021-23 Spending Plan and discussed spending plan categories and proposed percentages allotted to each category. Between December 2020 and March 2021, staff discussed funding options for specific grant types within each category. Based on board feedback and staff discussions, a draft 2021-23 spending plan is provided as Attachments B (percentages) and C (spending plan detail).

IV. Spending Plan Line Items

The spending plan contains a range of items. Some are frequently discussed (for example, restoration, technical assistance, and monitoring grants; focused investments; and council capacity), while others (for example, weed grants, small grants, district capacity, and CREP) are less frequently on the board’s agenda. At the March 2021 board meeting, staff will present on each line item to give the board a better sense of what is funded in each area. Subsequent attachments to the staff report provide summaries of the spending plan line items. Staff will present information to the board at the March meeting to provide additional details about the programs and answer any questions the board may have about those programs. These presentations are in advance of the July 2021 board meeting, at which decisions will be made on spending plan amounts for the 2021-23 biennium.

V. Recommendation

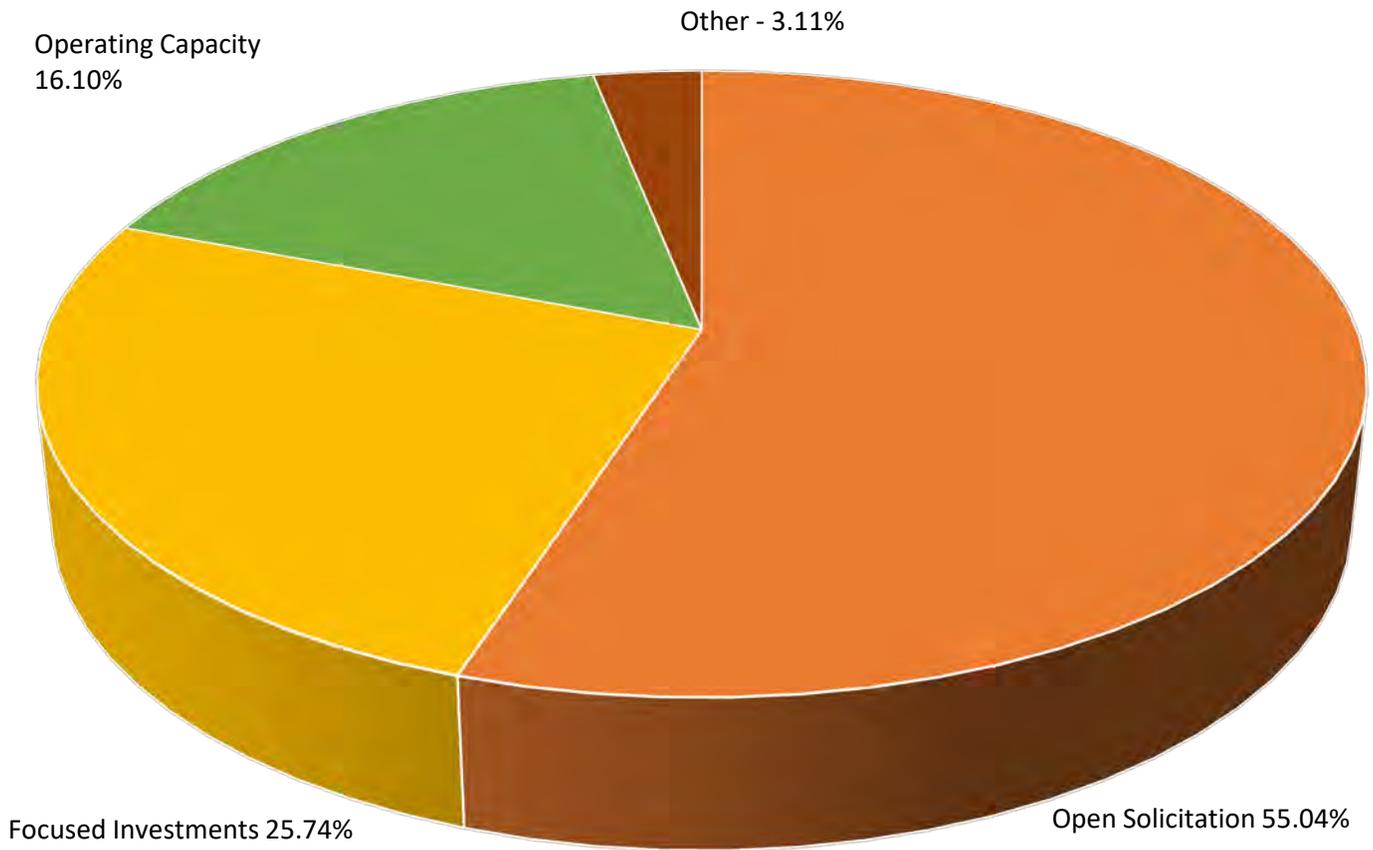
This is an information item only. Staff will be seeking feedback on spending plan line items for development of a final proposal for board consideration in July 2021. No final decisions will occur at the March 2021 meeting.

Attachments

- A. 2019-2021 Spending Plan
- B. Draft 2021-2023 Spending Plan Percentages
- C. Draft 2021-2023 Spending Plan
- D. D-1 through D-18 Spending Plan Line Item Summaries

	2019-21 SPENDING PLAN for M76 & PCSRF Funds	Mar 2021 additions	Spending Plan as of Mar 2021	TOTAL Awards To- Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To- Date	Mar 2021 Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after Mar 2021 awards
1	Open Solicitation:						
2	Restoration	5.031	24.233	15.945	8.288	8.288	0.000
3	Technical Assistance						
4	Restoration TA	0.774	3.265	1.966	1.299	1.299	0.000
5	CREP TA		1.163	1.163	0.000		0.000
6	Stakeholder Engagement	0.262	1.007	0.497	0.510	0.510	0.000
7	Monitoring grants		1.753	1.753	0.000		0.000
8	Land and Water Acquisition						
9	Acquisition		4.905	4.905	0.000		0.000
10	Acquisition TA		0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000
11	Weed Grants		1.631	1.631	0.000		0.000
12	Small Grants		1.500	1.500	0.000		0.000
13	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes		0.760	0.760	0.000		0.000
14	TOTAL	6.060	40.217	30.120	10.097	10.097	0.000
15	% of assumed Total Budget		48.79%				
16	Focused Investments:						
17	Deschutes		2.085	2.085	0.000		0.000
18	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat		0.780	0.780	0.000		0.000
19	Harney Basin Wetlands		2.400	2.400	0.000		0.000
20	Sage Grouse		0.474	0.474	0.000		0.000
21	Ashland Forest All-Lands		2.000	2.000	0.000		0.000
22	Upper Grande Ronde		2.311	2.311	0.000		0.000
23	John Day Partnership		4.000	4.000	0.000		0.000
24	Baker Sage Grouse		1.343	1.343	0.000		0.000
25	Warner Aquatic Habitat		1.713	1.713	0.000		0.000
26	Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp		1.500	1.500	0.000		0.000
27	Clackamas Partnership		3.354	3.354	0.000		0.000
28	FI Effectiveness Monitoring		0.150	0.150	0.000		0.000
29	TOTAL	0.000	22.110	22.110	0.000	0.000	0.000
30	% of assumed Total Budget		26.82%				
31	Operating Capacity:						
32	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)		14.330	14.330	0.000		(0.000)
33	Statewide org partnership support		0.425	0.425	0.000		0.000
34	Organizational Collaborative		0.100	0.100	0.000		0.000
35	Partnership Technical Assistance		0.779	0.779	0.000		0.000
36	TOTAL	0.000	15.634	15.634	0.000	0.000	(0.000)
37	% of assumed Total Budget		18.97%				
38	Other:						
39	CREP		0.750	0.750	0.000		0.000
40	Governor's Priorities		0.793	0.793	0.000		0.000
41	Strategic Implementation Areas	1.125	1.925	0.800	1.125	1.125	0.000
42	Natural Resource Emergency		1.000	1.000	0.000		0.000
43	TOTAL	1.125	4.468	3.343	1.125	1.125	0.000
44	% of assumed Total Budget		5.42%				
45	TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	7.185	82.429	71.207	11.222	11.222	0.000
46	OTHER DIRECTED						
47	ODFW - PCSRF		11.690	11.690	0.000		0.000
48	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		0.321	0.321	0.000		0.000
49	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF		0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000
50	TOTAL	0.000	12.011	12.011	0.000	0.000	0.000
51	TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds	7.185	94.440	83.218	11.222	11.222	0.000

Proposed 2021-2023 Spending Plan Percentages



	2021-2023 Proposed SPENDING PLAN for M76 & PCSRF Funds	2021 Spending Plan	2022 Spending Plan
1	Open Solicitation:		
2	Restoration	30.000	31.500
3	Technical Assistance		
4	Restoration TA	3.000	3.500
5	CREP TA	1.200	1.200
6	Stakeholder Engagement	1.750	1.750
7	Monitoring grants	2.000	3.750
8	Land and Water Acquisition		
9	Acquisition	7.000	9.000
10	Weed Grants	3.000	3.250
11	Small Grants	2.800	2.800
12	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	0.750	0.750
13	TOTAL	51.500	57.500
14	% of assumed Total Budget		55.04%
15	Focused Investments:		
16	Deschutes	1.915	1.915
17	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habi	1.400	1.400
18	Harney Basin Wetlands	0.100	0.100
19	Sage Grouse	0.000	0.000
20	Ashland Forest All-Lands	0.000	0.000
21	Upper Grande Ronde	0.466	0.466
22	John Day Partnership	4.000	4.000
23	Baker Sage Grouse	2.435	2.435
24	Warner Aquatic Habitat	2.293	2.293
25	Rogue Forest Rest. Ptrnrshp	2.700	2.700
26	Clackamas Partnership	3.082	3.082
27	New FIP Solicitation	8.000	8.000
28	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.500	0.500
29	TOTAL	26.890	26.890
30	% of assumed Total Budget		25.74%
31	Operating Capacity:		
32	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	15.121	15.121
33	Statewide org partnership support	0.225	0.400
34	Organizational Collaborative	0.300	0.300
35	Partnership Technical Assistance	1.000	1.000
36	TOTAL	16.646	16.821
37	% of assumed Total Budget		16.10%
38	Other:		
39	CREP	0.750	0.750
40	Governor's Priorities	1.000	1.000
41	Strategic Implementation Areas	1.500	1.500
42	TOTAL	3.250	3.250
43	% of assumed Total Budget		3.11%
44	TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	98.287	104.462
45	OTHER DIRECTED		
46	ODFW - PCSRF		12.883
47	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		0.330
48	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF		0.500
49	TOTAL	0.000	13.713
50	TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds	98.287	118.175

Attachment D1-D18 Spending Plan - Summaries



Kate Brown, Governor



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Governor's Priorities (other than Harney CREP)

Recommended Amount: \$500,000

I. Summary

The Governor's Priorities spending plan line item supports work within the sideboards of Ballot Measure 76 that furthers priority programs and initiatives related to restoration in Oregon. Typically these investments 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. These types of investments are unique in that they address both technical assistance and restoration needs while focusing on areas of importance to the Governor.

II. Program History

Under Ballot Measure 76, OWEB's funding has flexibility to address a range of needs that ultimately lead to on-the-ground restoration work. This, combined with Oregon's approach to addressing broad-scale initiatives through multi-organizational partnerships, has resulted in the use of OWEB funding as a catalyst to support emerging or particularly complex natural resource challenges and opportunities.

These investments have varied over time and include support for initiatives such as: a) Initial work of forest-health collaboratives, including statewide coordination, technical support for local collaboratives, and planning and implementation support for these groups; b) Partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that led to development Coastal Coho Business Plans through a partnership with NFWF, the Wild Salmon Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; c) Oregon's Sage-Grouse Plan, including convening partners to develop strategies for successful restoration programs, as well as data integration work; d) Initial scoping of agricultural working lands easements that evolved into the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program; e) Tidegate Partnership that 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; f) Post-fire recovery work related to the Chetco Bar fire in 2017 and fires in the mid-Columbia region in 2018; and g) Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision that helps ensure a secure and resilient water future for all Oregonians.

III. Demand

Investments have totaled \$1 million in each of the last two biennia. Because this program operates as a proactive grant-making item, the demand does not exceed the funding available.

IV. Future Need

OWEB staff worked with the Governor’s office to identify focus areas for this funding for the 2021-23 biennium as follows:

\$375,000 for Immediate Response Grants for the 2021 and 2022 Fire Seasons – Based on experience from the unprecedented 2020 fire season, when OWEB provided grants up to \$75,000 to support immediate post-fire recovery work in 13 wildfire areas, grants will be made available should the need arise in 2021 and 2022. Eligible implementation actions include soil stabilization efforts and log salvage for future restoration. Funding could also be used for stakeholder engagement to aid landowners in accessing fire-response funding along with technical assistance for fire impact assessments.

\$125,000 for Climate-Related Initiatives – The funding will support work that is mutually agreed upon by OWEB and the Governor’s Office, and could relate to such activities as: a) follow-up on natural and working lands efforts related to OWEB’s climate initiatives and Climate Executive Order (EO) 20-04, b) climate equity and justice considerations related to OWEB’s diversity, equity and inclusion work and the Impacted Communities work group under EO 20-04, and c) exploration of existing estimation and quantification tools for use in OWEB and other agency programs, among others.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

Though not part of the original Governor’s Priorities request, the board invested \$1 million to support post-fire recovery work from catastrophic wildfires of 2020. Grants of up to \$75,000 were made available for collaborative efforts in each of thirteen fire areas. Grantmaking is ongoing.

In addition, through the Governor’s priorities funding, investments were made to continue partnerships including the Tide Gate Partnership, the Sage Grouse Conservation Partnership and Oregon’s 100-Year Water Vision. Each of these partnerships has helped the state to move forward critical discussions to help improve native fish and wildlife habitat, and address key water quality and quantity issues.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$1.000	\$0
2017-2019	\$1.000	\$0
2019-2021	\$1.000	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$0.793	\$*
2021-2023	\$1.000	

*Full biennium data not available



Harney Groundwater Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Recommended Amount: \$500,000 from Governor's Plan Priorities

I. Summary

The Harney Basin has national and international significance for migratory water birds as a critical stopover on the Pacific Flyway. Faced with declining groundwater and a state designation of the area as a "Groundwater Area of Concern", irrigators in the area are working on solutions to reduce their demand for groundwater to obtain sustainable levels.

The primary goal for the Harney Valley Groundwater Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is to reduce groundwater use to sustainable levels when coupled with other strategies of groundwater use reduction. The CREP area is the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern (GHVGAC), a 2,386 square mile portion of the Harney Valley that encompasses nearly all groundwater irrigated lands. This area includes some 87,264 acres that are permitted for groundwater irrigation, containing nearly all the groundwater irrigated lands in the basin.

Full implementation of the CREP project is expected to result in the conservation of approximately 40,000-50,000-acre feet of groundwater annually (up to 60,000-acre feet permitted use). Ecological outcomes are anticipated to be improved groundwater conditions and restored dryland ecosystem conditions. Direct results of full enrollment will be a decrease in the rate of decline of groundwater levels, reduced threat to domestic and stock water users who rely on groundwater as their only source of water, reduced threat to groundwater dependent ecosystems, and increased sustainability of the remaining groundwater irrigated agricultural production in the basin.

The State of Oregon seeks to develop a partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fund and implement CREP in the basin. Through voluntary enrollment, the program would provide conservation rentals with state enhanced payments in identified areas that will contribute the most to reducing groundwater use. The program will be managed in coordination with the Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD).

Oregon will enroll up to 20,000 acres of actively irrigated land within the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern for 15-year contracts. Conservation rental payments for irrigated land will be at irrigated land rental rates.

The proposal will need to be submitted to USDA for national approval, and an application is being developed by local partners to ensure it will meet the needs of local irrigators and result in groundwater use reductions. Once agreed upon by the community, the application will be submitted by OWEB. In total, approximately \$9.4 million in state funds will be matched with some

\$43,000,000 over 15 years or approximately \$5,770,000/biennium of federal dollars through the Farm Service Agency.

II. Program History

This is a new program. Funding is being requested from the Legislature in the 2021-23 legislative session to both manage the program and to provide the \$500,000 in cost-share match for the federal investment. OWEB funding will serve as a backup if funding is not made available through the legislature. However, given the intensive nature of the technical assistance needed, the program cannot move forward if the legislature does not provide funding for the technical support staff at WRD to manage the program locally.

III. Demand

Because this is a new program, there is not an existing demand.

IV. Future Need

The estimated initial signup need is for \$500,000 of state funding to match with roughly \$2.2 million in federal dollars. This is only an estimate, based on the best assumptions of the community for landowner participation in the program. Program objectives include:

1. Enroll a maximum of 20,000 groundwater irrigated acres into CREP. The reduction will amount to an approximately 20% reduction in groundwater irrigated agricultural land in the basin.
2. Reduce use of groundwater by between 40,000- and 50,000-acre feet annually
3. Reduce the rate of groundwater level decline in areas of rapid decline.
4. Reduce the rate of groundwater level decline throughout the rest of the Harney Basin aquifer in cooperation with OWRD.
5. Reduce energy consumption by approximately 3.44 million kW-hr/year at full enrollment.
6. Target permanent groundwater use reduction by state payment of incentives above USDA irrigated rental rates to reduce the rate of groundwater level declines across the basin.
7. Target groundwater use reduction where benefits to groundwater dependent ecosystems are expected (proximity to springs).

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
SEE Governor's priorities for full history		



Kate Brown, Governor



Title: Strategic Implementation Areas

Recommended Amount: \$1.500 million

I. Summary

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Agricultural Water Quality Management Program, is leading the “Strategic Implementation Area” (SIA) initiative, where select areas around the state will receive focused stakeholder engagement, technical assistance, monitoring, and where necessary, compliance follow-up to address priority non-point source water quality concerns in agriculturally influenced areas. Water quality goals are achieved by voluntary cooperation among landowners and natural resource partners to address management concerns, and by ODA providing a regulatory backstop when needed.

During the 2019-2021 biennium, 17 Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) were originally identified by ODA. Eight of the SIAs were able to submit applications and receive \$100,000 in technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement funding, and \$25,000 in monitoring funding prior to OWEB’s April 2020 pause in funding. In October 2020 OWEB again began accepting applications for technical assistance and stakeholder engagement funding from the remaining nine SIAs. Due to staffing changes and COVID-19 challenges, only three of the nine have applied for funding. The other six will be applying for funding in March 2021. OWEB and ODA staff will work with the SIA leads to develop monitoring proposals and apply for funding later in 2021.

This funding supports the SIA lead and local partners to development outreach plan and work with landowners to develop restoration projects within the SIA geography. Any restoration projects developed from SIAs as a result of OWEB’s funding may be submitted either through OWEB’s other grant programs or in partnership with other agencies for implementation.

The monitoring funds provided to each SIA support baseline and long-term monitoring with the SIA geography. Each SIA convenes a local monitoring team to provide guidance and feedback on local monitoring objectives and the development of a monitoring proposal. Prior to implementation, all monitoring plans are reviewed by a Statewide Monitoring Advisory Group made up of representatives of OWEB, ODA, ODFW, and DEQ.

II. Program History

Beginning with the 2017-2019 biennium, the OWEB board awarded \$100,000 of technical assistance and stakeholder engagement funds for each SIA identified through ODA to support stakeholder engagement and project development. The funds, which are available for up to four years, help SIA partners engage stakeholders, plan and develop future conservation actions to address impacts on Oregon’s water quality standards, and/or to address goals identified in salmonid conservation and recovery plans. The board also awarded an additional \$25,000 in monitoring funds for each SIA. These funds are available for monitoring work after an approved monitoring proposal has been

developed. The purpose of SIA monitoring is to measure change in landscape and/or water quality resulting from the implementation of projects that improve agricultural management practices. Detecting a signal in water quality and landscape conditions takes time, which is why the monitoring funds are available for up to 10 years.

At the conclusion of the SIA grant period, local partners are expected to have worked with landowners within the targeted geography to address agricultural water quality concerns and limiting factors identified in salmonid conservation and recovery plans and complete the necessary monitoring.

III. Demand

ODA has developed a five-year schedule around the state that assumes 9 SIAs per year. Due to COVID-19 and the impacts to ODA resources and our local partners, demand is likely to be closer to 12-16 SIAs during the 21-23 biennium. In each SIA area, ODA and local partners will estimate the OWEB funds needed for local technical assistance and tailor local partners’ SIA technical assistance request to the amount of funding needed.

IV. Future Need

It is anticipated that SIAs will continue to be selected using a robust prioritization approach based on data from multiple sources including state and federal agencies. Funding will continue to be needed to assist in providing stakeholder engagement/technical assistance and monitoring in selected SIAs.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

Several soil and water conservation districts have developed projects as a result of the SIA program and OWEB technical assistance funds and have submitted applications to OWEB’s small grant and open solicitation grant programs. In addition, nine groups have developed monitoring plans and in various stages of data collection.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$1.000	\$0
2017-2019	\$1.200	\$0
2019-2021	\$1.700	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$1.125	\$*
2021-2023	\$1.500	

*Full biennium data not available

Attachment D3-D10 Open Solicitation - Restoration



Kate Brown, Governor



Open Solicitation - Restoration

Recommended Amount: \$31.500 million

I. Summary

Open solicitation restoration grants are OWEB's primary method of delivering support for watershed projects that restore watershed functions. Open solicitation restoration grants are offered twice per year, spring and fall, through a competitive granting program.

II. Program History

Open solicitation restoration grants aid landowners to restore watershed health locally and have been part of OWEB's history since its beginning in 1987 as the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board. Initial investments were modest and focused on restoration demonstration projects. The number of projects and level of investment quickly increased as the Oregon Legislature and the public supported OWEB through Ballot Measures 66 and 76. At the same time, organizational capacity within watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and other groups to plan and implement projects grew, and landowners became engaged in implementing voluntary projects.

Restoration accomplishments in Oregon, including those funded by OWEB, have been reported through the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI). From 1999 through 2020, OWEB invested \$386 million in 6,644 OWEB restoration projects that have reported their accomplishments to OWRI. Riparian, road, upland, fish passage, and instream restoration activities make up the largest number of projects, respectively. These projects have resulted in:

- 6,144 linear stream miles treated through instream and riparian activities
- 6,812 miles of habitat made accessible for fish
- 1,305,742 acres treated through upland activities
- 58,257 acres of wetland/estuarine habitat restored/created/enhanced.

III. Demand

In the 2019-2021 biennium, spending plan reductions resulted in three award cycles instead of the usual four. The board awarded only 57% of requested funds, or \$24.6 million out of \$43.3 million requested. The board awarded 71% of the funds requested in applications recommended for funding by regional review teams.

IV. Future Need

Even with 5 additional FIPs operating during the biennium, demand for open solicitation restoration funds remained high. Eliminating an award cycle in 2019-21 will likely result in additional demand for restoration grants in the next biennium.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

The integrity of the application review process was maintained during the necessary conversion to a virtual format for site visits and review teams caused by the pandemic. Video conferencing tools allowed for presentation of graphic materials as well as “face-to-face” discussion. Staff developed tools using available technology for review team voting and ranking.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$25.982	\$0
2017-2019	\$33.000	\$0
2019-2021	\$32.200	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$24.233	\$*
2021-2023	\$31.500	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



Open Solicitation – Technical Assistance

Recommended Amount: \$3.500 million

I. Summary

Open solicitation technical assistance grants are offered twice per year, spring and fall, through a competitive granting program for watershed assessments and designs that lead to eligible restoration projects. Technical assistance grants through the open solicitation process are capped at \$75,000 per grant.

II. Program History

Since 1999, OWEB has been awarding technical assistance grants. These grants play a key role in developing future restoration grant proposals and increase the capacity of OWEB's local partners to engage in project development, planning, design, coordination and permitting. There are two types of technical assistance grants offered through the open solicitation program:

- Technical Design and Engineering: Development of technical design for a restoration project; and
- Resource Assessment and Planning: Development of an implementation plan for restoration activities.

III. Demand

In the 2019-2021 biennium, the board awarded 51% of requested funds, or \$3.2 million out of \$6.4 million requested for eligible projects. The board awarded 64% of the funds requested in applications recommended for funding by regional review teams.

IV. Future Need

Even with 5 additional FIPs operating during the biennium, demand for open solicitation technical assistance funds remained high. Eliminating an award cycle in 2019-21 will likely result in additional demand for restoration grants in the next biennium.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

Increased funding for technical assistance grants in 2019-21 was met with increased demand. More applicants are taking a deliberate approach to restoration projects where they can eliminate uncertainty in a restoration application by taking the time to develop project designs with technical assistance funds. This has also led to higher quality restoration applications.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$3.060	\$0.169
2017-2019	\$4.000	\$0
2019-2021	\$4.100	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$3.270	\$*
2021-2023	\$3.500	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



Open Solicitation Monitoring Grants

Recommended Amount: \$3.750 million

I. Summary:

Prior to 2021, Open Solicitation (OS) monitoring grants were solicited during the fall grant cycle. Beginning in 2021, OS monitoring grants will be solicited during the spring grant cycle, with board awards in the fall.

Eligible monitoring activities include describing current watershed conditions and establishing trends about watershed conditions by gathering and analyzing data. Applicants also can request funding for evaluating the specific effects of a restoration or acquisition project or program by comparing similar watershed components before and after implementation of restoration or acquisition. Effectiveness monitoring is not a requirement of any OWEB grant, and is above and beyond compliance monitoring/implementation reporting. Monitoring information can assist restoration practitioners and OWEB in determining the biotic and abiotic changes due to restoration actions and inform future restoration design. Monitoring grant applications must articulate the monitoring question to be answered and provide information about complementary monitoring that is occurring in the watershed, among other monitoring grant application requirements. Monitoring projects must make their monitoring results publicly available.

Open solicitation monitoring grants differ from OWEB's Quantifying Conservation Outcomes and Outputs line item in the spending plan in that the open solicitation monitoring grants are proposed by local partners to OWEB as part of the agency's responsive grant-making process. The monitoring projects funded in the open solicitation grant program are designed and led by grantees, and typically are smaller in scope and effort than effectiveness monitoring projects funded by OWEB in the Quantifying Conservation Outcomes and Outputs.

II. Program History:

As a part of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, OWEB and other state natural resources agencies developed an associated monitoring strategy. This strategy described an overall framework for structuring coordinated monitoring and provided direction to help integrate Oregon Plan programs and monitoring with region-wide watershed enhancement and salmon recovery efforts. OWEB's monitoring grants assist the agency in meeting its responsibility to 1) provide support for cooperative monitoring activities, 2) describe the results of restoration investments, and 3) report on Oregon Plan progress.

III. Demand

In the 2019-2021 biennium, the board awarded 46% of requested funds, or \$1.75 million out of \$3.79 million requested. The board awarded 93% of the funds requested in applications recommended for funding by regional review teams (RRTs). The total allocation to open solicitation monitoring grants in the 2019-2021 biennium was reduced from previous biennia due to the downturn in Lottery revenues, resulting in only one OS monitoring cycle being funded. The total allocation to open solicitation monitoring grants in the 2021-2023 was increased from the previous

biennium. It is likely that high demand exists due to OWEB not offering monitoring grants in the Fall 2020 cycle. By shifting OS monitoring grants to the spring 2021 cycle, the agency is helping to address the anticipated high demand for monitoring funds.

IV. Future Need

It is anticipated that a consistent and significant need for monitoring funds will extend into the next biennium, given that 24-35 monitoring applications have been received each year since 2015. Alternate sources of funding for monitoring are limited, and in some cases other funding sources have seen reductions in available funds in recent years. For example, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)’s Clean Water Act Section 319 grants can only fund a limited number of monitoring projects statewide due to limited funding. In addition, recent budget cuts from in Bonneville Power Administration’s (BPA) Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Program have resulted in OWEB receiving more monitoring applications from entities in the Columbia Basin.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

During the Fall 2019 OS grant cycle, OWEB’s effectiveness monitoring coordinator and regional program representatives continued to offer informal pre-application consultations with potential monitoring applicants. These consultations allow the applicant to describe their monitoring interest and provide an opportunity for OWEB staff to advise them on integral components of a successful monitoring project. OWEB staff convened the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team (OPMT) to discuss the technical merits and potential benefits of monitoring applications received during the Fall 2019 cycle, then provide these reviews to inform funding recommendations by regional review teams.

In 2019, OWEB initiated rulemaking for monitoring grants. A rules advisory committee was established and met four times between August and December of 2019 to help draft revised rule language. Following a public comment period that included Oregon Department of Justice review, the OWEB Board approved the revised administrative rules on April 21, 2020. Staff has subsequently revised the online monitoring grant application to ensure the new evaluation criteria in rule can be applied. Staff has developed a plan to provide training opportunities for OWEB staff, interested applicants and review team members in preparation with the 2021 monitoring grant solicitation.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$2.120	\$0.024
2017-2019	\$3.100	\$0
2019-2021	\$3.500	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$1.753	\$*
2021-2023	\$3.750	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes

Recommended Amount: \$0.750 million

I. Summary

Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes includes OWEB-led initiatives that evaluate specific types of restoration actions at a broad geographic and temporal scale, rather than at the project scale. This program-level monitoring and evaluation—such as monitoring of restoration approaches that aim to achieve Stage 0 conditions—that is supported through targeted investments is different from open solicitation monitoring grants, which are proposed by local partners and considered through OWEB’s responsive grant program. Funds also have supported the ‘Telling the Restoration Story’ initiative, which helps local partners compile and report existing data to highlight progress towards meeting ecological outcomes and communicate lessons learned.

Supporting the goals of this funding item, OWEB staff participate in cross-agency teams to evaluate programs and projects that share common objectives. For example, OWEB also has convened an interagency team consisting of ODA, DEQ and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to provide oversight and guidance for Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) monitoring. OWEB staff also participate in the inter-agency Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (CEP) and Oregon’s Strategic Enterprise Approach to Monitoring (STREAM Team).

II. Program History

In September 2004, the board authorized the initial concept of an effectiveness monitoring program. Since that time, staff have worked with the board’s monitoring committee to build the program. This approach included the identification of specific scales at which to conduct monitoring, such as at the watershed-scale Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW). In September 2016, OWEB filled a new position, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator, which assists OWEB with quantifying outcomes associated with collective conservation actions.

III. Demand

Demand for Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes increased in both the 2017-19 and 2019-21 biennia. However, due to reductions in Lottery revenue, the funding for this line item in OWEB’s 2019-21 spending plan was reduced from \$1,278,000 to \$0.760. This reduction coincided with a reduction of staff to focus on work to quantify conservation outputs and outcomes, when both the conservation outcomes coordinator and specialist were shifted to other positions due to budget challenges.

IV. Future Need

Staff continue to work with the board’s monitoring committee to identify priority needs under this spending plan. The committee supports ongoing investments in programmatic monitoring that evaluates restoration actions at a broader space and/or time scales. Strong support continues to be expressed for ‘Telling the Restoration Story,’ which would enable staff to reinvigorate discussions with local partners about promising story ideas that were identified prior to the revenue downturn, along with exploring emerging topics such effects of the 2020 fires on restored areas. The line item also could continue to support ongoing investment in SIA monitoring as part of the Coordinated Streamside Management initiative, and possibly enable paired restoration and monitoring investments, providing for monitoring over the full life of a restoration project.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

Example highlights are described below (not an exhaustive list):

- ‘Telling the Restoration Story’ - These grants support compilation, analysis, and/or interpretation of existing data from a watershed restoration project to tell the story of quantitative restoration effects. Seven retrospective projects have been funded by OWEB, each producing a suite of a suite of outreach and technical communications products.
- Coordinated Streamside Management/SIA monitoring - The inter-agency approach includes providing monitoring funding to each SIA, which identifies restoration work to address agricultural water-quality issues. The statewide monitoring team has developed guidance for use by local partners and is working with current SIAs to help develop and implement local monitoring plans.
- Monitoring of Stage Restoration and Stage 0 Monitoring Workshop – OWEB awarded funding to Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and the McKenzie Watershed Alliance to implement the first phase of the effectiveness monitoring of Stage 0 restoration actions in the Whychus Creek and South Fork McKenzie River, respectively. In November 2020, practitioners, researchers, regulators and other stakeholders convened at the Stage 0 Monitoring Workshop to discuss current topics and identify data gaps related to implementing and monitoring restoration projects intended to achieve a Stage 0 condition. Needs identified included a more regular means of communication among practitioners, scientists, and stakeholders on this topic.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$0.500	\$0.287
2017-2019	\$1.587	\$0
2019-2021	\$1.200	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$0.760	\$*
2021-2023	\$0.750	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Open Solicitation – Stakeholder Engagement

Recommended Amount: \$1.750

I. Summary

Open solicitation stakeholder engagement projects include outreach efforts that are necessary for carrying out eligible restoration and acquisition projects, or programs that lead to eligible projects.

II. Program History

From 1999 to 2011, OWEB awarded outreach and education grants. Under Measure 66, these activities were funded through non-capital funds, which could be used for a variety of purposes that furthered the goals of improving water quality, recovering fish and wildlife, and enhancing watershed health.

Measure 76 changed the constitutional language regarding education and outreach grant offerings. Due to these changes, beginning with the October 2011 grant cycle, OWEB only offered outreach grants that are necessary for activities to protect or restore native fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, or stream flows. Grants for education only are not eligible under Measure 76. In 2017, the board adopted rules for the new stakeholder engagement offering that provided further guidance for the program.

III. Demand

In the 2019-2021 biennium, the board awarded \$1 million of the \$1.8 million requested, or 55% compared to the requested amount. The board awarded 77% of the funds requested in applications recommended for funding by regional review teams.

IV. Future Need

Eliminating an award cycle in 2019-21 will likely result in additional demand for stakeholder engagement grants. This offering has not been accessed to its potential for the land trust and water acquisitions communities. There are essential project development activities that could be funded through stakeholder engagement, including engaging landowners interested in land or water acquisition as well as communities to gage support for such projects. Increased demand is also anticipated from grantees interested in engaging underserved communities in eligible grant projects.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

The first stakeholder engagement grant in support of a future land acquisition project was funded in 2020. The purpose of the project is to engage the community and potential funders to support a landscape scale land acquisition project.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$0.650	\$0.003
2017-2019	\$0.700	\$0
2019-2021	\$1.000	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$1.007	\$*
2021-2023	\$1.750	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



Land and Water Acquisition

Recommended Amount: \$9.000 million

I. Summary

OWEB funds projects involving the acquisition of interests in land and water from willing sellers for the purpose of maintaining or restoring watersheds and habitat for native fish or wildlife. OWEB-funded interests in land and water may be held by a variety of entities including, but not limited to, local, state and federal agencies, tribes, and not-for-profit conservation organizations and land trust trusts.

OWEB funds several types of land and water acquisitions: the purchase of property in fee simple, conservation easements, permanent water rights, water leases, and contractually protected instream flow.

II. Program History

Land Acquisition: The board began making land acquisition grants in 1998. Several grants were awarded during the first few years of the program. In 2000, interest in the program began growing, and grew significantly over subsequent biennia. During the 2017-2019 biennium, OWEB convened a rules advisory committee to recommend program rule changes for board consideration in April 2019. To date, the board has awarded over \$55 million in land acquisition grants, leveraging \$96 million in matching funds and protecting over 87,000 acres.

Water Acquisition: The board awarded its first water acquisition grant in 2001. Until 2010, only five grants were awarded, with a relatively small award amount for each project (i.e., under \$40,000). Beginning in 2010, interest in water acquisition grants began to grow as a result of increased organizational capacity in select areas of the state to carry out water acquisition projects and programs and increased concern about instream flow issues. Since 2010, the board has awarded over \$5.01 million for water acquisition grants, resulting in the short-term transfer of over 103 cubic feet per second (cfs), or 17,987 acre-feet and the permanent transfer of about 33.5 cfs, or 6,477 acre-feet to instream use. To date, funding requests to OWEB have come from three primary locations in the state: the Deschutes, Klamath, and mid-Columbia basins. In addition, OWEB is now seeing more applications from the Rogue Basin. These awards have supported a range of activities from permanent transfers and temporary leases of instream water rights to incentivizing voluntary curtailments by irrigators.

III. Demand

Land Acquisition: In the 2019-2021 biennium, spending plan reductions resulted in only one award cycle instead of two. Six applicants requested approximately \$6.5 million in funding through the

Land Acquisition open solicitation program, with two projects awarded \$4.7 million. In addition, two land acquisition projects that are part of Focused Investment Partnerships were awarded \$1.24 million.

Water Acquisition: In the 2019-2021 biennium, the only award cycle resulted in two applicants being awarded \$157,000 in Water Lease and Transfer grants.

IV. Future Need

The June 2020 spending plan rebalance eliminated the planned second solicitation for both land and water acquisition grants in the 2019-21 biennium. Increased interest in these programs is expected in the next biennium. The board expressed a desire to offer solicitations for both program earlier than usual to accommodate the expected demand.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

Land Acquisition: In the lone award cycle, the board awarded grants to two landscape-scale projects that will result in the permanent protection of key large parcels in the north coast and the Deschutes basin. The scope and scale of these two projects, and the significance of the protected habitat, are the type of signature project envisioned in the board’s established principles for the program.

Water Acquisition: A Rules Advisory Committee was convened to review and update the water acquisition program rules, which were adopted by the board in 2020. Significant changes include elaboration of eligible projects, including those regulated by Oregon Water Resources Department as well as contractually protected instream flows, inclusion of ODFW instream flow priorities, and expansion of evaluation criteria to include ecological outcomes, cost effectiveness, watershed context, and organizational capacity. Staff began discussions with National Fish and Wildlife Federation to continue our partnership in application review by focusing on organizational capacity, transaction soundness, and water rights valuation.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$6.675	\$.659
2017-2019	\$10.500 **	\$0
2019-2021	\$8.750	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$4.905	\$*
2021-2023	\$9.000	

*Full biennium data not available **includes federal coastal wetlands funds



Kate Brown, Governor



Small Grant Program

Recommended Amount: \$2.95 million (includes \$.150 small grant program recapture)

I. Summary

OWEB small grant program (SGP) funds are awarded biennially to cooperative partnerships of watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and tribes. These small grant teams (Teams) form to prioritize and implement smaller-scale watershed restoration projects. Teams select from an OWEB rule-defined list of actions when identifying priority watershed concerns for their small grant area. Priority concerns include: fish passage; urban impact reduction; road impact reduction; water quality and quantity/irrigation efficiency; and instream, riparian, wetland, and upland process and function. Teams set application cycles, review submitted proposals, and submit recommended projects to OWEB.

II. Program History

In 1999 OWEB investigated ways to be more responsive to small restoration projects. During this time the Oregon Legislature encouraged the agency to initiate a county-based, local cost-share program through a budget note in OWEB's legislative adopted budget.

In January 2002, the board adopted administrative rules establishing the SGP with the goal of supporting implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds by funding small, straightforward restoration projects designed to improve water quality, water quantity, and fish and wildlife habitat. Such projects are to include, but are not limited to, those developed to address Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's), Agriculture Water Quality Management Plans, urban non-point source pollution management plans, and the Board of Forestry's Forestry Program for Oregon.

The board set boundaries for 28 geographic areas throughout the state. Within each area a team may form comprised of representatives from local watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and tribes. Teams are guided by self-defined operating procedures, along with a list of watershed priorities and eligible project types revisited biennially. Historically the board has awarded \$2.8 million (\$100,000 per team) per biennium to the program.

III. Demand

In the 2019-2021 biennium, all 28 Teams successfully reorganized and were awarded \$100,000 each. Funding was then reduced in the spending plan rebalance caused by pandemic-related lottery revenue reductions. As of February 11, 2021, 157 project grants have been awarded utilizing more than \$1.84 million of the available \$2.127 million in SGP funding this biennium. Remaining funds are available to the Teams through June 30, 2021. In the 2017-19 biennium, the board approved an incentive for Teams with high demand for funds where unexpended small grant funds from the

previous biennium are provided to Teams who allocate 95% of available funds by the midpoint of the biennium. In 2017-19, \$350,000 were allocated to 12 Teams, who successfully allocated the additional funds.

IV. Future Need

The biennium spending plan need is expected to remain stable at \$2.8 million. The continuation of unspent program funds carryover is requested to allow high-performing Teams access to additional funding when their original funding award has been exhausted. While this option was not available to Teams this biennium due to the spending plan reductions, it is expected that this will create even greater need for small grant funds next biennium.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

SGP processes provided flexibility when adapting to the spending plan adjustments described above. When the pause on new grant agreements lifted, Small Grant Team Contacts were able to quickly submit proposals reviewed and recommended by the Teams. Several project grant agreements were fully executed within a week of lifting the pause. This agility in the face of unusual circumstances provided the opportunity to get on-the-ground restoration work started and project dollars into communities quickly.

This biennium saw the development of an online application, and accompanying processes, for the SGP. Staff anticipate the launch of the online application for the program beginning in 2021-2023 biennium. Small Grant applications will be submitted via the online application system and Small Grant Teams will have the ability to review submitted applications through the application review module (ARM).

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$2.800	\$.404
2017-2019	\$2.800	\$.350**
2019-2021	\$3.300**	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$1.500**	\$*
2021-2023	\$2.950**	

*Full biennium data not available **includes previous biennia recapture



Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State Weed Board Grant Program

Recommended Amount: \$3.25 million

I. Summary

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) noxious weed control grants are awarded annually through the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB). Grant projects protect watershed health, native fish, and wildlife habitat from the negative impacts of State Listed noxious weeds. Under the OSWB Grant program, the OSWB works to fund as many high priority projects as possible with the available funds. Grants are restricted to projects that restore, enhance, or protect fish and wildlife habitat, watershed functions, native salmonid populations, or water quality. Grants are for noxious weed control work. They must address State Listed noxious weeds and can include assessment, survey, outreach, and project design activities that are necessary to enable the weed control portion of the project.

The prevention and control of State Listed noxious weed species are critical elements of watershed protection and enhancement. To address this issue, ODA and OWEB partner to support implementation of high-priority noxious weed control statewide. Noxious weed control is a first step in restoring watershed health and key to protecting the investment in Oregon's restoration work.

II. Program History

The OSWB Grant Program was established in the 1999-2001 biennium after the passage of Measure 66. Until 2010 and the passage of Measure 76, the fiscal responsibilities for Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) grants were administered through ODA. The passage of Measure 76 in 2010 started the partnership between OWEB and ODA for OSWB grants. The ballot measure changed the language within the constitution, designating OWEB as the single granting agency for State Lottery funds designated for watershed restoration. This change resulted in a move of OSWB grant funding under OWEB's budget, rather than being transferred directly to and administered by ODA.

The 2011-2013 biennium was a transition period for the OSWB grant partnership. A Lean-Kaizen process was completed to identify strengths, challenges and redundancies in the process, and refinements to the process were made based on the lessons learned.

III. Demand

Due to spending plan reductions in the 2019-2021 biennium, there was only one OSWB Grant Program grant cycle instead of two, with 90% of applicants receiving funds: 65 projects secured full funding, 5 obtained partial funding, and 7 were not funded. The first cycle has historically had a

higher award rate due to available funding and sound project applications. As mentioned above, the second grant cycle was cancelled.

Funding to the OSWB Grant Program provides cooperators resources that are important for protecting Oregon’s natural resources, treating priority state listed invasive noxious weeds and maintaining weed control activities in small communities. Many cooperators around the state depend on OSWB Grant Funding to pay for priority invasive noxious weed project work, match other federal or private grants and keep staff funded to do invasive noxious weed work.

IV. Future Need

Due to the missed grant cycle, it is expected that demand for weed grants will remain high. OSWB Grant Funding will focus on:

- Treatments on priority state listed noxious weeds,
- Areas impacted by wildfire or COVID-19,
- Funding essential to support local noxious weed staff, for weed survey, monitoring, or treatments.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

Completed projects reported leveraging 142% match with OSWB/OWEB funding, and treated over 23,700 acres, 25 instream miles, and 147 riparian miles, and surveyed 726,091 acres.

ODA worked with OWEB staff and moved the OSWB Weed Grants into the OWEB online application system during the biennium. ODA hosted trainings for grantees to learn the OWEB online application system. Online applications have helped to streamline work between the agencies in generating Agreements and approving Time Extensions in OGMS for Grant Project Managers.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$2.500	\$0
2017-2019	\$3.000	\$0
2019-2021	\$3.000	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$1.630	\$*
2021-2023	\$3.250	

*Full biennium data not available

Spending Plan - Focused Investments



Kate Brown, Governor



Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)

Recommended Amount: \$26,391,262

Components of recommended amount:

Cohort 1 'make whole' request	\$3,880,907
Cohort 2 'make whole' request	\$761,131
Cohort 2 FIP 2021-23 request	\$13,749,224
New FIP Solicitation	\$8,000,000

I. Summary

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) investments address a board-identified priority of significance to the state; achieve clear and measurable ecological outcomes; use integrated, results-oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan; and are implemented by high-performing partnerships

II. Program History

In June 2013, the board approved its Long-Term Investment Strategy Framework with four major areas of investment: Operating Capacity, Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, and Effectiveness Monitoring. At that time, no formal definition, process, or solicitation approach for the FIP program existed. In October 2013, OWEB initiated a nine-month process to develop the definition, criteria, and program structure (including solicitation approach and process) for the FIP category in the Long-Term Investment Strategy. This was followed by initiation of an 18-month process to set board priorities and solicit for investments within the program.

Following an extensive public process, the board selected the following priority areas for focused investments at its April 2015 meeting:

- 1) Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat
- 2) Oregon Closed Lakes 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

To date, OWEB has funded 11 FIP initiatives. Six partnerships were awarded FIP funding for 6-year initiatives (i.e., 3 biennia) in 2016 as Cohort 1, and another 5 partnerships were awarded FIP funding in 2019 as Cohort 2.

III. Demand

OWEB initiated a FIP solicitation in January 2020 with the intent of conducting the same process for awarding FIPs as in previous biennia. As a result of the impacts of the state’s response to Covid-19 on Oregon lottery revenue, the board postponed that solicitation to at least July 2021. Prior to that decision, staff conducted required pre-application consultations with 10 partnerships in March-April 2020, representing the full suite of 7 board-identified FIP priorities. Despite the postponed solicitation, some partnerships reportedly went on to complete their initiative applications, while others put their efforts on hold until a solicitation would be announced in the future.

IV. Future Need

Two of the six Cohort 1 FIPs have now obligated all their FIP awards, while four others have ‘make whole’ funding pending from the current biennium’s spending plan reductions, totaling \$3,880,907. All five of the Cohort 2 FIPs have requested funding for the 2021-2023 biennium, totaling \$13,749,224. Three of these FIPs also have ‘make whole’ funding included in the 2021-23 request, totaling \$761,131. The total 2021-2023 funding request for Cohort 2 FIPs is \$14,510,355.

Details on 2019-2021 and 2021-2023 FIP budgets are found in Attachment A. Project work plans for the Cohort 2 FIPs for the 2021-2023 biennium are available upon request.

Additional future need will be determined by the board’s level of investment in a 2021-2023 FIP solicitation. In 2018, the board signaled an interest in investing up to \$10M in the Cohort 2 FIPs. Given that context, and if budget allows, staff recommend \$8M for a 2021-2023 FIP solicitation.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

The 11 partnerships awarded FIP funding have made measurable progress toward their initiative goals. An update on progress for each Cohort 2 initiative was provided at the December 2020 meeting, and progress tracking reports are provided in agenda item G. The Cohort 1 FIPs will report to the board on their full six-year initiatives later in 2021. The solicitation that was postponed in 2020 elicited significant interest from partnerships around the state. Pre-application consultations made evident that the Partnership Technical Assistance grant offering (formerly Development FIP) continues to foster committed and focused partnerships that are well-positioned to seek FIP funding to implement restoration work under their strategic action plans.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$10.250	\$0
2017-2019	\$15.527	\$0
2019-2021	\$26.601	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$21.960	\$*
2021-2023	\$26.391	

*Full biennium data not available

Attachments:

- A. FIP Initiatives 2019-2021 Budgets and 2021-2023 Estimated Budgets

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) 2021-2023 FIP Budget Tables

Table 1: Cohort 1 FIPs 'Make Whole' Funding

FIP	2019-2021 OWEB Investment	Adjusted Spending Plan	2019-2021 'Make Whole' Funding
Deschutes	\$4,000,000	\$2,084,836	\$1,915,164
Willamette	2,180,000	\$780,158	\$1,399,842
Harney	\$2,500,000	\$2,399,710	\$100,290
Grande Ronde	\$2,777,000	2,311,389	\$465,611
TOTAL	-	-	\$3,880,907

Table 2: Baker Sage-Grouse LIT

OWEB Grant Category	2019-2021 OWEB Investment	2021-2023 OWEB Request
Partnership Capacity	\$150,000	\$552,386
Stakeholder Engagement	\$563,628	\$56,380
Technical Assistance	\$0	\$0
Restoration	\$1,001,372	\$1,285,833
Land Acquisition	\$0	\$0
Water Acquisition	\$0	\$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	\$0	\$168,125
Subtotal	-	2,062,724
2019-2021 'Make Whole' Funding	-	\$372,431
TOTAL	\$1,715,000	\$2,435,155

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) 2021-2023 FIP Budget Tables

Table 3: Clackamas Partnership

OWEB Grant Category	2019-2021 OWEB Investment	2021-2023 OWEB Request
Partnership Capacity	\$155,000	\$140,000
Stakeholder Engagement	\$23,000	\$23,000
Technical Assistance	\$245,000	\$0
Restoration	\$2,821,580	\$2,607,500
Land Acquisition	\$0	\$0
Water Acquisition	\$0	\$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	\$210,000	\$210,000
Subtotal	-	\$2,980,500
2019-2021 'Make Whole' Funding	-	\$101,469
TOTAL	\$3,454,580	\$3,081,969

Table 4: John Day Basin Partnership

OWEB Grant Category	2019-2021 OWEB Investment	2021-2023 OWEB Request
Partnership Capacity	\$389,957	\$187,717
Stakeholder Engagement	\$92,493	\$0
Technical Assistance	\$503,254	\$202,115
Restoration	\$2,351,141	\$2,304,942
Land Acquisition	\$0	\$800,000
Water Acquisition	\$0	\$65,000
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	\$663,155	\$440,226
Subtotal	-	\$4,000,000
2019-2021 'Make Whole' Funding	-	\$0
TOTAL	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) 2021-2023 FIP Budget Tables

Table 5: Rogue Forest Partners

OWEB Grant Category	2019-2021 OWEB Investment	2021-2023 OWEB Request
Partnership Capacity	\$92,170	\$27,583
Stakeholder Engagement	\$133,947	\$149,391
Technical Assistance	\$188,682	\$362,850
Restoration	\$1,002,235	\$2,063,425
Land Acquisition	\$0	\$0
Water Acquisition	\$0	\$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	\$82,966	\$96,751
Subtotal	-	\$2,700,000
2019-2021 'Make Whole' Funding	-	\$0
TOTAL	\$1,500,000	\$2,700,000

Table 6: Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership

OWEB Grant Category	2019-2021 OWEB Investment	2021-2023 OWEB Request
Partnership Capacity	\$19,976	\$30,000
Stakeholder Engagement	\$0	\$0
Technical Assistance	\$0	\$390,000
Restoration	\$1,920,024	\$1,526,000
Land Acquisition	\$0	\$0
Water Acquisition	\$0	\$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	\$60,000	\$60,000
Subtotal	-	2,006,000
2019-2021 'Make Whole' Funding	-	\$287,231
TOTAL	\$2,000,000	\$2,293,231



Kate Brown, Governor

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Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring

Recommended Amount: \$.500 million

I. Summary

The approach employed by the Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) provides an opportunity to learn about the progress and outcomes possible under six-year investments. Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) evaluates the dedicated FIP funding to help board, staff, and stakeholders to adaptively manage partnership investments in the future.

II. Program History

In January 2016, the board awarded its first six Implementation FIPs. Recognizing the need to understand how FIPs are achieving their intended ecological and programmatic impacts, the board awarded funds to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) in April 2016 to help OWEB establish a structure for evaluating progress towards ecological outcomes and program-level impacts, based on theory of change approaches. The resulting progress monitoring framework helps OWEB and local implementers evaluate progress toward outcomes for each of the board-identified ecological priorities. Key elements include a results chain and a cross-walk matrix. BEF and OWEB have worked with all 11 FIPs to develop a progress monitoring framework for each six-year initiative. The process includes outlining the habitat threats/limiting factors, restoration strategies, and existing monitoring plans of each FIP and identifying potential monitoring gaps, based on the framework.

In April 2018, the board awarded supplemental funding to fill the top priority monitoring gaps identified by the first cohort of FIPs. Also in April 2018, additional funding was provided to support BEF's ongoing engagement in the FIP monitoring effort, including: working with the second cohort of FIPs to complete progress monitoring frameworks as described above; creating 'generic' results chains for each board-approved FIP ecological priority to communicate with less-technical audiences; and developing adaptive management guidance for partnerships pursuing collaborative-based restoration. These products are presented in Agenda Item G.

III. Demand

During the previous two biennia and the 2019-21 biennium, funding allocated via this spending plan line item supported activities (see "Highlights" section below). However, the downturn in Lottery revenues that occurred during the current biennium resulted in remaining funding being removed from this line item and, thus, Cohort 2 FIPs not receiving supplemental monitoring funding. This reduction limited the ability of those five FIPs to bridge from results chains outlined in their progress monitoring frameworks to filling high-priority monitoring gaps identified for their monitoring plans and pursuing on-the-ground monitoring activities accordingly.

IV. Future Need

During the 2021-23 biennium, the intent of the Focused Investment EM line item is to provide some level of supplemental monitoring funding to Cohort 2 FIPs. FIPs awarded in future biennia will have incorporated theory of change approaches into their FIP initiative proposals, per refined guidance on strategic action planning from OWEB. However, Cohort 2 FIPs were awarded prior to this requirement. Providing funding for supplemental monitoring support will help round out monitoring gaps identified through their progress monitoring frameworks. In addition, a modest amount of funding is requested to continue BEF's involvement in helping OWEB and the FIPs to track program and partnership progress. At present, OWEB's anticipated budget for 2021-23 does not include key staff positions that assisted with progress tracking, thus BEF's ongoing assistance likely will be important to evaluate interim results of FIPs, apply adaptive management within the FIPs, and assess overall FIP program effectiveness. Finally, staff have discussed with the board's monitoring and focused investment committees the concept of post-FIP reporting, which would support tracking and reporting of ecological outcomes beyond the life of a six-year FIP initiative. This spending plan line item would support piloting of this concept with a subset of Cohort 1 FIPs. Over the long term, the FIP monitoring results will help the board understand the outcomes and impacts of this investment approach and lessons learned from these partnerships.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

Accomplishments include: a) Development of generic results chains for the board's FIP ecological priorities to fill a communication need for less technical audiences to understand how restoration actions result in near- and long-term ecological outcomes; b) Creation of progress monitoring frameworks for all Cohort 2 FIPs, thus providing a consistent approach to tracking outputs, outcomes and lessons learned over time, and sharing insights learned from implementing a FIP initiative; c) Ongoing monitoring by Cohort 1 FIPs via previous supplemental monitoring funding; and d) Other program support by BEF, such as FIP Gatherings, which bring together all FIP partnerships from around the state to discuss challenges and opportunities and share lessons learned.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$0.500	\$0
2017-2019	\$0.750	\$0
2019-2021	\$0.700	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$0.150	\$*
2021-2023	\$0.500	

*Full biennium data not available

Spending Plan - Operating Capacity



Kate Brown, Governor



Partnership Technical Assistance

Recommended Amount: \$1.0 million

I. Summary

At the start of the 2019-2021 biennium OWEB announced the first Partnership Technical Assistance (TA) grant offering (formerly Development FIPs) and awarded grants in January 2020. These grants support the operations of existing partnerships, or collaborating groups of organizations, in enhancing partnership capacity, developing a strategic action plan, stakeholder engagement related to strategic action plan development, and partnership capacity to support strategic action plan coordination and implementation. Applications are not required to fall under Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) OWEB board-identified Priority areas.

II. Program History

OWEB awarded the first grants under the predecessor to this program in January 2016, with eight grants to partnerships totaling \$937,369. Since the time of the initial offering, this grant offering has evolved based on lessons learned from our grantees and partners. Beginning in the 2019-2021 biennium the program was moved from the Focused Investment Partnership spending plan category and into the Operating Capacity category. At the same time the offering was expanded to allow for geographies outside the FIP board identified ecological priorities and to allow applicants to apply for both strategic action plan development as well as partnership capacity for the coordination and implementation of existing strategic action plans. In October 2019, fifteen organizations applied for new Partnership TA grant offering requesting a total of \$1,707,202. In January 2020 the board awarded six projects for \$779,222. The second scheduled offering for the biennium was canceled when the board rebalanced the budget in June 2020.

III. Demand

Oregon is a leader in collaborative approaches to restoration. After several biennia of offering grants to support partnership development and development of a strategic action plan, there is now a diversity of partnerships operating in Oregon working collaboratively on ecological outcomes that desire support for the development of a strategic action plan or support for partnership capacity for the coordination and implementation of existing strategic action plans.

IV. Future Need

Partnerships have continued to develop and evolve despite the challenges of the last year. OWEB staff have been in conversations with many of the organizations that were not funded in January 2020 as well as new partnerships that are anxious to apply for future funding opportunities.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

Despite the many challenges of COVID-19 and the severe wild fire season, many partnerships have continued to make progress on project deliverables. Several partnerships completed drafts of final strategic action plans. Partnerships also developed new ways to engage with stakeholders, using technology and one-on-one conversations to connect. One partnership discovered that by slowing down and connecting with stakeholders individually instead of in large groups they were able to connect in more meaningful ways resulting in deeper and more lasting connections which will have lasting impacts on how the strategic action plan will be implemented.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$1.039	\$0
2017-2019	\$1.150	\$0
2019-2021	\$1.000	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$0.779	\$*
2021-2023	\$1.000	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



Council Capacity

Recommended Amount: \$7.56 million

I. Summary

Council Capacity grants are awarded biennially and help support the operations of effective watershed councils that engage people in their communities to participate in collaborative, voluntary restoration projects to protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitats and natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows of watersheds.

II. Program History

OWEB has provided operating grants to watershed councils for more than 20 years. Watershed councils are locally based, voluntary, and under ORS 541.890(15), “designated by a local government group convened by a county governing body, to address the goal of sustaining natural resource and watershed protection, restoration and enhancement within a watershed.”

OWEB does not create or oversee watershed councils. OWEB has statutory discretion to provide capacity grants to councils that represent a balance of interests in their watersheds and demonstrate the potential to protect and enhance the quality of their watersheds. Councils also are expected to assure a high level of citizen involvement in the development and implementation of watershed action programs (ORS 541.910).

In the 2019-2021 biennium, 59 councils submitted council capacity applications and 57 councils were funded. Staff used the merit criteria and evaluation process adopted by the board in July 2014 to determine funding levels, including full funding, reduced funding, and do not fund.

III. Demand

In the 2019-2021 biennium, of the 58 councils mentioned above, 57 councils received full funding for the biennium and one received reduced funding. Two councils did not receive funding. The two councils that did not receive funding can apply for council capacity grant funding again in the future and are still eligible to apply for OWEB’s other grant programs.

IV. Future Need

The council capacity grant program is seeking to include a 3% cost-of-living increase for councils in the 2021-2023 biennium. Applications are due March 11 and funds will be awarded at the July 2021 board meeting.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

During the 2019-2021 biennium, watershed councils faced many challenges including disruptions in operations due to COVID-19 and the historic wildfire season. Despite these challenges councils continued to engage their communities, many in new and creative ways. Many councils put outreach events online, held virtual site visits, and online speaker events. Councils moved to online council meetings, forged new partnerships, and implement restoration projects under COVID-19 protocols.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$6.250	\$0
2017-2019	\$6.848	\$0
2019-2021	\$7.129	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$7.129	\$*
2021-2023	\$7.56	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



District Capacity

Recommended Amount: \$7.56 million

I. Summary

Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) capacity grants provide funding for 45 SWCDs to work with landowners to conserve natural resources and lend support to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Management Program. The funding is divided into two funds for each SWCD:

- 1) Scope of Work funds support working with landowners and partners to protect and conserve natural resources; specifically, providing technical assistance and community engagement for the restoration and protection of native fish and wildlife, watersheds, and water quality through implementation of Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans.
- 2) District Operations Fund supports the capacity of the SWCDs to comply with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) requirements, conduct business, and provide assistance to landowners and partners.

II. Program History

SWCDs have an over 75-year history in Oregon. South Tillamook became the first official Soil Conservation District in 1939. In 1963 the Oregon Legislature added the “and Water” to the district title. The 1997 legislature added a budget note for SWCD funding: *“The Subcommittee expects the grant funds to be available in the following amounts through the Governor’s Watershed Enhancement Board: \$2,400,000 - Soil and Water Conservation Districts: Funding for positions in each of the eight existing areas and for watershed assessments and management plans; half of the funding would be distributed through an application process.”*

SWCDs are not state agencies but political subdivisions of state government known as municipal corporations. They are governed by enabling legislation under ORS 568. The five to seven members of SWCD Boards of Directors are elected officials.

Implementation of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program is guided by legislative direction and budget notes. The annual work plan, commonly known as the Scope of Work (SOW), is built on the following principles:

- 1) ODA is responsible to develop, periodically modify, and implement Agricultural Water Quality Area Plans that are sufficient to meet water quality standards as described in statute.
- 2) SWCDs are the Local Management Agencies that assist ODA in implementing the Area Plans. SWCDs are to be involved in timely, effective implementation of Area Plans to the fullest extent practical.

3) Legislative budget notes (1997, 2007) provide direction on the use and purpose of funds allocated to SWCDs, as further refined in the Intergovernmental Agreement between ODA and OWEB.

4) Legislative direction is to use these funds to implement the agricultural portion of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds as administered by ODA.

5) In June 2012, ODA began working with the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, SWCDs, and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) to develop a new annual work plan or SOW process. The result was the Focus Area initiative, where 75% of the SOW funds are used for district-wide tasks while requiring 25% of the funds to be used for a specific geographic area (Focus Area). The Focus Area process is a consistent approach to assess change over time in riparian and land conditions, target on the ground projects to improve water quality, and demonstrate effectiveness of the conservation work SWCDs achieve on a statewide basis. ODA is currently gathering input from SWCDs and the SWCC regarding the future of the Focus Area initiative.

III. Demand

In the 2019-2021 biennium, 40 SWCDs received full capacity grant funding. Four Baker County SWCDs split two full shares of capacity grant funds. One SWCD did not receive any capacity grant funding.

IV. Future Need

The district capacity grant program is seeking to include a 3% cost-of-living increase in the 2021-2023 biennium.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

SWCDs continue to work directly with ODA, watershed councils, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other partners in implementing Oregon’s 38 Agricultural Water Quality Area Plans, and assist landowners in conducting conservation work on agricultural lands. SWCDs are also vital to assisting ODA in implementing the Strategic Implementation Area Initiative, and capacity funding provides the means to allow SWCDs to engage in the program at the current levels.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$6.250	\$0
2019-2019	\$6.750	\$0
2019-2021	\$7.129	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$7.129	\$*
2019-2021	\$7.560	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor

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Statewide Organizational Partnership Technical Assistance

Recommended Amount: \$.400 million

I. Summary

The Oregon Conservation Partnership (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 groups collaborate and coordinate to deliver technical support, member services, program development, training, and outreach to their more than 150 conservation organizations. For the 2021-2023 biennium, the partnership plans to continue to current level of services and offerings to their stakeholders.

II. Program History

Since 2007, the board has approved grants to support the efforts of these organizations, recognizing that they provide a vital link between OWEB's programs and successful on-the-ground work. OWEB's funding has supported various deliverables in past biennia, including conferences, trainings, webinars, regional and local media assistance, and one-on-one work with local organizations.

In 2012, OWEB, NOWC and OACD began meeting to discuss ways to further advance collaboration among the organizations. This resulted in NOWC and OACD taking steps to formalize a partnership that included shared office space and staff resources, allowing them to reduce overhead and expand capacity. In recent years, the organizations' work has expanded to include COLT and OCEAN. This expanded effort resulted in a Partnership request to the board for the 2015-2017 biennium that included funding for partnership focused deliverables in each of the four organizations. In July 2015, 2017 and again in 2019, the board approved grants for joint programming that serves the collective and complementary missions of the councils, districts, and land trusts.

In June 2020, when the board rebalanced the 2019-2021 budget, the board also reduced the Partnership's funding from \$500,000 to \$425,000. In repose to this reduction the Partnership reduced office and administrative expenses and reevaluated grant deliverables.

III. Demand

The Partnership has focused its recent efforts on providing support and resources to its partner organizations in response to COVID-19 and the severe wildlife season through increased webinar offerings and communications support.

IV. Future Need

The increase in funding from \$0.33 million in 2015-2017 to \$0.500 million in recent biennia made a significant impact in the partnership's ability to delivery programs and provide support to their

collective stakeholders. While the funding is lower this biennium, the partners have identified a number of efficiencies to be gained that will help lower the impact of the reduced funding amount.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

The Partnership continues to meet monthly to increase coordination and communication, and the boards of the four organizations are meeting annually. The Partnership has delivered monthly webinars, reaching more than 400 stakeholders. The 2020 CONNECT conference was canceled due to COVID-19 and the Partnership is currently planning for a virtual conference in 2021.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$0.334	\$0
2017-2019	\$0.500	\$0
2019-2021	\$0.500	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$0.425	\$*
2021-2023	\$0.400	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



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Organizational Collaboration Grants

Recommended Amount: \$.300 million

I. Summary

Organizational Collaboration grants support new or expanded strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local partners to support improved delivery of actions to protect and restore native and wildlife habitats and water quality and stream flows. Change can happen in many forms such as mergers, formal alliances (i.e. administrative consolidation, fiscal sponsorship, joint programming, and joint fundraising), or action networks (organizations aligning around specific objectives and common purpose and goals). The applicants must demonstrate that the organizational restructuring options being considered will strengthen organizational impact and build resiliency and sustainability of the organizations.

II. Program History

OWEB announced this grant offering for the first time in July 2013. Since its inception, eight grants have been awarded for a little over \$450,000. Grants have supported a diversity of organizations working together including watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, land trusts, and nonprofits. Activities have included a merger, fiscal sponsorship, development of a co-location and shared services models, and development of an approach among partners to improve restoration work and strengthen meaningful engagement of communities of color. More and more partnerships are expressing interest in this grant opportunity in order to build resilient, sustainable, local partners that achieve ecological outcomes and engage local communities.

III. Demand

As expected, staff have seen the interest in this grant offering grow over time. In the first two biennia of this offering there was limited interest and not all of the grant funds allocated by the board were awarded. In the 2017-2019 biennium OWEB awarded all of the available funds and received many additional inquiries from organizations that were interested in applying. There are currently three groups of organizations that have reached out and expressed interest in applying for Organizational Collaboration grants in the coming year.

IV. Future Need

Many local partners are facing new and unforeseen challenges due to COVID-19. Staff believe the interest in this program and demand for funding organizational collaboration will grow as local organizations explore new opportunities for collaboration to build resilient, sustainable, local partners.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

In January 2020 the board awarded funds to the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network. The Network has made progress on their collaborative goals despite the challenges of COVID, including advancing a collective DEI plan and developing work plans for subgroups. In addition, OWEB staff worked with four existing collaborative groups, Rogue River Watershed Council, Upper Willamette Stewardship Network, Confluence and Wasco Area Watershed Councils to present a webinar through the Oregon Conservation Partnership highlighting the variety of approaches to organizational collaboration. The webinar was attended by more than 30 attendees.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$0.400	\$0
2019-2019	\$0.400	\$0
2019-2021	\$0.200	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$0.100	\$*
2019-2021	\$0.300	

*Full biennium data not available

Spending Plan - Other



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Cost Share & Technical Assistance

Recommended Amount: \$750,000 for CREP Cost Share, \$1.2 million for CREP TA

I. Summary

The Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a cooperative venture between the State of Oregon and Farm Services Agency (FSA), with technical support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), state agencies, and local partners including soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, and resource conservation and development councils. 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. OWEB also provides competitive, statewide CREP Technical Assistance (TA) grants every two years. These grants support costs associated with local CREP implementation including staffing, travel, training, outreach, and planning.

II. Program History

In 1998, Oregon CREP was established to support implementation of approved conservation practices aimed at improving riparian function on private lands throughout Oregon. The State of Oregon contributes 25% of the eligible cost-share for establishing approved conservation practices, 75% of eligible cost-share (minus available federal cost-share) for certain water developments, and 100% of costs for heavy-duty tree protectors. FSA contributes federal cost-share, rental payments, incentive bonuses, and administrative oversight. NRCS and the Oregon Department of Forestry provide the majority of the necessary technical assistance, with Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and others providing in-kind technical assistance. Since 1998, Oregon CREP has grown from a relatively small, experimental program into a robust statewide program that provides important, unique financial incentives and continues to be a leader in enrollments nationwide.

The board has supported CREP technical assistance with funding since 2001, beginning with SWCDs. In 2011, in consultation with CREP agency partners, funding eligibility expanded to include multi-county, multi-organization proposals. In that same year, OWEB and NRCS joined to invest over \$1 million in CREP TA grants independent from the funding for SWCD capacity and OWEB's regular technical assistance grant program. These two-year grants aimed to address critical technical assistance needs for Oregon CREP.

III. Demand

The agency is on track to expend all CREP funds by the end of the biennium. For the TA portion of the program, 12 organizations secured funding through CREP TA grants, utilizing the full funding available.

IV. Future Need

The CREP cost-share program is seeking to make available \$750,000 in the 2021-2023 biennium. Staff estimate 12 organizations will apply for CREP TA funding in the 2021-2023 biennium. In the past, NRCS has contributed to the CREP TA program, and OWEB staff are in conversations to continue that investment this biennium. If that occurs, the number will be increased in July.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

The CREP TA funding supported 12 programs in the 2019-2021 biennium. These programs provide critical technical assistance for Oregon CREP, covering 21 counties statewide. In 2020, OWEB funded CREP Technicians (11 of 12 grantees) have implemented a monitoring approach to track contract performance and inform management of CREP buffers. 7,090.29 acres were enrolled into CREP, 4,157.67 newly enrolled while 2,932.62 were re-enrolled. Farmers who participated in CREP received a total of \$767,320 in payments during the 2020 federal fiscal year. Of that, 38% came from OWEB funding and the remaining 62% was paid by USDA's Farm Service Agency.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) – CREP Cost Share		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2017-2019	\$.750	\$0
2019-2021	\$.750	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$.750	\$*
2021-2023		
Investments by Biennium (in millions) – CREP TA		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2017-2019	\$1.375	\$0
2019-2021	\$1.375	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$1.375	\$*
2021-2023	\$1.200**	

*Full biennium data not available **If available, NRCS funding will be added



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Virtual Meeting
July 27-28, 2021



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Agenda

July 27 & 28, 2021

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the July 27 & 28 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Phone:**
 - **July 27:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 882 4482 9609 and passcode: 661430
 - **July 28:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 842 3554 8864 and passcode: 414359
- The board book (eBook) is available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/about-us/Pages/board/meetings.aspx>
- For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

Written and verbal public comment

OWEB encourages public comment on any agenda item.

Written Comments

Written comments should be sent to April Mack at April.mack@oregon.gov. Written comments received by Thursday, July 22 at 4:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Item C) at approximately 9:15 am. on July 27 and (Agenda Item H) at approximately 8:05 a.m. on July 28. In order to provide verbal comment, you must contact April Mack at April.mack@oregon.gov, by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 26, and provide the following information:

- Your first and last name,
- The topic of your comment, and
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

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 (9:10 a.m.)

The minutes of the March 9-10, 2021 virtual meeting will be presented for board approval. *Action item.*

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

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

D. Committee Updates (9:30 a.m.)

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

E. Director's Updates (10:10 a.m.)

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

F. Spending Plan (11:20 a.m.)

NOTE: Verbal public comment specific for this agenda item will be heard on Tuesday, July 27 at approximately 12:40 p.m.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will provide the 2021-23 Spending Plan for board review and approval based on both feedback from the March board meeting and the May revenue forecast for the Oregon Lottery. Guest presenters Elaine Placido of Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, Megan Creutzburg representing the SageCon Partnership, and Chris Lorion of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, will discuss specific line items in the spending plan directed to their organizations. *Action item.*

G. OWEB's Role in Managing Funds (2:00 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will facilitate a panel discussion about programs that OWEB is or will be administering on behalf of other organizations. Panel members include Steve Brink of Idaho Power, Scott Lightcap of the Bureau of Land Management, Jeff Burns of Oregon Department of Forestry, Jason Jeans of Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Clayton Creager of the California Water Boards. *Information item.*

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the July 27 & 28 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Phone:**
 - **July 27:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 882 4482 9609 and passcode: 661430
 - **July 28:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 842 3554 8864 and passcode: 414359
- The board book (eBook) is available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/about-us/Pages/board/meetings.aspx>
- For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

Written and verbal public comment

OWEB encourages public comment on any agenda item.

Written Comments

Written comments should be sent to April Mack at April.mack@oregon.gov Written comments received by Thursday, July 22 at 4:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Item C) at approximately 9:15 am. on July 27 and (Agenda Item H) at approximately 8:05 a.m. on July 28. In order to provide verbal comment, you must contact April Mack at April.mack@oregon.gov, by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 26, and provide the following information:

- Your first and last name,
- The topic of your comment, and
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

H. Public Comment (8:05 a.m.)

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

I. Council Operating Capacity Grant Awards (8:20 a.m.)

NOTE: Verbal public comment specific for this agenda item will be heard on Wednesday, July 28 at approximately 8:20 a.m.

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will provide an overview of the 2021-2023 Watershed Council Capacity grant cycle process and outline staff recommendations for grant awards. *Action item.*

J. Organizational Collaborations Grants (9:55 a.m.)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will provide an overview of the 2021 Organization Collaboration grant offering and staff funding recommendation. *Action item.*

K. Update on Stage 0 Monitoring Investments (11:00 a.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho, and guest presenters Lauren Mork of Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and Jared Weybright from the McKenzie Watershed Alliance, will provide an update on the progress made to date to implement a multi-pronged approach to address monitoring and information needs for Stage 0 restoration. *Information item.*

L. Conveyance of Willamette Confluence Property from The Nature Conservancy to McKenzie River Trust (12:30 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will present a request from The Nature Conservancy to convey the Willamette Confluence Preserve to McKenzie River Trust, along with a staff recommendation for board action, which is required for any property with an OWEB Conservation Easement. *Action item.*

M. Willanch Telling the Restoration Story (12:50 p.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch will share products from the 'Telling the Restoration Story' grant investment about Willanch Creek restoration. *Information item.*

N. Rogue Forest Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Geography Change Request (1:10 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer will present the Rogue Forest Partners request to adjust their FIP initiative geography to include the West Bear area and remove the Middle Applegate area, along with a staff recommendation. *Action item.*

O. Updates on Climate Executive Order Activities (1:30 p.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch will update the board about implementation activities for Governor Brown's Executive Order (EO) 20-04, issued in March of 2020 and focused on climate. *Information item.*

Meeting Rules and Procedures

Meeting Procedures

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

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

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

Voting Rules

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

General Business

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

Action on Grant Awards

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

Executive Session

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

More Information

If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call April Mack, OWEB Board Assistant, at 971-345-7001 or send an e-mail to april.mack@oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise April Mack as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Barbara Boyer, *Board of Agriculture*

Molly Kile, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Mark Labhart, *Fish and Wildlife Commission*
Brenda McComb, *Board of Forestry*
Meg Reeves, *Water Resources Commission*
Jason Robison, *Board Co-Chair, Public (Tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Jamie McLeod-Skinner, *Public*
Randy Labbe, *Public*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *Board Co-Chair, Public*

Non-voting Members

Eric Murray, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Anthony Selle, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Ron Alvarado, *U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service*
Alan Henning, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Paul Henson, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
Dan Shively, *U.S Forest 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 – April Mack
april.mack@oregon.gov
971-345-7001

2021 Board Meeting Schedule

July 27 & 28, Virtual
Oct 26 & 27, Enterprise

2022 Board Meeting Schedule

Jan 25 & 26, TBD
April 26 & 27 TBD
July 26 & 27 TBD
October 25 & 26 TBD

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

OTHER FUNDER AWARDS

	2021-2023 Proposed SPENDING PLAN for M76, GF & PCSRF Funds	2021 Spending Plan	2022 Spending Plan	July 2021 Board Awards	TOTAL Awards To- Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To- Date	Other Funding Received & Delegated	Holding Acct Balance 6/28/21	TOTAL M76/GF/ PCSRF Awards	NRCS CREP- TA	BLM	ODF	PSMF C		TOTAL Other Funder Awards	TOTAL Awards To-Date
1	Open Solicitation:															
2	Restoration	32.000	33.500			33.500	0.460	1.845	0.000		0.460				0.460	2.305
3	Fire Recovery & Restoration															
4	Riparian/upland rest. & water quality	10.750	10.750													
5	Floodplain restoration & reconnection	5.000	5.000													
6	Technical Assistance															
7	Restoration TA	3.000	4.500		0.000	4.500			0.000						0.000	0.000
8	CREP TA	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.400	0.140	1.200	0.400					0.400	1.740
9	Stakeholder Engagement	2.250	2.250		0.000	2.250	0.000		0.000						0.000	0.000
10	Monitoring grants	4.250	4.250		0.000	4.250	0.000		0.000						0.000	0.000
11	Land and Water Acquisition															
12	Acquisition	9.000	10.000		0.000	10.000	0.000		0.000						0.000	0.000
13	Weed Grants	3.250	3.250	3.250	3.250	0.000	0.000		3.250						0.000	3.250
14	Small Grants	2.800	2.800	2.800	2.800	0.000	0.000		2.800						0.000	2.800
15	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	1.000	1.000		0.000	1.000	0.000		0.000						0.000	0.000
16	TOTAL	74.500	78.500	7.250	7.250	55.500	0.860	1.985	7.250	0.400	0.460	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.860	8.110
17	% of assumed Total Budget		60.80%													13.76%
18	Focused Investments:															
19	Deschutes	1.915	1.915	1.915	1.915	0.000	0.000	0.001	1.915						0.000	1.916
20	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat	1.400	1.400	1.400	1.400	0.000	0.000	0.004	1.400						0.000	1.404
21	Harney Basin Wetlands	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000		0.100						0.000	0.100
22	Upper Grande Ronde	0.466	0.466	0.466	0.466	0.000	0.000	1.793	0.466						0.000	2.259
23	John Day Partnership	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	0.000	0.000		4.000						0.000	4.000
24	Baker Sage Grouse	2.435	2.435	2.435	2.435	0.000	0.000	0.040	2.435						0.000	2.475
25	Warner Aquatic Habitat	2.293	2.293	2.293	2.293	0.000	0.000		2.293						0.000	2.293
26	Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp	2.700	2.700	2.700	2.700	0.000	0.000		2.700						0.000	2.700
27	Clackamas Partnership	3.082	3.082	3.082	3.082	0.000	0.000	0.010	3.082						0.000	3.092
28	New FIP Solicitation	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	0.000	0.000		10.000						0.000	10.000
29	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.000	0.000		0.750						0.000	0.750
30	TOTAL	29.141	29.141	29.141	29.141	0.000	0.000	1.848	29.141	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	30.989
31	% of assumed Total Budget		22.57%													52.59%
32	Operating Capacity:															
33	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	15.121	15.121	15.121	15.121	0.000	0.000		15.121						0.000	15.121
34	Statewide org partnership support	0.225	0.425	0.225	0.225	0.200	0.000		0.225						0.000	0.225
35	Organizational Collaboration	0.500	0.500	0.129	0.129	0.371	0.000		0.129						0.000	0.129
36	Partnership Technical Assistance	1.500	1.500		0.000	1.500	0.000		0.000						0.000	0.000
37	TOTAL	17.346	17.546	15.475	15.475	2.071	0.000	0.000	15.475	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	15.475
38	% of assumed Total Budget		13.59%													26.26%
39	Other:															
40	CREP	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.000	0.000		0.750						0.000	0.750
41	Governor's Priorities	1.000	1.000	0.800	0.800	0.200	0.000		0.800						0.000	0.800
42	Strategic Implementation Areas	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	0.000	0.000	0.626	1.500						0.000	2.126
44	Gov. directed - Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000		0.330						0.000	0.330
45	Gov. directed - Sage Grouse Conservation Partnership	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000		0.350						0.000	0.350
46	TOTAL	3.930	3.930	3.730	3.730	0.200	0.000	0.626	3.730	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.356
47	% of assumed Total Budget		3.04%													7.39%
44	TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	124.918	129.118	55.596	55.596	57.772	0.860	4.459	55.596	0.400	0.460	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.860	58.930

	2021-2023 Proposed SPENDING PLAN for M76, GF & PCSRF Funds	2021 Spending Plan	2022 Spending Plan	July 2021 Board Awards	TOTAL Awards To- Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To- Date	Other Funding Received & Delegated	Holding Acct Balance 6/28/21	TOTAL M76/GF/ PCSRF Awards	NRCS CREP- TA	BLM	ODF	PSMF C		TOTAL Other Funder Awards	TOTAL Awards To-Date
45	Funds transferred from/to other agencies															
46	Transfer to ODFW - PCSRF	12.884	12.884	12.884	12.884	0.000	0.000		12.884						0.000	12.884
47	Transfer to Eugene Water & Electric Board - GF	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	0.000	0.000		4.000							
48	Transfer from ODF for Forest Health Collaboratives - OF	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.500		0.500		0.500				0.500	1.000
49	Transfer from PSMFC - IMW - OF	0.600	0.600	0.000	0.000	0.600	0.600		0.000			0.600			0.600	0.600
50	transfer from NRCS - Farm Bill technical support - FF							0.013								
51	TOTAL	17.984	17.984	17.384	17.384	0.600	1.100	0.000	17.384	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	14.484
52	TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds	142.902	147.102	72.980	72.980	58.372	1.960	4.459	72.980	0.400	0.460	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.860	73.414

The Approach We Take

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

Our work is characterized by...

Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership

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

Using best available science supported by local knowledge

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

Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

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

Demonstrating impact through meaningful monitoring and evaluation

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

Reaching and involving underrepresented populations

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



OWEB Staff Culture Statement

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

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

March 9 & 10, 2021 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=khPN5Jofkaw> / https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_5nCcTAjbw)

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT

Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Selle, Tony
Shively, Dan

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Forney, Miriam
Greer, Sue
Grenbemer, Mark
Hatch, Audrey
Leopold, Kathy
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
McCarthy, Jillian
Menton, Coby
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHER

Berg, Tristen
Bierly, Ken
Butler, Tim
Hanson, Lisa
Page, Stephanie
Representative Mark Owens
Whitman, Richard

ABSENT

Alvarado, Ron

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:02:30)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies provided 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 (Audio = 1:10:30)

The minutes of the December 16 & 17, 2020 virtual meetings were presented for board approval. *Action item.*

Jason Robison moved the board approve the minutes from the December 16 & 17, 2020 virtual meeting. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment (Audio = 1:10:58)

None provided

D. Committee Updates (Audio = 1:11:05)

Staff provided an update on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion survey completed by the board in early 2021. Other committee updates were written. *Information item.*

E. Director's Updates (Audio = 1:35:41)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and OWEB staff updated the board on agency business and late-breaking issues. These included the approach for granting in 2021 given the assumed increase in Lottery revenues, the annual tribal report, a budget and legislative update, and a written strategic plan update. *Information item.*

F. Klamath Dam Removal (Audio = 2:06:04)

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Director Richard Whitman updated the board on the dam removal project and asked for a general indication of board support in the unlikely event that additional funding is needed to complete restoration work following dam removal. *Action item.*

Randy Labbe moved the board affirm that OWEB is an appropriate funding source in the unlikely event that additional funding is needed to complete restoration work following Klamath dam removal, knowing that details will follow in coming months and years to ensure the investments meet the agency's constitutional requirements. Bruce Buckmaster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program Monitoring (Audio = 3:10:46)

Partnerships Coordinator, Andrew Dutterer, and Grant Program Manager, Eric Williams, presented Progress Tracking Reports for the Cohort 2 FIPs. *Information item.*

H. Food Security and Farmworker Safety Update (Audio = 3:38:20)

Tide Gate Coordinator, Jillian McCarthy, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator, Audrey Hatch, and Regional Program Representative, Coby Menton, provided an overview of the Food Security and Farmworker Safety (FSFS) Program. *Information item.*

I. Oregon Department of Transportation Fish Passage (Audio = 4:45:00)

Grant Program Manager, Eric Williams, requested the board authorize the Executive Director to add \$100,000 in ODOT funds to an existing agreement for OWEB to distribute for watershed grants. *Action item.*

Jason Robison moved the board authorize the Executive Director to amend the Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement (#217-901) with Oregon

Department of Transportation by increasing ODOT's contribution from \$500,000 to \$600,000, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with grantees under the terms of the Agreement. Randy Labbe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Telling the Restoration Story (Audio = 4:00:35)

Deputy Director, Renee Davis shared information about the Willow Creek Telling the Restoration Story project. *Information item.*

K. Climate Change Considerations in Grant Making (Audio = 4:05:13)

Deputy Director, Renee Davis requested board support for outreach to grantees and partners about OWEB's efforts to address climate considerations more fully across its grant programs. *Action item.*

Gary Marshall moved the board support initiating outreach to applicants, grantees, and stakeholders about the agency's climate related work, with the first step being a 'heads up' letter that will be circulated following the spring 2021 board meeting. Barbara Boyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

L. Strategic Implementation Areas Audio = 4:53:29

Acting Business Operations Manager, Courtney Shaff, provided an overview of the status of the 2020 Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) and request technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring funding for the current slate of SIAs. *Action item.*

Meg Reeves move the board amend and increase Grant Number 220-8010-17550 by \$1,125,000 for nine Strategic Implementation Areas and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds, through appropriate agreements with an award date of March 9, 2021. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

M. OS Grant Awards (Audio = 5:05:05)

Regional Program Representatives Katie Duzik, Mark Grenbemer, Liz Redon, Greg Ciannella, Sue Greer, and Coby Menton, and Grant Program Manager, Eric Williams, provided an overview of the Spring 2020 Open Solicitation grant review and evaluation process and requested funding for staff-recommended restoration, technical assistance, and open solicitation projects. *Action item.*

Liza Jane McAlister move the board increase the spending plan by the amounts shown in Table 2 of the Item M staff report and award funds for the staff-recommended projects listed in Attachment D, Item M. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

July 27 & 28 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Agenda Item C

Written Public Comment



June 30, 2021

Dear Members of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board,

Regrettably, the March deadline for the submission of their OWEB Capacity Grant was missed by the SRWC staff. There were several factors that contributed to this situation that have been identified and addressed by the SRWC Board. The OWEB Capacity Grant is extremely important to the SRWC in terms of providing needed resources for its stability. We realize that the policy of the OWEB is not to accept any grant proposals that missed the submission deadline. However, given the unusual circumstances that have been encountered by the SRWC over the past 18 months, and the ongoing significant efforts to restore the SRWC to a fully committed and functional role as an important Watershed Council, we respectfully request the opportunity to resubmit our OWEB Operating Capacity Grant for 2022-2023 (Attachment1).

Background

The Executive Committee (EC) of the SRWC met to review and identify the factors that contributed to staff missing the application deadline. The EC evaluated the factors that contributed to the situation and developed a reasonable and implementable path forward. Identified as contributing factors were the following: 1) loss of 4 staff members over the past 15 months due to financial and other concerns; 2) remaining staff comprised of one part time interim executive director (0.6 FTE) and two part time staff project leaders that (due to funding issues) have had hours reduced such that together they comprise 1.3 FTE; 3) communication issues among staff that were likely exacerbated by remote working due to Covid 19 restrictions and part-time work schedules; 4) some chain of command issues were identified that were likely exacerbated by communication issues as identified above; 5) and, non-centralized and chaotic record storage attributable to former staff.

As part of the overall recovery of the SRWC, the need to develop and submit project proposals for funding in 2022 was identified as the highest priority for the SRWC viability. The EC determined that an important tool for ensuring the SRWC would meet grant deadlines was to develop a grant calendar. The SRWC built a calendar to identify each grant being submitted, grant deadlines and, the staff member responsible for writing, tracking and working with the temporary staff grant writer for submission. Regular and improved communication among staff members and updates on proposal progress are to be noted and discussed at weekly staff meetings.

The SRWC applied for, and received, Payroll Protection Plan monies under the Federal Stimulus Plan that were partly used for hiring temporary part-time staff. Thus far an accountant, grant writer and administrative assistant have been hired part time on a temporary basis. These individuals have been of considerable help to the SRWC by allowing the limited staff to concentrate their efforts on the restructuring and recovery of the SRWC going forward.

The SRWC also depends strongly on the SRWC members' volunteer participation to fill in for some of the immediate needs as the SRWC rebuilds. The SRWC has an extremely engaged and active council that are fully committed to the rebuilding of this organization because they recognize the importance of

the Sandy River watershed, not only to the fish and wildlife of the watershed, but to the diverse community that accesses opportunities associated with this thriving watershed. Board members have been engaged in efforts ranging from the: development writing and submission of proposals for funding; conducting project monitoring activities; as well as providing oversight for specific projects by the development and implementation of sub committees specific to those projects.

We have also identified and are pursuing opportunities going forward to continue meeting the needs of the Council as we restructure, rebuild and secure financing. These include: partnering with regional agencies; increasing the FTEs of present staff; adding part-time term staff members devoted to specific grant projects; accessing community college students to accomplish tasks that fulfill the intern requirements associated with their degree; and partnering with the Environmental Sciences Department at Portland State University to access Masters’ and Ph.D. level students for thesis opportunities with term-based stipends under specific grants.

Current Status

Using the present process, the SRWC has successfully submitted several grant proposals for funding the remainder of 2021 and 2022. While several of these grants have not yet been awarded, the successful on-time applications include:

2022 SRWC Potential Projects with Submitted Proposals
Sandy Salmon Floodplain Reconnection Project
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Pacific Power & Light
Cold Water Refuge and Lamprey Monitoring and Evaluation
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Open Solicitation
Sandy River Delta Habitat Restoration
Oregon Department of Agriculture/OWEB
Hillman Family Foundation
Charlotte Martin Foundation
US Forest Service
Sandy River Delta Education
National Environmental Education Foundation
US Forest Service
Oregon Community Foundation
Beaver Creek
City of Gresham
City of Troutdale
Multnomah County
Mount Hood Community College Retrofit
City of Gresham
The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
Council Support
The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

Misc.
Mt. Hood Willamette RAC application
National Forest Foundation

Summary

The Sandy River watershed is vital to the health, well-being, environmental, educational and recreational opportunities for the largest metropolitan area in Oregon. The SRWC has played a critical role for many years in successfully bringing diverse partners together to protect the resources of the Sandy River watershed. We engage with our community to develop solutions, such as stream restoration projects, that build resilience to climate change. Our watershed is threatened with flooding and channel migration in populated areas, wildfire that threaten the pristine forests due to drought, and more waste water in our salmon producing streams due to an increase in populations in our fast-growing communities. Our council works to engage volunteers to join with other groups to clean up the increase in garbage that pollutes our streams and waterways. We assist in finding solutions to dealing with stormwater runoff by partnering with local government agencies to protect our streams that are important fish habitats.

As previously stated, the OWEB Capacity Grant is extremely important to the SRWC in terms of providing needed resources for its future stability. We request that the OWEB Board recognize the ongoing significant efforts to restore the SRWC to a fully committed and functional Watershed Council, and consider our request for the opportunity to have our OWEB Operating Capacity Grant late submission accepted for 2022-2023.

I will be happy to address any specific questions that you may have pertaining to this request. Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Margaret J. Filardo, Ph.D.
Chair, Sandy River Watershed Council
17405 NE Glisan St.
Portland, OR 97230
margaret.filardo@gmail.com.

Application Name: Sandy River Watershed Council Capacity

By: Sandy River Basin WC

Offering Type: Council Capacity Grants

Application Type: Council Capacity

OWEB Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

Coordinates: 45.452952,-122.144305

Applicant:

Kris Balliet
17405 NE Glisan St
Portland OR 97230
(503) 622-9134
kris@sandyriver.org

Payee:

Kris Balliet
17405 NE Glisan St
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Project Manager:

Kris Balliet
17405 NE Glisan St
Portland OR 97230
(503) 622-9134
kris@sandyriver.org

Budget Summary:

OWEB Amount Requested: \$122,500
Total Project Amount: \$209,363

Administrative Information

Abstract

Provide an abstract statement for the project. Include the following information: 1) Identify the project location; 2) Briefly state the project need; 3) Describe the proposed work; 4) Identify project partners.

In response to organizational and financial challenges the Sandy River Watershed Council is seeking funds to capitalize on an opportunity to completely restructure the organization's financial management and grant-tracking systems, update our bylaws and employee handbook, and build and execute a new strategic plan. Ongoing work includes:

Phase II of reconnection of the historic floodplain at the confluence of the Sandy and Salmon rivers near Brightwood, Oregon to repair salmonid habitat and alleviate downstream flooding. Partners: OWEB, BLM, National Fish and Wildlife Fund.

Continuation of Cold Water Refuge restoration at the Sandy River Delta on a project site or ~1,500 acres administered by US Forest Service near Troutdale, Oregon—including riparian area planting, and indigenous First Foods restoration including wapato and lamprey. Partners: USFS, Tributaries Network, Friends of Trees, Confluence, Wisdom of the Elders.

Continuation of Timberline to Troutdale annual volunteer trash clean up events on Mt. Hood and the lower Sandy River and summer Stash the Trash program at five participating parks on the Lower Sandy River. Partners: City of Troutdale, Oregon State Parks, Metro, Portland Water Bureau, AMR, Mt. Hood Institute, USFS.

Continuation of our Salmon Safe project to convert hardened parking lot surfaces at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, Oregon to swales and native tree and shrub planting beds, while garnering community support for the removal of the Kelly Creek Dam. Partners: MHCC, City of Gresham, East Multnomah SWCD, Resources Legacy Fund, Beaver Creek Partnership.

Beaver Creek Restoration: Involving community members in the restoration of riparian habitat along an important fish-bearing tributary of the Sandy River Tributary located in Gresham and Troutdale, Oregon. Partners: City of Gresham, City of Troutdale, Beaver Creek Partnership, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation

Location Information

What is the ownership of the project site(s)?

Public land (any lands owned by the Federal government, the State of Oregon, a city, county, district or municipal or public corporation in Oregon)

Private (land owned by non-governmental entities)

Not applicable to this project

This grant will take place in more than one county.

List the counties affected:

Multnomah and Clackamas Counties

Permits

Other than the land-use form, do you need a permit, license or other regulatory approval of any of the proposed project activities?

Yes

No

Racial and Ethnic Impact Statement

Racial and Ethnic Impact Statement

The proposed grant project policies or programs could have a disproportionate or unique POSITIVE impact on the following minority persons. (indicate all that apply)

The proposed grant project policies or programs could have a disproportionate or unique NEGATIVE impact on the following minority persons. (indicate all that apply)

The proposed grant project policies or programs WILL HAVE NO disproportionate or unique impact on minority persons.

Women

Persons with Disabilities

African-Americans

Hispanics

Asians or Pacific Islanders

American Indians

Alaskan Natives

Please provide the rationale for the existence of policies or programs having a disproportionate or unique impact on minority persons.

The council has been working diligently to develop a comprehensive DEI strategy. Our commitment to DEI was further fueled by the Black Lives Matter Movement in 2020. We formed a committee to develop a DEI statement and are developing an equity action plan for the organization. Meanwhile, we are continuing to develop partnerships with indigenous partners ensuring they have central leadership on projects of interest and seeking additional funding to jointly support these initiatives.

We have held extensive consultations and site visits with two Native American organizations— Wisdom of the Elders and Tributaries Network. Tradition Keepers from Tributaries Networks will conduct a Sandy River Delta

survey for Wapato as well as seeking sites suitable for planting other important First Foods. Wisdom of the Elders will be providing interns to carry out Wapato restoration and the planting of additional First Foods at the Sandy River Delta.

Additionally, we have begun working with the local organizations AntFarm, People of Color Outdoors, Vive NW, and Play Grow Learn—a youth workforce training program—in an ongoing effort to center our diversity, equity, and inclusivity goals in the work of the council.

Please provide evidence of consultation with representative(s) of affected minority persons.

We have conducted and will continue to conduct meetings with Wisdom of the Elders and other indigenous organizations, People of Color Outdoors, AntFarm, and other groups in the region to ensure that the work of the council takes into account and centers the values of affected minority persons and other traditionally excluded or marginalized groups within the watershed. We partner with ViveNW to host culturally specific stewardship events in the Mt. Hood National Forest for the LatinX community and have hosted work days on Mt. Hood Community College campus with Play Grow Learn, serving racially diverse youth aged 15-24 from the Gresham area, to maintain the rain gardens and nature-scaped areas.

Insurance Information

If applicable, select all the activities that are part of your project - These require a risk assessment tool unless otherwise noted (check all that apply).

- Working with hazardous materials (not including materials used in the normal operation of equipment such as hydraulic fluid)*
- Earth moving work around the footprint of a drinking water well*
- Removal or alteration of structures that hold back water on land or instream including dams, levees, dikes, tidegates and other water control devices (this does not include temporary diversion dams used solely to divert water for irrigation)*
- Applicant's staff or volunteers are working with kids related to this project (DAS Risk assessment tool not required, additional insurance is required)*
- Applicant's staff are applying herbicides or pesticides (DAS Risk assessment tool not required, additional insurance is required)*
- Insurance not applicable to this project*

Additional Information

This project affects Sage-Grouse.

Problem Statement

Does the watershed council have a fiscal sponsor?

- Yes
 No

Is the council a membership organization?

- Yes
 No

Date of last annual membership meeting.

02/10/2021

The council is a group of councils operating collectively.

- Yes
 No

Is the applicant a group of councils operating independently?

- Yes
 No

For Details Upload the council's most recent bylaws.

For Details Upload the council's most recent policies and procedures.

For Details Upload the council's local government designation

Date of the council's 2019-2021 self assessment?

04/15/2021

Date of last council officer elections.

01/13/2021

Does the council have written position descriptions for council board officers?

- Yes
 No

Does the council have written roles and responsibilities for council governing body members?

- Yes
 No

How many times did/will the council governing body meet between July 1, -June 30, of the current 2 year biennium?

16

Describe how the council advertises its general council meetings.

The council advertises its general council meetings on the council website, via e-mail newsletter, and by posting event flyers in the communities within the watershed.

Do council governing body meetings have agendas, sign-in sheets, and minutes?

- Yes
 No

Describe how your board membership includes a diverse range of geographic areas and community interests in the watershed.

Each region of the watershed has a designated representative in addition to three at large members. Board members represent the Sandy River Headwaters, the Middle Sandy River, the Salmon River, and Beaver Creek. The Sandy River Watershed Council is composed of people who live, work, or recreate in the Sandy River Basin, as well as organizations that have an interest in the area. The watershed council is a partnership: individuals and organizations work cooperatively to improve the health of the watershed. We coordinate our efforts with many private and public sector partners to produce the greatest benefits for the watershed. We believe that cooperative efforts and relationships will produce lasting benefits for everyone involved. Government representatives from the City of Sandy, the USFS, the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Clackamas County, and the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as representatives of the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the forestry industry also have seats on the board of the council.

Describe any board membership and recruitment challenges and actions being taken to address those challenges.

Sandy River Watershed Council experienced a complete turnover of board leadership in the last year, including the loss of its chair, vice chair, and treasurer. This loss of longstanding leadership represented a challenge and an opportunity for the organization. Thankfully, existing board members stepped into these critical leadership positions and have worked with staff at the council and other stakeholders to craft and enact the organization's new strategic vision. In the coming biennium, SRWC will work on strategic planning and assess missing but needed resources and roles on the Council, with a particular emphasis on developing more robust representation of the racial and cultural diversity present in the communities of the watershed.

Are projects of the council, including those identified in the work plan, identified in a council action plan or strategic plan?

- Yes
 No

Provide the name and date of the most recent action plan or strategic plan.

We are currently working with Fresh Take consultancy to develop strategic and board plans.

Is the work of the council specifically designed to benefit salmon or steelhead?

- Yes
 No

- ✓ Lower Columbia River - Steelhead
- ✓ Lower Columbia River - Coho Salmon
- ✓ Lower Columbia River - Chinook Salmon

Describe how the resulting operating capacity grant will benefit salmon or steelhead or their habitat?

SRWC activities support a science-based, basin-wide recovery plan that addresses limiting factors for threatened wild chinook, coho, and steelhead as well as Pacific lamprey, that are considered anchor populations for recovery of Lower Columbia River fish. Projects and their outcomes support sub-basin priorities, based on reach-scale assessments, to create connected corridors of salmon habitat and boost wild fish production toward sustainable levels.

Our 2017 State of the Sandy study reviewed population trends for threatened fish in the Sandy River, with findings that three of four species are showing increased populations in their ten-year averages following the removal of the Marmot dam in 2007 and a coordinated multi-partner restoration campaign that has occurred since then.

Regional Assessments or Recovery Plans
Oregon Conservation Strategy
Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead

Proposed Solution Projects

Project #1

Project Title

Sandy River Watershed Council Restructure

Project Category

- Restoration/Acquisition
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Technical Design and Engineering
- Resource Assessment and Planning
- Organizational Development and Management
- Monitoring

OWEB Grant Number

NA

Project Description

The council experienced many challenges in the preceding year. The pandemic, coupled with high organizational and board turnover, presented existential challenges to the organization that have since been overcome. We are currently in the process of a major reorganization that continues to make the council a stronger organization positioned to affect significant positive change in the service areas and communities where we work.

We will build upon the success we have had in restructuring our organization over the last biennium. In 2021 we are focused on strategically consolidating the council's operations and projects, developing internal systems to more efficiently track grants and manage our finances, while rebuilding as an organization. We are developing a new strategic plan for the organization, working with our community and agency stakeholders. We are also working to update our bylaws and hiring/employee handbooks to reflect changes in the organization.

Key Partners

OWEB; Fresh Take Consulting; East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District; Portland Water Bureau; Wisdom of the Elders; People of Colors Outdoors; Tributaries Network; AntFarm; local residents of Brightwood, Zigzag, Sandy, Gresham, Troutdale and other communities; and other community interests and groups.

Previous Biennium's Accomplishments

We responded to the challenges the council faced in the first year of the biennium by beginning an organizational transformation. We devoted the second year of the biennium to managing the developing situation while looking toward a stronger future for the council. Kris Balliet, a nonprofit management professional and attorney with more than three decades of change management experience and deep organizational aptitude took on the role of Interim Executive Director of the council in July of 2020. She immediately enacted policies designed to maintain organizational priorities while working to identify new streams of funding for the council during the crisis of the pandemic. We began rebuilding the organization shortly thereafter and are working to restructure staff, develop board leadership, revise financial policies, and re-evaluate essential priorities toward a robust future for the council.

Challenges

The primary challenge facing the council at this time is managing cash flow toward the execution of project deliverables as we work toward emerging from the pandemic a stronger organization. Additional challenges include:

Maintaining current staffing levels while attaining project implementation goals.

Securing general operating support to carry the work of the organization into the future.

Building upon current part-time and temporary staff to effectively meet the demands of organizational operations and project needs.

Revising and updating financial management practices.

Meeting all SRWC financial obligations.

General operating support from OWEB will aid the council in managing the challenges as we navigate our ongoing organizational transformation while delivering on our many projects throughout the watershed.

Next Biennium's Planned Deliverables

A reorganized and strategically-focused council by 2023, with systems and processes in place foster organizational resilience and responsiveness. Strategic planning began in April of 2021 alongside board and staff development work. Additional deliverables include:

Full implementation of financial policies.

Streamlined systems for managing grants and updating organizational and project budgets.

Monthly delivery of financial documents to council members and training for council members to feel confident in interpreting them.

Updated bylaws reflecting the organizational restructure.

Updated employee handbook reflecting current law and organizational restructure.

A fully developed and actionable strategic plan.

We will emerge from the pandemic a leaner, more efficient, and organizationally stronger council, devoted to our mission and its execution throughout the watershed.

Original Start Date

01/01/2021

Proposed Completion Date

06/30/2023

Priority

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Emerging

Project #2

Project Title

Stakeholder Engagement in Sandy Salmon Phase II Planning

Project Category

- Restoration/Acquisition
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Technical Design and Engineering
- Resource Assessment and Planning
- Organizational Development and Management
- Monitoring

OWEB Grant Number

220-3003-17006

Project Description

Local residents have expressed concerns about the second phase of the Sandy-Salmon project. These concerns are primarily focused on potential impacts to wetland degradation. There has also been a request by community stakeholders to analyze beaver populations in this portion of the river. We established a board subcommittee that includes residents of impacted communities and are currently seeking a local resident to represent the community in planning discussions. Project planning is underway and includes project design, permitting, a cultural resources survey, wetland delineation, and amphibian surveys. The project will remove additional levee material, which will ultimately be returned to the Sandy River. Additional engineered log jams will be placed. The project will complement Sandy - Salmon I to insure inundation at a greater range of flows of the adjacent historic floodplain. This project will be maintained and monitored for five years.

Key Partners

Bureau of Land Management; OWEB; ODFW; Portland Water Bureau; Bair, Goodie, and Associates; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Previous Biennium's Accomplishments

Much work has been accomplished on the Sandy-Salmon floodplain reconnection project over the past two years during Phase I. The council's accomplishments on this project include:

- Extensive project planning
- Developed 90% engineered design plans
- A total of 600 feet of levee was removed
- A total of 1,000 logs were placed into the floodplain
- Completed cultural resource survey
- Hosted two visitor outreach days
- Established photo points and placed two game cameras

Pursued donated logs and rootwads
Procured additional project funding

Challenges

Challenges faced by the council on this project are relatively minimal and are currently being addressed.

They include:

Securing a greater degree of landowner support
Securing full funding for Phase II of the project
Challenges stemming from recreation use of site

Next Biennium's Planned Deliverables

Sandy - Salmon II is projected to begin work in July of 2022 and complete work in early summer of 2023. Site restoration will occur immediately following construction and the required five year monitoring effort will also begin immediately post-construction.

Construction will include levee breach, returning levee materials back to the Sandy River, placement of approximately 400 logs and rootwads, and floodplain roughening. Additionally, through outreach community-involvement surrounding this phase of the project, the council will be more deeply woven into the fabric of the local community, fostering ongoing cooperation and stewardship.

Original Start Date

01/01/2020

Proposed Completion Date

06/30/2023

Priority

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Emerging

Project #3

Project Title

Sandy Salmon Phase II Floodplain Restoration/Monitoring

Project Category

- Restoration/Acquisition
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Technical Design and Engineering
- Resource Assessment and Planning
- Organizational Development and Management
- Monitoring

OWEB Grant Number

219-3002-16407

Project Description

Sandy - Salmon Floodplain Reconnection Phase One construction was completed in 2019. Following outreach with the local community, SRWC developed and implemented an oversight and planning committee to come up with a pathway to including stakeholder feedback in our work going forward. This committee recommended to the full Council that the project be slowed to allow local residents to have greater input on the project, and to allow for extensive monitoring of the river's ongoing natural impact on existing project accomplishments. This monitoring includes invasive weed removal, the planting native trees and shrubs, and placement of game cameras to show changes in the project area and developments in hydrology over the next five years. There is also additional fact-finding work to be done regarding the resident beavers population and impact on adjacent ponds and side channels.

Key Partners

OWEB, Clackamas County, Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, Portland Water Bureau, Trout Unlimited, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

Previous Biennium's Accomplishments

Sandy Salmon Phase I construction was completed on schedule in 2019, with partial levee removal, placement of over 1,000 logs and rootwads, and re-configuration and roughening of the side channel. River water reached the floodplain in Fall of 2020 and we are excitedly moving forward, through monitoring and the making of adjustments in 2021, to begin the next phase construction in 2022.

Challenges

An unanticipated cultural survey requirement on the fifty-year-old levee postponed the project start date. We also received feedback from local residents concerned about the restoration activities underway. Some of the concerns expressed included potential flooding for downstream homeowners, and disruption of beaver population and habitat in that portion of the river.

We are taking steps to address these concerns by inviting concerned community members to help in the crafting of our next series of actions. We have designated a seat for local recreationalists and homeowners on the newly formed subcommittee advising on the project. We are intentionally slowing the pace of Phase II to allow for the maximum participation of local residents before any additional construction takes place—likely in 2022. This also allows us to take surveys of the potentially impacted beaver population in this stretch of the river, and to gauge the ongoing impacts of Phase I construction to river dynamics.

Next Biennium's Planned Deliverables

We expect the floodplain to be wetted most of the year and we aim for eighty percent survival of our newly planted seedlings. As the river naturally breached a portion of the levy in 2020, we will be monitoring and revising prior plans to adjust for river dynamics. We are also working closely with local residents to ensure that their concerns are addressed in next-step planning. Additional construction will start in Summer 2022 to allow for more planning and community engagement.

Original Start Date

10/01/2019

Proposed Completion Date

09/30/2024

Priority

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Emerging

Project #4

Project Title

Sandy River Delta Habitat Restoration

Project Category

- Restoration/Acquisition
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Technical Design and Engineering
- Resource Assessment and Planning
- Organizational Development and Management
- Monitoring

OWEB Grant Number

NA

Project Description

Our Sandy River Delta Habitat Restoration project continues twenty years of habitat restoration in a premier natural area administered by the US Forest Service located at the confluence of the Sandy and Columbia Rivers. This habitat restoration is being undertaken in partnership with local Indigenous People-led organizations Wisdom of the Elders and Tributaries Network, an Indigenous People's 501c3 organization. Work in 2021 will include the expansion of native tree and shrub planting and removal of existing Himalayan blackberry.

In 2021 we are incorporating First Foods into our educational programming by engaging Indigenous Youth in wapiti planting in the Sandy River Delta, and by initiating fact finding on how best to fold lamprey conservation work into this effort.

Key Partners

Native Ecosystems NW, Friends of Trees, Confluence, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Local school districts, Wisdom of the Elders and Tributaries Networks

Previous Biennium's Accomplishments

In the previous biennium the council made significant headway on habitat restoration in the Sandy River Delta. We:

- Planted more than 35,000 native trees and shrubs.
- Restored eighteen acres at the habitat continuity project site, removing invasives and planting natives.
- Began cold water refuge restoration planning.
- Brought 150 students to the delta for stewardship work.

Challenges

Seasonal flooding has at times ponded water at our tree planting sites. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted our ability to deliver in terms of on-site gatherings and transportation of groups to the sites. Also, an emerging community of unhoused individuals encamped at the Sandy River Delta has had wide ranging impacts on our ongoing work at the site.

Next Biennium's Planned Deliverables

In the next biennium the council is confident that we can continue to deliver on a significant number of project goals for the restoration of the Sandy River Delta, including:

- Cold water refuge habitat restoration.
- Return of students to conduct stewardship activities (once covid-19 restrictions being removed).
- Site monitoring.
- Conservation of wapato.
- Conservation of other native fish and amphibians.
- Four community planting events per year.

Original Start Date

01/01/2019

Proposed Completion Date

06/30/2023

Priority

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Emerging

Project #5

Project Title

Kelly Creek dam removal

Project Category

- Restoration/Acquisition
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Technical Design and Engineering
- Resource Assessment and Planning
- Organizational Development and Management
- Monitoring

OWEB Grant Number

xxx

Project Description

The Kelly Creek Dam Removal 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 1960s, the challenge of connecting two portions of 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 surface level of the water 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. 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.

Key Partners

Mount Hood Community College, Beaver Creek Partnership, Trout Unlimited

Previous Biennium's Accomplishments

Sandy River Watershed Council completed preliminary feasibility analysis of the Kelley Creek pond and dam, including volumes of sediment and material, strategies for partial and full dam removal, replacement of the bridge and other infrastructure functions, and planning concept costs.

Challenges

The college is 2.5 years delayed in completing their master plan due to staff change-over and the COVID pandemic. The development of this plan is the first stepping stone (as requested by the college) to conducting community outreach.

Next Biennium's Planned Deliverables

The focus of this next biennium, once the capital master plan is complete, will be on developing college and community support for the restoration of Kelly Creek, the development of fishing alternatives for the pond, and the development of funding scenarios.

Original Start Date

07/01/2021

Proposed Completion Date

06/30/2023

Priority

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Emerging

Project #6

Project Title

Mount Hood Community College Salmon Safe Retrofit

Project Category

- Restoration/Acquisition
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Technical Design and Engineering
- Resource Assessment and Planning
- Organizational Development and Management
- Monitoring

OWEB Grant Number

xxxx

Project Description

Working with East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, the City of Gresham, Metro, and Mount Hood Community College the council has begun work on the addition of stormwater facilities to dramatically reduce stormwater impacts to Kelly Creek, a tributary of the Sandy River. We made the tactical decision to bring in the college and students for GIS mapping, development of stormwater facilities, planting, and other program activities and have been utilizing volunteer hours from community members as well as paid labor up complete project targets.

Key Partners

East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, City of Gresham, Metro, Mount Hood Community College, MHCC students and other community members.

Previous Biennium's Accomplishments

During the 2019-2021 biennium we began the construction of additional stormwater facilities in parking lots G and H on the west side of Mount Hood Community College (2019), and at the north end and along Stark Street in 2020, such that total projects (including those built in 2018) now capture over seven million gallons of stormwater out of a total of sixty million gallons produced annually on campus. The City of Gresham engaged crews to help maintain the existing facilities and despite the pandemic, community members helped to weed and plant the new facilities in 2020. Project partners persevered to install another stormwater facility at the sound end of campus in 2021, transforming a mounded berm between the gym and a large parking lot into a basin with a dry well to capture another million gallons each year.

Challenges

During the pandemic there were challenges working with the college, and a transition in organizational

leadership required careful handling of our relationship with the college as well.

In contrast to other council projects, the pandemic actually streamlined construction in 2020, as the campus was vacant—reducing conflicts, traffic and safety concerns.

Next Biennium's Planned Deliverables

Irrigation and a variety of wetland and upland will be installed in the newest facility in front of the gym by early September, 2021. Project partners intend to seek additional funding to retrofit the four parking lots upslope in coming years, aiming for additional construction in 2022.

Original Start Date

07/01/2021

Proposed Completion Date

06/30/2023

Priority

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Emerging

Project #7

Project Title

Lower Sandy River and Beaver Creek Outreach

Project Category

- Restoration/Acquisition
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Technical Design and Engineering
- Resource Assessment and Planning
- Organizational Development and Management
- Monitoring

OWEB Grant Number

NA

Project Description

Engaging volunteers in the Sandy River Basin's most urban areas, the lower Sandy River and the lowermost Sandy tributary—Beaver Creek—raises community awareness and commitment to restoration.

Local agencies have improved three large culverts in Beaver Creek and Kelly Creek, improving passage and opening up six miles of potential spawning habitat. We will be prioritizing outreach to people of color, including youth-work development groups like Play Grow Learn within the program area through a partnership with the City of Gresham.

Activities include watershed tours for Mt Hood Community College students and community members, riparian weed removal and native plantings, and public event outreach at markets and other venues to introduce residents to their role in protecting and restoring habitat in the Sandy.

Key Partners

East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Multnomah County, City of Troutdale, City of Gresham, Solve, Ecology in Classrooms Outdoors

Previous Biennium's Accomplishments

Sandy River Watershed Council outreach activities engaged over 500 volunteers and community residents through tours, tabling, planting, and stewardship activities around Beaver Creek and Kelly Creek.

Challenges

The lower Sandy and Beaver Creek areas represent the most populated and diverse human communities in the watershed. Both the pandemic and forest fire events diminished 2020 stewardship events. Outreach efforts shifted to digital channels, including social media, where engagement was strong.

Next Biennium's Planned Deliverables

Sandy River Watershed Council is planning a range of stewardship activities, including cleanups, the continuation of "Stash the Trash" program—placing mesh bags at popular recreation areas along the lower river for visitors to use on demand—invasive species removal, and planting events, as well as consistent digital outreach to increase awareness and support of Beaver Creek conservation and restoration.

SRWC will work with the Beaver Creek Conservation Partnership to address and implement EPA Cold Water Refuge goals by re-invigorating vegetative restoration activities along the lower section of the creek, completing a volunteer restoration plan identifying sites suitable for volunteer engagement, and reaching community members through community events.

Original Start Date

07/01/2021

Proposed Completion Date

06/30/2023

Priority

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Emerging

Project #8

Project Title

Timberline to Troutdale Cleanups

Project Category

- Restoration/Acquisition
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Technical Design and Engineering
- Resource Assessment and Planning
- Organizational Development and Management
- Monitoring

OWEB Grant Number

NA

Project Description

Sandy River Watershed Council organizes volunteer cleanups to collect trash from the headwaters of the Salmon River near Timberline and via a floating cleanup on the lower river. Cleanups emphasize the range of territory the Sandy covers, its popularity with recreationalists, and its sensitivity to degradation from microplastics and other litter.

Key Partners

City of Troutdale, Oregon State Parks, Stout Creek Outfitters, Mt Hood Institute, US Forest Service

Previous Biennium's Accomplishments

2019 was an excellent year for Timberline to Troutdale Cleanups. The Timberline cleanup expanded from a single site to four sites to become the "All Mountain Cleanup" with 350 attendees collecting 200 pounds of trash. Forty participants collected approximately 750 pounds of trash on the Lower Sandy Floating Cleanup.

Sandy River Watershed Council also piloted "Stash the Trash" in the lower Sandy in August, 2019. Adopted from a Clackamas River program, Stash the Trash placed mesh bags with sponsor logos at five parks along the Lower Sandy to engage park visitors in cleanup efforts on a daily basis throughout the summer. Visitors used 2000 bags in 2019 with similar counts in 2020, effectively expanding the T2T cleanup effort from one week to all summer long.

Challenges

Both the pandemic and forest fires diminished 2020 cleanup efforts. The float had to be canceled altogether, and the All Mountain Cleanup was finally held in the snow in late October at a single site, where 50 volunteers collected 1000 pounds of trash.

Next Biennium's Planned Deliverables

We anticipate resuming of the Lower Floating Cleanup and the full-scale All Mountain Cleanup (with three of the four sites in the watershed) in the coming biennium. The City of Troutdale has provided support to continue Stash the Trash on the lower river. Sandy River Watershed Council is working with Solve to create an Adopt-a-River program on the Sandy to allow individuals and groups to make a two-year commitment to keep sections of the Sandy clean on a semiannual basis, expanding cleanup efforts to year-round.

Original Start Date

07/01/2021

Proposed Completion Date

06/30/2023

Priority

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Emerging

Project #9

Project Title

City of Sandy Waste Water Treatment Plan

Project Category

- Restoration/Acquisition
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Technical Design and Engineering
- Resource Assessment and Planning
- Organizational Development and Management
- Monitoring

OWEB Grant Number

NA

Project Description

The City of Sandy is planning to expand infrastructure to absorb expected doubling of its population and to improve its waste treatment, the effluent from which has exceeded Clean Water Act standards and caused fish kills in its present outfall to Clackamas River tributary Tickle Creek. The city's plans include potential for an expanded treatment plant and effluent distribution that would send treated effluent to the Sandy River, potentially the largest single source of effluent in the current river system.

SRWC will work with the City of Sandy to identify and integrate green infrastructure and natural drainage approaches that limit or prevent effluent releases to the Sandy. We will monitor city plans for infrastructure and assist in exploring and planning sustainable systems that will protect the Sandy's temperature and water quality to the greatest extent possible. A subcommittee of our Board has been formed to help guide our efforts.

Key Partners

City of Sandy, Portland Water Bureau, Metro, Local residents, Trout Unlimited

Previous Biennium's Accomplishments

The previous biennium's project accomplishments include the formation of a Sandy River Watershed Council committee to follow Waste Water Treatment Plant for the City of Sandy planning developments, the introduction of the concept of green infrastructure to the City of Sandy, and the provision of connections and resources to augment the more traditional chemical treatment plans underway.

Challenges

In early 2021 we discovered that the planned site for the wastewater treatment plant had been relocated to an area that requires access over private land. Our original understanding was that there would be a nature park as a part of the development that could be enjoyed by the public with no fees attached. We now understand that the property owner of this new site plans to run his business, promoting recreation activities at the site, limiting public access and imposing entrance fees.

Next Biennium's Planned Deliverables

The subcommittee that formed to lead our outreach efforts on this project has begun to attend City of Sandy public hearings and are developing a new strategy to reflect the new site needs for this Plant. There will be significant stakeholder engagement and a primary focus on how the council can help to develop a suitable approach to this new plant.

Original Start Date

Proposed Completion Date

01/01/2023

Priority

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Emerging

Wrap-Up

List the watershed council staff (or contractors), their roles, affiliation (staff or contractor), length of time in position (use the Qualifications space), and contact information.

Role	Name	Affiliation	Qualifications	Email	Phone
Sandy - Salmon and Sandy River Delta project coordination	Bill Weiler	SRWC Staff	25 years coordinating, permitting, and/or monitoring habitat restoration projects	bill@sandyriver.org	(509) 365-3972
MHCC Salmon Safe and Beaver Creek habitat restoration projects	Sara Ennis	Sandy River Watershed Council	20 years restoration and community engagement experience in the PNW including five years as SRWC staff member, project coordinator, and now serving as Deputy Director	sara@sandyriver.org	(971) 325-4224
Organization oversight	Kris Balliet	Sandy River Watershed Council	Over three decades of non-profit administration experience. Currently serving as SRWC Interim ED	kris@sandyriver.org	(907) 952-6470
Support Specialist	Evert Vermeer	Sandy River Watershed Council	Evert Vermeer is currently studying forest management at UC Santa Barbara.	evie@sandyriver.org	
Grant Support	Brian Tibbetts	Sandy River Watershed Council	Brian Tibbetts has a decade of grant writing and nonprofit management experience.	brian@sandyriver.org	(503) 519-2229

Did the council receive OWEB Council Capacity Funding in 2019-2021

- No
 Yes

Provide a brief summary of the councils 2019-2021 restoration and stakeholder engagement accomplishments.

Sandy Salmon Phase I was completed in the late fall of 2019 and 25,000 trees and shrubs have been planted on the site. 35,000 native plants were installed at the Sandy River Delta, including restoration of sixteen acres, removal of invasives, and the planting of native species. In 2019, the council had a fall outreach season with successful completion of events including launch of Stash the Trash and Timberline to Troutdale cleanup events. The Timberline to Troutdale Cleanup expanded to four sites with 350 participants collecting 2000lbs of trash. SRWC also hosted twice-annual community plantings at the Sandy River Delta and regular stewardship events on Beaver Creek and at Mount Hood Community College until the pandemic hit. The total number of volunteers and community members engaged for the biennium was 1943. We also developed a robust digital outreach program via social media and digitally-distributed educational videos.

Provide a brief summary of the councils restoration and stakeholder engagement plans for 2021-2023.

SRWC plans to continue stakeholder engagement in-person as feasible in the coming biennium, with native plantings, invasive species and trash removal events, Stash the Trash, Timberline to Troutdale cleanup events, Sandy River Delta, Beaver Creek, and Sandy-Salmon stewardship, tours, presentations, and tabling. To increase very limited organizational capacity in this pursuit, the council will engage an AmeriCorps member to support both in-person and digital outreach.

Restoration work at the Delta will move forward with indigenous partners and contract crews focused on increasing riparian vegetation in support of maintaining cool temperatures and the Sandy's cold water refuge status. Sandy Salmon Phase II will enhance floodplain reconnection with improved flows and placement of large wood structures increasing fish and amphibian habitat, while engaging with stakeholders through a variety of means throughout the process.

Budget

Item	Unit Type	Unit Number	Unit Cost	OWEB Funds	External Cash	External In-Kind	Total Costs
Salaries, Wages and Benefits							
Executive Director	Hours	1500	\$54.00	\$54,000	\$27,000	\$0	\$81,000
Sara Ennis, Staff	Hours	1000	\$45.00	\$45,000	\$0	\$0	\$45,000
Bill Weiler, Staff	Hours	1000	\$35.00	\$0	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000
Category Sub-total				\$99,000	\$62,000	\$0	\$161,000
Contracted Services							
Americorps Member	Years	1	\$14,000.00	\$14,000 *	\$0	\$0	\$14,000
Outside contractors	Years	1	\$7,000.00	\$7,000 *	\$0	\$0	\$7,000
Category Sub-total				\$21,000	\$0	\$0	\$21,000
Travel and Training							
Project Mileage	Miles	1500	\$0.58	\$0	\$863	\$0	\$863
Category Sub-total				\$0	\$863	\$0	\$863
Materials and Supplies							
Native trees and shrubs	Each	24000	\$1.00	\$0 *	\$24,000	\$0	\$24,000
Category Sub-total				\$0	\$24,000	\$0	\$24,000
Equipment							
Laptops, software	Each	2	\$1,250.00	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
Category Sub-total				\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
Other							
			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Category Sub-total				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Modified Total Direct Cost Amounts				\$122,500	\$86,863	\$0	\$209,363
Total				\$122,500	\$86,863	\$0	\$209,363

* = OWEB funds excluded from indirect.

Provide context and justification for how your budget was developed. Explain how project costs and/or rates were determined.

Our organization has been primarily grant-driven throughout its history. Most grant funds we receive have historically been designated as pass-through for contractors, with a small percentage devoted to organizational capacity. The OWEB Capacity grant provides for administrative and other organizational needs. Additionally, as we are in a restructuring period, and have no plans to make any permanent hires in the next year, we will be using contractors and volunteers to help maintain our momentum. Our budget was developed based on prior-year budgets for similar projects. We are also making educated assumptions regarding contractor hours and rates, as the organization has not utilized contractors in the past. We do not anticipate taking on any new staff in the near future, with the exception of independent contractors. We are anticipating the utilization of independent short-term contract staff and Americorps personnel to help fill our administrative and programming needs in the interim.

Does the budget identify a contingency amount for specific line item(s) within the Contracted Services and/or Material and Supplies budget category?

Yes

No

Explain the specific reasons a contingency is needed for each line item.

No contingency is needed

Funding and Match

Fund Sources and Amounts

Organization Type	Name	Source Note	Contribution Type	Amount	Description	Status
Local	East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District	Annual Council Support Funding	Cash	\$150,000	for the 21-23 biennium	Secured
Fund Source Cash Total				\$150,000	Fund Source In-Kind Total	\$0

Match

Contribution Source-Type: Description	Amount
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District-Cash: for the 21-23 biennium	\$0
Match Total	\$0

Do match funding sources have any restrictions on how funds are used, timelines or other limitations that would impact the portion of the project proposed for OWEB funding?

- Yes
 No

Do you need state OWEB dollars (not Federal) to match the requirements of any other federal funding you will be using to complete this project?

- Yes
 No

Does the non-OWEB cash funding include Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funds?

- Yes
 No

Uploads

Fiscal Policies: [SRBWC Financial Management Policy - adopted 11-16.pdf -](#)

Local Recognition: [July 7, 1997 Sandy Council - SRBWC resolution.pdf -](#)

Bylaws: [SRWC-Bylaws-April-2020 \(1\).pdf -](#)

Permit Page

No Permits have been identified for this application.

Sandy River Basin Watershed Council

Financial Management Policy

November 2, 2016 Board Review Version

The Sandy River Basin Watershed Council's Financial Management Policy is based in part on the "Nonprofit Financial Management Self-Assessment Tool" in the Oregon Non-Profit Handbook, 2005. Sections include: 1) Financial Planning/Budget Systems, 2) Implementing Financial Data Management Policies, 3) Recording Financial Data, 4) Reporting Financial Information, and 5) Monitoring Financial Data Management.

In this document, the key roles are defined as the Board of Directors (or Board), the Executive Director, , and Fiscal Coordinator. The Executive Director and Fiscal Coordinators serve as Fiscal Staff to inform the work of the Board and draw input from other appropriate staff members such as Program Managers.

Throughout this policy statement, an asterisk () signifies secondary written implementation policies which are listed at the end of this document. A clip symbol (§) symbol signifies reference to a listing of key documents produced by implementation of financial management policies. These documents are also listed at the end of this document.*

1. Financial Planning/Budget Systems: Consists of a strategic financial plan and annual operating budget (§) developed by Executive Director with support from Fiscal Coordinator.
 - i. The Annual Operating Budget is designed to be a comprehensive Annual Budget and includes all grant or contract revenue from funders .
 - ii. Fiscal Staff review all grant or contract proposals that are submitted to funders.
 - iii. Program Managers play an active role in the development of budgets for programs under their direction, including the identification of revenue sources to fund them
 - iv. A Board appointed committee (or, the Board) has a detailed understanding of the Annual Budget and reviews allocation of unrestricted funds.
 - v. The full Board formally authorizes the Annual Budget and revisions to the budget.
 - vi. The organization has integrated consideration of financial issues into strategic planning processes.
 - vii. The organization has a five-year plans for major maintenance or replacement of equipment, as appropriate.
 - viii. The fiscal planning process includes periodic assessment of risks and identification of insurance coverage needs/appropriate risk management procedures.

- ix. Risk assessment includes: general liability, professional liability, work product liability, fire, theft, casualty, workers comp, Board and officer liability, vehicle operation, fraud and dishonest acts, as appropriate to current operations.
2. Implementing Financial Data Management Policies. The organization will develop policies and procedures for fiscal operations including procedures for processing payroll (*), purchases (*), accounts payable (*), and others as necessary. These policies are implemented principally by the Executive Director and the Fiscal Coordinator in service to the Board and are reviewed and revised not less than annually.
- 3.
- i. Transaction processing shall be consistent with written policies and procedures.
 - ii. The practice of separation of duties is implemented to the greatest extent feasible within the limitations of the size of the organization staff.
 - 1. Authorization functions for purchasing, signing checks, adjusting accounts, and extending credit are not performed by individuals who also perform recording functions such as disbursements and/or receipts, maintaining accounts receivable records, or cash handling functions such as receiving and depositing funds or preparing checks.
 - 2. Review and verification functions such as reconciliation of the bank statement to the record of cash receipts and disbursements are not performed by individuals who also prepare checks, record checks, receive funds and prepare bank deposits and/or record receipts.
 - 3. Contingency authorization and recording procedures will be followed in the event of staff absences in order to maintain adequate segregation of duties during such absences.
 - iii. Payroll policies and procedures are clearly documented and consistently followed.
 - 1. Written authorization is required for all new hires and pay rate changes.
 - 2. Written timesheets are prepared by all employees, signed by the employee and approved in writing by the employee's direct supervisor.
 - 3. Forms W-4, I-9 and Oregon Department of Justice forms are obtained and retained for each employee. Upon separation, these forms will be retained by the organization for five years.

4. Policies regarding overtime, vacation time, sick leave, holiday pay, and other leaves with or without pay are written clearly, and reviewed regularly for compliance with state and federal law.
 5. All fringe benefit plans are documented and in compliance with IRS and Department of Labor requirements. The proper tax treatment for all benefits and compensation arrangements has been determined and documented.
 6. Responsibility for maintaining fringe benefit records in accordance with governmental requirements has been clearly assigned and records reviewed regularly by Treasurer
- iv. Written purchasing policies (*) clearly identify the purchasing authority of each staff position, and establish appropriate dollar limits for purchasing authority at each level.
 - v. Cash handling policies and procedures (*) are well-documented and tested periodically.
 1. Cash reconciliation sheets are maintained for all individuals responsible for accepting cash.
 2. Post-dated checks are generally not accepted, and if accepted, secured carefully until deposited.
 3. All disbursements are made by check except for small purchases of \$500.00 or less made with an authorized debit card transaction
 4. The Treasurer's account check stock is secured by the Executive Director at the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council. The Council Treasurer and Executive Director have account signature authority.
 5. Bank reconciliation is performed by someone who neither makes bank deposits nor prepares checks.
 6. Receipts are given for all cash transactions. If donations, donors are informed they will receive a year-end list of donations for tax purposes.
4. Recording Financial Data. These policies apply both to the Fiscal Coordinator, principally in service to the Executive Director, and ultimately the Council Board.
 - i. A complete written Chart of Accounts (§) with appropriate account titles and numbers for assets, liabilities, net assets, revenues and expenses shall be maintained current by the Fiscal Coordinator.

- ii. The Chart of Accounts clearly shows the programs which will be distinguished and the funding sources and/or distinct funds which will be tracked.
 - iii. The Chart of Accounts uses the same line item categories and the same program or function distinctions which are used in the comprehensive Annual Budget and the budgets for individual contracts or grants.
 - iv. Accounting policies and recording procedures are clearly documented in a written fiscal policies and procedures document (*) that is maintained current by Fiscal Coordinator.
 - v. Appropriate computer software and hardware may be used to perform recording functions.
 - vi. Appropriate electronic and physical security procedures will be used to protect the integrity of computerized accounting records.
 - vii. Accounting records are backed up daily. Backup media are stored in a secure area away from computer equipment.
 - viii. Backups of accounting data are moved to an off site location at least monthly.
 - ix. Detailed records of grants and contracts receivable are maintained and reconciled to the general ledger receivables balances at least monthly.
 - x. All general ledger balance sheet accounts are reconciled at least quarterly. All cash, payroll liabilities and accounts receivable control accounts are reconciled to appropriate subsidiary journal monthly.
5. Reporting Financial Information. These policies apply primarily to the work of the Fiscal Coordinator.
- i. Monthly financial statements (§) are available no later than the end of the following month.
 - ii. Monthly financial statements include a Balance Sheet (with Changes in Net Assets) as well as Profit and Loss for each active fund and for the organization as a whole.
 - iii. Statements of Revenue and Expenses for each distinct program are prepared monthly, including the admin category for the organization.
 - iv. All Revenue and Expense statements for the whole organization, for specific programs, and for specific funding sources include a current month's activity, the fiscal year to date activity and a comparison to the year to date or Annual Budget by line item.

- v. The net Profit/(Loss) of support and revenue over expenses is reconciled to the change in Fund Balance between the beginning and ending of the accounting period.

6. Monitoring Financial Data Management

- i. The Executive Director and the program managers are responsible for review of the monthly financial statements produced by the Fiscal Coordinator.
- ii. The Fiscal Coordinator will highlight unusual items and identify potential problems in notes to the financial statements shared with the Executive Director and the Board committee or full Board.
- iii. A committee or the full Board reviews the monthly financial statements at each Council meeting.
- iv. The Board and Executive Director periodically review the organizations' financial statements to determine whether:
 - 1. The use of the organization's resources is consistent with the organization's mission and priorities.
 - 2. The organization is solvent, i.e., has assets in excess of its liabilities.
 - 3. The organization has adequate cash and other liquid assets to meet its current obligations and assure its continuing ability to pay its employees, taxing authorities and vendors in a timely manner.
 - 4. The organization is adhering to any and all restrictions imposed by funders and donors.
 - 5. The Board and the Executive Director are aware of the IRS requirements for maintaining tax exempt status and will continually evaluate the organization's activities, use of funds, record keeping, and reporting to the IRS to assure compliance with all requirements.

(*) References additional written policies as compiled by the Treasurer and Fiscal Coordinator

Policies for Charging and Collecting Fees
Cash Handling Policies
Payroll Processing Policy

Purchasing Policy
Accounts Payable Policy
Fiscal Policies (Full Cycle Accounting through Tax Reporting)

(§) References specific documents as products of policy implementation:

Annual Budget
Five Year Plan for Maintenance/Replacement
Chart of Accounts
Monthly Financial Statements (Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet; by fund, by total)
Auditor's Report (every three years)¹

¹ If Board authorizes audits.



CITY OF SANDY, OREGON

CITY OF SANDY
ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT ARCHIVING
COVER SHEET

FOLDER STRUCTURE

Council (Department)
Meeting Packets

DOCUMENT NAME:

July 7, 1997 Council

DATE RANGE:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1995-2000	<input type="checkbox"/> 1975-1980
<input type="checkbox"/> 1990-1995	<input type="checkbox"/> 1970-1975
<input type="checkbox"/> 1985-1990	<input type="checkbox"/> Before 1970
<input type="checkbox"/> 1980-1985	

RETENTION:

<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 years
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input type="checkbox"/> 20 years
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permanent
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 years	

DISPOSITION OF DOCUMENT AFTER SCANNING:

Return to Department files

Store at _____

Recycle

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY OF SANDY
39250 PIONEER BLVD.
SANDY OR 97055
July 7, 1997

PAGE NUMBERS

5:30 P.M. WORKSHOP - CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION

7:00 P.M. - COUNCIL MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

II. RECOGNITION - MARGARET HOLMAN

III. CHANGES TO AGENDA

IV. APPOINTMENTS

A. Council President

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

(This time is set aside for public comment on items that are not on the agenda. The City Council also welcomes public comments on any agenda item at the time the item is discussed. When you wish to speak, move to the podium and after the Mayor has recognized you, state your name and address for the record.)

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

- | | |
|---|---------|
| A. Approval of City Council Minutes for June 16, 1997 | 1 - 8 |
| B. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with ODOT For Downtown Pedestrian Improvements | 9 - 15 |
| C. Approval of Resolution No. 18-97, A Resolution Declaring a Public Necessity | 16 - 20 |

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARINGS

B. ORDINANCES

C. RESOLUTIONS

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. Approval of Resolution No. 15-97, A Resolution Endorsing the Formation of the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council | 21 - 33 |
| 2. Approval of Resolution No. 17-97, A Resolution Recognizing the North Bluff Road Neighborhood Association | 34 - 42 |

D. OLD BUSINESS

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. Final Order and Findings - Sandy Lake Estates Variance Appeal | 43 - 47 |
| 2. Approval of 1997-98 Council Goals and Changes in Council Policies | 48 - 54 |

E. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS

A. Customer Service Reorganization - Concept Plan

IX. COUNCIL AGENDA

A. Reports and Comments from Mayor and Council

X. ADJOURNMENT



City of Sandy Staff Report

DATE: June 11, 1997

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Scott Lazenby, City Manager

RE: RESOLUTION 15-97--SANDY RIVER BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

Councilor Allen has been representing the City in meetings with individuals interested in forming a Sandy River Basin Watershed Council. Such an organization can be an excellent forum for dealing with watershed issues.

The City has a clear interest in using the watershed as a resource. The City's future depends on its water rights on Brownell Springs, Alder Creek, and the Salmon River. The work done for the Sandy 2040 plan emphasizes the importance of the Sandy River as a receiving stream for treated wastewater.

Even in these areas, however, the City of Sandy has put a priority on recognizing the ecological importance of its namesake River. The City worked closely with the Bureau of Land Management to make sure that the Salmon River intake could be compatible with the goals of the Wild and Scenic River designation. The City of Sandy sponsored, and paid for, the most comprehensive study to date of water quality in the Sandy River. City Council members held numerous meetings with representatives of the Friends of the Sandy River and the Pacific Rivers Council to ensure that wastewater treatment methods and design for an effluent outfall would not significantly affect water quality in the River.

Just as important, the Sandy 2040 Plan shows little, if any expansion of the Sandy Urban Growth Boundary into the Sandy River Basin. Our plan supports and encourages the philosophy of no further development in the watershed.

While the City's goals probably don't line up exactly with those of all the members of the Watershed Council, I believe our areas of common interest far exceed our potential areas of disagreement. And as for areas of potential disagreement, the City Council has strongly supported the practice of seeking out and talking with groups that may be affected, whether good or bad, by City actions.

The Watershed Council will not require financial support from the City, with the possible exception of staff time in occasionally attending meetings. It will, however, require some commitment of time by a Council member or designee.

I have drafted the attached Resolution, based on resolution language suggested by Debbie McCoy. A Resolution by the City will provide "moral support," and indicate the City's interest in participating on the Watershed Council. To be official under ORS 541.388, the Watershed Council will need to be recognized by Clackamas and Multnomah Counties.

I would recommend two changes to the draft bylaws: 1) the U.S. government has a major role in stewardship of land within the Sandy basin, and I believe the Forest Service and BLM should have at least one voting seat on the Watershed Council; and 2) Tickle Creek is in the Clackamas watershed, and it is included in the Clackamas Basin Council's boundary. It shouldn't be in both boundaries.

These recommendations are not reflected in the attached draft Resolution, although the Council may, of course, amend the Resolution language. I believe they are minor issues, and don't affect the overall benefit of the creation of the watershed council.

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 15-97, and appoint a representative and alternate for the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council.

Resolution 15-97

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE FORMATION OF THE SANDY RIVER BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

WHEREAS, The Governor under ORS 541.388 encouraged the formation of watershed councils for all major river basins ; and

WHEREAS, the Sandy City Council recognizes the Sandy River Basin as one of the most heavily used basins in the state. The Sandy River Basin Watershed Council feels that it is necessary to work with all governmental entities and maintain effective lines of communication; and

WHEREAS, The City Council recognizes that there are a number of governmental entities operating in the Sandy River Basin. It is the goal of the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council to act as a unifying forum to coordinate activities and exchange information as well as participate in watershed programs; and

WHEREAS, The City of Sandy has supported the preservation of the Sandy River Basin by restricting the expansion of the City's Urban Growth Boundary into the basin; and

WHEREAS, The City Council has supported the protection of the Sandy River through support of national Wild and Scenic River (Recreational) designation for the middle section of the Sandy River; and

WHEREAS, The City of Sandy has a direct stake in Sandy River basin issues, including the City's water rights on Brownell Springs, Alder Creek, and Salmon River; and the City's planned outfall on the Sandy River for treated wastewater; and

WHEREAS, The City Council recognizes that the Watershed Council can serve as an important forum in addressing issues in the Sandy River watershed;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF SANDY, that:

1. The City Council hereby endorses the formation of the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council--a Watershed Council under ORS 541.345. The Watershed Council shall be subject to the bylaws attached as "Exhibit A," or as amended.
2. The City Council may modify this Resolution any time, and may revoke its endorsement of the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council by Resolution at any time.
3. The City Council acknowledges the mission statement and boundaries of the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council.

4. No action taken by the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council shall be deemed to compel any action or modify the regulatory responsibility of any person or unit of government. As provided by law, the Watershed Council is advisory in nature

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 1997.

MAYOR

ATTEST

SANDY RIVER BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

BYLAWS

Mission Statement

To protect the natural, cultural, and historical resources of the "Sandy River Basin Watershed."

Bylaws Definition

The bylaws create a set of rules by which the council conducts itself in order to fulfill the mission statement.

Membership

The Council shall be comprised of:

- Governing Board of voting representatives
- Advisory Council of non-voting representatives
- Participating members

Boundaries

All hydrologic flows – surface and groundwater – that make up the Sandy River Basin Watershed, from the Headwaters of the Sandy River on Mt. Hood, which includes all tributaries and hydrologically-effected tributaries of the Basin, to the Mouth of the Sandy River where it joins the Columbia River.

Voting

Voting representatives shall consist of:

Watershed representatives (16)

- Sandy River Headwaters (from junction of Zig Zag River to headwaters of the Sandy River)
- Upper Sandy River (from Mouth of the Zig Zag River to Revenue Bridge)
- Middle Sandy River (from Revenue Bridge to Dodge Park)
- Lower Sandy River (from Dodge Park to Mouth of the Sandy River)
- Zig Zag River Watershed
- Salmon River Watershed
- South Boulder Creek Watershed
- Alder Creek Watershed
- Bull Run River Watershed
- Tickle creek Watershed
- Cedar Creek Watershed
- Gordon Creek Watershed
- Beaver Creek Watershed
- Non-Tribal Representative (this position is for an American Indian who represents an organization that is not sanctioned by any tribal government, and/or whose views and interest in the resources of the Sandy River Basin Watershed may not be represented by any tribal government.)
- At Large Position #1
- At Large Position #2

Government Representatives (8)

- City of Gresham
- City of Sandy
- City of Troutdale
- Clackamas County
- Multnomah County
- Community of Corbett
- Community Planning Organization (the CPO's within the boundaries would get together and elect their own individual Representative.)
- Tribal Representative (All tribes, such as Warm Springs, Umatilla, Grand Rhonde, Yakama, etc., who have treaty rights within or associated with the Sandy River Basin, will elect a Representative within themselves.)

Industry Representatives (3)

- Industry (must be broad-based representation)
 - Industry (must be broad-based representation)
 - Industry (must be bread-based representation)
- A. If a voting representative is not present their vice representative may vote in their place.
- B. If a voting representative misses three (3) consecutive meetings, the Council may consider a replacement.
- C. If a consensus cannot be reached, action of the Council shall be instituted by a simple majority vote.

Quorum

- A. An ordinary quorum shall consist of seven (7) voting representatives.
- B. A change in the bylaws will require a vote of two-thirds (2/3) or greater majority of the representatives currently in office, and participating (has attended one of the last three meetings).
- C. The Mission Statement cannot be changed without a unanimous vote by all voting members of the Council.

Elections

Vacant seats of the:

- Watershed Representatives and Vice Representatives
- Government Representatives and Vice Government Representatives
- Industry Representatives and Vice Industry Representatives

shall be filled by a vote of the Governing Board.

Meetings

- A. General meetings of the Council shall be held monthly at a date and time to be decided by the Governing Board.
- B. Meetings will be conducted under Oregon Open Meetings Law, in a businesslike manner, consistent with our Bylaws, and according to recognized parliamentary procedures, i.e. Roberts' Rules of Order.
- C. Minutes shall be kept and will be available for inspection.
- D. Sandy River Basin Watershed Council will notify the local newspapers or give other appropriate notices in advance of all meetings.

June 10, 1997

Mr. Scott Lazenby
Sandy City Council

Dear Mr. Lazenby,

Please find enclosed information regarding the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council. With the assistance of Councilor Don Allen, this new watershed council has created the resolutions and bylaws necessary for formal recognition by the Sandy City Council.

Representatives from the SRBWC will attend the next regular meeting of the City Council on June 16, 1997, and we ask to be included on your agenda. We will ask the Council for formal recognition at that time. I hope you will take the time to review the enclosed information prior to the meeting.

Sincerely,



Debbie McCoy
SRBWC

BEFORE THE SANDY CITY COUNCIL

STATE OF OREGON

Whereas, the Governor under ORS 541.388 requested that all major river basins establish watershed councils and

Whereas, the Sandy City Council recognizes the Sandy River Basin as one of the most heavily utilized basins in the state. The Sandy River Basin Watershed Council feels that it is necessary to work with all governmental entities and maintain effective lines of communication and

Whereas, the Sandy City Council recognizes that there is currently broad based citizen involvement in the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council and they will strive to continually expand this involvement by working with individuals, community planning organizations, industry, economic, and all other interest groups and

Whereas, the Sandy City Council recognizes that there are a number of governmental entities operating in the Sandy River Basin. It is the goal of the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council to act as a unifying forum to coordinate the activities and exchange of information as well as participate in watershed programs and

Whereas, the Sandy City Council recognizes that the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council deems it preferable to give people an informal atmosphere in which to participate in community watershed basin concerns which should facilitate citizen involvement and all those concerned and

Whereas, the Sandy City Council recognizes that the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council can act as a resource for the Sandy City Council when it comes to matters regarding the Sandy River Basin and

Whereas, the City of Sandy needs the input, not only from within, but from outside when it comes to matters of watershed preservation and should participate in this forum.

The City Council, being fully advised, is hereby **RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that:

I. The City Council hereby endorses the formation of the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council - a Watershed Council under ORS 541.345. The Council shall be comprised of the following, of which the majority shall be local citizens:

Watershed Representatives: Watersheds [16]

1. Sandy River Headwaters
2. Upper Sandy River
3. Middle Sandy River
4. Lower Sandy River

5. Zig Zag River Watershed
6. Salmon River Watershed
7. South Boulder Creek Watershed
8. Alder Creek Watershed
9. Bull Run River Watershed
10. Tickle Creek Watershed
11. Cedar Creek Watershed
12. Gordon Creek Watershed
13. Beaver Creek Watershed
14. Citizen at large representing Native American interests
15. At Large Position #1
16. At Large Position #2

Government Representatives [8]

17. City of Gresham
18. City of Sandy
19. City of Troutdale
20. Clackamas County
21. Multnomah County
22. Community of Corbett
23. Community Planning Organization Representative
24. Federally recognized Native American Tribal Representative

Industry Representatives [3]

25. Industry Representative
26. Industry Representative
27. Industry Representative

II. RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council is to have the authority provided by statute for watershed Councils, and in addition shall be subject to the following:

1. The Sandy River Basin Watershed Council shall be subject to the public records and meeting law of ORS 192;
2. The Sandy River Basin Watershed Council may adopt its own bylaws for conduct of meetings, voting, appointment of officers, and similar matters, provided that representatives of state and federal government agencies and research and technical organizations shall be non-voting members, with the exception of those previously listed.
3. The Sandy River Basin Watershed Council shall report to the Sandy City Council annually as to its activities and proposed future activities, and the status of the Sandy River Basin Watershed; and it is further

III. RESOLVED AND ORDERED that those entities and categories of stakeholder groups listed above to be represented on the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council shall each have a Vice Representative; and it is further

IV. RESOLVED AND ORDERED that any representative or entity of the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council may terminate their participation by sending a letter to the Chairperson of the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council by indicating the effective date of their termination; and it is further

V. RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Sandy City Council may modify this Resolution and Order any time, and may revoke its endorsement of the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council by Resolution and Order at any time. It is further

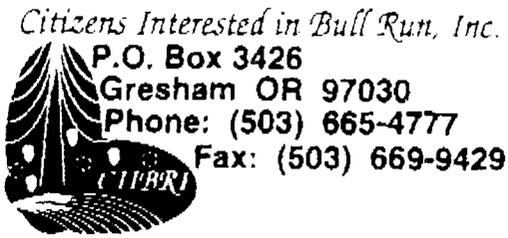
VI. RESOLVED AND ORDERED that this City Council acknowledges the mission statement and boundaries of the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council; and

VII. RESOLVED AND ORDERED that no action taken by the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council shall be deemed to compel any action or modify the regulatory responsibility of any person or unit of government, as otherwise provided by law that the Council is advisory in nature.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 1997.

Sandy City Council, Sandy, Oregon

Chair



June 11, 1997

To: Mayor Linda Malone
 Councilors: Margaret Holman, Art Blaisdell, Caren Topliff,
 Donald Allen, Verne Buhler, Mike Hammons

Re: Resolution recognizing the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council

We have been active in the formation of the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council (SRBWC) during the past 2 years. It has been a volunteer effort by concerned citizens and others, who live in/use the resources of the Sandy River basin.

The Sandy River basin is one of the most heavily used of the Portland Metro area river basins. The Sandy basin has much to offer in tourism, recreation, fisheries, water resources and forest resources.

The SRBWC is off to a good start. We greatly appreciate your interest and support. We request your official recognition of the SRBWC by adopting the "resolution" - acknowledging the SRBWC, mission statement and the Sandy River basin boundaries. (resolution on Council agenda of June 16, 1997)

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Frank Gearhart, President

Sandy River Basin Watershed Council
By-Laws
Revised April 21, 2020

ARTICLE I. Corporate Name

The name of the corporation is the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council, which is incorporated in the state of Oregon as doing business as (DBA) Sandy River Watershed Council.

ARTICLE II. Purpose and Mission

Section 1. Purpose

The Sandy River Basin Watershed Council was formed to help identify and address watershed management issues and to provide a framework for the coordination and cooperation among key interests in the development and implementation of a watershed action program. The Council’s goal is to protect healthy habitat, restore habitat conditions in degraded areas, support native fisheries, improve water supply and quality, and encourage community participation in habitat restoration activities. The work of the Council will bring together local residents, landowners, resource managers, and stakeholders to create and implement voluntary, cooperative projects, strategies, and policies that meet the Council’s goals.

Section 2. Mission

To restore and protect the natural, cultural, and historical resources of the Sandy River watershed and promote the enjoyment of the watershed for the diversity of stakeholders

Section 3. Methods

The Council does not rely on litigation to compel regulatory enforcement to implement the Council’s mission.

Article III. Boundaries and Accountability

Section 1. Boundaries

All hydrologic surface and groundwater flows that make up the Sandy River basin originating from the headwaters of the Sandy River on Mt. Hood to the confluence of the Sandy and Columbia rivers.



Section 2. Accountability

The Council is accountable to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, other funders of the work of the council, and the communities, businesses and individuals who live, govern, recreate and do business within the boundaries of the watershed.

Article IV. Members and Vacancies

There are a maximum of 20 voting positions on the Council. There may be designated alternate representatives for every position who are chosen in the same manner and may vote in the absence of the representatives. The Council may elect representatives to open positions whenever an opening occurs.

The Council shall be comprised of:

1. Community representatives
2. Government Representatives
3. Industry Representatives
4. Advisory Council of non-voting representatives

Section 1. Watershed Voting Representatives (<10)

(Please refer to map in Article III)

- 1 Sandy River Headwaters (from junction of Zigzag River to Sandy River headwaters)
- 1 Upper Middle Sandy River (from Mouth of the Zigzag River to Revenue Bridge)
- 1 Lower Sandy River (the Columbia River to Revenue Bridge)
- 1 Salmon River Watershed
- 1 Beaver Creek Watershed
- Up to five At Large Positions

Section 2. Government Representatives (7)

- 1 Government: City of Sandy
- 1 Government: U.S. Forest Service
- 1 Government: City of Portland
- 2 Government: At large
- 1 Government: Multnomah County
- 1 Government: Clackamas County

Government agencies may elect that their Council representative serve as a voting or non-voting Council member and inform the Chair of their voting status.

Section 3. Business Voting Representatives

Recreation (1)

Agriculture (1)

Forestry (1)

Section 4. Advisory Council of Non-Voting Representatives:

As an inclusive group the Council welcomes broad participation and to be successful, requires guidance from a broad range of stakeholders including private citizens, large and small business and government agencies. The Advisory Council allows interested parties to actively contribute to watershed protection efforts without the commitment to serve on the Council itself as a voting member. The size of the Advisory Council is unspecified.

Article V. Officers, Terms and Duties

Section 1. Officers

The officers of the Council will be Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer elected by voting members.

Section 2. Terms of Officers

All terms of office will be for one year or until the next annual meeting, whichever comes first.

Section 3. Duties of the Office

- A. The Chair will preside at all meetings of the Council and supervise the work of the Council Executive Director in coordination with the Executive Committee. The Chair may appoint committees and may assign duties to other officers.
- B. The Vice-Chair will assist the Chair as needed and act in the absence of the Chair.
- C. The Treasurer will see that an accurate accounting of all monies will be kept in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles by the Council's fiscal manager. The Treasurer will report on the fiscal condition of the Council.
- D. Officers shall serve on the Executive Committee. The Chair may consult with and include the Past Chair on the Executive Committee.

Article VI Nomination, Elections and Vacancies

Section 1. Nominations and Elections

At the annual meeting in January, the Council will confirm Council members who have stated they are willing to serve. Candidates for elected positions will be nominated from among Council members and then elected by a majority vote of the voting representatives. In the event of a tie vote for the election of officers, the outcome will be decided by a coin toss conducted by a non-voting Council member. Officer candidates for election will be announced at least one month prior to the election meeting.

Section 2. Vacancies

Vacancies of Council positions may be filled by majority vote at any regular meeting of the Council. If a voting representative misses three (3) consecutive meetings without prior notice or without arranging for their designated alternate to attend in their place, the Council may consider a replacement for the position the voting member represents. Members elected due to vacancies will serve until the next annual meeting.

Article VII. Meetings

Section 1. Regular Meetings

A regular business meeting of the Sandy River Watershed Council will be held at the least every other month, unless there is a reason to cancel a meeting. The Council follows the provisions of the Oregon Open Meeting Law.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Chair or by a majority of the voting members of the Council.

Section 3. Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting will be held in January of every year.

Section 4. Notice of Meetings

Written notice of meetings, draft minutes of the prior meeting and the agenda for the upcoming meeting shall be mailed electronically or by postal service to Council members no later than 10 days prior to the meeting.

Section 5. Voting Privileges

All voting members as defined in Article IV, shall have voting privileges. If a voting representative is not present, their alternate representative may vote in their place. Votes may be conducted at Council meetings, or by phone or electronically if necessary.

Section 6. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of the majority of filled voting members.

Section 7. Minutes

Approved minutes shall be posted publicly on the Council's website.

Article VIII. Council Executive Director

The Council Executive Director is employed by the Council and is responsible for managing the daily operations and work of the Council. This position is accountable to the Council through the Chair. The Council Executive Director attends all meeting without voting.

Article IX. Committees

The Chair of the Council shall appoint committee Chairs. A committee will be designated as standing or ad hoc at the time of appointment. The Chair of the Council may appoint committee members. The Council Executive Director may appoint temporary operational committees to assist with the work of the Council.

Article X. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Council shall begin January 1 and end December 31 every year.

Article XI. Parliamentary Authority

The Council's goal is for voting members to use a consensus decision-making process - which is a way of reaching agreement between all members of a group and finding solutions that everyone actively supports or at least can live with. However, this means that a single "no" vote can be used to block a proposal from being passed. Consequently, the Council will use a modified approach called "consensus minus one" which requires two "no" votes to block a proposal.

Article XII. Bylaw Amendments

Section 1. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Council if a written copy of the proposed changes is included in the meeting notice. A change in the bylaws will require a majority vote of the current voting representatives. Voting members will be notified of a vote to amend the bylaws at least one month prior to a vote.

Section 2. Bylaws Revisions

If a general revision of the bylaws is ordered, then the requirement for notice and adoption shall be the same as in the case of an amendment.

Article XIII. Dissolution of the Council

Should the Sandy River Watershed Council dissolve and no longer act as stated in the bylaws a notice so stating will be sent to the State of Oregon, regulating authorities and agencies. Remaining funds will be used to satisfy any current obligations. After current obligations are met, any remaining funds will be distributed consistent with the 501(c)(3) bylaws.

Article XIV. Corporate Indemnity

The corporation will indemnify its officers and voting representative to the fullest extent allowed by Oregon law.

Article XV. 501(c)(3) Status and Requirements

Section 1. Organizational intent

The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and or/or scientific purposes under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 2. 501(c)(3) Requirements

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an

organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contribution to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Section 3. Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government for a public purpose.

Committee Members

Jamie McLeod Skinner, Jason Robison

Background

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee met on May 12, 2021. The committee discussed success measures for stakeholder engagement grants using an equity lens and received a brief update on the solicitation for a contractor to assist the board with its DEI work moving forward.

Measuring Success for Stakeholder Engagement

The committee discussed stakeholder engagement grants and how to consider DEI as a part of reviewing those grants. The committee responded to questions including:

- 1) Looking at stakeholder engagement rules, what would be considered success for a project?
 - a. Sometimes success is a restoration/acquisition project not moving forward because of what was learned in stakeholder engagement.
 - b. A measure of success may be what was learned from the project that is new
 - c. Definition of success needs to be broad – awareness that something failed; if we've learned from it, adapted, and moved on to do better in the future.
 - d. Projects that add to the culture of learning among grantees and across communities.
 - e. Did this project build awareness/understanding/expertise in the community around DEI? Did the project bring new communities into the conversation?
- 2) Are we ok if a project doesn't 'succeed', but the grantee took all the right approaches? If so, do the measures of success identified capture that nuance?
 - a. Yes. How the engagement was designed matters. If the approach is designed well and impacts/improves how we do business or leads to innovation, that is important.
 - b. The lessons learned from a project may be the most important part. The best learning may come from unexpected outcomes. This will help OWEB learn as well.
 - c. Recognize that standard processes may apply across regions, but demographics are different. It is important to understand those nuances when evaluating grants.
 - d. Some projects may be more traditional. While it is okay to maintain the status quo in some areas, but it would be good to understand why in the application process.

Committee members would like OWEB to think of ways to incorporate DEI intentionally into the review of these projects. Is there a way to build the 'bubble diagram' to incorporate success concepts identified above? In addition, committee members would like to see new metrics explored for evaluation.

To Be Presented at the July 2021 Board Meeting by:

Jason Robison

Staff Contact

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

Meta.Loftsgaarden@Oregon.gov or 971-345-7022

July 27-28, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Climate Committee Update

Committee Members

Bruce Buckmaster (Chair), Stephen Brandt, Alan Henning, Paul Henson, Brenda McComb, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Eric Murray

Background

The Climate Committee met on April 1, 2021, May 24, 2021, and July 7, 2021 to discuss a range of topics. Topics included a debrief from the March board meeting; initial outreach to local partners about climate considerations; climate questions to be added to grant applications and a companion resources document to assist applicants; presentations related to work under Executive Order (EO) 20-04; climate related updates from legislative session; and climate activities in the 2021-23 OWEB spending plan.

April Committee Meeting

At the April meeting, the committee discussed “action on-the-ground, related to climate change,” means to them. Members expressed strong support for OWEB’s efforts to engage with the state’s climate work, and for OWEB’s commitment to incorporate climate considerations into the agency’s grant-making programs. They acknowledged that some uncertainty may be inherent to incorporating projected change into project planning, and that restoration and conservation is important to building climate resilience. Board members expressed a possible role for OWEB staff to help translate rapidly emerging scientific information and disseminate the information to grantees, as well as facilitating information exchange with policymakers. Members noted that carbon sequestration may be more challenging to address than the species and habitat adaptation needs under changing temperature and hydrological regimes. Additional tools and recommendations are likely needed to plan restoration and to be able to quantify the results. The committee discussed how to ensure climate related evaluation criteria that may ultimately be developed consider equity issues also.

The committee discussed the draft questions prepared to incorporate climate considerations into OWEB’s grantmaking. The committee was comfortable with the draft and encouraged further technical review, including by OWEB grant staff and reviewers. As scientific understanding improves, the questions may be further developed along with informational resources to help grantees address the questions.

Updates about work under the climate EO were provided by staff regarding the Oregon Global Warming Commission’s (OGWC) work to propose a goal for carbon sequestration on Oregon’s natural and working lands. Committee members encouraged the state team to incorporate references to urban landscapes and engage with partners regarding considerations about carbon sequestration in forests. Staff also provided an update about Climate Impacted Communities Work Group. The committee discussed the use of capacity funding to watershed councils and SWCDs to demonstrate the value of addressing environmental justice and community-based organizations’ funding needs.

May Committee Meeting

At the meeting, the committee heard a brief update about the status of OWEB’s budget, including potential funding for the Water and Climate position.

Staff presented on the OGWC's proposal for carbon sequestration on Oregon's natural and working lands. The committee discussed the concerns raised by landowners in the targeted natural and working lands survey and noted the importance of acknowledging and addressing these concerns when recommendations are implemented.

Staff then presented draft climate questions for OWEB applications and resources for applicants. The committee provided high-level organizational feedback about the questions, including suggestions to provide concrete examples. Looking forward, members suggested that staff consider how to capture climate related information at the time of project completion reporting. The committee discussed how climate-related resources can help OWEB applicants connect project activity contributions to climate resilience. The committee noted that while the climate questions in applications are only informational initially, future work will be needed to consider this feedback with the full board and assess how climate considerations can be incorporated into evaluation criteria. This would necessitate rule making. Staff noted that OWEB project activities generally promote climate resilience, so the additional consideration of climate resilience and mitigation provides even greater benefits. OWEB will keep this messaging at the forefront of communications on this topic with partners.

Staff provided a brief update about a June 2021 listening session focused on climate considerations at Land Camp, a biennial conference convened for Oregon and Washington land trusts. The session will provide space for practitioner feedback on addressing climate through OWEB grants, and for discussion of issues and challenges facing land trusts already doing this work. Since timing of the current OWEB Land Acquisitions grant cycle did not allow for incorporation of climate questions into this grant application, the timing is good for the Land Camp listening session.

July Committee Meeting

At the meeting, the committee discussed several topics. First, they received a final update about the status of OWEB's budget, including funding for the Water and Climate position for which recruitment is underway. In addition, staff discussed with the committee opportunities for climate investments via the Governor's Priorities line item in the 2021-23 spending plan that will be presented to the board for consideration at the July board meeting. Staff also provided brief updates about status of the OGWC's natural and working lands process and the Climate Impacted Communities Work Group. The committee heard an update about the status of climate questions that are being added to OWEB applications. In addition, the committee reviewed and discussed the companion resources document developed by staff as a tool to assist applicants when they are answering the new climate questions. Committee members suggested additional outreach and technical support to applicants for future consideration, including: a webinar or 'road show' describing the new climate questions and resources document; support from partner agencies with subject matter experts to further assist applicants; and creation of a 'how to' document and/or video showing applicants how to walk through the questions and use the resources document. Responses to the new application questions will help OWEB gather baseline information about where different applicants are in their knowledge about climate considerations and if/how they are incorporating that information into projects, and understand where there may be needs related to outreach, information access, etc. Finally, staff updated the committee about feedback received at the June LandCamp listening session focused on OWEB's climate work.

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

renee.davis@oregon.gov or 971-345-7231

July 27-28, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Focused Investment Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Bruce Buckmaster (chair), Randy Labbe, Mark Labhart, Gary Marshall, Dan Shively

Background

The Focused Investment Committee met on June 9, 2021 to discuss: the Rogue Forest Partners proposal to amend their FIP initiative geography, post-FIP reporting, a spending plan preview, and upcoming FIP and Partnership TA solicitations. The committee welcomed Dan Shively as a new member and recognized Bruce Buckmaster as interim committee chair, replacing Tony Selle who retired.

Rogue Forest Partners FIP Initiative Geography Change

Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator, reminded the committee that any initiative geography change requires board approval. The request from the Rogue Forest Partners is in response to the 2020 wildfires. The partnership is seeking to adjust their FIP initiative geography to add the West Bear area and remove the Middle Applegate area to leverage FIP funding with other resources directed to the West Bear area. The West Bear area has emerged as a high priority for restoration treatments following the 2020 wildfires. In response to committee questions, Andrew noted that the partnership still plans to ultimately conduct restoration work in the Middle Applegate area despite the proposed change. The West Bear area is adjacent to and builds on an area addressed by the Ashland FIP. Bruce asked whether the land ownership type in West Bear is similar to Middle Applegate. Staff will follow up and include this information in the geography change staff report. See the Agenda item N staff report for a full discussion of the proposed change.

Post-FIP Reporting

The Committee intends to meet jointly with the Monitoring Committee to plan for post-FIP reporting, including a focus on ecological outcomes resulting from FIP initiative investments. While there is time to plan for post-FIP reporting since the first cohort of FIPs will not complete all of their projects until 2023 at the earliest, it is important to plan now to determine resources needed and to engage with partnerships in advance.

2021-23 Spending Plan Preview

Staff previewed the FIP spending plan line items considering the May revenue forecast that forms the basis of the state budget. With a significant increase in forecasted lottery revenues, the Board will likely increase spending plan line items at the July meeting. The increase may allow for more than the \$10 million for the 2021-23 implementation FIP solicitation included in the March spending plan preview.

FIP and Partnership TA Solicitation Schedule

The Committee reviewed the proposed FIP solicitation schedule, which will be announced following July 2021 board meeting and result in board awards in July 2022, pending Board

approval of the spending plan. The Partnership TA solicitation will also be announced following the July 2021 board meeting, with applications due in October 2021.

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-345-7014

July 27-28, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Monitoring Committee Update

Committee Members

Alan Henning (past Chair), Stephen Brandt (current chair), Molly Kile, Brenda McComb

Background

The Monitoring Committee met on April 7, 2021 and June 2, 2021 to: debrief from the March 2021 board meeting, discuss monitoring related agenda items during the July 2021 board meeting, hear status updates for ongoing projects, revisit the concept of post-FIP reporting, receive an overview about past and current monitoring investments that can inform climate change considerations, and discuss the observations of Alan Henning, outgoing chair.

Board Meeting Check-Ins

Looking forward to the July meeting, the discussion focused largely on the update about Stage 0 monitoring. Discussion topics included: exploring ways to advance the 'community of practice' concept discussed at the Stage 0 workshop in late 2020 and learning about key metrics that effectively track changes through time of restoration to Stage 0 conditions. The committee discussed of a second phase of investment in Stage 0 monitoring during the 2021-23 biennium.

As new Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) enter the program with the benefit of an already completed theory of change (TOC) framework, the committee is interested in a) assessing if supplemental FIP monitoring funding is needed and b) ensuring that potential FIPs have a well-designed monitoring approach that is informed by their TOC framework. The committee asked about findings from 14 years of monitoring as part of the Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed. Finally, the committee touched on the Willanch Creek 'Telling the Restoration Story' that will be presented at the July board meeting.

Status Updates about Ongoing Projects

At the June committee meeting, both the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership and Telling the Restoration Story grants were flagged as opportunities to continue to explore possible new 'success stories' with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Staff will raise this with colleagues at Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, given their ongoing update of the list of impaired water bodies. Regarding FIP monitoring, the committee discussed the importance of including questions in FIP partnership-level applications about monitoring and considering these during evaluation of proposed partnerships. The monitoring guidance developed by Bonneville Environmental Foundation was identified as an excellent resource to which to point applicants. Finally, the group asked for more information about Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) monitoring, including capacity challenges presented by COVID.

Post-FIP Reporting

After a staff update about input received to date from both the monitoring and focused investment committees, the committee underscored its support for staff exploring the concept of post-FIP reporting in more detail with 2-3 of the cohort #1 FIPs. Committee members asked that staff keep several points in mind: consistency across the post-FIP reports is important, opportunities to capture lessons learned related to climate change may be possible, and openness to exploring options for data analysis to find efficiencies while ensuring scientific rigor. Next steps will include follow-up with FIPs to scope what a pilot of post-FIP reporting

would encompass and a subsequent joint conversation with the focused investment committee.

Monitoring Investments with Relevance to Climate Considerations

At the April committee meeting, staff presented an overview document outlining past and current monitoring investments that 1) help to track status and trends that can help articulate climate change-related effects in ecosystems (e.g., water flow, water temperature) and 2) have a direct connection to climate related considerations (e.g., soil carbon sequestration in tidal wetlands). The committee discussed the great value of this summary and requested that staff share it with the climate committee. They also asked staff to consider if findings from some of these monitoring projects could be shared with restoration and/or monitoring practitioners, along with sister agencies, to inform future work.

Insights from the Current Committee Chair

At the June committee meeting, Alan Henning provided his observations since he will be leaving the board in July. Alan noted that the importance of monitoring to the board has steadily grown through time. He flagged the potential to build on existing monitoring for programs like FIPs to continue to grow understanding about the results of OWEB investments and ensure the agency is asking the right questions. He mentioned the importance of telling restoration stories and the opportunities to partner with other agencies and engage the public. He highlighted the potential for OWEB to partner with agencies such as Oregon Department of Forestry on monitoring and telling the story of ecological outcomes. Alan stated that OWEB is a well-respected agency that can get the job done, while cautioning that this demand of OWEB's involvement in a variety of efforts, such as water and fire initiatives, warrants consideration of workload. Ultimately, Alan noted that his role on the OWEB board has been one of the most enjoyable parts of his job.

Following Alan's comments, the committee discussed OWEB serving as a model and integrator, the importance of understanding workload impacts on staff, and the need for ongoing prioritization of staff capacity related to climate change as part of OWEB's work.

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

renee.davis@oregon.gov or 971-345-7231

July 27-28, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Water Committee Update

Committee Members

Jamie McLeod Skinner (chair), Barbara Boyer, Meg Reeves, Gary Marshall, Eric Murray

Background

The Water committee met on July 2, 2021. The committee discussed results of the 2021 Legislative Session in terms of water funding and policy items, checked in on an upcoming water survey, and reviewed a suite of recommendations from the committee for the board to consider at the October 2021 board meeting.

Legislative Update

House Bill 3293 was approved and signed by the Governor. This bill encourages communities to broaden their work to engage all community members in water planning by explicitly ensuring that funding can be used for engaging community members, establishing rules for water funding agencies to support this work, and establishing best management practices for communities who receive funding.

In addition, over \$530 million was awarded to a variety of water projects and programs during the 2021 session. This incredible investment came from both federal and general funds appropriated by the legislature. A summary of investments is in development by the agencies and may be available in advance of the board meeting, but a summary of planning funding is provided in the table below.

Draft recommendations for consideration regarding OWEB's role in water

The committee checked in on a set of recommendations for the board to consider as the role of OWEB in water and water investments. If approved by the board, these would become the workplan for the water committee moving forward. These recommendations will be vetted in more detail as an agenda item at the October board meeting.

- Providing encouragement to the state agencies to consider cross-agency decision-making structures when funding water projects.
- Providing examples of what the agency already does/funds that supports Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision.
- Thinking through whether the board might want to consider any ecological priorities related to water for project proposals based on input from the Vision.
- Identifying water investment gaps related to habitat and water quality and how those gaps could be filled – either through OWEB funding or a different approach.

To Be Presented at the July 2021 Board Meeting by:

Meg Reeves

Staff Contact

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

Meta.Loftsgaarden@Oregon.gov or 971-345-7022

Agency	Funding Summary	Cost
OWEB	Water/climate coordinator	\$326,000
DEQ	Water data framework design	\$350,000
OWRD	Water supply feasibility studies	\$500,000
OWRD	To Oregon Consensus for state-supported water planning	\$500,000
OWRD	Support for regional water planning	\$200,000
OWRD	Support for 2022 IWRS Update	\$450,000
OWRD	Contract for statewide business case on the economic value of water	\$350,000
OWRD	Support for current place-based planning participating entities	\$200,000
OWRD	Support for new place-based planning	\$1,000,000
OWRD	BIPOC water planning & OWRD equity work; Tribal energy efficiency	\$1,500,000

\$5,050,000

This report provides an update about implementation of the 2018 strategic plan.

Background

At this and upcoming meetings, the board will be provided with both general updates on plan progress, and more detailed updates as needed on specific priority areas.

Strategic Plan Update

In June 2018, the board approved a new strategic plan. Beginning with the October 2018 board meeting, staff developed a template to track quarterly progress on strategic plan priorities.

Attached is the latest update of actions related to the strategic plan between March 2021 and June 2021. Other information on the strategic plan is also contained in the subcommittee updates.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at Meta.Loftsgaarden@oregon.gov or 971-345-7022.

Attachments

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Progress Report, March 2021 – June 2021

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Strategic Plan Progress

QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE: March 2021-June 2021

Priority 1 – Board awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

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

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Presented to the OWEB board about the Willow Creek ‘telling the restoration story’ – March 2021

Strategy: Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- Oregon Lottery media campaigns have new stories every year of watershed work and progress.
- 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 Strategy that reach non-traditional audiences.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Successes are celebrated at the local and state level through use of appropriate tools.
- More Oregonians:
 - 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.
- Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches.

Near-Term Measure:

- Fall 2018 Oregon Lottery campaign featured 6 partners from 5 OWEB regions with cumulative reach of 2,347 YouTube views, 30-second feature on watershed restoration has 2,003 YouTube views (accessed 12/10/2019).
- 54 articles featured partners and OWEB in the news (January -November 2019).

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

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

Strategy: Listen, learn and gather Information about diverse populations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Continued to engaged Tribes the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force process about wildfire impacts following the 2020 wildfires
- ✓ Completed the Interagency Climate Justice Survey for the Interagency Workgroup on Climate Impacts on Impacted Communities.
- ✓ Analyzed survey to board members to better understand their current perspectives on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Strategy: Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop funding strategy with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Released a Request for Proposals to hire a contractor to facilitate board and staff diversity, equity, and inclusion training.
- ✓ Engaged DEI ad hoc committee to evaluate survey to better understand their current perspectives on diversity, equity, and inclusion. This information will be used with the contractor to better understand where the board can grow.
- ✓ Worked with the legislature to pass HB 3293 which clearly articulates the ability for funding agencies to support broad-based community engagement in water planning

So That: (Outputs)

- OWEB board and staff have been trained in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).
- OWEB has DEI capacity.
- 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.
- OWEB grantees and partners have access to DEI tools and resources.
- DEI are incorporated into OWEB grant programs, as appropriate.
- Board and staff regularly engage with underrepresented partnerships and stakeholder groups to support DEI work.

To Make This Difference: (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.

Near-Term Measure:

- Staff has participated in 365 hours of training (July 2018-August 2020).

Potential Impact Measure:

- ✓ 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.

Priority 3 – Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

Strategy: Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB’s past capacity funding

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Reinitiated discussions about scope for retrospective capacity monitoring in preparation for work during the 2021-23 biennium

Strategy: Champion best approaches to build organizational, community and partnership capacity

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Coordinated with Departments of Environmental Quality and Forestry to lead conversations across state and federal agencies related to post-fire recovery in natural and cultural resources. This work resulted in more strategic post-fire recovery investments and stronger cross-agency partnerships.

So That: (Outputs)

- 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.
- Local capacity strengths and gaps are identified to address and implement large-scale conservation solutions.
- 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.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Partners access best community capacity and strategic practices and approaches.
- OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds.
- Lessons learned from past capacity investments inform funding decisions.
- Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity.
- Restoration projects involving multiple agencies are implemented more efficiently and effectively.
- State-federal agencies increase participation in strategic partnerships.

Near-Term Measure:

- Under Development.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

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

Strategy: Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Coordinated discussions among agency water infrastructure funders and organizations representing community infrastructure providers to determine specific ways to improve access to water infrastructure funding and coordination among funding agencies.
- ✓ Finalized a survey to be distributed to water utilities to better understand how they use various funding sources and how those can be more coordinated

Strategy: Align common investment areas with private foundations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Presented at a convening of private foundations to discuss opportunities for investment in priority post-fire recovery needs following the 2020 wildfires
- ✓ Met with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation about coordinated investment opportunities to address post-fire recovery and watershed health needs.

Strategy: Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Met with The Climate Trust to discuss funding opportunities that may be available using carbon offsets for land acquisition projects.
- ✓ Met with World Resources Institute to better understand opportunities for private/public partnerships that address natural infrastructure investments in communities.

Strategy: Partner to design strategy for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ OWEB continues to serve as co-convener of the Natural and cultural Resource Recovery Task Force, using recently completed post-fire assessments to prioritize key actions on natural resources recovery. A series of funding packages are under consideration by the Oregon legislature and the Congressional delegation.

- -

So That: (Outputs)

- 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.

To Make This Difference: (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.

Near-Term Measure:

- Increase in the use of new and diverse funding sources by grantees.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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 Strategy.
- 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

Strategy: Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Received approval through from the legislature for the OAHP policy option package requesting \$5 million in other funds, allowing the agency to seek outside funding for OAHP.

Strategy: Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Completed a survey regarding natural and working lands climate solutions to timber and agricultural landowners along with conservation and natural resource organizations to better understand drivers for landowners/managers to sequester carbon/adapt to climate change.
- ✓ Facilitated focused discussions with a range of natural resource organizations and communities to better understand policy changes and incentives that could support increased carbon sequestration on natural and working lands
- ✓ Participated as a part of the Global Warming Commission team to draft recommendations for carbon sequestration on natural and working lands.

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

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Developed a strategy to continue to engage with landowners/managers after completion of the climate survey to engage in focused discussions to increase carbon sequestration projects on working lands.

Strategy: Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Twelve Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) teams worked collaboratively with Oregon Department of Agriculture and other partners to define develop local monitoring plans and those plans have been approved by the Statewide Monitoring Advisory Group.
- ✓ Fifteen Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) teams worked collaboratively with Oregon Department of Agriculture and other partners to define goals and submit applications for technical assistance funding through OWEB's targeted SIA grant offering.
- ✓ Held quarterly call with twenty Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) teams and OWEB and ODA staff to discuss strategies for stakeholder engagement within the SIA geographies.

Strategy: Develop engagement Strategy for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Executive Director participated in annual Sage Grouse Conservation (SageCon) meeting with a focus on continuing to increase private landowner participation in conservation that improves sage-steppe habitat while supporting the local agricultural economy.

So That: (Outputs)

- 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.
- Strategy and stories are being utilized to reach owners and managers of working lands who are not currently working with local organizations.
- Landowner engagement Strategy and tools are developed and used by local conservation organizations.
- 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.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Generations of landowners continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability.
- Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands.
- Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future.
- Sustained vitality of Oregon's natural resources industries.

Near-Term Measure:

- Percentage of landowners identified within Strategic Implementation Areas that receive technical assistance.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

Priority 6 – Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategy: Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Worked with partners in the Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watersheds to publish an accomplishments report that summarizes findings and new approaches utilized since 2018.

Strategy: Invest in monitoring over the long term

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Worked with local partners to prepare presentation about progress to date on OWEB's investment in monitoring of projects intended to achieve Stage 0 conditions

Strategy: Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Developed technical guidance for use by coastal restoration practitioners based on the OSU report about tide gate project implementation and monitoring, funded previously by the OWEB board.

Strategy: Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

Strategy: Define monitoring priorities

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop and promote a monitoring framework

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- Additional technical resources—such as guidance and tools—are developed and/or made accessible to monitoring practitioners.
- A network of experts is available to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects.
- A dedicated process exists for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described.
- Strategic monitoring projects receive long-term funding.
- Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level.
- 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.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Partners are using results-based restoration ‘stories’ to share conservation successes and lessons learned.
- Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs.
- Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning.
- Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring.
- 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.
- Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared.
- Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed and regional scales.
- Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results

Near-Term Measure:

- 14 outreach products were developed through staff, grants or partnerships (January-December 2019)

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

Priority 7 – Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon’s watersheds

Strategy: Invest in landscape restoration over the long term

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Held a quarterly call with the seven recipients of Partnership Technical Assistance grants, who are laying the groundwork for addressing landscape scale restoration.
- ✓ Bonneville Environmental Foundation completed progress tracking reports for each of the new cohort of FIPs.

Strategy: Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Supported the Tide Gate Partnership by continuing funding for a pipe-sizing tool to aid in the development of tide gate designs that meet regulatory requirements for fish passage.
- ✓ Supported the Tide Gate Partnership by continuing funding for the development of a funding decision support tool to help optimize funding for tide gate repair and replacement projects.

Strategy: Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB’s mission

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Convened a listening session focused on climate considerations in OWEB’s grant-making as part of the 2021 LandCamp conference for land trusts and conservationists
- ✓ Finalized questions in OWEB grant applications to help better understand how grantees are connecting their work to climate adaption and sequestration

So That: (Outputs)

- OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community.
- OWEB’s landscape-scale granting involves effective partnerships around the state.
- OWEB and partners have a better understanding of how restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway.
- 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 encourages a culture of innovation.
- OWEB 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.
- OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk.

Near-Term Measure:

- 16.98% of Oregon is covered by a Strategic Action Plan associated with a FIP or Coho Business Plan.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

This report provides the board an update about OWEB's online grant system improvements.

Background

In 2016, OWEB launched its first online grant applications. The online application system is directly connected to OWEB's grant management system (OGMS). Since the launch of online applications and the subsequent improvements to OWEB's online systems overall, staff have provided the board with annual updates about enhancements.

Recent Improvements to OWEB's Online Systems

Extensive improvements have been made to the online system content and functionality since the last update to the board in September of 2020. The improvements include:

- The addition of online applications for Council Capacity, Wildfire Impact Response, Bureau of Land Management, and Strategic Implementation Areas grants. Small Grants will be offered online after July 1, 2021.
- Ongoing refinements have been made to OWEB's existing online applications for restoration, technical assistance, monitoring, and land acquisitions grants, based on feedback from applicants, reviewers, and staff. These refinements include the addition of character limits directly after questions, responsive design of pop-ups and tables, and various other interface updates to improve the user's experience. In addition, effective this summer, several online application types will include climate-related questions.
- Ongoing refinements to OWEB's application review and management system, including a Quick Agreement Generator.
- Adaptation of existing 'dashboard' for internal OWEB staff for use by grantees, with additional functionality such as improved project filtering and a portal to the project completion reporting pages.
- New password security and reset functionality for the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory.
- Migration of all OWEB web-based applications to a State Data Center.
- Successful completion of a Cyber Security Assessment in coordination with the state's Chief Information Office.

The 'Project Life Cycle' (PLC) initiative that kicked off in 2018 continues its work to leverage existing technology and streamline processes across the full 'life cycle' of a grant. The initiative is creating a more efficient, user-friendly grant management and reporting system that captures key information at the appropriate points in time. Most recently, significant progress has been made in process mapping and implementation of online payment requests.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203.

This report provides the board an update about OWEB’s Wildfire Response Grants.

Background

Following the wildfires in summer 2020, the OWEB Board in a special meeting authorized \$1 million in grant expenditures for wildfire response grants and delegated authority to the director to award grants in 14 fire areas to address short-term restoration needs on private, non-industrial lands that could not be met through other funding sources. Further analysis determined that one of the 14 fires, Thielsen, did not include eligible lands, so funds were made available to the remaining 13 fire areas.

Quick Ramp-up for a New Grant Offering

Building on OWEB’s long experience with the small grant program, a team lead by Kathy Leopold, Small Grant Program Coordinator, built a wildfire response grant offering with the following key components:

- Organizations in each fire area work together to determine a single lead entity to apply for and administer the OWEB funds.
- Proposed work is identified as high priority in a federally led assessment through FEMA, BLM, or the US Forest Service, or similar assessment if approved by OWEB.
- Proposed activities comply with specifications in accepted manuals of practice, such as the NRCS Field Guide, or are specified in a qualifying assessment discussed in advance with OWEB.
- Additional eligible practices include stakeholder engagement, assessment by local organizations, and log transport and stockpiling for future restoration.

The grant offering was made available on November 5, 2020 with applications accepted on a rolling basis through May 25, 2021 with funds required to be spent by June 30, 2021. Initially, \$75,000 was made available to each of the 13 eligible fires. Organizations in the Slater Fire decided not to pursue OWEB funding, so the funds were divided among the 12 remaining fires, for a total of \$83,333 available per fire.

Delays in fire assessments and subsequent determinations of need prompted to OWEB to extend the end date of project grants to December 31, 2021.

Summary of Wildfire Response Grant Projects

The 12 wildfire response grants are summarized in Table 1 below.

Fire Area	Grantee	Project Actions	Award Amount
Brattain	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Restore plant communities on rangeland to provide and improve forages for livestock and wildlife, reduce erosion by wind and/or water, improve water quality and quantity and increase carbon sequestration.	\$74,721
Holiday Farm	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Planned activities include continued assessment and development of restoration plans on private lands where landowners have signed cooperative agreements,	\$83,333

		coordination with federal agencies, and implementation of riparian restoration projects on private lands.	
Alameda	Rogue River Watershed Council	Conservation Cover and/or Cover Crop: used to reduce erosion and sedimentation, reduce ground, and surface water degradation, and improve soil health. Mulching: used to support other practices and to conserve soil moisture, facilitate the establishment of vegetative cover, and reduce erosion. - Woody Residue Treatment: used to reduce hazardous fuels, improve access for future management, increase forage for wildlife, and improve the site for natural or artificial regeneration	\$75,000
S. Obenchain	Jackson SWCD	Applicant proposes to: 1) seed 111 acres of dry pasture and 147 acres of upland and riparian areas reserved for wildlife habitat 2) fence 3.5 miles of stream to exclude livestock from sensitive riparian areas 3) treat 23 acres of riparian area with herbicide 4) cover 9 acres of exposed slopes and steep riparian areas with straw 5) assess and treat 1,822 acres of oak woodland and mixed conifer forest with post-fire hazard tree falling, thinning of dead or at-risk pine, and chipping thinned and salvage logging slash. Chipped material will be used as a soil cover. Additional funding will be used to complete fall herbicide treatment of Rubus armeniacus (Himalayan/Armenian blackberry).	\$83,333
Echo Mt.	Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council	Stakeholder engagement to secure landowner commitment. Salvage log transport and stockpiling. On the ground work involves seeding as well as planting trees on fire ravaged properties to stabilize the soil and prevent it from entering the prioritized watershed areas. Steep slopes in the area and many intermittent and small perennial streams that drain to these areas necessitate ground stabilization with forbs trees, matting is needed.	\$75,000

242	Klamath Watershed Partnership	Stakeholder engagement to secure landowner commitment. Erosion control focusing on riparian areas, seeding, and fence replacement.	\$83,333
Indian Creek	Malheur Watershed Council	Stakeholder engagement to secure landowner commitment. Fencing to facilitate livestock management and protect fragile fire damaged riparian areas and rangeland sage grouse habitat.	\$83,309
White River	Wasco SWCD	Proposed activities include the post-fire assessment activities conducted by SWCD staff as well as herbaceous weed control and seeding to address post-fire erosion.	\$83,261
Archie Creek	Glide Revitalization	Stakeholder engagement to secure landowner commitment. Technical assistance to participate on local assessment teams and select restoration practices. The project will implement activities on private land primarily within the Rock Creek basin that will stabilize soil, prevent additional harm to streams, improve water quality and fish habitat. This will include site-specific prescriptions for each landowner that may include mulching, contour felling of dead trees, wood chip placement, weed control, placement of cover and conservation crop	\$83,010
Riverside	Molalla River Watch	Stakeholder engagement to secure landowner commitment. Technical assistance to participate on local assessment teams and select restoration practices. Salvage log transport and stockpiling. Weed treatment, and native tree and shrub planting.	\$83,333
Beachie Creek	North Santiam Watershed Council	Stakeholder engagement to secure landowner commitment. Technical assistance to participate on local assessment teams and select restoration practices. Salvage log transport and stockpiling for future restoration projects. Conservation cover planting, mulching, soil stabilization assistance offered to landowners include: spreading weed free straw along burned streambanks, spreading native and nonnative	\$83,332

		grass seed, and planting native trees and shrubs along stream banks.	
Lionshead	North Santiam Watershed Council	Stakeholder engagement to secure landowner commitment. Salvage log transport and stockpiling for future restoration projects. Weed treatment, mulching and other soil stabilization methods include spreading weed free straw along burned stream banks, utilizing weed free straw bales and wattles to slow erosion, seeding native and nonnative grass seed, and planting native trees and shrubs along stream banks.	\$83,332
Total			\$974,297

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager, at eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-345-7014.

This report provides the board an update about OWEB's 2021-23 budget situation and staffing, the legislative budgeting process as it relates to funding for water and fire recovery initiatives, and outcomes of the 2021 Legislative Session.

Background

As described at the March 2021 board meeting, Lottery revenues have continued to improve following the COVID related downturn that began in spring of 2020. As a result, OWEB's budget and associated staffing capacity are greatly improved as we enter the 2021-23 biennium – approximately 10% over 2019 levels. As part of the agency's official Legislatively Adopted Budget, OWEB received funding for specific purposes, including 100-year water vision and post-2020 fire recovery needs that have been discussed previously with the board.

OWEB's 2021-2023 Budget and Staffing

Lottery revenues are exceptionally strong. The May 2021 revenue forecast projected lottery revenue transfers to be up 6% from the previous forecast, and about 10% above 2019 levels. The “stunning” revenue forecast—as described by Speaker of the House Tina Kotek—helped set the stage for significant changes during the final six weeks of the legislative budgeting process. OWEB's operations budget (House Bill [HB] 5037) passed with multiple positions added or adjusted from previous biennia.

Adjusted positions include redesigned fiscal officer, administrative support, and information services positions. New positions include a Water and Climate Policy Coordinator and three staff positions (policy, grant management, and accounting) for post-fire recovery grants. Finally, the agency received a limited duration position that had been previously funded - the partnerships coordinator. The agency may receive additional positions in the 2022 short session if revenues continue to be strong.

Funding for OWEB's 2021-23 grants budget (HB 5038) increased also, as reflected in the proposed spending plan contained in Agenda Item F.

Finally, the agency was awarded \$19,750,000 in General Fund for a variety of specific post-fire recovery purposes related to the 2020 wildfire season:

- \$10,750,000 for grants for riparian and upland restoration and protection of water quality,
- \$5,000,000 for grants for floodplain restoration and reconnection, and
- \$4,000,000 for a grant to the Eugene Water and Electric Board for restoration and targeted acquisition of high-priority McKenzie riparian and floodplain properties.

This was part of a total \$600 million legislative investment in wildfire recovery and prevention package approved at the end of session.

While OWEB was not awarded specific funding for water planning beyond the water/climate policy position referenced above, the session was also very successful for water infrastructure and water planning investments. OWEB will be part of ongoing conversations that were funded during session including those related to regional planning, development of a data framework, a water business case, and work on the state's Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

Outcomes from the 2021 Legislative Session

Throughout session, staff tracked multiple bills with relevance to OWEB and periodically updated the board. Below is a brief summary of the outcomes of these bills.

- HB 2257, which would allocated funding to the Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD) for establishment of a Conservation Reserve Program focused on groundwater conservation in Harney County, was addressed instead through funding added to WRD's budget. This is further discussed in the memo from Jason Miner addressed in Agenda Item F.
- HB 2722, which would have explicitly engaged OWEB in wildfire risk reduction, did not move.
- HB 3160, which would establish an Oregon Wildfire Preparedness and Community Protection Fund and utilize OWEB for grant-making for a percentage of these funds, did not pass.
- HB 3293, which advances investments to engage disproportionately impacted communities in community water planning, became law on 6/10/21.
- SB 286, which identified a role for OWEB and several other agencies to coordinate on climate impacts to impacted communities, did not pass.

At the July 2021 board meeting, staff will be available to answer questions from the board about these bills.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 971-345-7231 or Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov or 971-345-7022.



Kate Brown, Governor



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Agenda Item supports all elements of OWEB's strategic plan

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – 2021-2023 OWEB Spending Plan
Jul 27-28, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides the 2021-23 Spending Plan for board review and approval based on both feedback from the March board meeting and the May revenue forecast for the Oregon Lottery, along with recaptured funds from the previous biennium.

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 other funds, such as salmon license plate revenues. The bulk of OWEB's funding comes from two major sources: Measure 76 Lottery and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). "Other funds" can include a variety of funding sources approved by the legislature, such as funding from settlement agreements, or funds transferred from another agency to OWEB.

III. 2021-23 Spending Plan Development

Based on the May 2021 revenue forecast, staff are proposing a total of just under \$114 million to be available for grant distribution through Measure 76 Lottery Funds and PCSRF funding over the course of the biennium. For reference, currently in 2019, the spending plan was \$105 million (prior to Lottery revenue decreases in May 2020). For Lottery funding, this amount is dependent on revenues received from Lottery distributions. For PCSRF funding, Oregon was successful in receiving a 2021 grant like the amount received in 2020. Additions to the spending plan in July 2022 will be dependent on OWEB's successful receipt of additional PCSRF funding through the competitive federal grant process.

In December 2020, the board was updated on the process and timeline for approving the 2021-23 Spending Plan. In March 2021, the board discussed spending plan categories and provided feedback on the proposed percentages allotted to each category. At the same time, the board received a presentation and had the opportunity to provide feedback on all spending plan line items except those that are directly awarded to other agencies and

organizations. An update about those items will be provided at the July 2021 board meeting, along with staff-proposed changes to the spending plan between March and July.

IV. PCSRF Funding

Since 2000, approximately one-third of OWEB's funding has been provided through the competitive PCSRF grant process, which is offered by NOAA Fisheries. Oregon has received more than \$236 million from PCSRF for salmon and steelhead recovery efforts in that time. On an annual basis, OWEB applies for PCSRF funding on behalf of the State of Oregon. Oregon provides the required 33% match through a combination of lottery funding, salmon license plate revenues, and funding from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

NOAA has awarded the state \$14.775 million in PCSRF funding for FFY 2021. This award is nearly as large as the FFY 2020 award of \$15 million. The slightly reduced award is largely because other states' applications have become increasingly competitive. The change affected the funding available to individual state grantees, given that the total available PCSRF funding for FFY 21 did not increase.

Of the total award, nearly \$6 million is available for grants in the 2021-23 spending plan, with the remainder invested in support of OWEB staff costs, distributed to ODFW for programs described below, or held in reserve for future spending plans. OWEB anticipates another approximately \$6 million in PCSRF funding for FFY 2022.

V. Spending Plan 'Governor Directed' and 'Funds Transferred From/To Other Agencies'

The spending plan contains a range of items, many of which were presented to the board at the March 2021 meeting. Three others listed under the 'Other – Governor Directed' and 'Funds Transferred From/To Other Agencies' categories in the spending plan, will be presented at the July 2021 board meeting. These include:

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) – LCEP is a two-state, public-private National Estuary Program (NEP) created by the Governors of Oregon and Washington and the Environmental Protection Agency in 1995 to focus on the 146 miles of the lower Columbia River. LCEP needs state matching funds to complement federal funding received through the NEP. OWEB funds to LCEP will support riparian and habitat restoration in the watershed.

Sage-grouse Conservation Partnership – Funding for this line item continues investment in key coordination and collaborative governance to support statewide planning and coordination, and local implementation. The partnership addresses the health of Oregon's sage-steppe ecosystem, rural community vitality, and threats to habitat and wildlife, while advancing economic development within a conservation framework.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) – A portion of the PCSRF funds are legislatively directed to be transferred to ODFW. The amount of funding transferred depends on the State of Oregon's successful receipt of PCSRF funding through NOAA's competitive grant process. Eligible uses of PCSRF funds, based on NOAA recovery priorities, include restoration, technical assistance, and monitoring. For the 2021-2023 biennium, the following ODFW programs are proposed to receive PCSRF funding: Fish Screening and

Passage Program, [Lower Columbia River Harvest Management Program](#), Conservation and Recovery Plan Implementation and Technical Support Program, [Chum Recovery Program](#), and the [Oregon Plan Fish and Habitat Monitoring Program](#).

In addition, the spending plan includes two other line items in the 'Funds Transferred From/To Other Agencies': **Forest Collaboratives** and the **Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW)**. Forest Collaborative technical assistance grants fund local forest collaboratives to increase restoration efforts on federal forests statewide. 2021-2023 will be the fourth biennium in which OWEB has implemented the Forest Collaborative technical assistance grant program on behalf of Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). OWEB staff work collaboratively with ODF staff to set grant offerings, develop application materials, and review grant applications. The Upper Middle Fork John Day River IMW is designed to evaluate the implementation of watershed restoration projects over a large geography and extended period to describe the collective benefits provided to salmon and steelhead populations, habitat, and water quality. Funders historically have included NOAA Fisheries, via the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), and OWEB, among others. Partners in the IMW have conducted work in a coordinated fashion to evaluate and document watershed restoration actions and ecological conditions since 2008. In May 2021, partners published an accomplishments report to provide an update on monitoring efforts since the completion of a comprehensive 10-year synthesis report that was presented to the board in January 2018. The accomplishments report summarizing an overview of the findings and new monitoring approaches is included in Attachment E. Ongoing monitoring supported by PSMFC funding during the 2021-23 biennium includes fish monitoring by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; stream temperature, streamflow, and macroinvertebrate monitoring by the North Fork John Day Watershed Council; and streamflow monitoring and website support by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

VI. Recommended Spending Plan Changes

Changes to the spending plan are outlined in Attachments A-D. Attachment A outlines how the agency arrived at the total spending plan amounts available. Attachment B is the proposed spending plan. Attachment C describes increases since March based on an increased Lottery forecast and other identified factors. Attachment D outlines any specific requests to delegate authority for distribution of certain funding to the executive director. All attachments will be reviewed with the board during the spending plan presentation.

As noted in Attachment A, staff are proposing to hold some funds in reserve for addition to the spending plan at a subsequent meeting, or to be held for the 2023-25 biennium. This is slightly different than the typical process in previous biennia. Staff propose to hold funds for three main reasons:

- The increase between the 2019 and 2021 proposed spending plans is nearly \$9 million, even without the addition of the reserve funds. If reserve funds were added, the spending plan increase since 2019 would be over \$14 million. This is a large increase, so holding a portion in reserve provides a buffer for unforeseen circumstances.

- Several categories of the spending plan have less certainty about demand when compared to previous biennia, including acquisitions and focused investments.
- While not ripe at this time, discussions surrounding pressing water challenges in the Klamath Basin may result in a request for funding to OWEB later in the biennium.

I. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve requests in the 'Other Funding Received and Delegated and '2021 Spending Plan columns of Attachment B: Proposed OWEB 2021-23 Spending Plan. The '2022 Spending Plan' column will not be approved until July 2022 to adjust for any additional or reduced revenues.

Staff recommend the board approve tables 1-3 of Attachment D regarding spending plan policy decisions, carry forward, and delegation authorities for the spending plan.

Staff recommend the board approve that all funds recaptured from grants in the weed grant, small grant and FIP implementation programs remain in those programs for future granting using policies established for the program.

II. Attachments

- A. Summary of Funding Available and in Reserve
- B. Proposed 2021-23 Spending Plan
- C. Summary of Changes Proposed from March 2021 Spending Plan Draft
- D. 2021-23 Spending Plan Carry Forward, Funding Approvals, and Delegation Recommendations
- E. Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed summary
- F. Governor's Priorities Memo

Funds Available and Held in Reserve

	Funds Placed in Spending Plan				Funds Held in Reserve	Notes
	Beginning Balance	2021 funding	Recapture	2022 funding		
M76 Lottery Funds	\$ 19.632	\$ 79.661			\$ 2.739	
PCSRF Funds	\$ 2.300	\$ 5.960		\$ 5.940	\$ 2.576	2023 budget allows for 4.3m in 2022 funding and can go higher
Salmon Plate Funds	\$ -	\$ 0.375				
Other Funds						
- NRCS		\$ 4.000				From NRCS to support program
- PacifiCorps						will be added once funding is confirmed
- Idaho Power						will be added once funding is confirmed
Totals by category	\$ 21.932	\$ 89.996	\$ -	\$ 5.940	\$ 5.315	
Total For Spending Plan or Held in Reserve					\$ 5.315	

OTHER FU

	2021-2023 Proposed SPENDING PLAN for M76, GF & PCSRF Funds	2021 Spending Plan	2022 Spending Plan	July 2021 Board Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To-Date	Other Funding Received & Delegated	Holding Acct Balance 6/28/21	TOTAL M76/GF/PCSRF Awards	TOTAL Awards To-Date
1	Open Solicitation:								
2	Restoration	32.000	33.500		33.500	0.460	1.845	0.000	2.305
3	Fire Recovery & Restoration								
4	Riparian/upland rest. & water quality	10.750	10.750						
5	Floodplain restoration & reconnection	5.000	5.000						
6	Technical Assistance								
7	Restoration TA	3.000	4.500		4.500			0.000	0.000
8	CREP TA	1.200	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.400	0.140	1.200	1.740
9	Stakeholder Engagement	2.250	2.250		2.250	0.000		0.000	0.000
10	Monitoring grants	4.250	4.250		4.250	0.000		0.000	0.000
11	Land and Water Acquisition								
12	Acquisition	9.000	10.000		10.000	0.000		0.000	0.000
13	Weed Grants	3.250	3.250	3.250	0.000	0.000		3.250	3.250
14	Small Grants	2.800	2.800	2.800	0.000	0.000		2.800	2.800
15	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	1.000	1.000	0.150	0.850	0.000		0.150	0.150
16	TOTAL	74.500	78.500	7.400	55.350	0.860	1.985	7.400	8.260
17	% of assumed Total Budget		60.80%						16.83%
18	Focused Investments:								
19	Deschutes	1.915	1.915	1.915	0.000	0.000	0.001	1.915	1.916
20	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat	1.400	1.400	1.400	0.000	0.000	0.004	1.400	1.404
21	Harney Basin Wetlands	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000		0.100	0.100
22	Upper Grande Ronde	0.466	0.466	0.466	0.000	0.000	1.793	0.466	2.259
23	John Day Partnership	4.000	4.000	4.000	0.000	0.000		4.000	4.000
24	Baker Sage Grouse	2.435	2.435	2.435	0.000	0.000	0.040	2.435	2.475
25	Warner Aquatic Habitat	2.293	2.293	2.293	0.000	0.000		2.293	2.293
26	Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp	2.700	2.700	2.700	0.000	0.000		2.700	2.700
27	Clackamas Partnership	3.082	3.082	3.082	0.000	0.000	0.010	3.082	3.092
28	New FIP Solicitation	10.000	10.000	0.000	10.000	0.000		0.000	0.000
29	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.000	0.000		0.750	0.750
30	TOTAL	29.141	29.141	19.141	10.000	0.000	1.848	19.141	20.989
31	% of assumed Total Budget		22.57%						42.76%
32	Operating Capacity:								
33	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	15.121	15.121	15.121	0.000	0.000		15.121	15.121
34	Statewide org partnership support	0.225	0.425	0.225	0.200	0.000		0.225	0.225
35	Organizational Collaboration	0.500	0.500	0.129	0.371	0.000		0.129	0.129
36	Partnership Technical Assistance	1.500	1.500		1.500	0.000		0.000	0.000
37	TOTAL	17.346	17.546	15.475	2.071	0.000	0.000	15.475	15.475
38	% of assumed Total Budget		13.59%						31.53%
39	Other:								
40	CREP	0.750	0.750	0.750	0.000	0.000		0.750	0.750
41	Governor's Priorities	1.000	1.000	0.800	0.200	0.000		0.800	0.800
42	Strategic Implementation Areas	1.500	1.500	1.500	0.000	0.000	0.626	1.500	2.126
44	Gov. directed - Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000		0.330	0.330
45	Gov. directed - Sage Grouse Conservation Partnership	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000		0.350	0.350
46	TOTAL	3.930	3.930	3.730	0.200	0.000	0.626	3.730	4.356
47	% of assumed Total Budget		3.04%						8.88%
44	TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	124.918	129.118	45.746	67.622	0.860	4.459	45.746	49.080
45	Funds transferred from/to other agencies								
46	Transfer to ODFW - PCSRF	12.884	12.884	12.884	0.000	0.000		12.884	12.884
47	Transfer to Eugene Water & Electric Board - GF	4.000	4.000	4.000	0.000	0.000		4.000	
48	Transfer from ODF for Forest Health Collaboratives - OF	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.500		0.500	1.000
49	Transfer from PSMFC - IMW - OF	0.600	0.600	0.000	0.600	0.600		0.000	0.600
50	transfer from NRCS - Farm Bill technical support - FF						0.013		
51	TOTAL	17.984	17.984	17.384	0.600	1.100	0.000	17.384	14.484
52	TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds	142.902	147.102	63.130	68.222	1.960	4.459	63.130	63.564

Summary of Changes Proposed from March 2021 Spending Plan Draft

Restoration grants	Increase of \$2.0 million	Additional funding to meet program demand
Technical Assistance Grants	Increase of \$1.0 million	Additional funding to meet program demand
CREP Technical Assistance	Increase of \$400,000	Funds received from NRCS as the partner agency to support this line item
Stakeholder Engagement	Increase of \$500,000	Additional funding to meet program demand
Acquisitions	Increase of \$500,000	Additional funding to meet program demand
Open Solicitation Monitoring	Increase of \$500,000	Additional funding to meet program demand
Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	Increase of \$250,000	Additional funding to meet program demand
Focused Investment Partnerships	Increase of \$2.0 million	Additional funding to meet program demand
Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring	Increase of \$250,000	Additional funding to meet board expectations for FIP monitoring
Statewide Organizational Partnership	Increase of \$25,000	Based on board recommendation in March, increased support for local organization training & development
Organizational Collaboration	Increase of \$200,000	Additional funding to meet program Demand
Governor's Priorities	No increase	Shifting funding based on Governor's Memo: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harney CREP – from \$500,000 to \$0 • Climate – from \$125,000 to \$350,000 • Fire recovery – from \$375,000 to \$350,000 • Tide gates – from \$0 to \$150,000

2021-23 Spending Plan: Carry Forward, Funding Approvals, and Delegation Recommendations

Table 1. Carry Forward

Carry forward amounts as indicated through June 30, 2023.

Program	Carry Forward Amount	Explanation
Small Grants	Carry forward up to \$500,000	Using new reallocation methodology, funds will be redistributed to qualified small grant teams in 2022
Total carry forward:	\$500,000	

Table 2. Spending Plan Associated Board Approval Requests

Approve receipt of funds from other sources as outlined.

Program	Policy or Funding Approval Request	Background
Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW)	Accept up to \$600,000 of other funding to support the IMW Program	Reflects maximum amount expected to be received during the 2021-23 biennium from Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) in support of the Upper Middle Fork John Day IMW
BLM Aquatic Restoration Grants	Accept up to \$999,000 of federal funding to distribute for restoration grants based on BLM identification and approval of projects	Reflects the maximum amount to be received during the 2021-23 biennium from BLM in support of aquatic restoration projects.

Table 3. Delegation of Authority

Delegate authority to the Director to enter into agreements for the following spending plan line items with award dates as identified. Amounts are as identified on spending plan unless otherwise noted below.

Spending Plan Line Item	Award Date	Background/Description
CREP Technical Assistance grants	July 27, 2021	Grants are approved once per biennium with a technical review completed by all CREP partners: NRCS, Farm Service Agency, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), OWEB and associated statewide organizations. Additional funds will be made available in October pending receipt from NRCS.
Weed grants	July 27, 2021	OWEB administers these funds on behalf of ODA and the State Weed Board. ODA staff complete a review process and approval comes through the State Weed Board. All funds recaptured from weed grants remain in this program for future granting using policies established for the program.
Small Grants	July 1, 2021	Delegation increases timeliness of program implementation. Funds are allocated to small grant teams (\$100,000 per team plus additional funding based on reallocation process) so they can quickly approve and request OWEB funding for small grants. All funds recaptured from small grants remain in this program for future granting using policies established for the program.
Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes	July 27, 2021	Delegation of \$150,000 from this line item enables staff to re-engage with local partners to develop new targeted grants under the <i>Telling the Restoration Story</i> offering.

FIP Implementation grants (excluding new solicitation)	July 1, 2021	The board has already approved the funding for each existing FIP-implementation area, and will approve new implementation funding based on approval of the programs at the July 2022 meeting. Delegation of funds allows staff to work with grantees on agreed-to timelines, reviewing and approving grants as they are ready. All funds recaptured from FIP implementation grants remain in this program for future granting using policies established by the program.
Soil and Water Conservation District capacity grants	July 1, 2021	Delegation allows for a one-time distribution of funds for the biennium, based on process developed by Oregon Department of Agriculture for implementation of local area plans under the state's agriculture water quality program, including focused implementation in identified areas.
Statewide Organization Partnership grant	July 27, 2021	Delegation allows for 1 year of funding for this partnership. Staff will update the board on the project accomplishments and request the remaining funds in July 2022.
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	July 1, 2021	CREP contracts are directly with landowners and can arrive at any time in the biennium. CREP contracts are fully reviewed by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and plans approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
Governor's Priorities	July 27, 2021	Per details provided in Attachment F, the Governor's Natural Resources Office requests: \$300,000 in delegated funds for immediate fire response/recovery needs \$350,000 in delegated funds for climate-related work \$150,000 in delegated funds for the tide gate partnership The board receives reports from the Governor's office on overall program priorities. The 2021-23 priorities are proposed by the Governor's office, with associated justification. Staff then complete the grant application and agreement process with appropriate entities for the selected programs.
Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) grants	July 27, 2021	These funds support Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) agriculture water quality program for both technical assistance and monitoring activities. Grants are reviewed by a technical team that includes OWEB and ODA staff to ensure compliance with statute and quality of proposals. The state's team also includes Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). These agencies comprise a statewide monitoring group that works with local partners and a local monitoring team for each SIA. Specific monitoring plans are developed and used to guide baseline and ongoing data collection by local partners. Reporting milestones ensure monitoring progress is tracked and monitoring results are reviewed jointly by state and local partners.
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)	July 1, 2021	Based on the grant submitted by the State of Oregon through OWEB, ODFW receives a specific funding distribution from the approved PCSRF grant via pass-through by OWEB.
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	July 1, 2021	Oregon and Washington both provide funding in support of the cross-state Estuary Partnership. The Governor's office has selected OWEB to be the funding source from which these funds are provided to the program. These funds are then administered as a grant from OWEB.
Sage Grouse Conservation (SageCon) Partnership	July 27, 2021	OWEB has funded this partnership since 2013 to support work toward development and implementation of the state's Sage Grouse Action Plan. The Governor's office has asked OWEB to be the funding source from which these funds are provided to continue to support coordination around implementation of the action plan. The funds are then administered as a grant from OWEB.
Forest Collaboratives grants	July 27, 2021	These funds are transferred from ODF and are managed on their behalf. Through a partnership with ODF, OWEB manages a review team process to ensure high-quality projects are approved.

PSMFC-Upper Middle Fork John Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW)	July 1, 2021	The IMW is 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. Historically, funders have included NOAA Fisheries, via the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), and OWEB, among others. Funding continues to be made available through PSMFC to support IMW monitoring.
BLM Aquatic Restoration Grants	July 1, 2021	These funds are transferred from BLM and are managed on their behalf. OWEB distributes funds through grant agreements based on BLM identification and approval of projects. Funds are in direct response to Archie Creek Fire.

Middle Fork John Day River IMW Accomplishments Report

OVERVIEW

The Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (MFIMW) (Figure 1) was established in 2008 and in 2017 we completed a 10-Year summary report detailing monitoring, restoration, and scientific findings from research and restoration completed from 2006-2016. The 10-Year Summary Report and more details about the MFIMW can be found here: <http://www.middleforkimw.org/>. Since completion of the 10-year Summary Report, we have continued with restoration and research and methods have been adapted and updated based on our findings. This Report summarizes our accomplishments from 2017-2020.

Focal Species: Spring Chinook Salmon
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha and ESA threatened summer steelhead *O. mykiss*

Limiting Factors: Water temperature, degraded floodplain habitat and channel structure, altered hydrology and sediment routing

Restoration Strategy: Owing to the diversity of our partnership and adaption to past actions, our efforts increasingly focus on ecological process by approaching restoration through floodplain reconnection and riparian development. This approach allows us to broadly address both ecosystem function as well as habitat form as it relates to improving fish populations. The larger John Day Basin Partnership with Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Focused Investment Partnership funding has further improved collaboration and coordination amongst MFIMW researchers and restoration practitioners. Since 2008, over 125 restoration projects have been implemented.

RESTORATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

From 2017-2020 partners completed or implemented over 25 major restoration projects within the MFIMW area including treatment of 29 miles of instream habitat; improving or protecting 14 miles of riparian habitat and removing or replacing 58 fish passage barriers. Additionally, partners initiated a Riparian Planting Group to focus and prioritize riparian planting efforts.



Figure 2. Examples of restoration in the MFIMW. **Left** – Holistic restoration of Bear Creek, tributary to the Middle Fork John Day River (MFJDR) included reconnection of Bear Creek to the MFJDR, removal of a fish passage barrier, and planting of 6000 hardwoods. Photo Credit: NFJDBC **Right** – EXAMPLE of riparian growth within an enclosure on Camp Creek, a tributary to the MFJDR. Photo credit: USFS-MNF

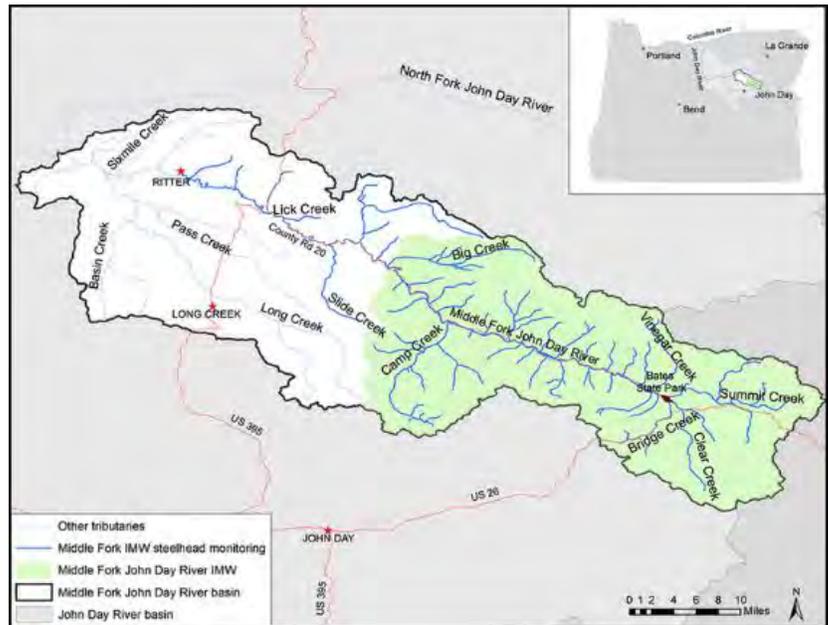


Figure 1: Middle Fork John River Intensively Monitored Watershed area. Inset shows the MFIMW area in relation to the Middle Fork John Day River basin, the John Day basin, and the state of Oregon.

MONITORING RESULTS 2017-2020

Watershed Scale Fish – Monitoring efforts have not yet detected a change in steelhead or Chinook Salmon productivity compared to reference watersheds (Figure 3), and it will likely take several salmonid life-cycles (20-30 years) before improvements in productivity can be detected.

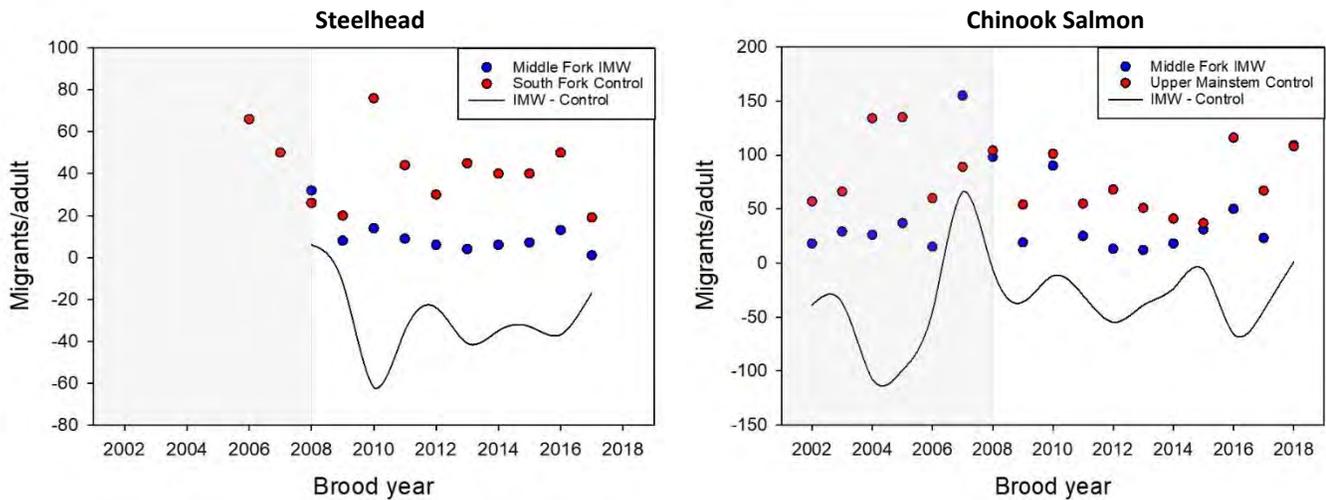


Figure 3. Steelhead and salmon productivity measured as outmigrants per adult spawner. Productivity measured in the MFJDR represented by blue dots; red dots represent productivity measured in reference watersheds (Upper Mainstem John Day River for Chinook Salmon; South Fork John Day River for steelhead). The black line represents the difference between MFIMW and reference productivity. Pre- and post- IMW implementation is represented by the grey and white shading, respectively.

Habitat – In 2019, we resampled 15 sites in the MFJDR and 10 sites in Camp and Lick creeks established in 2009/2008 and resampled in 2014 to track watershed-scale stream habitat condition changes following the Pacfish/Infish Biological Opinion Effectiveness Monitoring Program (PIBO) sampling methods. For complete analysis and results please read the full [PIBO report](#).

Across all sites, temporal trends in cumulative physical habitat index scores were not statistically significant, but trends do indicate that for most metrics stream habitat is improving. However, analyses showed an increase in pool tail fines, across all sites, trending in the opposite direction than desired. This finding is likely a response to sediment sorting and an increase in fines due to the increased hydrologic complexity from large woody debris inputs during restoration.

MFJDR – Analyses show that the median particle size and macroinvertebrate Observed/Expected metrics increased and were trending in the desired direction. The temporal trend for median particle size is statistically significant.

Camp and Lick creeks – Analyses show that large wood frequency, residual pool depth, and percent pools increased and results are statistically significant. Both residual pool depth and percent pools are approaching reference conditions.



Figure 4. Photos for a PIBO site on the MFJDR showing subtle vegetation changes over three sampling events from 2009-2019.

Water Temperature – Elevated summer water temperature continues to be the limiting factor of greatest concern. Lack of mature riparian vegetation, and thus shade, is likely an important driver of elevated summer water temperatures that limit juvenile fish rearing capacity in the MFIMW. A large temperature monitoring network exists in the MFIMW, including 150 water temperature loggers located in both the mainstem MFJDR and tributary streams. Results of trend analyses show some areas of cooling, but the majority of locations display no significant trends. Since 2017 we improved management of loggers and water temperature data with an oversight group, dedicated data management system, and a shift to year-round temperature monitoring. These improvements have allowed the MFIMW to readily analyze and share water temperature data with partners and regional groups like [NorWeST](#). These data have allowed restoration practitioners to identify and prioritize riparian vegetation improvement projects in areas of critical need where riparian vegetation is deficient and water temperature is above critical thresholds (Figure 5).

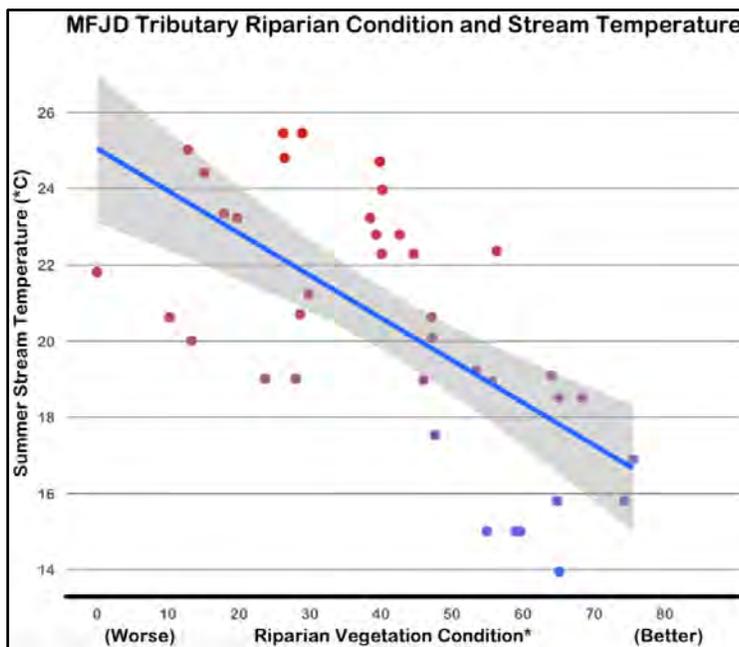


Figure 5. Riparian Vegetation Condition: Percent of area within a 60-foot buffer with vegetation 6 feet or taller. Points represent 80 measurements along segments within 38 tributaries to the MFJDR. Y-axis is the August average of the 7-day average daily maximum water temperature (7DADM) for 2017 when riparian condition was measured.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH

How and what is being monitored now that we have over 10 years of data?

The 10-Year Summary Report resulted in a long list of lessons learned and recommendations for future restoration, research and monitoring, with a strong emphasis on the need to address water temperature, the limiting factor of greatest concern. Recent research has been focused on monitoring for localized near-term restoration responses. From 2017 to 2020, researchers examined the effects of water temperature and riparian shade on juvenile fish distribution and assessed spatial patterns in adult Chinook Salmon spawning before and after restoration. While average redd counts and spawner abundance remained static, Chinook Salmon redd density (redds/km) on the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs’ Oxbow Conservation Area more than doubled after restoration, as spawning shifted from upstream reaches to restored reaches (Figure 6).

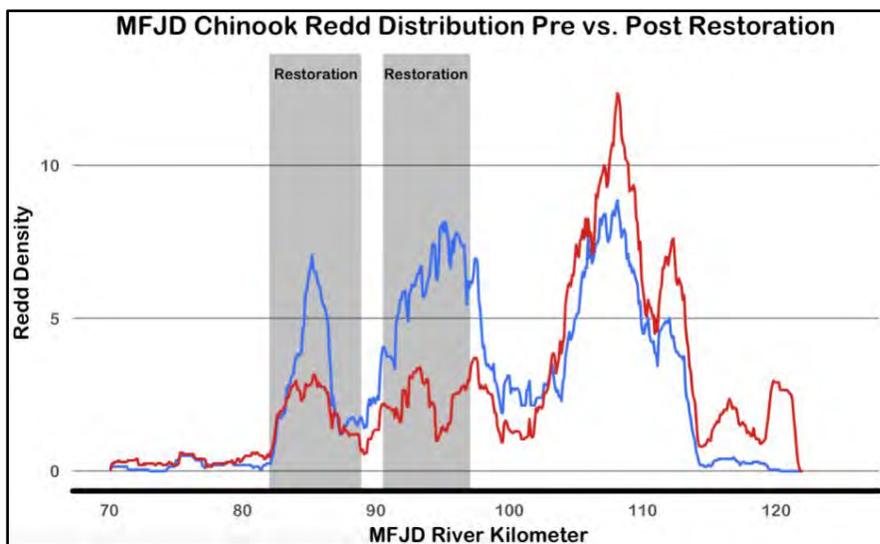


Figure 6. Chinook salmon redd density in the MFIMW area by river kilometer. The Red line represents average density of redds for pre-restoration years (2003-2010) and the blue line represents average redd density during post-restoration years (2011-2019). Grey bars show the location of major restoration activities on the MFJDR including the Oxbow project.

The detected changes in Chinook Salmon redd distribution demonstrated local and reach level effects of restoration, and in turn, inspired further investigation into juvenile salmon and steelhead movement and use of restored areas of the MFIMW in comparison to non-restored areas. Researchers are investigating whether juvenile density is actually increasing in restoration reaches or whether juvenile distribution is just shifting to restored areas. Recent juvenile movement tracking efforts suggest an over-summer survival bottleneck and tracking data will be used to identify survival patterns for restored and unrestored reaches.

FUTURE MFIMW MONITORING AND RESEARCH



Figure 7. Installation of a channel spanning PIT-tag array near Ritter, at the downstream end of fish monitoring in the MFJD. Photo Credit: ODFW

We continue to upgrade and refine recently installed channel spanning PIT-tag arrays to better detect fish movement and provide alternate methods for estimating population numbers (Figure 7). Juvenile movement and density data collection will continue, and we are evaluating differential survival and fish-habitat relationships at restored and unrestored sites where habitat was intensively measured at a reach scale. Efforts are underway to gain insight into the Chinook Salmon fry life stage using innovative sampling techniques, including parentage monitoring. A significant effort began in fall 2020 to collect genetic samples on Chinook Salmon carcasses and, in spring 2021, Chinook Salmon fry. This work aims to assign juveniles captured in the spring and summer back to their natal redds to document dispersal of juveniles from redds into the surrounding habitats. Tracking dispersal patterns from redds is yet another step in understanding how fish are utilizing available habitat and how restoration and changes in water temperature (due to restoration or climate change) influence movement and survival of juvenile salmonids. As restoration implementation efforts continue, ongoing research to assess shifts in movement patterns, reach use, and ultimately survival of juvenile salmon and steelhead in relation to specific locations and types of restoration will be key for determining effectiveness and guiding implementation of restoration projects. In conjunction with the parentage monitoring, researchers have estimated Chinook Salmon hatch timing using developmental models and observed water temperature data. We are sampling Chinook Salmon fry to assess emergence timing and duration to both ground-truth developmental models and repeat a 40-year old

emergence timing study. In addition, a number of water temperature products are under development including a spatial stream network model which will predict reach scale average summer stream temperatures across the MFIMW area, and a model that will forecast water temperature and utilizes flow data from the [MFJDR at Camp Creek](#) gage. Stream temperature models tailored to produce biologically relevant variables at a reach- scale resolution will allow us to better track and evaluate changes in water temperature throughout the MFIMW area, allowing restoration practitioners to target projects in areas of highest impact. Finally, PIBO habitat monitoring will be repeated at 5-year intervals with the next sampling event occurring in 2024.

PARTNERSHIPS & FUNDING

Collaborative funding for monitoring and restoration has supported the MFIMW Working Group since 2008. This diverse consortium of funders, restoration implementers, researchers, landowners, and agencies continue to work together to measure the effects of river restoration projects on salmon and steelhead at the watershed scale.



Kate Brown
Governor



MEMORANDUM

Date: July 13, 2021

To: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

From: Jason Miner, Natural Resources Policy Director, Office of Governor Kate Brown

Subject: Governor's Priorities Funding

Governor Brown's Natural Resources Office (GNRO) appreciates your consideration of the Governor's priorities line item in the agency's grant spending plan, as well as continued investment in two long-term conservation initiatives. These funds have been critical over many biennia. Funding supports work within the sideboards of Ballot Measure 76 and furthers priority programs and initiatives related to restoration in Oregon. Funding supports critical conservation projects that lie at the intersection of the Governor's priorities and the priorities overwhelmingly approved by the voters with the passage of Measure 76.

For the 2021-23 biennium, GNRO requests the board's consideration of the following funding requests. These fall within the overall \$1,000,000 spending plan line item proposed by OWEB staff for board approval in March. However, two shifts are proposed from the detail presented in March. First, the initial \$500,000 in funding for Harney CREP is no longer needed given the legislature's approval of funding for that line item. Instead, we are requesting the board consider leaving \$200,000 in reserve for the program in case demand outstrips funding the legislature provided. This is because the state and its federal partners must commit to funding all eligible and approved applicants once a sign-up is opened. A final decision on whether funds are needed will be presented to the board in July 2022. In addition, needs have arisen around the state's Tide Gate Partnership that warrant additional investments to increase the potential for tide gate replacement projects along the Oregon coast and lower Columbia River.

Fire Recovery Immediate Response (\$300,000) – Based on experience from the unprecedented 2020 fire season, when OWEB provided grants to support immediate post-fire recovery work in 13 wildfire areas, grants will be made available should the need arise during the 2021 and 2022 fire seasons. Eligible implementation actions include soil stabilization efforts and log salvage for future restoration. Funding could also be used for

stakeholder engagement to aid landowners in accessing fire-response funding along with technical assistance for fire impact assessments.

Climate-Related Initiatives (\$350,000) – The funding will support work that is mutually agreed upon by OWEB and the Governor’s Office, and could relate to such activities as: a) follow-up on natural and working lands efforts related to OWEB’s climate initiatives and Climate Executive Order (EO) 20-04, b) climate equity and justice considerations related to OWEB’s diversity, equity and inclusion work and the Impacted Communities work group under EO 20-04, and c) exploration of existing estimation and quantification tools for use in OWEB and other agency programs, among others. Examples include:

- Working with Oregon Department of Agriculture and federal partners, improve understanding of Oregon’s agricultural soil health and identify strategies that can be taken to boost soil health.
- Working with Oregon Department of Forestry and federal partners, develop guidance and expanded tools for developing restoration planting plans in forested areas to account for shifts in species needed to adapt to a changing climate.
- For tidal wetlands, support of efforts by the Department of Land Conservation and Development, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and local partners to identify priority restoration sites, conduct cost-benefit analyses, and develop action and implementation strategies for approaches that promote blue carbon activities in tidally influenced areas.
- Work with partners to better define the relationship between OWEB acquisition and restoration investments and the associated sale of carbon credits.

Tide Gate Partnership (\$150,000) – The Tide Gate Partnership has had great success over the last four years in moving forward key initiatives to increase tide gate repair and replacement along the Oregon Coast and lower Columbia River. Regulatory agencies are partnering more closely to help process the myriad permit requirements for these projects. Business Oregon received and is in the process of distributing \$3 million to support tide gate replacement projects and designs. An inventory of all tide gates has been completed. And, technical tools that will reduce engineering design costs and will support strategic investments are nearing finalization. The partnership has continuing funding needs to:

- Develop a common monitoring approach for tide gate replacement projects to ensure that best practices are followed, and lessons learned can be shared.
- Determine if data from the tide gate ‘Decision Support Tool’ can be used with the ‘Tide Gate Pipe Sizing Tool’ to make it easier for tide gate owners to have the information needed to determine the size of their tide gate without incurring engineering costs.

In addition to the specific Governor’s Priorities identified above to fall within the \$1,000,000 request, we also want to highlight two ongoing funding needs that are

proposed within the OWEB spending plan. These ongoing investments support critical actions in two areas of the state, leading to increased conservation work in the Lower Columbia Estuary and in Eastern Oregon's Sage Steppe habitat.

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) – LCEP is a two-state, public-private National Estuary Program (NEP) created by the Governors of Oregon and Washington and the Environmental Protection Agency in 1995 to focus on the 146 miles of the lower Columbia River. LCEP needs state matching funds to complement federal funding received through the NEP. OWEB funds to LCEP will support riparian and habitat restoration in the watershed.

Sage-grouse Conservation Partnership – Funding for this line item continues investment in key coordination and collaborative governance to support statewide planning and coordination, and local implementation. Overhead for the funding for SageCon work is limited to 10%. The partnership addresses the health of Oregon's sage-steppe ecosystem, rural community vitality, and threats to habitat and wildlife, while advancing economic development within a conservation framework.

Your investment in these programs is key to advancing new and innovative approaches to address conservation challenges at the landscape scale. Thank you for your dedication to this work, and support for the identified initiatives.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason M.", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jason Miner
Natural Resources Policy Director
Office of Governor Kate Brown



Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item G supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #4: Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – OWEB's Role in Managing Funds for Others: Panel Discussion
July 27-28, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Background

OWEB has a long history of passing through funds from other sources to help watershed organizations achieve their goals, beginning with federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery (PCSRF) funds. Over time, OWEB has been asked to manage funds for additional agencies, such as the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), as program goals aligned. With more than two decades of experience demonstrating effective and efficient grantmaking, OWEB has become an attractive entity for other organizations looking for an agency to manage watershed enhancement funds. At the July Board meeting, OWEB partners will participate in a panel discussion with the board about their rationale for considering OWEB as a grant management entity for their funds. This is a discussion item only.

II. The Panelists

Eric Williams will facilitate a panel discussion with the following participants:

- Steve Brink, Salmonid Habitat Program Leader, Idaho Power
- Scott Lightcap, Fisheries Program Lead, Bureau of Land Management
- Jeff Burns, Partnership and Planning Program Director, Oregon Department of Forestry
- Clayton Creager, Klamath River Implementation Lead, North Coast Regional Water Control Board (CA)
- Jason Jeans, Assistant State Conservationist, NRCS

The panelists will provide a summary of the programs they currently run through OWEB or may do so in the near future. They will address the rationale for this choice, expected outcomes, and future direction for the partnership with OWEB.

July 27 & 28 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Agenda Item H

Public Comments Place Holder

Addendum added after July 22, 2021 deadline



Kate Brown, Governor



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Business Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item I– Council Capacity Grant Awards
July 27-28, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2021-2023 Council Capacity grant cycle process and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards. Staff recommend funding fifty-six watershed councils (councils) for \$7.559 million. Two councils are not recommended for funding.

II. Background

For more than 20 years, OWEB has provided capacity grants to councils, which are shown in Attachment A. In July 2014, the Board adopted administrative rules and guidance for Council Capacity grants, which help support the operating capacity of effective councils. The Council Capacity grant process includes an eligibility determination and initial and secondary merit reviews.

In December 2020 the board adopted a one-time, streamlined application approach for the 2021-2023 Council Capacity grant application process given the many challenges grantees have faced during the COVID pandemic. This approach allowed councils funded in the 2019-2021 biennium to submit a streamlined application and staff completed a streamlined review. Councils not funded in the 2019-2021 biennium completed the full Council Capacity grant application and were reviewed by both the initial OWEB review team and external secondary review team.

III. Merit Review

Merit criteria (Attachment B) evaluate councils for performance and progress including how the council addresses challenges.

- A. Initial Merit Review.** OWEB staff completed the initial review of all fifty-eight councils that applied for funding. For councils funded in the 2019-2021 biennium, staff reviewed the application materials and used council performance from the last biennium to determine if the councils met the merit criteria and if any grant conditions were necessary.

Two councils applied that did not receive funding in the 2019-2021 biennium. The Valley of the Rogue WC was a new applicant and the Tillamook Bay WC has

been funded in the past but was not funded in the 2019-2021 biennium. Staff reviewed the application materials and used council performance to determine if the councils met the merit criteria.

- B. Secondary Review and Interview.** Both councils that did not receive funding in the 2019-2021 biennium participated in the secondary review process. The secondary review panel consisted of OWEB staff and external reviewers from other agencies and partner organizations. Reviewers considered: 1) application materials and supplemental materials provided by the council; 2) reviewers' assessment of council performance; 3) OWEB staff input; and 4) an interview with council staff and board.

IV. Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff funding recommendations are based on the merit evaluation and available funding, including a cost-of-living increase. Staff recommend Full Funding, \$131,465, for fifty-six councils that meet all merit criteria, and Do Not Fund for two councils, with inadequate performance. In addition, staff recommend one council receives continued merger funding on top of the base award as approved in previous biennia.

OWEB staff recognize the significance of the Do Not Fund recommendations for Tillamook Bay WC and Valley of the Rogue WC and do not make these recommendations lightly. Evaluation summaries describing the rationale for staff recommendations are provided in Attachment D.

It is important to note that the Do Not Fund recommendation is not permanent, and each council may submit Council Capacity grant eligibility determination documents in future cycles.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award Council Capacity grants as described in Attachment C.

Attachments

- A. Map of Locally Recognized Watershed Councils
- B. Merit Criteria Overview
- C. Staff Funding Recommendations
- D. Council Capacity Evaluations

Council Capacity Merit Criteria Overview

The goals of the merit review are to:

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 community 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).

Merit Criteria

Merit Criteria	Review for performance
Effective Governance and Management	<p>The council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has effective bylaws/charter and policies/ procedures, and follows them. • Includes a balance of interested and affected persons on its governing body. • Regularly evaluates and takes action to improve its organization. <p>The council's governing body acts to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the council meets legal obligations and requirements. • Support successful achievement of the council's goals. • Create a structure, policies, and procedures to support good governance. • Provide effective oversight of staff and contractors. • Continuously improve its business practices.
Progress in planning	<p>The council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses planning documents to identify and implement restoration and community engagement projects. • Regularly evaluates and updates its action plan and work plans. • Engages a mix of stakeholders in its planning.
Progress in On-the-Ground Restoration	The council's actions result in progress in completing priority on-the-ground watershed restoration work tied to council-identified watershed limiting factors.
Progress in Community Engagement	The council makes progress in achieving community engagement objectives that address limiting factors identified in the council's 2-year work plan.

**OWEB STAFF FUNDING RECOMMENDATION
2021-2023 COUNCIL CAPACITY GRANTS**

Staff Recommended Funding Level	Part of Secondary Review	App#	Watershed Council	Merger Funding	21-23 Award	19-21 Award
Full Funding		222-001	North Coast WS Assn	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-003	MidCoast WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-004	Upper Nehalem WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-005	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-006	Siuslaw WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-008	Applegate Partnership & WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-010	Coos Watershed Association	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-011	Coquille Watershed Association	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-012	Illinois Valley WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-014	Lower Rogue WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-016	South Coast WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-017	Tenmile Lakes Partnership	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-018	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-019	Rogue River WC	\$ 197,198	\$ 328,663	\$ 307,250
Full Funding		222-021	Elk Creek WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-022	Calapoovia WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-023	Clackamas River Basin Council	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-024	Coast Fork Willamette WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-025	Columbia Slough WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-026	Johnson Creek WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-027	Long Tom WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-028	Marys River WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-029	Middle Fork Willamette WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-030	North Santiam Watershed Council	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-031	Pudding River WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-035	Scappoose Bay WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-036	South Santiam WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-037	Tualatin River WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-038	McKenzie WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-039	Greater Yamhill Watershed Council	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-040	Klamath Watershed Partnership	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-041	Crooked River WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-042	Gilliam East John Day WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-043	Hood River Working Group	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-044	Middle Deschutes WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-045	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-046	Sherman Area WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-047	Upper Deschutes WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-048	Wasco Area WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-049	Grande Ronde Model WS Program	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-050	Harney Watershed Council	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-051	Malheur WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-052	North Fork John Day WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-053	Umatilla Basin WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-054	Walla Walla Basin WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-055	Mid John Day-Bridge Creek WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-056	Owyhee WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-057	Powder Basin WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-058	Luckiamute WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-059	Greater Oregon City WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-060	Smith River WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-061	Lower Nehalem WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-062	Necanicum WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-063	Upper South Fork John Day Watershed Council	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-064	Molalla River Watch Inc	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 122,900
Full Funding		222-002	Lower Columbia River WC	-	\$ 131,465	\$ 98,320
Do Not Fund	Y	220-007	Tillamook Bay WC	-	\$ -	\$ -
Do Not Fund	Y	222-065	Valley of the Rogue WC	-	\$ -	\$ -
Total			Staff Recommended Amount		\$ 7,559,238	\$ 7,042,170

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
 2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
 Evaluation for March 11, 2021 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 222-001

Project Name: NCWA 2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Application Description

The Council Capacity Grant funds watershed restoration planning and operational activities for the North Coast Watershed Association. Limiting factors, include: altered quality of physical habitat, historic diking and roads, disconnection from the floodplain, impaired water quality, lack of habitat complexity and large wood, lack of riparian coverage, fish passage barriers, lack of quality monitoring data, and increased erosion from land use practices.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective governance and management*. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council coordinator. The council demonstrated strong leadership during the recent council coordinator transitions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in planning* through engagement in several local planning efforts that are engaging local partners and the community, including the regional Chum Partnership.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration*. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects in development.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in stakeholder engagement* for watershed restoration purposes. The council adapted its stakeholder engagement approach during COVID-19 and was able to continue engaging with the local community.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meets all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 11, 2021 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 222-002

Project Name: LCRWC Council Capacity and Support

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for 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, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council has made significant progress on the management of the council, including returning to an effective staffing structure that is able to retain a full time council employee.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council works on both organizational strategic planning as well as engaging in local planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrated **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects in development.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrated **effective progress in stakeholder engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council adapted its stakeholder engagement approach during COVID-19 and was able to continue engaging with the local community.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meets all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 11, 2021 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 222-003

Project Name: MidCoast WC Council Capacity 2021-2023

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Application Description

The MidCoast Watersheds Council, located in Newport, OR, works in an area of nearly one million acres, including all streams draining from the crest of the coast range to the Pacific Ocean, and from the Salmon River at Cascade head to Cape Creek at Heceta Head. The council relies on Council Capacity funding to maintain baseline funding for two staff positions to complete work related to watershed restoration, planning processes, community outreach, and other activities.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective governance and management*. The council regularly holds meetings and the council board reviews and updates policies and procedures as necessary to ensure the council is following good business practices.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in planning* through leadership in local planning efforts. The council continues to plan an integral role in the Siletz Coho Strategic Action Plan and the MidCoast Water Planning Partnership.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration* through the implementation of several large scale restoration projects during the last biennium.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in stakeholder engagement* for watershed restoration purposes through a variety of in-person and online engagement opportunities.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 11, 2021 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 222-004

Project Name: Upper Nehalem Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Upper Nehalem WC

Application Description

The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council service area encompasses 555 square miles of temperate rain-forest. We seek capacity support to continue to advance watershed health and native salmon population recovery actions across the landscape in collaboration with partners. From this foundation we are able to maintain a viable network of supporters with whom we secure and leverage essential resources in order to implement a wide scope of actions.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and maintains an active and engaged board of directors.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in planning*. The council is an active participant in several local planning efforts including coho business planning and the Nehalem Basin Partnership.

OWEB staff found the demonstrated *effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration* thought completion of projects and planning for future project implementation.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in stakeholder engagement* for watershed restoration purposes. The council is hosting events and speakers that cover a variety of viewpoints.

Concerns

The council is currently operating at a reduced capacity, with the council coordinator working only one day a week since the fall. This is impacting the the council's ability to meet its OWEB reporting obligations and may impact its ability to serve the community in the future.

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

The OWEB Project Manager must receive, via email, agendas and minutes of all meetings. Minutes must include a list of attendees. Information received from this condition will be considered in the 23-25 council capacity merit evaluations.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 11, 2021 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 222-005

Project Name: Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watersheds Council Support

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council

Application Description

The Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watersheds Council operates in South Tillamook County. Limiting factors include high stream temperatures due to a lack of riparian vegetation, over-appropriation of stream flow in the summer, numerous fish passage barriers, erosion and sedimentation, invasive plant species, wetland degradation, lack of habitat complexity and lack of floodplain connectivity.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective governance and management*. The council regularly holds meetings and the council board has been very engaged in the community.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in planning*. The council is leading several local planning efforts, including within the Sand Lake watershed and the Tillamook-Nestucca Salmon SuperHwy partnership, as well as working on organizational planning.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration*. The council's work plans demonstrates the council has made progress completing priority on-the-ground watershed restoration.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in stakeholder engagement* for watershed restoration purposes. The council has continued to engage the local community during the last biennium with virtual and in-person events.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 11, 2021 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 222-006

Project Name: Siuslaw Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Application Description

The Siuslaw Watershed Council, located in Mapleton, OR, has been working with local partners to restore the Siuslaw and Coastal Lakes watersheds on the central Oregon coast since 1997. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council regularly holds meetings, works on organizational improvement, and recently added new board members.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is leading the Siuslaw Partnership's strategic action plan implementation, is involved in the coho business planning process, and facilitates the Siuslaw Coho Partnership.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is implemented numerous priority projects over the last biennium and is working on the development of future restoration projects.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in stakeholder engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council continues to engage the local community and recently launched a new website.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 11, 2021 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 222-007

Project Name: TBWC Council Support 2021-2023

Applicant: Tillamook Bay WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Tillamook Bay Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

The council demonstrated some **effective progress toward on-the-ground restoration**. The council has continued to move forward with developing projects despite not receiving council capacity funding and has made connections with Oregon Department of Forestry for possible future projects focused on large wood.

The council demonstrated some **effective progress toward on-the-ground restoration** as it continues to be a member of the SalmonSuper Highway partnership.

The council demonstrated some **progress on governance and management** with board members continuing the work of the council, including updating the bylaws, and recruiting new board members over the last few months.

Concerns

While the council demonstrated limited progress on effective management and governance as identified in the strengths, overall, the council continues to struggle with many of the same organizational management and governance concerns raised in the council capacity reviews the last two biennia. Previous and ongoing concerns include the following: 1) The council board has not developed a structure to effectively provide oversight and management to future council employees; 2) Previous council staff acted in the name of the council while operating outside of their role as council coordinator; and 3) The council consistently submitted late and inadequate fiscal and project reports for OWEB grants. The council board is very interested in projects but did not demonstrate it is prepared from a management perspective to adopt and implement organizational management and governance best practices necessary to have a successful watershed council. As a result, overall the council did not demonstrate enough progress in **effective management and governance** to meet this criteria.

The council did not demonstrate **progress in planning** through the application and interview process. The council did not provide clear and specific information as to how the council has, and will in the future, engage with the broader community to plan the work of the council. The council is driven by a few very project-focused individuals. Based on materials submitted and the interview, they do not seem to intend to develop a council work plan or broader council action plan with community input that can help guide the future work of the council. When asked during the interview, council members were unable to articulate a long-term vision for the council. The council would benefit from outside technical support to help the council develop a vision, in collaboration with the broader community, of future restoration work in the watershed.

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The council did not demonstrate ***progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes*** through the application and interview process. Past actions of the council, including staff engaging in regulatory processes, have alienated key stakeholders within the community, particularly within the dairy and agricultural sectors. These issues, initially identified in the previous council capacity review, have not been resolved. In 2020, as a result of community concerns, the County Commissioners rescinded the council's recognition in its geography. A process is underway to receive county recognition. During the secondary review process the council did not seem aware of the need for broad stakeholder engagement and did not provide any specific examples of future stakeholder engagement activities that may be necessary to rebuild the trust of the community. The council did not identify any steps it has taken to repair the relationships with some community organizations and did not present a plan to move forward. Instead, the council pointed issues with other organizations as the source of their problems. The council would benefit from increasing their engagement with stakeholders and community members to collaboratively develop future restoration projects.

Concluding Analysis

The watershed council was not funded in the 2019-2021 biennium. The vast majority of the concerns expressed by reviewers and OWEB staff previously continue to be concerns. The council board continues to place responsibility on other organizations for their community engagement challenges. Some minor changes have been made to council policy and by-laws, but the board members have not worked in a substantial way to improve governance and management. Previous council actions created distrust of the council within the community, and those have not been resolved. To be inclusive and representative of the watershed, the council needs to develop and implement a plan for how to overcome those challenges.

The council does have a lot of energy and enthusiasm for restoration projects; however, the council needs to also focus on stakeholder engagement, planning and organizational governance. In the final analysis of the review team, the council showed some progress in on-the-ground restoration but did not meet any of the other merit criteria required by OWEB to receive funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Award

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

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Application # 222-008

Project Name: Council Capacity - Applegate Partnership_21-23

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Application Description

The Applegate watershed contains over 493,000 acres and is split between Jackson and Josephine Counties and Siskiyou County in northern California. The land ownership is primarily federally managed lands with rural residential and private forest making up the rest, and over 700 miles of stream habitat for winter and summer Steelhead, Coho salmon, fall Chinook salmon, and Pacific Lamprey. Through on-the-ground projects, outreach, and participation in local activities, the APWC strives to bring awareness to these communities through our work that mutually benefits the landowners, community and our natural resources.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council regularly holds meetings and has a very engaged board actively working to support the organization and staff.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is leading several local planning efforts around fish passage and are engaging local partners and the community.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing projects and planning for future restoration projects.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council has several stakeholder engagement projects it is making progress on, despite COVID related challenges.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-010

Project Name: Coos Watershed Association 2021-2023

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Application Description

The mission of the Coos Watershed Association is to support environmental integrity and economic stability within the Coos watershed by increasing community capacity to develop, test, promote, and implement management practices in the interest of watershed health. This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Coos Watershed Association. Council identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council regularly holds meetings and the council board reviews and updates policies and procedures as necessary to ensure the council is following best business practices.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is leading several local assessment and planning efforts that are engaging local partners and the community, including tidegate collaboration between another local council and SWCD.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing projects and planning for future restoration projects.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is working to engage stakeholders related to tidegate work within the watershed.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-011

Project Name: Coquille Watershed Association Council Capacity Application

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Application Description

This council capacity grant will support the work of the Coquille Watershed Association. The mission of the Association is to work collaboratively with landowners to develop and implement voluntary watershed restoration, enhancement, and engagement activities that promote healthy and resilient ecosystems and economies in the Coquille watershed. Council identified watershed limiting factors include hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of Information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water Quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council regularly holds meetings and the council board is active in the management and oversight of the council.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is leading several local assessment and planning efforts that are engaging local partners and the community, including tidegate collaboration between another local council and SWCD.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing projects and planning for future restoration projects.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes***. The council is working to engage stakeholders related to tidegate work within the watershed.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,454

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-012

Project Name: Illinois Valley WC Council Capacity_2021-2023

Applicant: Illinois Valley WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Illinois Valley 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council regularly holds meetings and is working improve overall organizational operations and management as well as providing supervision and oversight for the council coordinator.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council has a current strategic plan and will begin to develop a new 3 year strategic plan.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing projects and planning for future restoration projects.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council adopted a new outreach plan and is beginning implementation.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

The OWEB Project Manager must receive, via email, board meeting announcements, agendas and minutes for all meetings. Minutes must include a list of attendees. Information received from this condition will be considered in the 23-25 council capacity merit evaluations.

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Application # 222-014

Project Name: Lower Rogue Watershed Council Capacity 19-21

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Application Description

The Lower Rogue Watershed includes all lands and waters of these lands that drain into the Rogue and Illinois rivers within Curry County, Oregon, and is the western extent of the Rogue River Basin. Our purpose is to protect, enhance, and restore long-term natural resources and economic stability of the Lower Rogue Watershed and the near shore environment. 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, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council regularly holds meetings, reviews and updates council documents, and the council board members attend trainings during the last biennium

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is involved in organizational and partnership strategic planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing projects and planning for future restoration projects including a focus on the estuary.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council has worked hard to improve engagement with local tribes and engage them in restoration opportunities on the Lower Rogue.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-016

Project Name: South Coast Watershed Council Capacity 2021-2023

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Application Description

The South Coast Watershed Council encompasses 10 coastal watersheds on the southern Oregon coast that support coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and/or steelhead. Limiting factors vary across these watersheds, but all are impaired by elevated summer stream temperatures, an overabundant supply of coarse grained sediment, invasive plants, small estuaries, loss of floodplain connectivity and off-channel habitat, and the oversimplification of the low gradient stream network.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council regularly holds meetings, reviews and updates council documents.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is involved in organizational and partnership strategic planning efforts and is working on a collective communication plan with the local council and SWCD.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing projects and planning for future restoration projects.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council has worked hard to improve engagement with local tribes and incorporate ecocultural knowledge into futures restoration projects.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-017

Project Name: Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership Council Capacity

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Application Description

The Tenmile Lakes Watershed is a coastal lake system that contains 113 stream miles and over 3,000 surface acres of Lakes that provide high priority habitat for native Coho Salmon, Winter Steelhead, Coastal Cutthroat Trout and Pacific Lamprey. Limiting factors identified include nonnative fish predation, multiple fish passage barriers, increases sedimentation resulting in toxic algae blooms and nuisance aquatic plant growth, and reduced riparian zone functions. Funding will coordinate and support the TLBP and Partners in implementing multiple projects prioritized within the assessment and action plans.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective governance and management*. The council board consists of many long-serving members who take an active role in leadership and management of the organization.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in planning*. The council is leading several local planning efforts that are engaging local tribal partners.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration*. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects currently in development.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in community engagement* for watershed restoration purposes. The council is very active in the community and prioritizes stakeholder engagement activities.

Concerns

The council has many long-standing board members and would benefit from the development of a board recruitment plan to ensure the council's strong and engaged board continues.

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-018

Project Name: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers Council Capacity 2021-23

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Application Description

This project is located in the Umpqua Basin and is focused on working with willing landowners to improve stream habitat and water quality throughout the project location area. This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers Watershed Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council board is very engaged and supportive of the council coordinator and is working to expand council board membership and engagement.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is leading several local planning efforts that are engaging local partners and the community, including leading the Umpqua Basin Development FIP, working on Umpqua Basin oak and tidegates.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing projects and planning for future restoration projects and is engaged in the fire recovery from the Archie Creek fire.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-019

Project Name: Rogue River Watershed Council Capacity 2021 to 2023

Applicant: Rogue River WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Rogue 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, water quality –altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council board is very engaged and supportive of the council and is working to expand council board membership and engagement, focusing on recruiting a more diverse board.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is leading several local planning efforts that are engaging local partners and the community.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing projects and planning for future restoration projects and is engaged in the fire recovery from the Alameda Fire.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, focusing on streamside landowners.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB’s merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria plus Merger Funding

Staff Recommended Award

\$328,662

At the April 2019 Board meeting the Board discussed providing on-going merger support to watershed councils that have successfully merged. Additional merger funding is calculated by multiplying 1.5 times the council’s base award. ($\$131,465 + ((\$131,465 \times 1.5 = \$197,197)) = \$328,662$)

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-021

Project Name: Elk Creek Watershed Council Support

Applicant: Elk Creek WC

Application Description

Project will provide funding for the Coordinator/Executive Director, and operations of the Elk Creek Watershed Council in the northern part of Douglas County. The Council will work with local landowners and state and federal agencies to plan, develop, and implement on-the-ground projects to benefit fish and wildlife, and water quality in the Elk Creek Watershed, and in the Umpqua basin. Key partners are local landowners, Douglas and Umpqua SWCD, ODFW, Roseburg District BLM, and others.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council board is engaged and supportive of the council and has recently recruited a new board members. The board continues to work to recruit a member from the timber industry.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is working to expand who is involved in the council planning efforts, including engagement of timber companies.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and leading coordination and management of the local weed program.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is looking to try new engagement methods in response to challenges as a result of COVID-19.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

The OWEB Project Manager must receive, via email, board meeting announcements, agendas and minutes for all meetings. Minutes must include a list of attendees. Information received from this condition will be considered in the 23-25 council capacity merit evaluations.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-022

Project Name: CWC Council Capacity 21-23

Applicant: Calapooia WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Calapooia 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective governance and management*. The council has successfully recruited a new board member and completed a self-evaluation to identify interst groups for future board recruitment.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in planning*. The council is actively using its monitoring activities to inform and plan for future restoration actions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration*. The council is implementing existing restoration projects and has projects currently in development.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in community engagement* for watershed restoration purposes. The council is looking to try new engagement methods in reponse to challenges that resulted from COVID-19.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-023

Project Name: Clackamas River Basin Council Capacity Support

Applicant: Clackamas River Basin Council

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Clackamas River Basin Council which. 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, water quality –altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council is actively working on board recruitment, with a focus on creating a more diverse and welcoming board.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes, including the Clackamas Partnership.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects currently in development through the new Clackamas Implementation FIP.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, including events spread throughout the watershed.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB’s merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-024

Project Name: Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Coast Fork Willamette 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, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council has successfully recruited new board members from different areas of the watershed, which is bringing new voices to the board.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes, including engagement with the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects currently in development.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council uses multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community and is partnering with new organizations outside their traditional partners to meet the emerging needs of the community.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-025

Project Name: CSWC GCS 2021-2023

Applicant: Columbia Slough WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Columbia Slough 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective governance and management*. The council board has focused on justice, equity, diversity and inclusion training and creating a more inclusive board and organization.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in planning*. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes and working to engage under-represented communities in planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration*. The council's work plan demonstrates its actions result in progress toward on-the-ground watershed restoration.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in community engagement* for watershed restoration purposes. The council uses multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, including bilingual events.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meets all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-026

Project Name: Johnson Creek Watershed Council 2021-2023 Council Capacity

Applicant: Johnson Creek WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Johnson Creek 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council board has focused on board recruitment and created a committee to address geographic, racial and ethnic diversity on the board.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes, including the implementation of the Clackamas Partnership SAP.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects currently in development both within and outside the new Clackamas Implementation FIP.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, including citizen science events spread throughout the watershed.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meets all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-027

Project Name: Long Tom Watershed Council Support

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Long Tom 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and direction to the council. The council board has focused on board recruitment and is working to address geographic, racial and ethnic diversity on the board and within the organization.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes, including the Willamette Oak Partnership, and is working to expand its work with tribal partners.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects currently in development.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community and is looking for opportunities to engage with and support the BIPOC community within the watershed.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-028

Project Name: Marys River Watershed Council - Council Capacity 2021-2023

Applicant: Marys River WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Marys 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and direction to the council. The council board has focused on board recruitment and created board recruitment and DEI committees to make progress towards a more inclusive organization.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes across the watershed and working with a diversity of partners to plan the work of the council.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects currently in development.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, including events spread throughout the watershed.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 11, 2021 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 222-029

Project Name: Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council Capacity Application 2021-2023

Applicant: Middle Fork Willamette WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Middle Fork Willamette 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, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and direction to the council and the council is actively working on board recruitment.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes across the watershed and working with a diversity of partners to plan the work of the council.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects currently in development.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community and was able to move some events online during the last year.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 11, 2021 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 222-030

Project Name: North Santiam Watershed Council Capacity Grant

Applicant: North Santiam WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the North Santiam 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective governance and management*. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and direction to the council. The council board is beginning to focus on board recruitment.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in planning*. The council purposefully adjusted the priorities of the council to support communities impacted by the fall 2020 fires. The council is engaging in multiple planning efforts to assist with fire recovery.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration*. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has projects currently in development that are in support of its planning efforts and fire recovery.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in community engagement* for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community and provide critical information to support fire recovery.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
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Application # 222-031

Project Name: Pudding River Watershed Council Capacity Grant 2021 - 2023

Applicant: Pudding River WC

Application Description

This project will enable the council to continue partnership support to various state and federal agencies currently relying on the Council for their role in organizing the grassroots in an otherwise difficult to access demographic area. Limiting factors include high stream temperatures due to a lack of riparian vegetation, over-appropriation of stream flow in the summer, numerous fish passage barriers, erosion and sedimentation, invasive plant species, wetland degradation, lack of floodplain connectivity and low public engagement.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and direction to the council. The council board is beginning to focus on board recruitment to better represent the communities of the watershed.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is using rapid bio assessment results to help plan future restoration actions of the council and is engaged in the local SIA work with the Marion SWCD.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has projects currently in development that are in support of its planning efforts and fire recovery.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is working to adjust its stakeholder engagement strategy in response to COVID-19 and has relied on personnel communication to stay in touch with key partners.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
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Application # 222-035

Project Name: Scappoose Bay Watershed Council, Capacity 21-23

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council which. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective governance and management*. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and direction to the council. The council board is beginning to focus on engagement with those industry groups not active with the council with the hope of improving communication and coordination.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in planning*. The council has been actively leading several local planning efforts that are engaging local partners and the community and have resulted in restoration projects.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration*. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has projects currently in development that are in support of its planning efforts and fire recovery.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in community engagement* for watershed restoration purposes. The council regularly hosts community events, including work with its native plant nursery.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,46

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 11, 2021 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 222-036

Project Name: South Santiam Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: South Santiam WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the South Santiam 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council board demonstrated strong leadership and engagement during a period of transition between council coordinators.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is leading and engaging with several local planning efforts, including beginning to work on a new strategic plan and began working with the Partners of the South Santiam.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has projects currently in development that are in support of its planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council has focused on engaging private landowners for future conservation opportunities.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

The council must submit a progress report by June 30, 2020 that provides an update on the council's board development actions.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
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Application # 222-037

Project Name: Tualatin River Watershed Council Capacity Grant

Applicant: Tualatin River WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Tualatin 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council board is currently reviewing and updating its bylaws to broaden who is eligible to be a board member with a focus on being more representative of the diverse watershed community.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is leading and engaging in both organizational and local planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has projects currently in development that are in support of its planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community and is planning for future stakeholder engagement actions.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
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Application # 222-038

Project Name: McKenzie Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: McKenzie Watershed Alliance

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the McKenzie 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and direction to the council. The council board recently added two new members and is focusing on building a more diverse board in the future.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is leading and engaging in both organizational and local planning efforts, including the Pure Watershed Partnership and in reponse to the Holiday Farm Fire.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has projects currently in development that are in support of its planning efforts. The council is also active, with other partners implementing projects in reponse to the Holiday Farm Fire.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, has completed almost 200 landowner site visits in reponse to the Holiday Farm Fire.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
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Application # 222-039

Project Name: Greater Yamhill Watershed Council Capacity 2021 - 2023

Applicant: Greater Yamhill Watershed Council

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Greater Yamhill 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective governance and management*. The council board has focused on organizational management and oversight and has a plan for expanded administrative support for the 2021-2023 biennium.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in planning*. The council is leading efforts around monitoring and assessments in the watershed and using the information collected to inform future restoration actions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration*. The council, with local partners, is making progress on existing restoration projects and has projects currently in development that are in support of its planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in community engagement* for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, including landowner engagement for the local SIA.

Concerns

The council struggles with meeting reporting deadlines. The council would benefit from the part-time administrative assistant proposed in the 2021-2023 budget.

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

The council is required to submit quarterly progress reports and request for funds.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
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Application # 222-040

Project Name: Klamath Watershed Partnership Council Capacity

Applicant: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Application Description

The project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator position and operating expenses for the Klamath Watershed Partnership. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality-altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and direction to the council. The council board is working to recruit new board members with a focus on recruiting a member from the Klamath Tribes.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is working with multiple partners throughout the basin, including on the Upper Klamath Lake Action Plan.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has projects currently in development that are in support of its planning efforts. The council is involved in restoration work as a result of the 242 Fire.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on stakeholder engagement within the basin and looking to reassess its approaches in response to lessons learned through the last year.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 11, 2021 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 222-041

Project Name: Council Capacity Grant 2019-2021 Crooked River W.C.

Applicant: Crooked River WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Crooked River Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective governance and management*. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the information available to the general public. The council board and are staff working to improve overall organizational governance and management, including the upcoming process to review the council's organizational strategic plan.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in planning*. The council is working with multiple partners throughout the basin, including with NRCS on a RCPP grant.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration*. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects, including the completion of the Opal Springs Fish Passage project, and has projects currently in development that are in support of its planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in community engagement* for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on stakeholder engagement within the basin and is targeting landowner outreach in two specific basins.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 11, 2021 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 222-042

Project Name: Gilliam-East John Day Watershed Council Capacity 2021-2023

Applicant: Gilliam SWCD

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Gilliam-East John Day Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council coordinator. The council took a leadership role during the recent council coordinator transitions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is working with multiple partners throughout the basin on a variety of planning efforts, including Placed Based Planning, SIA, John Day Partnership and RCPP.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on stakeholder engagement within the basin and is targeting landowner outreach in relation to the RCPP program.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

The OWEB Project Manager must receive, via email, agendas and minutes of all meetings. Minutes must include a list of attendees. Information received from this condition will be considered in the 23-25 council capacity merit evaluations.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
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Application # 222-043

Project Name: Hood River Watershed Group Council Capacity

Applicant: Hood River SWCD

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Hood River Watershed Group. 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council coordinator. The council board is assessing its structure and considering how to better connect with additional community members including the Lantinx and small business communities.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is working with multiple partners throughout the basin on a variety of planning efforts, including Hood River Partnership SAP.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on stakeholder engagement and successfully transitioned to offering meeting and other events online during the last year.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
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Application # 222-044

Project Name: Middle Deschutes Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Jefferson SWCD

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Middle Deschutes 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, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council coordinator. The council coordinator and board are working to fill a vacant tribal position on the board. The council took a leadership role during the recent council coordinator transitions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is working with the SWCD to plan for future restoration opportunities within the Trout Creek watershed, this includes monitoring work that will inform future restoration actions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is working with the SWCD to recruit landowners in the Willow Creek watershed for future restoration actions.

Concerns

The council could do a better job describing its niche within the watershed and how the council and SWCD work independently and collaboratively to achieve collective ecological outcomes.

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

The council must submit a progress report by June 30, 2022 describing its progress on restoration and stakeholder engagement actions.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
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Application # 222-045

Project Name: Council Capacity - Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Lake County Umbrella 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, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council board consists of many long-serving members who take an active role in leadership and management of the council.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is leading and partnering on several local planning efforts including the SIA and Warner Basin FIP.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects currently in development that support their ongoing planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is very active in the community and uses a diversity outreach methods to engage the local community .

Concerns

The council has many long-standing board members and would benefit from the development of a board recruitment plan to ensure the council continues to maintain an engaged board into the future.

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
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Application # 222-046

Project Name: Sherman County Area Watershed Council Capacity Grant

Applicant: Sherman County Area WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Sherman County Area Watersheds Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective governance and management*. The council board consists of many long-serving members who have worked together, with the SWCD, to provide oversight of the council during the recent coordinator transitions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in planning*. The council is working with the SWCD on a local SIA and with the SWCD and NRCS on a future Conservation Implementation Strategy.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration*. The council is continues to work with the SWCD to make progress on restoration actions and plan for future projects tied to planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in community engagement* for watershed restoration purposes. The council is working with the SWCD to engage landowners in the SIA geography for futures restoration actions.

Concerns

The council has many long-standing board members and would benefit from the development of a board recruitment plan to ensure the council's strong and engaged board continues into the future. The could do a better job describing its niche within the watershed and how the council and the SWCD work independently and collaboratively to achieve ecological outcomes.

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

The OWEB Project Manager must receive, via email, agendas and minutes of all meetings. Information received from this condition will be considered in the 23-25 council capacity merit evaluations.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
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Application # 222-047

Project Name: Upper Deschutes Watershed Council

Applicant: Upper Deschutes WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Upper Deschutes 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, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council board demonstrated strong leadership and effective governance and management during executive director transition. The board is working to diversify the board and has created a board committee to focus on this issue.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is working with multiple partners throughout the basin on a variety of planning efforts, including leading the development of a SAP for the Upper Deschutes basin.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on stakeholder engagement and successfully transitioned to offering meeting and other events online during the last year.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
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Application # 222-048

Project Name: Wasco County Area Watershed Councils

Applicant: Wasco SWCD

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Wasco Area Watershed Councils. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access -impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council board demonstrated strong leadership and effective governance and management by working to strengthen the coordinating board.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is working with multiple partners throughout the basin on a variety of planning efforts and continues surface and groundwater monitoring efforts to inform future restoration actions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on stakeholder engagement and successfully offered a variety of events during the last year.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions:

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
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Application # 222-049

Project Name: Grande Ronde Model Watershed

Applicant: Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Grande Ronde Model Watershed. 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council board demonstrated strong leadership and effective governance and management during the executive director transition early in the biennium..

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is working with multiple partners throughout the basin on a variety of planning efforts, including the Upper Grande Ronde Placed Based Planning effort.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on stakeholder engagement and initiated a citizen science program.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant
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Application # 222-050

Project Name: Harney County WC Council Support 21-2023

Applicant: Harney County Watershed Council

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Harney County 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council board consists of many long-serving members who take an active role in leadership and management of the council. The council is working to address board recruitment challenges, especially from more rural parts of the watershed.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is working with multiple partners throughout the basin on a variety of planning efforts including Placed Based Planning work and is planning on adopting a new strategic plan in 2021.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on stakeholder engagement and planning to develop an updated outreach plan in 2021-2023.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

The council must submit a progress report by June 30, 2022. The progress report must describe the council's progress on its strategic plan and new outreach plan.

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Application # 222-051

Project Name: Malheur Watershed Council

Applicant: Malheur WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Malheur Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council board consists of many long-serving members who take an active role in leadership and management of the council. The board is working to address board recruitment challenges, focusing on gender and age diversity.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is using monitoring data to help inform future restoration actions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning and data collection efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on engaging local community members throughout the watershed.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

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Application # 222-052

Project Name: North Fork John Day Watershed Council Capacity 2021-23

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the North Fork John Day 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, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council coordinator. The council board has identified board membership gaps and is actively working to fill those gaps with new board members.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is engaged in multiple planning efforts, including the John Day Partnership.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning and data collection efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on engaging local community members throughout the watershed.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

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Application # 222-053

Project Name: Council Capacity 21-23

Applicant: Umatilla Basin WS Foundation

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Umatilla Basin 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates some **effective governance and management**. The council board is working through the loss of some long-standing board members and reassessing when and where council meetings are held to try and recruit new members. The council board should work to improve its communication with the executive director to ensure timely communication with project partners and funders.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council worked with local partners to complete the Birch Creek assessment and is working with landowners to identify and prioritize barriers for future removal.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **some progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council completed one restoration project during the current biennium and has not recently applied for any future restoration projects through OWEB. The council does have a technical assistance grant to design a future restoration project.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on engaging local community members throughout the watershed including focusing on landowners impacted by recent flooding.

Concerns

While the council demonstrates some **effective governance and management**, they continue to struggle with meeting reporting deadlines and timely communication with OWEB staff. This leads to missed final and project reporting deadlines, which can impact the success of projects and of the council.

In addition, the council has experienced significant board turnover during the last year. The council would benefit from the development of a board recruitment plan to ensure a strong and engaged board into the future.

While the council demonstrates some **progress in on-the ground watershed restoration**, they have wrapped up existing restoration projects and have not yet determined where it will focus future restoration actions.

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Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it is on a trajectory to meet all of OWEB's merit criteria and is recommended for full funding. However, the council has struggled in the area of restoration and board governance and management during the last biennium. To support the council and help ensure it has the encouragement to invest energy into both areas, OWEB staff recommend a set of funding conditions, described below, to set benchmarks for the council to meet during the next biennium.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full funding

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

- The council coordinator and board officers must meet with OWEB by June 30, 2022 to discuss progress on organizational management and governance and restoration outcomes.
- The OWEB Project Manager must receive, via email, agendas and minutes of all meetings.
- The council must submit an updated council work plan by August 30, 2021.
- The council is required to submit quarterly progress reports and quarterly request for funds. Progress reports will address progress on items listed in the council's work plan.

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Application # 222-054

Project Name: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council 2019-2021 Council Capacity

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Walla Walla Basin 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, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council and especially during the recent executive director transition. The board is working with staff to create a more diverse and inclusive board that is representative of the community.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is engaged in multiple planning efforts throughout the basin.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning and data collection efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on engaging local community members throughout the watershed.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

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Application # 222-055

Project Name: Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council

Applicant: Bridge Creek WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council in this very rural and sparsely part of the state. The board is working to recruit new board members and find ways to engage the community through phone-in and virtual meeting options.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is engaged in multiple planning efforts throughout the basin and is using monitoring to inform future restoration actions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning and data collection efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on engaging local community members throughout the watershed.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

The OWEB Project Manager must receive, via email, agendas and minutes of all meetings.

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Application # 222-056

Project Name: Owyhee Watershed Council Capacity 21-23

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Owyhee Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective governance and management*. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council. The board is working to recruit new board members and find ways to engage the community through phone-in and virtual meeting options.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in planning*. The council is engaged in multiple planning efforts throughout the Owyhee and Malheur basins and is working with local partners to plan for future restoration actions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration*. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning and data collection efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in community engagement* for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on engaging local community members throughout the watershed and is beginning to use electronic forms of outreach to engage a broader audience.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

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Application # 222-057

Project Name: Powder Basin Watershed Council Capacity Grant

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Powder Basin 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective governance and management*. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council, especially during a period of recent staff transition. The board is reviewing its bylaws to consider how best to engage with the community in order to recruit and maintain board and council members.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in planning*. The council is engaged in multiple planning efforts throughout the basin and is working with local partners to plan for future restoration actions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration*. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning and data collection efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in community engagement* for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working to engage the local community and is looking for new methods of engagement.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

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Application # 222-058

Project Name: Luckiamute Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Luckiamute WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Luckiamute 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council. The council is actively working on board DEI training and also board recruitment, focusing on creating a more diverse and welcoming board.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is engaged in multiple planning and monitoring efforts throughout the basin and is working with local partners to plan for future restoration actions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning and data collection efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on engaging local community members throughout the watershed and is launching the Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership to engage community members across the watershed.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

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Application # 222-059

Project Name: Greater Oregon City Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Greater Oregon City WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Greater Oregon City 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; water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council. The council recently added a new board members and is working to more actively engage local tribes.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is engaged in multiple planning efforts with a focus on Abernethy Creek and is working with local partners to plan for future restoration actions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on engaging local community members throughout the watershed and through the Clackamas Partnership.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

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Application # 222-060

Project Name: Smith River Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Smith River WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Smith 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective governance and management**. The council is made-up of many long-serving board members who provide support, management, and supervision to the council. The council is working to recruit new board members in this rural and watershed.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in planning**. The council is engaged in multiple planning efforts with local partners to plan for future restoration actions including leading work on a tidegate inventory.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration**. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates **effective progress in community engagement** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on engaging local community members throughout the watershed and uses its invasive species program as a way to engage landowners.

Concerns

The council has many long-standing board members and would benefit from the development of a board recruitment plan to ensure continued board leadership and engagement into the future.

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

The OWEB Project Manager must receive, via email, board meeting announcements, agendas and minutes. Minutes must include a list of attendees. Information received from this condition will be considered in the 23-25 council capacity merit evaluations.

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Application # 222-061

Project Name: Lower Nehalem Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC

Application Description

This project will fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council (LNWC). The Council has identified several limiting factors for watershed health including hydrologic alterations, impaired habitat access, water quality degradation, and knowledge gaps. These limiting factors impact a wide variety of fish and wildlife species.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective governance and management*. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council. The council has identified board membership gaps and is working to develop new paths to engage interested community members.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in planning*. The council is engaged in multiple planning efforts with a focus on anchor habitat and is working with local partners to plan for future restoration actions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration*. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in community engagement* for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on engaging local community members throughout the watershed and with a variety of engagement methods.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-062

Project Name: Necanicum Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Necanicum WC

Application Description

The grant will provide operating capacity support for the Necanicum Watershed Council, located in Seaside, Oregon. The Necanicum watershed contains 86 miles of stream habitat for Coho, Chum, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, resident cutthroat trout, brook and Pacific lamprey. Limiting factors include impaired access to habitat, high stream temperatures due to a lack of riparian vegetation, numerous fish passage barriers, erosion and sedimentation, and lack of floodplain connectivity.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council. The council has identified board membership gaps and is working to develop opportunities to engage interested community members.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is partnering with the local community to plan for future restoration actions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on engaging local community members throughout the watershed and with a variety of engagement methods.

Concerns

The council has recently lost its council coordinator and would benefit from looking for opportunities to collaborate with neighboring councils to continue to effectively implement restoration projects, engage the local community and build organizational capacity.

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-063

Project Name: South Fork John Day Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: South Fork John Day WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the South Fork John Day 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, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective governance and management***. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council. The council is aware its membership is aging and working to recruit new members and plan for transitions.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in planning***. The council is engaged in multiple planning and monitoring efforts throughout the basin and is working with local partners to plan for future restoration actions and update its strategic plan to take a whole watershed approach to planning and restoration.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration***. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning and data collection efforts.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates ***effective progress in community engagement*** for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on engaging local community members throughout the watershed.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 222-064

Project Name: Molalla River Watch Council Capacity

Applicant: Molalla River Watch Inc

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Molalla River Watch. 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, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Strengths

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective governance and management*. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council. The council has a small board and is working to develop new board recruitment strategies.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in planning*. The council is working closely with partners on a local planning effort and in response to the Lionshead fire.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration*. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future projects linked to current planning.

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates *effective progress in community engagement* for watershed restoration purposes. The council is actively working on engaging local community members throughout the watershed.

Concerns

None

Concluding Analysis

The council demonstrated it meets all of OWEB's merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest level of funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

\$131,465

Staff Conditions

None

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Application # 222-065

Project Name: Valley of the Rogue Watershed Council (VOTRWC)

Applicant: Valley of the Rogue Watershed Council

Application Description

The VOTRWC encompasses 258,615 acres over 405 sq. miles in Jackson County, Oregon. The Rogue River runs through it with several tributary valleys. The cities of Gold Hill and Rogue River are within its borders. The watershed council has operational costs requiring stable funding including Physical/ Financial Record keeping, Accounting and professional audit services, Government Reports & Fees, Office & Clerical Supplies, Computer Hardware & Software, Liability Insurance premiums, IT setup & maintenance, Legal Services, Subscriptions, Printing & GIS Service, Supplies for assessment, education & restoration project expenses, and a Salaried Administrator familiar with watershed issues & processes. The VOTRWC intends to set up organizational processes providing proficiency & effective restoration and maintenance of the watershed. This requires the basics listed above, but also team building within the council. Of the 5 goals outlined in our CAAP, Organizational Proficiency and Sustainable Funding are foundational to achieving the other 3 goals the VOTRWC aspires to fulfill.

Review

Strengths

The council demonstrated some **progress on governance and management**. The current council board members demonstrated lots of enthusiasm for organizing a new watershed council and have worked to implement basic organizational governance and management processes.

Concerns

As Identified in the strengths, the council demonstrated some limited progress on effective management and governance. However, through the application and interview process, the council was not able to articulate a clear vision for how the council will operate including the roles and responsibilities of staff vs board members and how staff would be managed by the board. The council board is very interested in being a watershed council but did not demonstrate it is prepared to adopt and implement organizational management and governance best practices necessary to lead a successful watershed council. As a result, overall the council did not demonstrate enough progress in **effective management and governance** to meet this criteria.

The council did not demonstrate **progress in planning** through the application and interview process. The council did not provide a detailed work plan with the application that articulates a vision for the council over the next two years. This is a required component of the application. The council has developed an adopted a basic council action plan, but it is unclear from the application and interview process if it was developed with broader input than just the council board members.

The council did not demonstrate **progress in on-the-ground restoration** through the application and interview process. Neither the council's work plan nor its action plan provide enough detail to understand the future restoration actions the council will pursue. The council would benefit from outside technical support to develop a strategic vision of future restoration work in the

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watershed in collaboration with the broader community. The watershed restoration and planning actions are currently being implemented by adjacent watershed councils, which have been working in this geography since the previous watershed council dissolved in 2018.

The council did not demonstrate ***progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes*** through the application and interview process. The council has identified subbasin chairs for seven of its twelve subwatersheds, but it is unclear how those chairs are engaged with the council board and with their broader watershed communities. The council would benefit from increasing their engagement with stakeholders and community members to collaboratively develop future restoration projects.

Concluding Analysis

This watershed council is a new applicant and has formed within the geography of the former Seven Basin Watershed Council. The council board members demonstrated a lot of energy and enthusiasm for being a watershed council but lacked understanding and a plan for how to engage the broader watershed community. It was unclear how the watershed council would use existing watershed planning documents to develop a vision and plan future restoration actions. In the final analysis of the review team, the council showed some limited progress organizational management and governance but did not meet any of the merit criteria required by OWEB to receive funding.

Recommendations

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Award

\$0

Staff Conditions

N/A



Agenda Item J supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Business Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item J- Organization Collaboration Grant Awards
July 27-28, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2021 Organization Collaboration grant offering and staff funding recommendations. Staff request the board approve the funding recommendations outlined in Attachment A to the staff report.

II. Background

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

- Mergers/consolidations
- Development of formal alliances, i.e. an arrangement between two or more organizations to work together on a mutually beneficial project while retaining organizational independence.
- Development of action networks, i.e. a network of organizations that seek complete alignment to achieve specific objectives.

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 engage local communities and implement restoration and/or acquisition projects on the ground.

III. Solicitation Process

In the fall of 2020, staff announced the reopening of the Organization Collaboration grant offering from 2019 that was paused due to COVID-19. The deadline for applications was May 30, 2021. Staff will run a second offering this biennium in early 2022.

Prior to submitting a proposal, applicants are required to participate in a consultation with staff. During the consultations, staff discuss the purpose of the program, allowable activities, evaluation criteria, and timing.

IV. Review

Four applications were received by the May 30, 2021 application deadline. Each partnership was interviewed by OWEB staff and review team members. The interviews included board and staff members from each of the partnering organizations listed in the application. The interview focused on the evaluation criteria, Attachment B, including understanding how the existing structure limits capacity for stakeholder engagement and conservation actions, the collective partnership capacity and commitment to the proposal, and the likelihood that the project will lead to increased community engagement and implementation of restoration and/or acquisition projects.

V. Current Grant Cycle Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend funding two of the four applications as described in Attachment A. The organizations recommended have worked together in various forms for many years and have used their own financial and human capital to develop current partnership structure. The application and interview process demonstrated the organizations are committed to this process and ready to explore organizational options to improve their collective capacity to engage stakeholders and implement conservation actions.

Staff believe that the two applications that are not recommended for funding are pursuing meaningful collaborative work that was initiated through previous Organizational Collaboration grants. As described in the evaluations in Attachment B, both partnerships are seeking funding to support general capacity to continue their collaborative efforts but did not identify a specific deliverable that would be eligible under this grant program. Staff will work with these partnerships by providing feedback and guidance if they wish to apply for the next grant offering.

VI. Recommendations

Staff recommend the board award the Organization Collaboration grants as described in Attachment A.

Attachments

- A. Evaluations
- B. Evaluation Criteria

Organizational Collaboration Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 222-8070 - 19680

OWEB Region: 3

Partnership Name: Upper Willamette Stewardship Network

Application Name: Long Tom Watershed Council

Requested Amount: \$75,000

Applicant's Summary

The Upper Willamette Stewardship Network (Network) consists of six conservation organizations from the Upper Willamette basin including: Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC); Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council (MFWWC); Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC); McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC); McKenzie River Trust (MRT); and the Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah (Friends). We collaborate and with a wide range of partners to advance our mission to work with communities to care for land and water in the Upper Willamette.

With the support of our network coordinator, executive directors, staff, and boards, we will continue to build the Network's foundation: growing relationships based on trust and mutual support to pursue our most strategic and emergent opportunities while addressing shared challenges, redundancies, and knowledge gaps among member organizations. This second phase will focus on implementing the strategies and frameworks developed for successful collaboration that we created over the last 18 months with OWEB's support. In this phase, we will empower our Project Teams as the engines of collaborative action, engaging staff and partners to identify shared priorities across the landscape, and develop opportunities. Together we will refine and begin to implement strategies for long-term financial sustainability and effective management of shared resources. We will cooperate to better understand and act upon emerging opportunities and enhance our impact on the landscape. OWEB funds will pay for our Network Coordinator and staff time from each organization.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership has worked together for several years; and has spent considerable resources to develop the current collaborative structure to develop shared actions.
- The partnership has made considerable progress in completing activities funded in the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network Phase I Collaboration Grant, including the development of action teams to support collective work around DEI, Tribal Engagement, Fundraising and Outreach.
- The relationships built through this collaborative work helped the partners collectively respond to the Holliday Farm fire.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The application does not identify a specific action to be funded under this proposal that aligns with the purpose of the Organizational Collaboration grant program.
- Some of the actions proposed by the partnership, such as the development of a fundraising strategy, are not eligible for OWEB funding.
- It is unclear how the partnership will maintain capacity support to sustain collaboration efforts in future years.

Concluding Analysis

The Upper Willamette Stewardship Network (UWSN) has been collaborating for many years and has invested significant financial and human capital to begin discussions around how collaboration can look different in their collective geography. The groups made progress under the previous Organizational Collaboration grant to develop a shared vision, governance structures and project teams. The UWSN is now seeking on-going partnership funding to support the continued growth and work of the partnership. This is valuable work, however, on-going investment in collaborative partnership capacity is not the intent of the Organizational Collaboration grant funds. These grants are intended to support partnerships proposing efforts that lead towards making organizational changes that will create efficiencies and increase stakeholder engagement and restoration outcomes.

Review Team Priority Ranking: N/A**Review Team Recommendation:** Do Not Fund**Staff Recommendation:** Do Not Fund**Amount:** \$0

OVERVIEW

Project #: 222-8071 - 19467

OWEB Region: 6

Partnership Name: Umatilla County SWCD and Umatilla County Weed Department Collaboration Effort

Application Name: Umatilla SWCD

Requested Amount: \$54,945

Applicant's Summary

Umatilla County SWCD and Umatilla County Weed Department seek to explore the opportunity of further collaboration between the two entities. The intention of this grant is to hire a contractor through a competitive RFP that would analyze both organizations at their fullest extent and then present alternatives including options of resource combination, staff sharing, combined service delivery, and potentially even organization combination.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The SWCD and Weed Board staff have been thinking about this for a long-time and are prepared to work together to find collective solutions to their organizational challenges.
- The SWCD board is well informed and committed to this work.
- The staff from both organizations have carved out time to do this work.
- Both organizations have clearly identified the challenges they are trying to resolve through this collaborative effort.
- The partners have set realistic goals for what they want to achieve under this proposal.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The partners have identified a need for both facilitation and legal support, it will be hard to find one person to provide both services.
- This effort could take more staff time and resources than the partners realize.
- The partners have lots of ideas of what a future collaborative model could look like and will need a skilled facilitator to help them work out the specific details and get community buy-in.
- The Weed board is small and not very engaged; however, they are very supportive of this application and proposed collaboration efforts.

Concluding Analysis

The Umatilla SWCD and Umatilla County Weed Board are two distinct organizations that have identified several organizational challenges that they want to address through the development of a new collaborative model. The staff and boards of both organizations are supportive of this effort this grant. Sustained board engagement during discussions and decision making will be a challenge both groups need to address. There are many legal and financial considerations that the organizations will have to consider during this process, and it will be very important to hire skilled professionals to facilitate this effort.

Review Team Priority Ranking: N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$54,945

OVERVIEW

Project #: 222-8072 - 19663

OWEB Region: 2

Partnership Name: Partnership Exploration - Coos and Coquille Watershed Associations

Application Name: Coquille Watershed Association

Requested Amount: \$75,000

Applicant's Summary

Through this grant, the Coos and Coquille Watershed Associations will take a careful look at what type of partnership model between our two organizations could most optimally benefit to our ability to serve our communities effectively in the long term. The need for this initiative is that it will help each organization be resilient and stable – ultimately resulting in maintaining/enhancing programs that directly benefit watershed health. Primary activities will include the following phases: Phase 1 Exploration - learn more about our own organization, the other organization, the options for potential partnerships, understand partner perspectives and the challenges and opportunities that each of these options provide. Phase 2 Negotiations – negotiating all of the issues needing to be addressed in order for the full boards to be prepared to select and vote on partnership model, development of the plan for an integrated partnership and financial due diligence. OWEB funds will support contractor and staff time for these activities as well as general meeting facilitation supplies. This will occur primarily in Coos County. Project partners include the two watershed councils. External partners and supporters will also be engaged throughout the process so that the organizations can provide updates to stakeholders and receive feedback and answer questions.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The two watershed councils have worked together for more than a year and hired an experienced consultant to assist them in the development of this proposal and the exploration of collaboration options.
- Both boards have been very engaged in the dialog and shaping of the collaboration conversation since the beginning of this process and are well informed and committed to this effort, taking a thoughtful and open-minded approach.
- The council executive directors and boards and engaged with and sought input from staff.
- Both organizations have clearly identified the challenges they are trying to resolve through this collaborative effort.
- The councils have a long history of collaborating on restoration and monitoring work and are seeking to increase their collective capacity through this collective effort.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- Both watershed councils are successful in their communities and have committed staff and boards with long established connections to the communities they live in and serve. It will be challenging to develop a collective culture while also maintaining individual identities.

Concluding Analysis

The organizations have a long history of working collaboratively to support each other and achieve conservation outcomes in their communities. The executive directors and board members are committed to increasing their collective capacity and resilience over the long-term. They organizations are working with an experienced facilitator and are committed to an open and transparent process and the development of a plan that will result in resilient, effective organizations with increased capacity for restoration and outreach work.

Review Team Priority Ranking: N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$75,000

OVERVIEW

Project #: 222-8073 - 19683

OWEB Region: 3

Partnership Name: The Confluence

Application Name: Marys River WC

Requested Amount: \$71,011

Applicant's Summary

The Confluence seeks OWEB support to build collaborative capacity to further our work with communities in Corvallis and surrounding areas to care for land, water, and the many lives that rely on these resources. Project partners, and members of The Confluence, include Cascade Pacific RC&D, the Corvallis Environmental Center, Greenbelt Land Trust (GLT), the Institute for Applied Ecology, and Marys River Watershed Council (MRWC). The major challenge that all Confluence partners have encountered is limited time and capacity within their individual organizations. While we have seen impressive dedication from EDs, Boards, and Staff, a shared need identified by all members is the need for a Coordinator to allow us to move forward strategically and be responsive to emergent opportunities and needs within our communities. The expanded capacity provided by the Project Coordinator proposed within this project will allow for our collaborative to be more efficient and transparent, while also simultaneously helping The Confluence EDs, Board, and Staff devote their limited time to strategically building collaborative sustainability and addressing shared challenges.

OWEB support will cover staff time for The Confluence to hire a 0.5 FTE Project Coordinator, partner organization time to help lay the groundwork for and supervise this position, and supplies related to this project.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- Staff and board members of the collaborating organizations have invested considerable time and energy to get the partnership to this point.
- The partnership has made significant progress towards their vision of co-location and need additional assistance to make the collaboration vision a reality.
- The partnership has a diversity of ideas about how they can collaborate and share services once they are co-located and seem committed to turning these ideas into reality.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- Some of the actions proposed by the partnership, such as the development of a collaborative fundraising strategy and environmental education, are not eligible for OWEB funding.
- The partnership is seeking a facilitator/administrative assistant to help the partnership develop details for various shared services ideas, however the partnership did not identify a specific product to be developed under this proposal that aligns with the purpose of the Organizational Collaboration grant program.

- The partnership has not yet worked out the details on how they would collectively supervise the shared facilitator/administrative assistant position.

Concluding Analysis

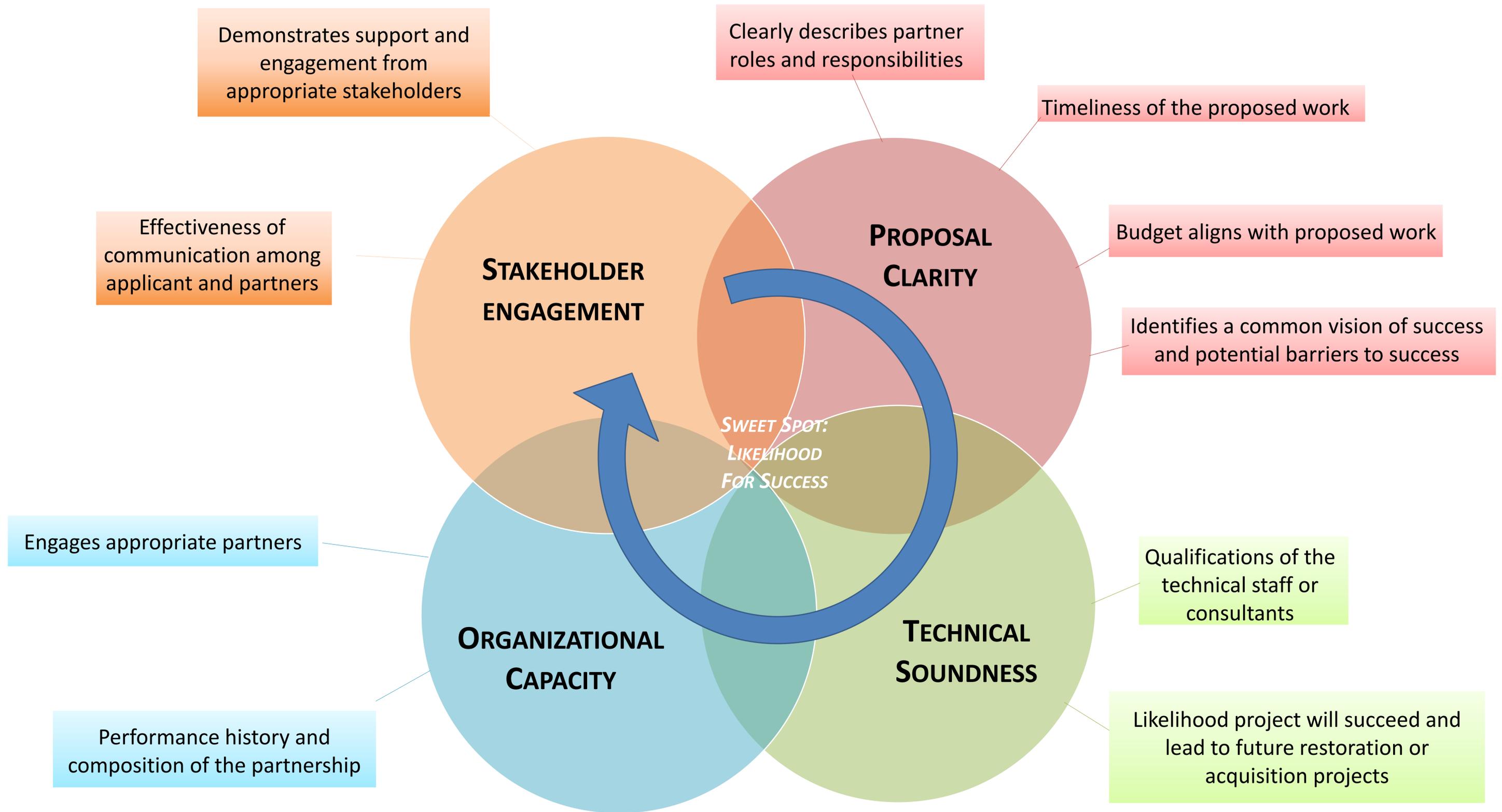
The Confluence partnership has been collaborating for many years and has invested significant staff and board member time and resources to make their co-location idea become a reality. The groups made progress under the previous Organizational Collaboration grants to develop the concepts around co-location. The Confluence is now seeking part-time support to develop the details around shared services. This is valuable work that will lead to increased efficiencies and successful collaboration in the long-term, however the partnership did not describe a specific deliverable under this proposal that aligns with the intent of the Organizational Collaboration grant funds, which are to support partnerships that want to make organizational changes to create efficiencies and increase stakeholder engagement and restoration outcomes.

Review Team Priority Ranking: N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Amount: \$0



Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-030-0045(3)a-j



Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, OWEB Deputy Director
Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – Stage 0 Monitoring Investment
July 27-28, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff and partners from the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and the McKenzie Watershed Alliance will provide an update on the progress made to date to implement a multi-pronged approach to address monitoring and information needs for Stage 0 restoration in Whychus Creek and the South Fork McKenzie River. Staff will provide a summary of the workshop that was convened in November 2020 to bring together practitioners, researchers, regulators and other partners to discuss current topics and data gaps related to implementing and monitoring restoration projects intended to achieve a Stage 0 condition.

II. Background

Recently, there has been increased interest in process-based approaches that create complex river channels and floodplains. One such approach for wide alluvial valleys is called Stage 0 restoration, which restores fluvial processes at the valley scale. Typically, this process occurs by filling previously incised channels with native materials (e.g., gravels, soil, and large wood), then letting the river valley shape itself in response to environmental drivers, such as floods, and biological drivers such as riparian forest development and beaver damming.

OWEB's spending plan line item, Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes, supports investments to evaluate specific types of restoration actions at broad geographic and/or temporal scales through targeted funding. At the July 2019 meeting, the board approved a staff request for up to \$360,000 for monitoring and information sharing associated with Stage 0 restoration approaches. This award was framed as a staged funding request for these work items, with initial funding requested during the 2019-21 biennium and subsequent funding to be provided in the 2021-2023 biennium, based on progress reporting to the board.

Three grants were subsequently awarded as a result of the July 2019 award:

- Monitoring grant awarded to the McKenzie Watershed Alliance for effectiveness monitoring of a multi-phased restoration project in the South Fork McKenzie River (Upper Willamette Basin) and data compilation and synthesis of existing knowledge about Stage 0 restoration;
- Monitoring grant awarded to the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council for effectiveness monitoring—including developing and implementing remote sensing approaches—of a multi-phased restoration project in Whychus Creek (Upper Deschutes Basin); and
- Stakeholder engagement grant awarded to the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University plan and convene a workshop to bring together a range of partners to share knowledge, describe concerns and considerations about this restoration approach, identify monitoring and information needs, and articulate best practices for restoration to a Stage 0 condition.

Monitoring activities in both watersheds include biological, geomorphic, physical habitat, and water quality monitoring. The monitoring utilizes a mix of ground-based methods and remote sensing approaches.

At the July 2021 meeting, the board will hear reflections from the monitoring grantees and OWEB staff about progress to date to discuss ongoing monitoring and communication needs.

III. Next Steps

Based on the restoration and monitoring progress to date, staff will work with the grantees to discuss the needs for a second phase of funding for effectiveness monitoring and continue to develop communication and coordination opportunities for Stage 0 restoration partners during the 2021-23 biennium. Staff will work with the Monitoring Committee during Fall of 2021 to consider options for subsequent funding requests for monitoring and effectiveness monitoring and information sharing. These requests are anticipated to be presented to the board later in the 2021-23 biennium.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

- A. Upper Deschutes Watershed Council two-page restoration and monitoring summary
- B. McKenzie Watershed Alliance two-page restoration and monitoring summary
- C. Stage 0 Restoration and Monitoring Workshop Executive Summary

Whychus Creek Stage 0 Restoration Geomorphic and Habitat Analysis Study

OWEB Grant: 220-7000-17323

Submitted by Lauren Mork, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council (UDWC)

Background

The *Whychus Creek Stage 0 Restoration Geomorphic and Habitat Analysis Study* is convening a team of technical experts to develop and implement remote and ground-based monitoring approaches for quantifying geomorphic and fish habitat conditions in Stage 0 restoration projects on Whychus Creek. Project partners include Deschutes Land Trust (DLT), US Forest Service (USFS), Portland General Electric (PGE), OR Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS), and US Geological Survey (USGS).

During UDWC's Phase 1 Stage 0 Effectiveness Monitoring project on Whychus Creek, we convened a technical advisory committee of remote sensing experts, and worked with partners and contractors to collect pre- and post-restoration monitoring data within five reaches of planned or completed Stage 0 projects on Whychus Creek, encompassing 4.2 miles and 297 acres, between river miles 8 and 17. The restoration approaches taken to restore the valley bottom to a Stage 0 condition employ a variety of actions. These restoration approaches vary from using heavy equipment to fill incised channels with sediment from adjacent floodplain terraces to applying low-tech process-based techniques using post assisted log structures in the stream channel and beaver dam analogs on the floodplain. These actions accelerate geomorphic processes that promote channel and floodplain evolution toward a Stage 0 condition.

In summer 2020, UDWC worked with a contractor to acquire multi-spectral orthomosaic imagery and aerial photo and video plots for each of these five reaches. These imagery products supported analysis of five key geomorphic and ecological metrics with analysis of a sixth key metric ongoing. These metrics include:

- Area inundated by surface water,
- Area of large wood and large wood interacting with water at three flow return intervals,
- Land cover including woody and herbaceous riparian vegetation,
- Sediment size,
- Geomorphic (habitat) units, and
- Velocity

Concurrent with imagery acquisition, UDWC used ground-based measurements to collect geomorphic data within ~60 plots across the five reaches. These data validated analyses from aerial imagery where applicable, and quantified additional geomorphic and habitat attributes. Ground-based data collection included:

- Geomorphic unit
- Velocity
- Temperature
- Wood jam measurements
- Modified Wolman pebble counts
- Depth
- Flow azimuth
- Canopy cover
- Large wood count

Monitoring techniques developed using this remote sensing technology will be described in a forthcoming instructional guide, which will serve as a protocol for analysis, and in a recorded training webinar, to make them accessible to other practitioners and more easily applied to other Stage 0 restoration projects. A technical report will summarize monitoring results from both remote sensing analyses and ground-based measurements, contextualize these results within existing, complementary restoration project monitoring data, and detail recommendations for revisions to methods and protocols in the next phase of Stage 0 Effectiveness Monitoring. The metrics analyzed using this approach are important because they are providing key information about Stage 0 attributes that 1) are costly and labor-intensive to collect using traditional ground-based survey methods and 2) are absent or infrequently observed in simplified, single-channel systems. We are also learning which metrics are most effectively and efficiently measured using ground-based methods, and which are more effectively measured using remote sensing methods. This information will be incorporated into Phase 2 Stage 0 effectiveness monitoring on Whychus Creek, to be implemented in 2022.

UDWC also contributed monitoring data to the Stage 0 data synthesis led by USFS PNW Research Station and to a series of practitioners' workshops resulting in a conceptual model for Stage 0.

Delays to restoration and effects on monitoring

Subsequent restoration projects at Whychus Canyon originally scheduled for implementation in 2020 were delayed because of COVID. Rather than hindering our monitoring work, this allowed more flexibility in our summer 2020 timeline for imagery acquisition and ground-based data collection.

Adjusted timeline for restoration and monitoring

Delays in implementing Whychus Canyon Phase IIa and a fish passage barrier removal restoration project in 2020 are resulting in our two additional Stage 0 restoration projects that were originally slated for 2021 and 2022 (Whychus Canyon Phase IIb and Willow Springs), being re-scheduled for implementation in 2022 or 2023. As a result, the Phase 2 Stage 0 Effectiveness Monitoring proposed for 2022 will accomplish post-restoration monitoring for one new restoration project, as well as for two projects, Camp Polk Reaches 1 & 2 and Whychus Canyon Phase I, where the new monitoring methods were piloted in 2020.

Implementation of subsequent phases of restoration in Whychus Canyon will occur in 2021 and will allow us to use the remote sensing and analysis and ground-based data collection methods developed in 2020 to directly compare pre- and post-restoration conditions one year after restoration implementation in 2022. UDWC will work with OWEB staff to prepare a funding request for Phase 2 of Stage 0 Effectiveness Monitoring on Whychus Creek.

Stage 0 Restoration Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Project Summary

OWEB Grant: 220-7000-17342

Submitted by Jared Weybright, McKenzie Watershed Alliance

Background

The *Evaluating Ecological and Geomorphic Responses to Stage 0 Restoration Monitoring Project* is a cooperative effort to examine the linked physical and ecological responses to Stage 0 restoration at the South Fork McKenzie River (South Fork). Phases I and II of the restoration project were completed in 2018 and 2019, respectively, with additional phases originally planned for 2021 and 2023. The multi-disciplinary monitoring project, initiated in 2019, relies upon a combination of remote sensing with unmanned aerial sensors (UASs, or drones) and field transects to monitor wood, substrate, water velocity, inundation area, and vegetation. Biological responses are being assessed through a combination of benthic macroinvertebrate (BMI) sampling, eDNA analysis, long-term Chinook salmon spawning surveys, Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tagging of juvenile spring Chinook, and a food web study. Partners include OWEB, US Forest Service (USFS) Willamette National Forest (WNF), USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon State University (OSU), and McKenzie Watershed Alliance (MWA).

Multi-Disciplinary Study of the South Fork McKenzie River

Drone flights in the Phase I project area were completed in late summer 2019 (August and September), early spring 2020 (April), and fall 2021. OSU researchers have processed the wide-area imagery into a true-color geo-referenced orthomosaic, a digital surface model derived from “structure from motion” processing, and the point cloud from the entire study area which captures the structure of the vegetation. These very high-resolution images enable the measurement of large woody material, bed texture, and sediment size distribution, as well as flow velocity and direction. These data are currently being stored and will be paired with subsequent flights to be completed over the next 3-4 years.

The WNF completed transect monitoring on five sites in the South Fork in the fall of 2019 and anticipates collecting additional data in fall of 2021. Transect surveys were not completed in 2020 due to the Holiday Farm Fire (HFF). Surveyors collect a range of metrics including large wood size and quantity, substrate, water velocity, and depth, and vegetation along each transect. The WNF also collected eDNA and BMI samples from wetted sections along the same five transects in fall 2019, spring 2020, and fall 2020. BMI grab samples are analyzed by Aquatic Biology Associates (ABA), and PNW scientist Shannon Claeson is working with the WNF to analyze and interpret the results. The MWA is currently working with PNW researcher Brooke Penaluna, to develop a contract to process the eDNA samples.

Chinook salmon spawning surveys were completed on the South Fork in 2019 and 2020, though repeated full-census surveys were not possible due to the timing of the HFF. ODFW and the USFS intend to continue working together on redd counts in the South Fork for the duration of the project. ODFW seined and PIT tagged 1,462 juvenile Chinook during the implementation of the South Fork Phase II project in 2019. Tagged fish were monitored by detection arrays placed in three channels at the lower end of the Phase I project area. The detection arrays were operated from July through October 2019. No juvenile Chinook monitoring was completed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the HFF. ODFW intends to reinstall the detection arrays, tag, and monitor additional juvenile Chinook during the summer of 2021.

OSU graduate student Jeremy Jennings, WNF staff, and PNW partnered to perform field sampling associated with the food web study during the fall and winter of 2019 (Phase I) and the spring and summer of 2020 (Phase III and IV). The BMI and fish stomach samples were analyzed by ABA, working in close coordination with OSU and PNW researchers. Plant and fish tissue samples were sent to Idaho State University for isotopic analysis in 2020, with results expected in late 2021. Additional food web field work will be performed to complete initial pre-restoration monitoring throughout 2021.

Delays to restoration and effects on monitoring

The Holiday Farm Fire began on September 7, 2020, during a strong east wind event that passed through western Oregon. The fire started west of McKenzie Bridge, before moving west and ultimately encompassed over 173,000 acres, including the lower South Fork McKenzie River project area. The HFF burned as a high-intensity, stand-replacement fire through much of the floodplain forest surrounding the project area, included the USFS-managed Delta Campground. The varied terrain and enhanced hydraulic connectivity within the South Fork project area appears to have influenced fire behavior and produced a mosaic burn intensity pattern, with much of the project area experiencing low to moderate burn intensity. Based on field observation, it is estimated that less than 5% of the large wood placed during Phase I and II burned during the HFF. Due to access and safety considerations, transect and food web monitoring were not completed as scheduled in fall 2020. The McKenzie River Ranger District made the decision to permanently close Delta Campground due to safety concerns associated with fire-damaged old-growth trees throughout the campground. The closure of the campground presents an opportunity to incorporate over additional 100 acres into the restoration project once the campground and access road are decommissioned. Due to its proximity and hydraulic connectivity, restoration within the Delta Campground project area would be completed prior to the upstream Phase III project area.

The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to the decision to postpone juvenile salmonid PIT tag monitoring in 2020 and the cancellation of portions of plot monitoring associated with UAS analysis. Additionally, a Federally Energy Regulation Commission mandated shutdown of the Leaburg Canal due to structural concerns inhibited ODFW's ability to detect juvenile Chinook at Leaburg Dam on the mainstem McKenzie as originally planned and altered their study design.

Adjusted timeline for restoration and monitoring

The original timeline envisioned a 4-year study from 2019 through 2023, with implementation of the Phase III restoration project to be completed in 2021. The timing of the Phase III restoration project was critical for the original before-after-control-impacts (BACI) elements of the study. Despite delays and slight alterations to the study design necessitated by the pandemic and the HFF, pre-project monitoring, as proposed to OWEB in 2019, will be completed by the end of 2021. The post-project study elements of the BACI design will not be feasible until after implementation of restoration activities within the original Phase III project area, as they are directly tied to the pre-project study area. Project partners anticipate that restoration will occur within the newly accessible Delta Campground area and the originally envisioned Phase III project area over multiple phases in 2023-2025. This timeline allows for post-project BACI study elements to begin in 2024 and continue through 2026. Multiple study disciplines, including BMI sampling, spawning surveys, PIT tag monitoring, UAS flights, and field-transect monitoring, may continue pre-project monitoring in 2022 and 2023, dependent upon available resources and capacity. The post-project elements of the food web study would not be initiated until 2024.

Stage 0 Restoration Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Project Summary

OWEB Grant: 220-7000-17342

Submitted by Jared Weybright, McKenzie Watershed Alliance

Background

The *Evaluating Ecological and Geomorphic Responses to Stage 0 Restoration Monitoring Project* is a cooperative effort to examine the linked physical and ecological responses to Stage 0 restoration at the South Fork McKenzie River (South Fork). Phases I and II of the restoration project were completed in 2018 and 2019, respectively, with additional phases originally planned for 2021 and 2023. The multi-disciplinary monitoring project, initiated in 2019, relies upon a combination of remote sensing with unmanned aerial sensors (UASs, or drones) and field transects to monitor wood, substrate, water velocity, inundation area, and vegetation. Biological responses are being assessed through a combination of benthic macroinvertebrate (BMI) sampling, eDNA analysis, long-term Chinook salmon spawning surveys, Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tagging of juvenile spring Chinook, and a food web study. Partners include OWEB, US Forest Service (USFS) Willamette National Forest (WNF), USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon State University (OSU), and McKenzie Watershed Alliance (MWA).

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OSU graduate student Jeremy Jennings, WNF staff, and PNW partnered to perform field sampling associated with the food web study during the fall and winter of 2019 (Phase I) and the spring and summer of 2020 (Phase III and IV). The BMI and fish stomach samples were analyzed by ABA, working in close coordination with OSU and PNW researchers. Plant and fish tissue samples were sent to Idaho State University for isotopic analysis in 2020, with results expected in late 2021. Additional food web field work will be performed to complete initial pre-restoration monitoring throughout 2021.

Delays to restoration and effects on monitoring

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The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to the decision to postpone juvenile salmonid PIT tag monitoring in 2020 and the cancellation of portions of plot monitoring associated with UAS analysis. Additionally, a Federally Energy Regulation Commission mandated shutdown of the Leaburg Canal due to structural concerns inhibited ODFW's ability to detect juvenile Chinook at Leaburg Dam on the mainstem McKenzie as originally planned and altered their study design.

Adjusted timeline for restoration and monitoring

The original timeline envisioned a 4-year study from 2019 through 2023, with implementation of the Phase III restoration project to be completed in 2021. The timing of the Phase III restoration project was critical for the original before-after-control-impacts (BACI) elements of the study. Despite delays and slight alterations to the study design necessitated by the pandemic and the HFF, pre-project monitoring, as proposed to OWEB in 2019, will be completed by the end of 2021. The post-project study elements of the BACI design will not be feasible until after implementation of restoration activities within the original Phase III project area, as they are directly tied to the pre-project study area. Project partners anticipate that restoration will occur within the newly accessible Delta Campground area and the originally envisioned Phase III project area over multiple phases in 2023-2025. This timeline allows for post-project BACI study elements to begin in 2024 and continue through 2026. Multiple study disciplines, including BMI sampling, spawning surveys, PIT tag monitoring, UAS flights, and field-transect monitoring, may continue pre-project monitoring in 2022 and 2023, dependent upon available resources and capacity. The post-project elements of the food web study would not be initiated until 2024.

River Restoration to Achieve a Stage 0 Condition Summary of a Workshop

November 5-6, 2020

Executive Summary

Restoration to achieve Stage 0 is a valley-scale, process-based (hydrologic, geologic and biological) approach that aims to reestablish stream depositional environments to maximize longitudinal, lateral, and vertical connectivity at base flows and facilitate development of dynamic, self-formed and self-sustaining wetland-stream complexes. The term *Stage 0* originally described complex multi-channel conditions and wider floodplains that evidence suggests were common when Euro-Americans arrived. Stage 0 is one stage in a 9-stage stream channel evolution model. Stage 0 is now also more broadly used to describe stream restoration projects aimed at changing the current condition and future evolution of incised, single-channel streams to achieve those multi-channel and wider floodplain conditions.

The Stage 0 approach has generated excitement among restoration practitioners and researchers. It is seen as an action on a scale commensurate with past impacts; potentially capable of putting streams and their floodplains on a trajectory to recovery that is sustainable with minimal future intervention. Projects that reset the valley surface elevation may include the transfer of large amounts of sediment into incised channels from adjacent terraces using heavy machinery, and placement of logs and boulders to create structure across the resulting floodplain. Recreating expanded, complex and resilient stream and floodplain habitats over the longer term may involve considerable short-term disturbance of existing stream environments. Because some of these streams currently support sensitive populations of focal or endangered species (most notably salmonids) projects designed to achieve a Stage 0 condition have raised some questions and concerns among land managers and regulators charged with recovering those species. The approach is relatively new, so there are also questions regarding terminology, implementation and monitoring approaches, and appropriate sites and scale for these projects.

In this science and policy context, a ***Stage 0 Stream Restoration Workshop*** was held on November 5-6, 2020 with the goal to *bring together practitioners, researchers, regulators and other stakeholders to discuss current topics and data gaps related to implementing and monitoring restoration projects intended to achieve a Stage 0 condition*. The online workshop included expert presentations, questions and discussions during plenary sessions, and smaller breakout groups. This document summarizes the workshop proceedings.

Core themes

Core themes that emerged over the course of the workshop include:

Stage 0 refers to a stream condition, not a restoration approach. More precise terms for projects to achieve Stage 0 include: *floodplain reconnection; valley reset; channel-floodplain-wetland corridor restoration/recreation*. A spectrum of methods exist to achieve Stage 0, from low-tech process based

restoration techniques that use beaver dam analog (BDA) and post-assisted log structures (PALS), to large-scale valley reset approaches using heavy equipment to fill incised channels and grade the entire floodplain. Clarification of this spectrum – i.e. a framework for selecting and optimizing locations, appropriate scales and restoration methods for projects – is a key information need for both regulators and practitioners. Not all human-modified stream channels are suitable for restoration to Stage 0.

Initial results are promising, but projects restoring to Stage 0 require updated monitoring methods and long-term results to fully assess outcomes associated with these actions. Grid-based sampling could help map variation in water temperature across projects more effectively than linear samples above and below them. Remote sensing can be cost-effective for tracking geomorphological trends and other parameters. To aid with project scenarios and planning, the US Forest Service are assessing options for consistent monitoring data to parameterize a Stage 0 conceptual model. Key issues are salmonid habitat availability after project completion, how these more complex habitats evolve over time, and how fish utilize them. But there are limits to the ecological changes “fish-focused” monitoring can detect. A *synoptic* (“seeing everything together”) approach to monitoring is most appropriate for the complex channel-floodplain-wetland systems these projects are intended to achieve.

Holistic, long-term monitoring requires sustained commitment and support. A robust and diverse restoration “community of practice” is emerging to implement and monitor projects to achieve Stage 0 in suitable PNW streams. Agencies, watershed councils and academia are coordinating to leverage available resources and efficiently acquire the additional monitoring data needed to inform adaptive management on these projects. Outreach is needed to demonstrate the need and generate public support for sustained monitoring efforts. But tradeoffs are inevitable when limited funds must be apportioned among new projects to address pressing, immediate environmental problems and sustained, long-term monitoring of projects already implemented.

There are numerous opportunities to “turn monitoring into science” through additional collaborative studies. Beyond the primary monitoring focus on salmonids, their habitats and channel geomorphology, there are also rich, untapped opportunities to investigate effects of projects on terrestrial species, e.g. anecdotal evidence of indirect “trophic cascade” benefits such as increased prey for apex predators. Also, of great interest are prospects for examining projects as whole systems by quantifying ecosystem services such as water quality and carbon storage, and to study how projects influence (and potentially mitigate) wildfire behavior and severity.

Discussions about uncertainties associated with restoration to Stage 0 should be reoriented. A single-thread, incised channel is more stable and predictable (less uncertain) but also less resilient and biologically productive than a multi-threaded channel that can access its floodplain. Future trajectories and arrangements of habitats in multi-threaded streams are less certain, but these systems are more resilient, diverse and biologically productive. Single incised channels provide fewer options for species of concern and thus more risk. We should focus on our (science-based) *confidence* in restoration to a Stage 0 condition to increase options for these species while acknowledging the risks and trying to minimize them.

Floodplain reconnection and restoration to Stage 0 may represent another “paradigm shift” in the evolution of stream restoration techniques, analogous to similar shifts away from the use of rip-rap and toward placements of large wood in a single channel. These changes were initially resisted but with experience, refinement, social learning and time became accepted as standard practice. There may also

be analogies to dam removal where practitioners are increasingly adopting the view that incremental approaches focused on limiting short-term disturbances may risk delaying or preventing meaningful ecosystem uplift in the longer-term.

There is broad interest in an “information clearinghouse” to foster information sharing across agencies, practitioners and stakeholders regarding projects to achieve Stage 0 and supporting science. The objective would be to facilitate the emerging Stage 0 *community of practice*, “a group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do, and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly”. (There were suggestions that a name for the clearinghouse other than “Stage 0” could better clarify its purpose and scope, e.g. *channel-floodplain restoration*.)

The clearinghouse could include:

- A blog or chat group; perhaps moderated and with news updates, e.g. planning for future workshops, field trips, project updates, new publications etc.
- Summaries of existing projects, and summaries of projects in the planning pipeline
- Technical guidance
- Library of relevant peer-reviewed literature and “white” papers on related topics, e.g. design methods, construction practices, monitoring BMPs, contrasts/linkages between different approaches to achieving a Stage 0 condition
- Comparison of projects and reference sites in different areas
- Links to monitoring data as it becomes available

The “story” of Stage 0 in Oregon is still being written. Adoption of restoration to achieve a Stage 0 condition has considerable momentum among practitioners and scientists in Oregon, but their learning curve is still fairly steep. Restored areas are still evolving (as expected) and the ramifications for sediment transport and storage, wood movement, water quality, salmonid habitat availability, and fish passage and productivity are still being actively assessed. Effects on other species, resilience to wildfire, and carbon sequestration are mostly unknown but appear positive and potentially significant, and are beginning to be studied. For projects lower in watersheds, there are also questions regarding the potential for impacts on landowners and infrastructure. The effects of larger, less frequent high flows on project areas mostly remain to be seen.

Despite these knowledge gaps, scientists and practitioners at the workshop presented evidence that restoration toward a Stage 0 condition is conceptually sound, initial project results are generally positive, and coordination across the practitioner and science communities is strong. The risks of not taking significant action to restore human altered stream channels in Oregon are seen as quite serious. Some project proponents worry that current efforts may not be sufficient to forestall further declines in populations of salmonids. Expectations for the years ahead include a refined ability to identify appropriate sites for restoration toward Stage 0, and increasing clarity regarding how to tailor implementation methods to the range of opportunities and constraints at each site, in order to achieve maximum benefits and minimize risks.



Kate Brown, Governor



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – Conveyance of Willamette Confluence Property
July 27-28, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes an application from McKenzie River Trust (MRT) to assume ownership of the Willamette Confluence Preserve (the Preserve) from The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Staff recommend the Board approve the property conveyance.

II. 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.

III. Conveyance Request

The Board awarded land acquisition grant funds to TNC under Grant No. 208-3090-8358 for the fee simple purchase of 1,271 acres of the Preserve, which TNC acquired in 2010. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) also contributed funds to the property purchase through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and holds a separate conservation easement. A Memorandum of Understanding between OWEB and BPA requires consultation among the agencies prior to granting approval of the conveyance. TNC purchased the remaining 34 acres of the Preserve with other funding.

The Preserve is in Lane County, at the confluence of the Middle Fork and Coast Fork of the Willamette River. The Preserve was known as the Wildish property when TNC purchased it in October 2010. After the purchase, TNC undertook large-scale restoration of the Preserve.

MRT's application states that TNC did not intend to be the long-term owner of the Preserve at the time of its purchase and began looking for a successor owner in 2019. In 2020, MRT responded to a prospective owner questionnaire prepared by TNC. MRT described its long-term vision for the Preserve and plans for immediate stewardship actions in questionnaire responses and a proposed interim land management plan, which

has been reviewed and approved by OWEB on June 23, 2021, contingent upon approval by BPA with input from its implementing partner, ODFW.

The application states that MRT's focus will be on maintaining the outcome of TNC's restoration projects as well as maintaining healthy watershed function, stewarding priority habitats, and protecting the Preserve from threats associated with invasive species and unauthorized access.

The application states that project partners will include members of the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network, Lane County, indigenous groups, Willamette Valley Tribes, Mount Pisgah Arboretum, and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. These and other entities will be consulted during the creation of a long-term land management plan for the Preserve.

IV. Staff Review

Staff completed a soundness review of the Preserve's current title circumstances and determined that only minor clarifications will be necessary prior to conveyance of the title to MRT. OWEB will require MRT to obtain title insurance in a form approved by OWEB.

MRT has the appropriate staff and expertise in place for the long-term management and stewardship of the property and has recently increased its staff capacity in anticipation of this conveyance. MRT will receive stewardship funding with the conveyance to support the annual stewardship costs of the property. Annual stewardship costs are estimated by MRT to be \$174,000, including costs for maintenance of restoration areas, invasive species monitoring and control, road, culvert, and bridge maintenance, boundary monitoring, public engagement, and habitat monitoring. Along with the property conveyance, TNC is transferring about \$1,000,000 that remains in a stewardship endowment, and MRT is committed to raising the balance of required funds to meet annual stewardship cost needs. MRT staff have sufficient expertise and processes in place to ensure the conservation values of the property are protected

Staff will prepare a conservation easement amendment and conveyance agreement prior to the conveyance of the Preserve to MRT. The purpose of the documents will be to ensure compliance with applicable statutes and rules, establish the circumstances of the transaction, document MRT's assumption of responsibilities under the grant agreement and conservation easement, and establish other understandings including but not limited to conveyance-related approvals that must be obtained from BPA and ODFW in accordance with the MOU. BPA provided additional funding for the purchase of the Preserve and specified conveyance conditions and requirements in its grant documents.

V. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board approve the conveyance of the Willamette Confluence Preserve (OWEB Grant No. 208-3090-8358) from the Nature Conservancy to McKenzie River Trust conditioned on staff and Department of Justice approval of the final form of all conveyance-related circumstances and documents.



Agenda Item M supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 6: Coordinated Monitoring and Shared Learning.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M – *Telling the Restoration Story* Grants Update
July 27-28, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Telling the Restoration Story is a targeted grant offering that helps OWEB and grantees better communicate the ecological outcomes of restoration funded by OWEB. At the July 2021 board meeting, staff will share information about Willanch Creek Restoration to learn what emerged from the board's investment in that effort. This is an information item.

II. Background

Telling the Restoration Story grants support compilation, analysis, and/or interpretation of existing data from a watershed restoration project or projects, and production of outreach materials that describe outcomes from that work. Outreach products aim to reach a broad audience, including board members and legislators. Grantees also identify specific audiences, so the materials developed can be used to communicate with landowners, restoration practitioners, and natural resource managers working to restore similar landscapes in Oregon.

Eight projects have been funded under this offering so far. An [online map](#) provides short summaries and links to completed products as they become available.

III. *Telling the Restoration Story: Willanch Creek Restoration*

Willanch Creek is a lowland tidally influenced stream that flows into the eastern part of Coos Bay, on the Oregon Coast. Historical agricultural and forestry land uses degraded salmon habitat beginning in the mid-1800s.

The Coos Watershed Association began restoration and monitoring in Willanch Creek in 1995. Restoration actions included riparian plantings, road improvements, road decommissioning, fish passage projects and large woody debris placements. The creek is now 10-Fahrenheit degrees cooler. When compared to the past, water flowing through the creek and floodplain takes a more natural path, contributing to high-quality fish habitat over time. Projects have restored critical Coho Salmon adult access to spawning grounds and juvenile access to the estuary.

Long-term monitoring of these efforts, which has occurred for 21 years, indicates that restored stream habitat and water quality has benefitted native fish, including the Oregon Coast Coho. In 2005 and again in 2010, the Coos Watershed Association reported monitoring results of ongoing and previous activities. These reports described the efforts and results of restoration in Willanch Creek, indicating significant stream temperature reduction in response to restoration.

With *Telling the Restoration Story* funds, Coos Watershed Association was able to update the previous case studies, incorporating more recent stream temperature and salmonid monitoring results. New and updated datasets were analyzed in relation to pre-restoration conditions and trends over the study period. OWEB staff advised on communication product design and story line. The resulting outreach products were highlighted at Coos Watershed Association's board meetings and 25th Birthday Bash, and Trout Unlimited's film festival.

Telling the Restoration Story products for Willanch Creek Restoration include 1) a tri-fold brochure summarizing the outcomes from 25 years of restoration work; 2) a 12-page technical report including additional detail about methodologies and data collected; and 3) a short produced video sharing the success story and impacts for the community and local economy (see Attachments A and B). The short video is available online at: [Willanch Creek - An Economic and Environmental Success](#).

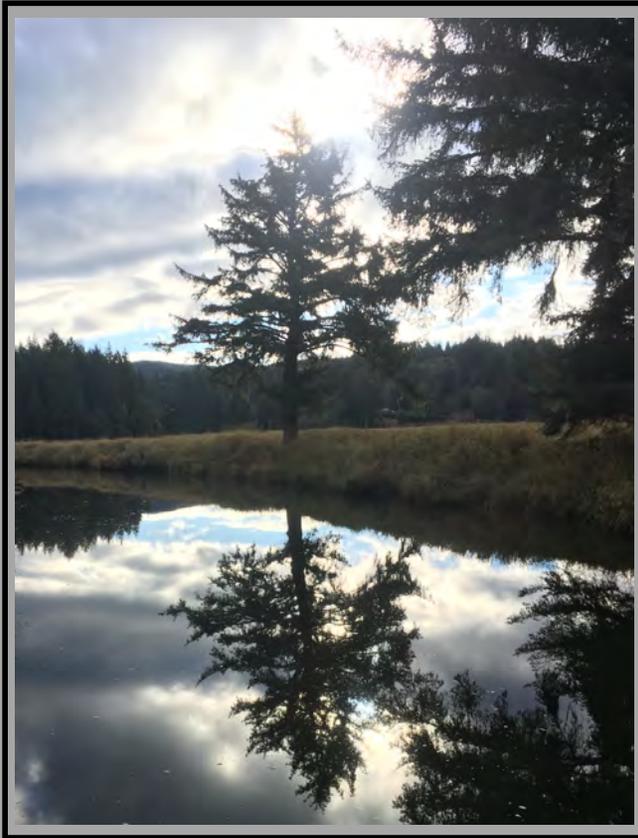
More information about Coos Watershed Association is available at <https://cooswatershed.org/>.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachments

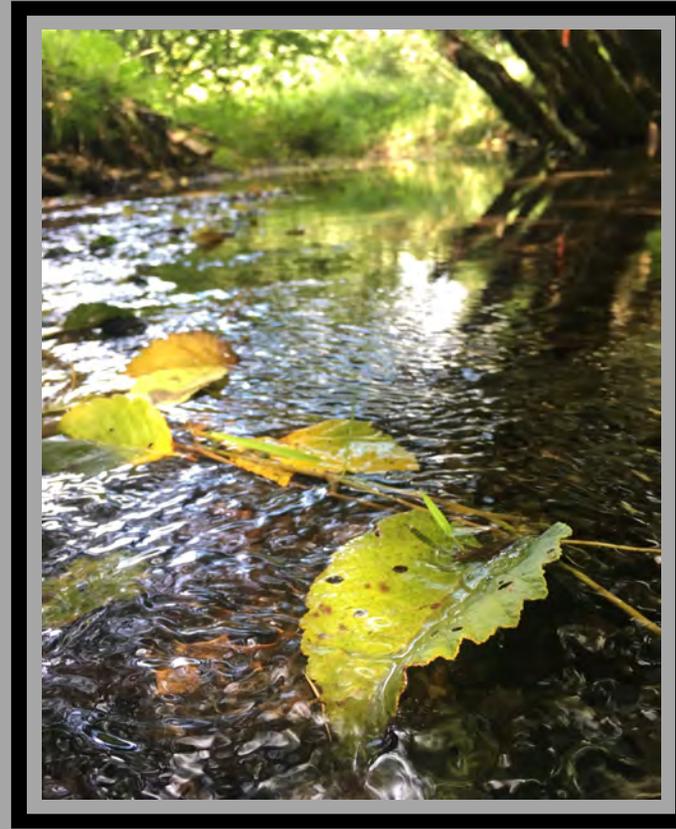
- A. Tri-Fold Brochure: Restoring Willanch Creek: 25 Years of Cooperation Benefitting Salmon
- B. Technical Report: Restoring Willanch Creek: 25 Years of Cooperation Benefitting Salmon



So What's This All Mean For Fish ... ?

The cumulative efforts to improve and increase the salmon and steelhead population in Willanch Creek includes all types of restoration activities from the estuary to the headwaters. Restored access to spawning and tidal rearing habitats was complemented by reduced summer water temperatures to optimal conditions for juvenile coho and trout.

Because regional and coast wide salmon populations naturally rise and fall due to climate patterns in the Pacific Ocean, it is important to continue long-term monitoring. So far, juvenile and adult salmon monitoring has indicated that salmon and particularly steelhead trout populations are stable through recent years of poor return rates. Without consistent monitoring, these trends in salmon return rates can easily be falsely attributed to any number of local and climatic factors.



Decreased Stream Temperatures

Lowering stream temperature is an important goal in many stream restoration projects because water temperature (and related dissolved oxygen) is critical to salmon survival. Each summer, from 1997 to 2018, temperature recorders were placed throughout Willanch Creek to measure maximum stream temperature. Water temperature generally increases as water travels downstream, an effect heavily influenced by the amount of shade from riparian vegetation. Over the twenty-one years of temperature data collection, the lower site showed a decrease in temperature from 74.2°F to 64.8°F—a 9.4°F reduction that satisfied the standard well; all sites were under or within 1°F the DEQ temperature standard for over a decade of data collection.

Partners



LONE ROCK
RESOURCES



Weyerhaeuser



DEQ



Coos County
Road Department



LAIRD NORTON
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Menasha Forest
Products Corporation



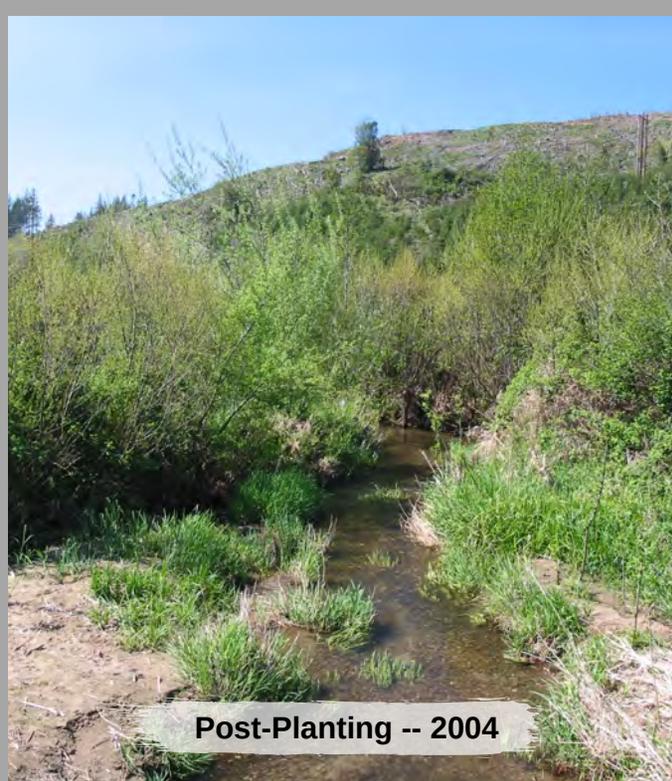
Restoring Willanch Creek

25 Years of Cooperation
Benefitting Salmon



Introduction

The Coos Watershed Association's vision for a healthy Willanch Creek was put into action in 1995. After 25 years of building strong partnerships, and completing a wide range of projects, we've been able to demonstrate that the habitat for fish and other wildlife has been improved: today the water is 10°F cooler, and water flowing through the creek and the surrounding floodplain takes a more natural path. This improvement relied on the cooperation and collaboration of five private landowners, three timber companies, four benefactors, the Coos County Road Department, and four different Coos Watershed Association project managers. Places like Willanch Creek, at the nexus of the stream and estuary ecotone, provide critical habitat for salmon to express the full range of life history adaptations.



Post-Planting -- 2004

In 2010, the paired wooden top-hinge tide gate at the confluence of Willanch Creek was replaced with a set of aluminum tide gates, one top door and one side door with a Muted Tide Regulator (MTR). The head wall and gates were recycled from a previous installation and mounted to the existing paired box culvert in an economical compromise that provided a high cost-benefit for the project. Preliminary analyses have found that the MTR door opens much wider, a bit earlier and stays open significantly longer than the top door gate next to it, which allows for an increased opportunity for fish passage.

Habitat Creation

Large wood placement in streams is an effective way to initiate natural habitat formation by creating diversity within the stream bed. By returning large wood to the system, several key salmon habitat types are created: wider and deeper scoured pools, riffles, and overhead cover that both shades the water and provides protection to the juveniles from predators.

Restoration Efforts, 1995-2019

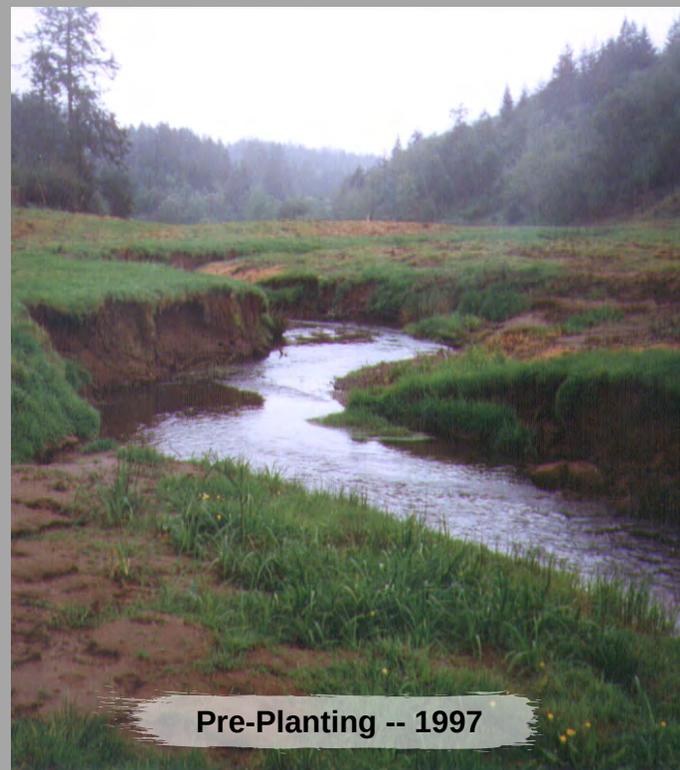
Restoration of Willanch Creek was aimed at improving habitat conditions for salmon by addressing four main building blocks: fish passage; stream temperature; sediment inputs; and general spawning, rearing, and migratory habitat quality. These restoration objectives are based on the necessary habitat conditions for salmon reproduction and survival. In many cases the efforts used to address these objectives are interrelated and improve multiple habitat conditions. Salmon play a vital role in evaluating restoration efforts because they are good overall indicators of watershed health.

Increased Fish Passage

Replacing four undersized culverts with bridges in upstream spawning habitat reaches greatly improved stream flow and fish access, while also releasing stored gravel to a total of 5.9 miles of stream with spawning and rearing habitat, enhancing the habitat quality overall.

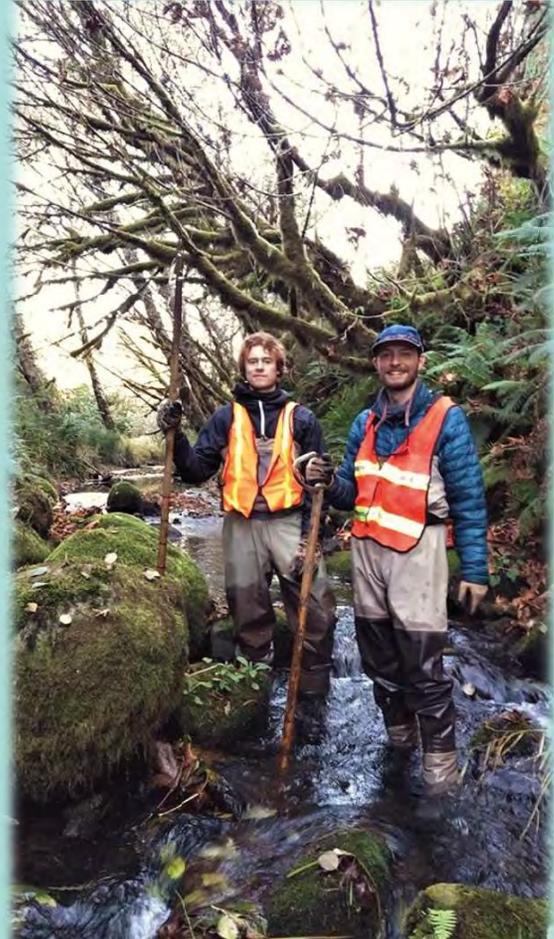


New Tide Gate Installed 2010



Pre-Planting -- 1997

Restoring Willanch Creek



25 Years of Cooperation Benefiting Salmon





Willow wall construction helped to shade the stream and lower the water temperature. (Photo taken in 1997.)



Riparian vegetation growing in Lower Valley assisted the 10°F drop in stream temperature. (Photo taken in 2004.)



Large wood placed in Willanch Creek in 2004 aided in enhancing stream complexity.

Introduction

The Coos Watershed Association’s vision for a healthy Willanch Creek was put into action in 1995. After 25 years of perseverance in building strong partnerships, and completing a wide range of restoration projects, we’ve been able to demonstrate that the habitat for fish and other wildlife is improved: today the water is 10°F cooler, and water flowing through the creek and the surrounding floodplain takes a more natural path. This improvement relied on the cooperation and collaboration of five private landowners, three timber companies, four benefactors, the Coos County Road Department, and four different Coos Watershed Association project managers. Our work includes:

- planted trees, built willow walls, and built livestock exclusion fences along 1.15 miles of stream banks to reduce erosion and filter runoff from adjacent pastures;
- replaced culverts with bridges at four sites to permit fish to pass and to allow gravels to move downstream to access 5.9 miles of fish habitat;
- replaced the tide gate at the mouth of Willanch Creek with an improved design to allow juvenile fish access to the estuary during critical times;
- placed large wood in 0.86 miles stream to provide cover, collect gravels, and scour pools;
- blocked and removed 1.5 miles of unneeded logging roads to reduce soil erosion and prevent illegal garbage dumping.

Setting

Although the Willanch Creek sub-basin (Figure 6, page 6-7) is a small part of the Coos watershed, it embodies a wide range of ecosystems and land uses. These conditions in a relatively small area make it a good place to evaluate watershed improvement projects and their affect on coho salmon habitat.

Salmon Life Cycle and Habitat Needs

As shown in Figure 1, the coho salmon life cycle generally takes three years. Throughout the life cycle different habitat requirements play important roles in salmon survival and habitat requirements at different life cycle stages are often interrelated.

Fish have little physiological control over their body tempera-

ture, so they regulate it primarily by moving to a place in the river with a suitable temperature. These prime temperature places, or access to them, are often limited, which limit the number of salmon that can inhabit that stretch of stream. Additionally, as water warms it loses oxygen, which places additional stress on fish.

Spawning and egg incubation require marble to baseball-sized gravel. The spaces between these rocks, where the eggs and emerging young live, need to have clear, clean, flowing water with plenty of oxygen. Fine sediments, such as silt, can fill the spaces and suffocate the eggs. Flowing water, or riffles, deliver oxygen to eggs; riffles are rapid structures with a

choppy surface that incorporates oxygen into the water. This oxygenation benefit can continue downstream if water temperatures stay cool -- colder water retains more oxygen.

Alevins, fry, and parr require a complex stream system with a variety of habitats for summer and winter rearing. Summer rearing habitat consists of pools and in-stream wood that can provide food sources and refuge for growing fish. Winter rearing habitat, which was especially limiting in Willanch Creek, consists of off-channel alcoves, pools, and beaver ponds where juveniles can find protection from high winter flows and land predators.

Smolt and adult migrations can be limited by their ability to successfully move to and from the ocean. Smolts must be able to acclimate to the salt water in phases, which requires considerable freedom of movement at the transition between salt and freshwater. A number of human-made structures can interfere with the ability of fish to move between habitats. In Willanch Creek, barriers to fish passage included a faulty tide gate and undersized culverts.

Landform in Willanch Creek Basin

Willanch Creek has many branching tributaries that flow into the main channel, draining a total of 5,369 acres (8.4 square miles). This east-west oriented basin encompasses elevations up to 1209 feet above sea level and contains many ecosystem types, from estuarine to forested uplands. Lowland flats of the Willanch sub-basin were used by the W'iccan Native American settlement for smoking fish caught in weirs (Coyote, 2010). Euro-American settlement of the Coos Bay area began in 1852. Coal mining was the first industry to take hold in the area, but lumber soon surpassed coal mining in importance. The first Coos Bay lumber shipments were sent to California as early as 1854 (Case, 1983). Early settlers worked hard to cultivate the land for agriculture, dairy farming, and cattle

grazing. Nineteenth century historical documents describe Willanch Slough as having well established farms where large amounts of labor and money had been expended to cultivate the land and make it habitable and productive (Dodge, 1898). The 1930 census indicates that there were 40 individuals living in 16 households along Willanch Creek who were engaged primarily in farming, ranching, and logging.

During the 10-year restoration period, 76% of the Willanch sub-basin is managed for timber. Although small woodlot owners manage some forestlands, industrial timber operators dominate the headwater areas of Willanch Creek and its tributaries. Agricultural land uses, primarily grazing and hay cropping, make up 20% of the sub-basin and are concentrated in the lower-gradient bottomlands. Rural residential land use comprises 4% of the sub-basin and is concentrated along Coos Bay.

Land Use Effects

As Euro-Americans began to settle and farm in the Willanch Creek sub-basin, they cleared forests for timber, diked wetlands for pasture, and dredged and channelized streams to control their flow.

Wetland draining of the area in the 1940s and 1950s included the placement of a tide gate at the mouth of Willanch Creek to prevent saltwater inundation in the bottomlands (CoosWA, 2006). Agricultural development eliminated much of the riparian vegetation, decreased channel complexity, and interrupted the natural cycle of sediment flushing. These activities led to increased stream temperature and sediment load, which reduced spawning and rearing habitat for salmon.

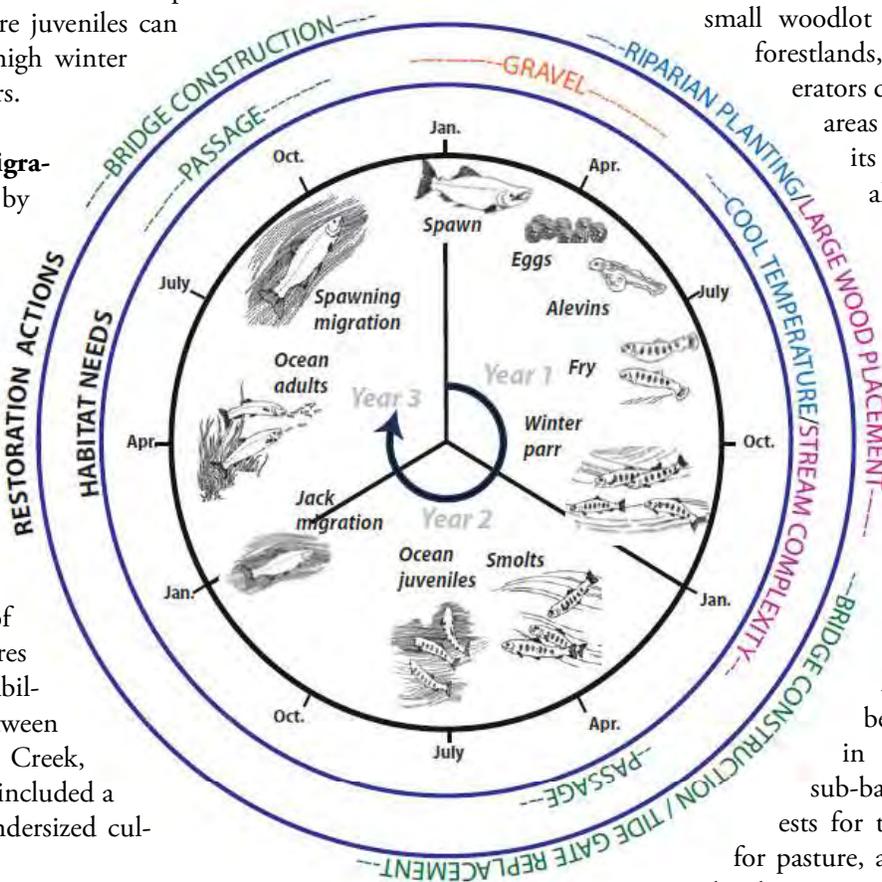


Figure 1 (above): Coho life cycle showing habitat needs and restoration actions taken to address those needs. (Adapted from Lawson, et al, 2007).

Restoration Efforts, 1995-2010

Restoration of Willanch Creek was aimed at improving habitat conditions for salmon by addressing four main building blocks: fish passage; stream temperature; sediment inputs; and general spawning, rearing, and migratory habitat quality. These restoration objectives are based on the necessary habitat conditions for salmon reproduction and survival. In many cases the efforts used to address these objectives are interrelated and improve multiple habitat conditions (Figure 1, page 3). Salmon play a vital role in helping us evaluate restoration efforts because they are good overall indicators of watershed health.

Improve Fish Passage

Four malfunctioning culverts were replaced with bridges to allow both adult and juvenile fish to move freely under these road crossings, opening 5.9 miles of fish habitat. The tide gate at the outlet of Willanch Creek was replaced in the summer of 2010, which increased fish passage and allowed for more natural tidal fluctuations, etc.

Improve Stream Complexity

The aquatic habitat inventories (AHI) conducted in 2001 and 2003 identified the need for improving stream complexity. Specifically, more pools and alcoves were needed to provide fish with resting spots and refuge from higher flows, and riffles to incorporate oxygen into the water. Complexity was increased by adding eighteen large wood placements in the upper section of the creek. Large wood placement is known to improve summer rearing habitat by creating pools, increasing pool depth by scour action, trapping and sorting spawning gravel, enhancing channel sinuosity, and by generally adding complexity to the stream.

Control Sediment Inputs

The Coos Bay Lowlands Assessment and Restoration Plan (CoosWA, 2006) showed that the Willanch sub-basin naturally had high levels of sediment. However, road-related erosion, improperly functioning culverts, and land-use practices added fine sediment to the system. In addition, the tide gate prevented sediment from being flushed out naturally. A variety of restoration activities were employed to address these habitat concerns: riparian plantings were done along approximately 1.5 miles of creek, 1.5 miles of road were removed, and four culverts were replaced with bridges to help improve sediment transport. It should be noted that in winter 2006/2007 a landslide in the Upper Wood Treatment Reach deposited a large amount of sediment into Willanch Creek that affected habitat conditions in the Upper Wood Treatment Reach (photo in Figure 6).

Reduce Stream Temperature

Temperature is often considered an easy first-glance indicator of salmon habitat quality. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has established that salmon require a seven-day average temperature of 64°F or below. (ODEQ, 2009). Reducing the temperature of Willanch Creek was addressed through riparian planting and by allowing the creek to spread out and meander across its floodplain. Allowing the stream to easily flow into the floodplain causes water to infiltrate into the groundwater; this cooler water is then released back into the stream during lower flows in the summer months. Trees planted along the riparian zone provide shade to the stream promoting cooler water.

Restoration Results

The effectiveness of the restoration actions were gauged by evaluating fish passage, habitat diversity, stream temperature, and fish populations. This data was used to determine how well the restoration efforts improved salmon habitat by addressing the objectives discussed above: improving fish passage, improving aquatic habitat diversity and complexity, reducing sediment, and decreasing temperature.

Increased Fish Passage

Replacing four malfunctioning culverts with bridges in upstream spawning habitat reaches greatly increased the flow capacity of the stream. On average, flow increased over 20%, and at one crossing (that was completely blocked) flow increased 100%. These bridges also improved fish access to a total of 5.9 miles of stream with spawning and rearing habi-

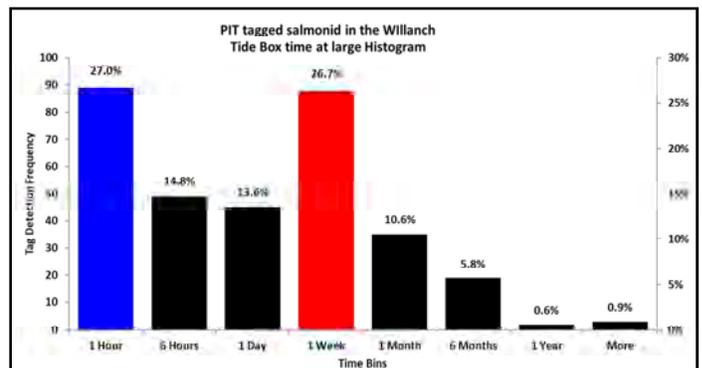


Figure 2: Time at Large (time of final resight minus time of first resight) for 332 PIT tagged salmonids detected at Willanch Creek tide gate PIT antenna array between June 2016 and June 2019. Bars represent number of fish on left axis and labels represent percent on the right axis. Blue bins represent half of all repeat resights. Note: 225 (40%) PIT tagged fish were only detected once and are not included.

tat, and released stored gravel, improving downstream habitat quality.

In 2010 the paired wooden top-hinge tide gate at the confluence of Willanch Creek was replaced with a set of aluminum tide gates, one top door and one side door with a Muted Tide Regulator (MTR). The head wall and gates were recycled from a previous installation and mounted to the existing paired box culvert in an economical compromise that provided a high cost-benefit for the project.

Intensive monitoring at the tide gate began in 2015 with the installation of gate angle sensors and water level loggers upstream and downstream of the gates (Souder et al 2018). These data were networked with a water velocity sensor in 2016 that provides a uniquely rigorous dataset for MTR tide gate modeling that is currently underway. Preliminary analyses have found that the MTR door opens much wider, a bit earlier and stays open significantly longer than the top door gate next to it.

Estuarine fish and plant species are numerous throughout the lower saline tidal reach of Willanch Creek. PIT tag antennas in each side of the Willanch tide box ‘resight’ tagged fish as they pass through or hold in the tide box. Histograms of ‘time at large’ (Figure 2) suggest that half of the fish detected pass through the tide gate quickly, detected only once (not included in Figure 2.), in 1 hour or less (blue), or reside in the tidal zone around the tide gate for up to a week (red). The greater than 1-year bin are 4 resights of adult salmon returning to spawn.

Other analyses show that the MTR door is open 56% of the time, twice as much as the top door gate next to it. Inher-

ent variance in the MTR operation across seasonal tidal and flow conditions has been shown to two feet. So, without any adjustments to the MTR setting, tidal inundation varies from 3.6 to 5.2 feet across the seasonal range of river discharge. The Muted Tide Regulator tide gate at Willanch Creek has restored a significant portion of the natural tidal exchange that would be expected with no gates present on the box culvert.

Improved Aquatic Habitat Diversity

The aquatic habitat inventories (AHI) focused on parameters that are key habitat features for salmon: large wood, pool area, residual pool depth, riffle area, width to depth ratio, and entrenchment ratio of the stream. It is vital for salmon to have these diverse habitat types available in a stream. Our data was compared to the benchmarks established by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Moore, 1997). Figure 6 shows the AHI reach locations on Willanch Creek.

Large wood placement in streams is an effective way to initiate natural habitat formation and create diversity in key habitat types. By returning large wood to the system, several salmon habitat factors are improved: pool area, residual pool depth, riffle area, width to depth ratio, and entrenchment ratio. (Dredging and other outdated management techniques had removed large woody debris.) The Upper and Lower Wood

Treatment sites were treated with large wood in 2005. The 2009 AHI showed that the Lower Wood Treatment site attained a desirable level of large wood (according to the ODFW benchmark of 30 cubic meters per 100m of stream), but the Upper Wood Treatment site lacked sufficient key pieces (Figure 4, page 5). Now in 2017, AHI surveys show that

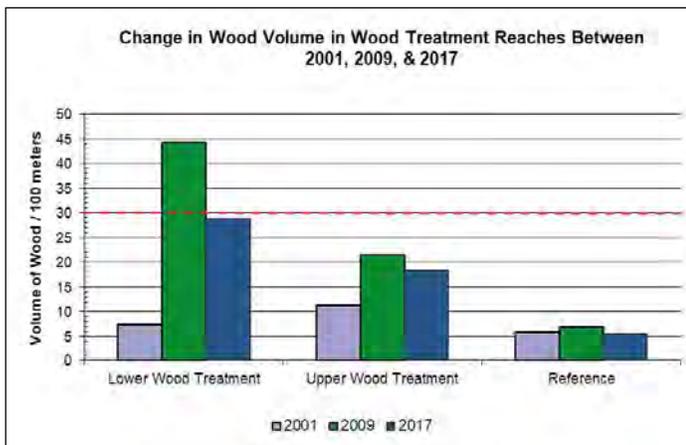


Figure 4: Increase in wood volume in reaches where large wood was added to the stream. The Lower Wood Treatment Reach met the ODFW benchmark in 2009 and fell just below this desirable benchmark in 2017. (Lower Valley and Upper Valley Reaches are not shown since they were not treated with wood.)

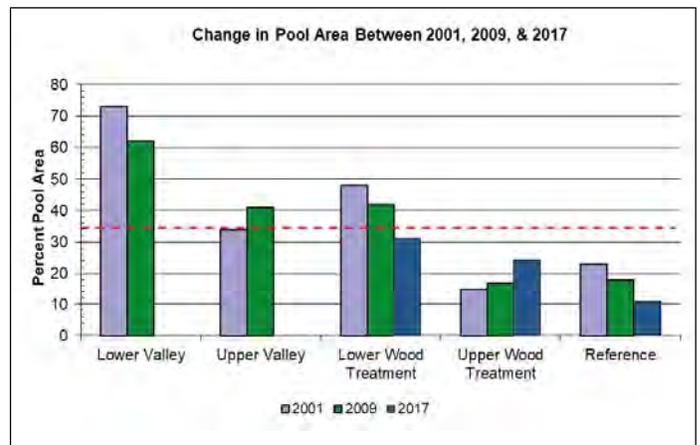


Figure 5: Three of the five reaches met the ODFW benchmark in 2009, yet during 2017 of the 3 reaches inventoried, none met this desirable benchmark. Both the Upper and Lower treatment reaches fall just short of the desirable pool area, and the reference reach is steadily decreasing in adequate pool area

Figure 6: Willanch Creek Watershed Restoration

New tide gate at the mouth of Willanch Creek, summer 2010.



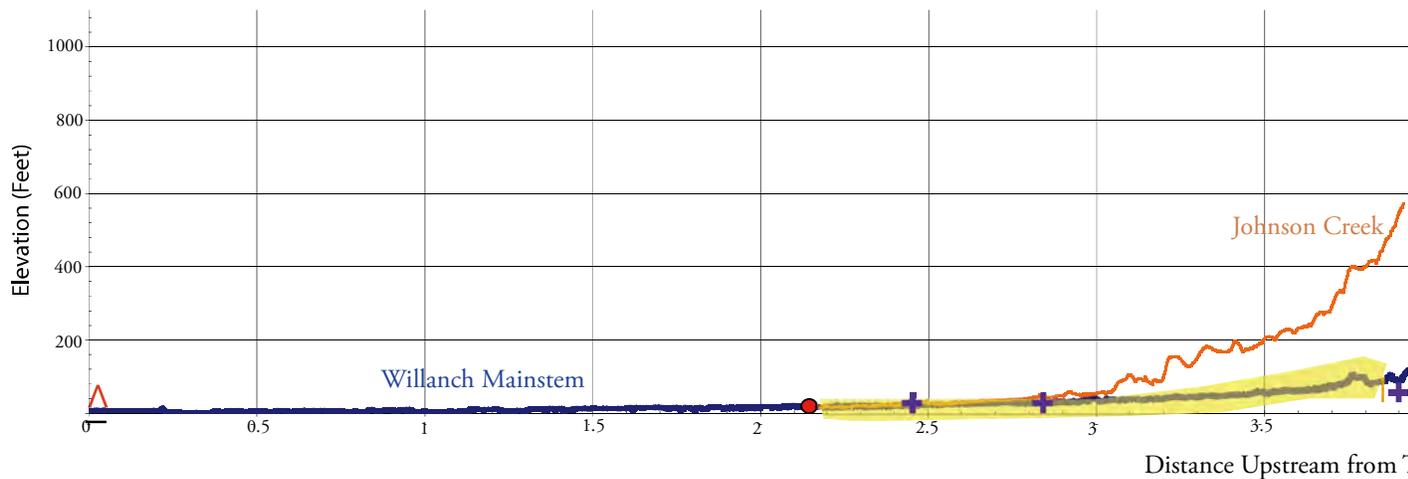
Riparian planting along the Lower Valley Reach.

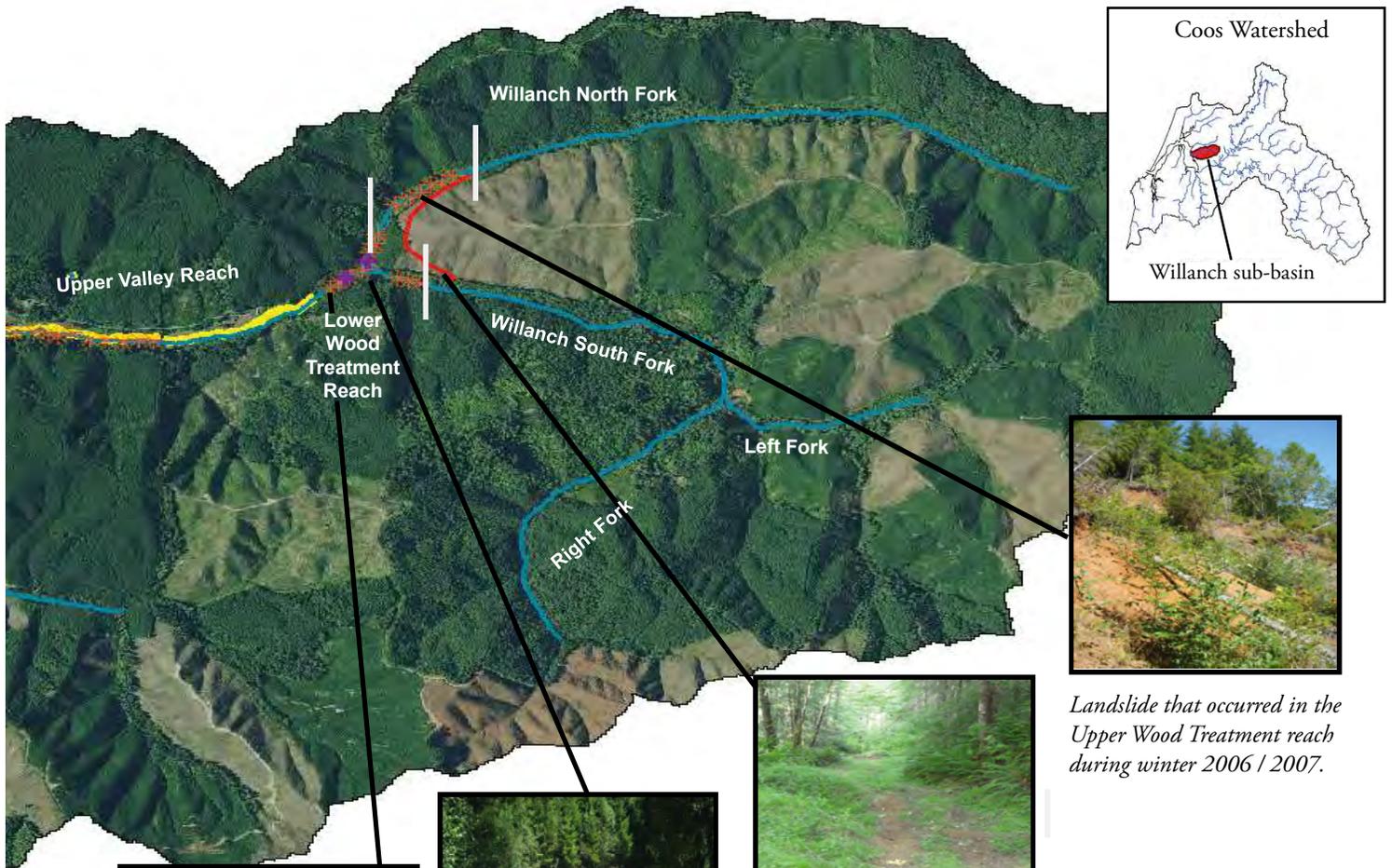


Blocked culverts replaced with a railcar bridge to allow water to flow freely.



Second Bridge





Landslide that occurred in the Upper Wood Treatment reach during winter 2006 / 2007.



Weyerhaeuser road decommission to help prevent long term culvert failure and road washout.



Fourth Bridge



Third Bridge

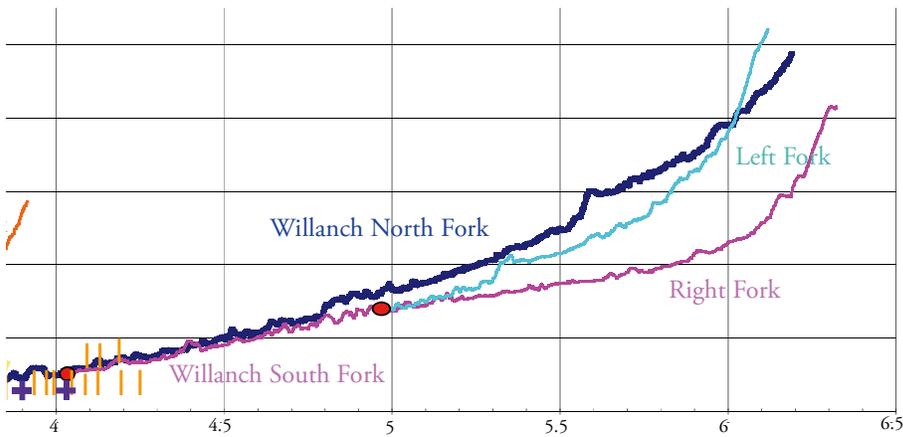


Legend

- Constructed Bridges
- Large Wood Placements
- Tide Gate Replacement
- Weyerhaeuser Road Decommission
- Riparian Planting



0 0.7 Miles



n Tide Gate (Miles)

the Upper Wood Treatment Reach has retained more than a 50% increase in wood volume from its pre project condition.

Pool area is important because pools provide refuge from higher flows during the rainy season and provide deeper water during droughts. In Willanch Creek, pools were created by the placement of large wood, which enhanced the scour action of the stream. According to ODFW, pool area should comprise 35% of the habitat in streams like Willanch Creek. In the 2001 and 2009 AHI surveys, three of the five reaches met this benchmark (Figure 5, page 5). The landslide in 2007 may have prevented the Upper Wood Treatment Reach from meeting the desirable benchmark. Data from the 2017 surveys show that both of the wood treatment reaches are just below the desirable benchmark, while the Reference reach (untreated) is steadily decreasing year after year.

Residual pool depth, as described by Thomas Lisle (1987), is “the depth that, if flow were reduced to zero, water would fill pools just up to their lips.” This is an unbiased, quantitative

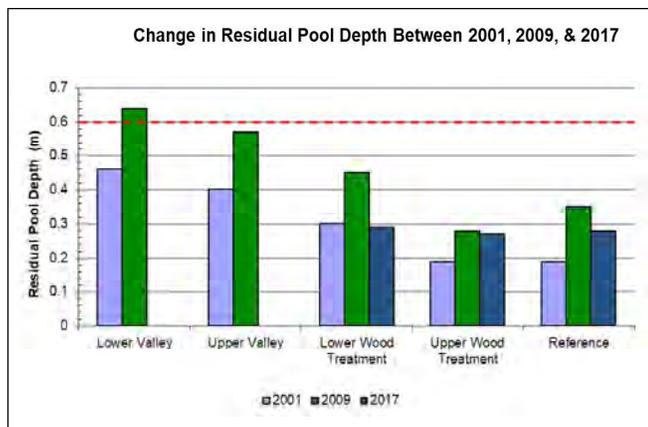


Figure 7: All reaches showed improvements in residual pool depths from 2001 to 2009, yet in 2017 all surveyed reaches fell below the 2009 findings.

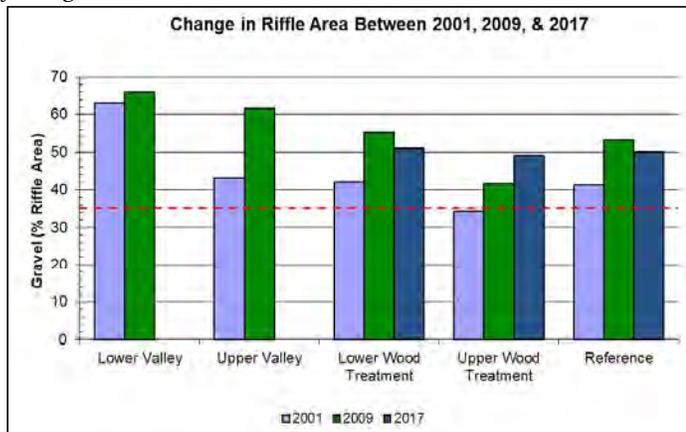


Figure 8: All reaches met the ODFW benchmark in 2009 for gravel (% riffle area).

way to measure change in pool size. The ODFW benchmark for medium streams, such as Willanch Creek, states that residual pool depths should be greater than 0.6 meters (2 feet). The 2001 AHI survey showed that no reach met this benchmark; the 2009 AHI survey showed one of the five reaches had met this desirable level and all reaches showed moderate improvement from pre project conditions (Figure 7). In 2017, the reaches surveyed (Lower Wood, Upper Wood, and Reference) all hovered near 50% (0.3 meters) of the ODFW desirable benchmark for this variable; less than desirable benchmarks for residual pool depths may indicate that additional restoration is required to attain this critical habitat benchmark.

Riffle areas in a stream have fast water with choppy surfaces that provide oxygen for young salmon and these riffles usually have a gravel substrate that provides adequate salmon spawning habitat. The 2001 AHI survey indicated that four of the five reaches met the ODFW benchmark of 35% gravel in riffle areas. All reaches surveyed in 2009 & 2017 exceeded the desirable amount of riffle area (Figure 8). Improvements to undersized culverts and road decommissioning, coupled with instream habitat structures have helped to promote gravel retention throughout the basin.

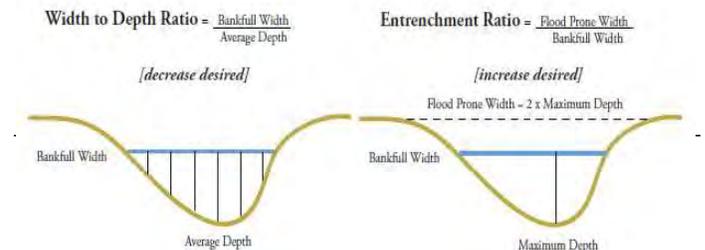


Figure 9: Diagrams showing how width to depth ratio and entrenchment ratio are calculated.

Width to depth ratio, shown in Figure 9, indicates the shape of the channel. Some streams are wide and shallow (high ratio), while others are deep and narrow (low ratio). The width to depth ratio was reduced in Willanch Creek through riparian planting and large wood placement. A desirable width to depth ratio, according to ODFW standards, is less than 15 for streams on the western side of the Cascades. Although four of the five reaches in the study had a desirable width to depth ratio in 2001, the 2009 AHI survey showed that all five reaches met this benchmark and four out of five improved (Figure 10).

Entrenchment ratio is a measure of the ability of a channel to expand into its floodplain: some channels have steep banks that keep the stream confined, while other channels have

Change In Floodplain Connectivity From 2001 to 2009

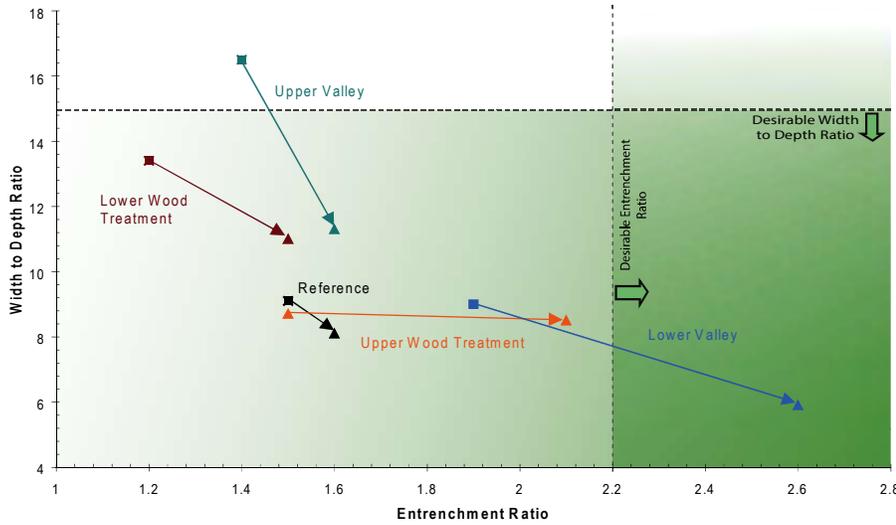


Figure 10: Comparison between width to depth ratio and entrenchment ratio in Willanch Creek from 2001 to 2009. A decrease in width to depth ratio and an increase in entrenchment ratio is the desirable trend. The Lower Valley reach met both these benchmarks. (AHI data for 2017 was unavailable for these attributes)

banks that allow floodwaters to easily spill into the floodplain (Figure 9). Increasing entrenchment ratio—floodplain connectivity—helps replenish groundwater during the wet season. This cooler water is then released during the dryer, warmer months. According to Rosgen (1996), an entrenchment ratio greater than 2.2 indicates a well-developed floodplain. The 2009 AHI survey showed that only one reach had a desirable entrenchment ratio; however, the remaining four showed improvement (Figure 10). Over time, gravels deposited at the large wood placement sites will improve entrenchment ratios.

Increased Vegetation Cover

Bank stability is affected by land use practices, riparian vegetation, soil type, flow volume, and velocity. Bank stability is an important concern for salmon habitat and water quality because unstable, eroding banks deliver fine sediment to the stream. Bank stability was improved at Willanch Creek through riparian planting, willow wall construction, and fencing that kept livestock off the banks and out of the stream. The National Marine Fisheries Service guidelines suggest that banks with more than 90% vegetation cover have the best stream habitat (1996). In both the 2001 and 2009 AHI surveys, four of the five reaches met this benchmark. The Lower Valley showed improvement (from 81.4% covered to 89.4% covered). As shown in the photo in Figure 5, prior to the riparian planting projects the stream banks were relatively unstable in the Low-

er Valley Reach. Note that in 1996 a natural landslide in the Upper Wood Treatment Reach contributed a large amount of sediment into the stream.

Decreased Stream Temperature

Lowering stream temperature is an important goal in many stream restoration projects because water temperature (and related dissolved oxygen) is critical to salmon survival. Each summer, from 1997 to 2018, temperature recorders were placed throughout Willanch Creek to measure maximum stream temperature. Water temperature generally increases as water travels downstream, an effect heavily influenced by the amount of shade from riparian vegetation. Temperature reductions are illustrated in Figures 11-13. Our main objective was to reduce stream temperatures to below 64°F. Over the twenty-one years of temperature data collection, the lower site showed a decrease in temperature from 74.2°F to 64.8°F—a 10°F reduction that satisfied the standard; all sites were under or within 1°F the DEQ temperature standard for over a decade of data collection. We hypothesize that the initial cooling was due to shading by riparian vegetation planted in 1997. The second period of cooling was likely due to improved channel entrenchment ratio that resulted in more floodplain connectivity. (A “well connected” floodplain allows flood water to soak into the banks; this cool water is later released to the stream.) Additionally, the planted trees lured beavers into the

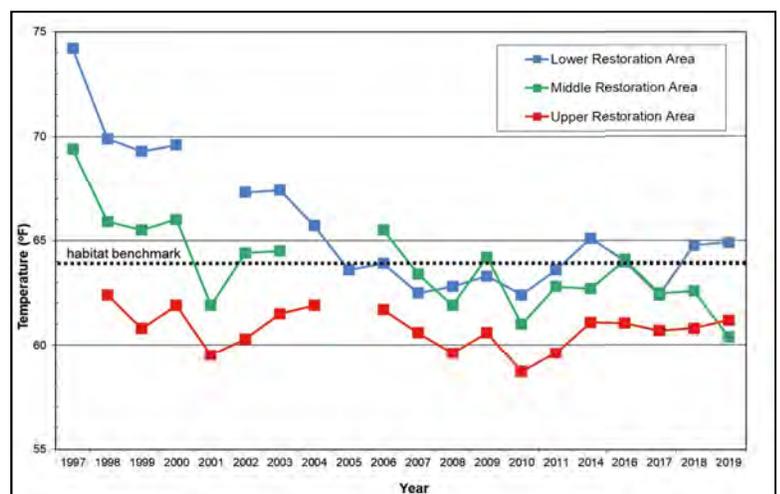


Figure 11: Temperature data collected on Willanch Creek from 1997 to 2018 in the lower restoration, middle restoration, and upper restoration areas. Starting in 2007 all areas were below the salmon temperature threshold of 64°F. This trend has largely continued for over a decade.

area. Beaver ponds have naturally slowed the stream, further increasing floodplain connectivity and the stored water that is released into the stream during the summer.

So What's This All Mean For Fish?

The cumulative efforts to improve and increase the salmon and steelhead population in Willanch Creek includes all types of restoration activities from the estuary to the headwaters. Restored access to spawning and tidal rearing habitats was complemented by reduced summer water temperatures to optimal conditions for juvenile coho and trout.

The restoration's success has been established as a result of the long term monitoring that has captured the ecological improvements over time.

Regional and coast wide salmon populations naturally rise and fall due to climate patterns in the Pacific Ocean. Rupp et al. (2012) found strong predictive power of annual adult coho recruitment in Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) indices, a component of Sea Surface Temperature (SST) anomalies. Likewise, the North Pacific Gyre Oscillation (NPGO) index, a component of sea surface height, also tracks coho populations (Figure 13). These climatic cycles act on large continental scales but locally, periodic natural disturbances also occur. In Willanch Creek noteworthy examples were the complete blockage of the culvert (that was later replaced by the "Third Bridge") which interrupted spawning migrations in 2001, and the landslide in the Upper Wood Treatment area in 2007 that dumped thousands of cubic yards of earth into the North Fork.

Changes to ocean, estuary and stream habitats can effect multiple cohorts due to the three year coho life cycle (Figure 1). Alignment of climate and local disturbances can interact to significantly reduce coho populations. Yet salmon persist because resiliency is key to thriving salmon and steelhead populations. Places like Willanch Creek, at the nexus of the stream and estuary ecotone, provide critical habitat for salmon to express the full range of life history adaptations.

ODFW and CoosWA spawning surveys indicate that Willanch Creek coho populations track the numbers of coho that return to the Coos watershed and the Oregon coast as

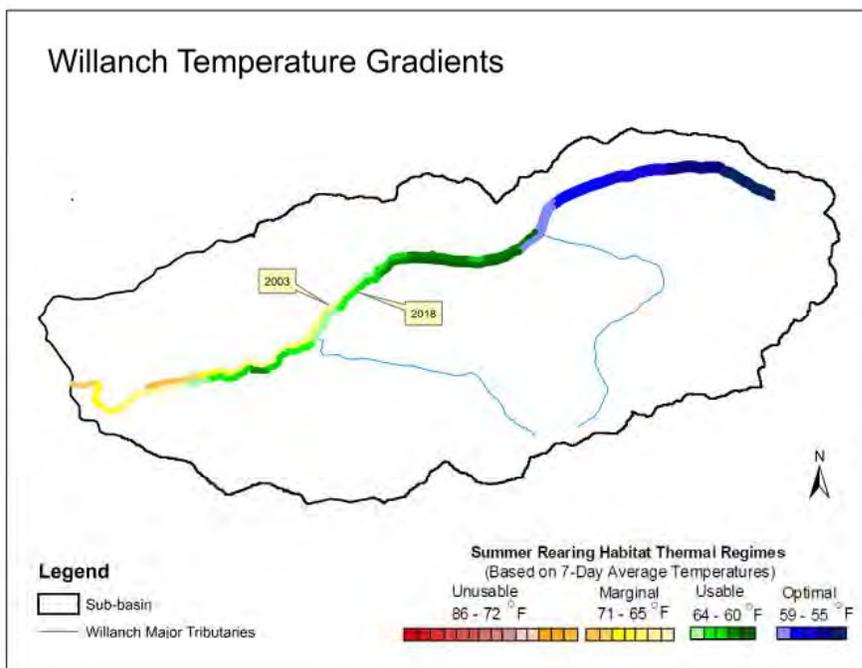


Figure 12: Temperature data gathered on Willanch Creek in 2003 (top line) and 2018 (bottom line). As a result of riparian planting and increased floodplain connectivity, cooler water reached lower in the stream (2.5mi. from the headwaters) in 2018 than in 2003.

a whole. Figure 14 shows this relationship for two areas of Willanch Creek for years when both surveys were conducted. Between 1992 and 2018, the Upper Valley and Lower Wood produced about 20% more coho than the basin average, while the Lower Valley Reach produced about 40% fewer coho than the basin average. Now that restoration efforts have been largely completed, we would expect to see steeper lines in future years compared to the recent past as habitat and populations continue to recover.

Conclusion

Restoration efforts in the Willanch sub-basin demonstrate how an integrated, sub-basin watershed scale approach to restoration can produce measurable improvements in salmon habitat. Restoring both habitats and the connectivity across them is essential to function for the interactive environments that salmon inhabit. Ecological, social and economic goals all guide habitat restoration and management. Functional quality habitat and stable fish populations indicate that Willanch Creek is an ecologically functioning subbasin. Restoration in working landscapes is an adaptive process that requires ongoing maintenance as well. Opportunity remains in the Willanch subbasin to further restore connectivity to marsh/pasture platform environments. Adaptive management of the MTR under a collaboratively developed water

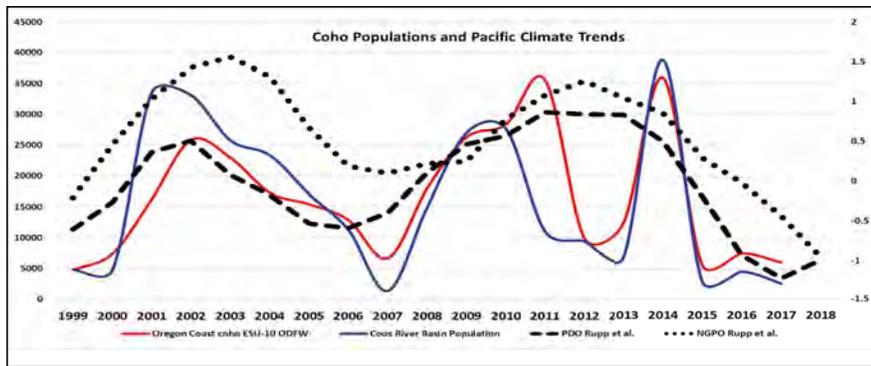


Figure 13. Pacific climate patterns drive coho salmon population trends. OC ESI (red line) and Coos basin (blue line) coho population estimates (ODFW 2019). Spring and summer previous 4-year average of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (dashed black line) and North Pacific Gyre Oscillation (dotted black line) indices (Rupp et al. 2012).

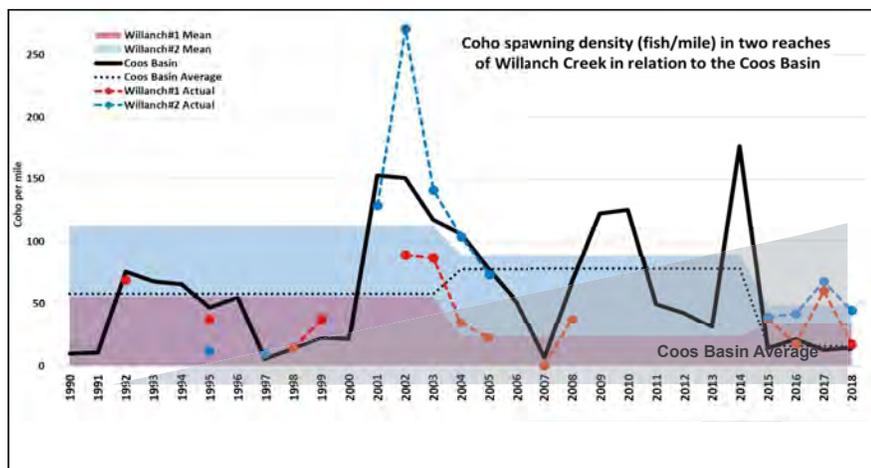


Figure 14. Willanch coho spawner density (fish/mile) tracks the Coos Basin density from the early 1990's to 2018. Between 1992 and 2018, the Upper Valley and Lower Wood produced about 20% more coho than the basin average, while the Lower Valley Reach produced about 40% fewer coho than of the basin average.

management plan that provides for both increased fish habitat and pasture productivity is a relatively new concept that can release additional shared benefits.

Healthy salmon populations in Willanch Creek indicate good watershed health and are essential to both the ecology and economy of the Coos watershed. Being able to “Tell the Story” of the success of restoration and monitoring efforts in Willanch Creek is greatly attributable to the involvement of many very cooperative landowners and funders.

Acknowledgements

Many CoosWA project managers and monitoring technicians, both past and present, have worked on restoration projects in the Willanch Creek sub-basin since 1995. We would like to thank all project partners: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Coos County Road Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Lone Rock Timber Company, Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, Menasha Forest Products Corporation, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board, and the Laird Norton Family

Foundation. Most importantly, we would like to acknowledge the cooperation of all the private landowners in the Willanch Creek sub-basin, especially: Frank & Linda Babcock, Donald & Ruby Gray, Mark & Alanna Johnson, Frank & Mavis Rood, and Jackie & Belinda Shaw.

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COOS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

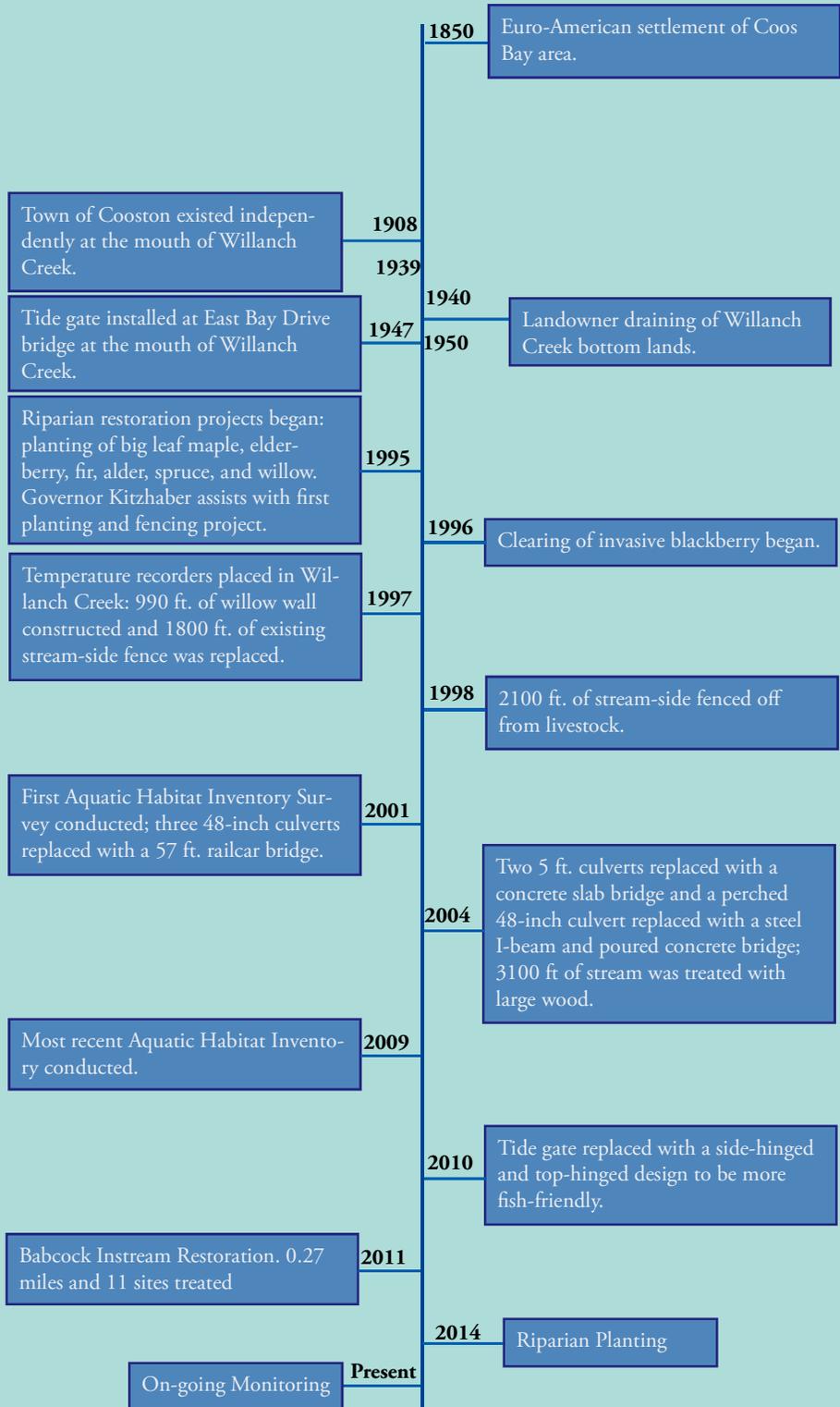
Please contact us to learn more about the Coos Watershed Association. Whether you are a landowner with a potential restoration project or seeking assistance on ways that you can better manage your land, or you would just like to know more about who we are and where we work, we would love to hear from you.

Coos Watershed Association
 300 Central Ave.
 Coos Bay, Oregon 97420
 Phone: (541) 888-5922
 E-mail: admin@cooswatershed.org
 Website: www.cooswatershed.org

Support for the creation of this case study was provided through the generosity of the Laird Norton Family Foundation and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.



Timeline of Willanch Creek Post-Settlement





Kate Brown, Governor



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Agenda Item N supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Rogue Forest FIP Geography Change Request
July 27-28, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Background

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) administrative rules require that any proposed changes to the geography, scope, or partners of a FIP initiative are reported to the board (OAR 695-047-0130(4d)). Since the board approved the originally proposed FIP initiative, any proposed changes are subject to board approval as well. This is an action item.

II. Rogue Forest Partners Proposed FIP Initiative Geography Change

The Rogue Forest Partners request to adjust their FIP initiative geography to include the West Bear area and remove the Middle Applegate area. This will allow the partnership to leverage FIP funding for restoration-related activities (capacity, monitoring, and community engagement) with other significant restoration investments in the West Bear area. The result would be a net gain of 12,000 acres for the FIP initiative, including 5,000 acres of restoration treatments and leveraging of over \$5 million. The West Bear area encompasses contiguous acres with the former Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Initiative FIP and includes a higher proportion of private lands and structures than the originally proposed Middle Applegate area. The West Bear area is situated near the towns of Phoenix, Talent, and Jacksonville. Since the West Bear area did not burn in the fall 2020 wildfires, it has emerged as a high priority for restoration to mitigate against future wildfire threat to these communities and forests. Attachment A is a memo submitted by the Rogue Forest Partners outlining the proposed change in greater detail.

III. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board approve the proposed change for the Rogue Forest Partners to include the West Bear area and remove the Middle Applegate area in their FIP initiative geography.

Attachments

Attachment A. Rogue Forest Partners OWEB FIP Initiative Modification Proposal



Proposal to Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative (RFRI): Substitute the West Bear planning area for the RFRI Middle Applegate planning area to increase restoration acres (5,000) consistent with the RFRI strategic action plan and to provide additional leverage (\$5 million) that will substantially reduce the risk and impacts of future fires.

Background

The Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative (RFRI) includes six project areas (**see attached Map 1**), one of which --the Upper Applegate Watershed -- was selected as a larger landscape project where landscape effectiveness monitoring would be conducted. The original selection criteria for these project areas include a) high priority for risk reduction to protect habitat and communities, b) NEPA ready (if on federal lands), c) private land in need of treatment in strategic locations, d) presence within each of six federal land management unit footprints and e) ability to scale up to a landscape level with leverage.

Implementation is proceeding in Biennium 1 on three of the project areas—the Upper Applegate Watershed, Williams, and Upper Briggs project areas; each has been leveraged to expand treatment totaling 1,252 acres to date under existing agreements. The Rogue Forest Partners (RFP) have also set the stage for work on the other three projects beginning in Biennium 2.

Recently, several of the RFP partners engaged, with other sources of funding, in a new project called [West Bear All-Lands Restoration Project \(West Bear\)](#), (**see attached Map 2**). West Bear is adjacent to the Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration FIP and close to the communities of Talent, Phoenix and Jacksonville. The project area does not encompass the 2020 Almeda fire, but parts of the project are as close a one mile to the west.

Because of the strong alignment with Rogue Forest Partners' (RFP) goals and objectives as well as a convergence of emerging partner interest, the RFP is proposing to leverage OWEB's investment more effectively in southwest Oregon by revising the original OWEB RFRI proposal to substitute the West Bear for the Middle Applegate project area. This would provide for a net gain of 12,000 project acres. The result of this exchange would be an increase of 5,000 acres of restoration treatments, leveraging of over \$5 million and an opportunity to better serve the community at risk.

Rationale

The West Bear Initiative aligns with Rogue Forest Partners' critical values—fire adapted communities, habitat and legacy tree protection and climate adaptation, and we believe the project would also align with OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership criteria. The project area contains the largest aggregation of priority treatment acres identified in the Rogue Basin Strategy within the mapped "communities at risk." Rogue Forest Partners specifically elevated the urgency and need to address wildfire risk in the forested residential areas and further collaborated on integrating a proactive fire management approach using detailed wildfire Potential Operational Delineations (PODs). Also included in the project

area is a 427-acre Research Natural Area managed by BLM with some of the last remaining low-elevation old growth forest in southwest Oregon. West Bear project cohesively integrates over \$5 million of existing investments in this focal landscape from:

- Southwest Integrated Forest and Fire Treatment Initiative (Sustainable Northwest) *Secured*
- Anderson Creek Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Project (Lomakatsi-FEMA) *Secured*
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (NRCS) *Secured*
- Title II Funding (Lomakatsi-Bureau of Land Management) *Secured*
- Landscape Scale Restoration Program (USFS) *Prospective*
- Oregon Recreation and Conservation Fund, (SOFRC) *Secured*
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (Lomakatsi-US Fish and Wildlife Service) *Secured*
- Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program (CWSF) *Prospective*
- Congressionally Directed Spending (Senator Merkley) *Prospective*

The West Bear location, scale, design, available funding, and the increased function in reducing risk to communities make it markedly more suitable to achieve the RFRI objectives for landscape level restoration and providing community protection. The exchange would greatly increase the proportion of treatment on private land to federal lands as compared to the Middle Applegate.

Our proposed project exchange would apply the Middle Applegate treatment funding to West Bear, but given the level of secured restoration implementation funding, OWEB funding would be shifted to provide capacity, monitoring, and engagement.

The earlier proposed Middle Applegate project was envisioned as seed money, necessary to catalyze co-investment in these landscapes. The RFRI investments in developing the RFP and initial steps in implementation on three project areas toward realizing the Rogue Basin Strategy effectively attracted this co-investment but in reconsidering priorities, the West Bear project area emerged as more strategic and effective at achieving multiple objectives. Both project areas are in the BLM Ashland Resource Area and while the Middle Applegate is a mixture of federally managed and private rural properties, West Bear has a larger proportion of private lands and structures exposed to wildfire. This concentration of private landowners, including the towns of Phoenix, Talent and Jacksonville will increase the effectiveness of RFP outreach and engagement to build critical support for similar dry forest conservation actions across the Rogue basin.

Driven by emerging opportunities and deeper consideration of the opportunity to achieve landscape resilience to wildfire, the RFP attention has shifted to the West Bear geography and with limited resources and capacity, we see a much greater return on investment in West Bear than the originally proposed Middle Applegate.

Activities

The 27,000-acre West Bear project area is slated to treat over 5,000 acres in high priority, strategic locations with ecological thinning, fuels reduction, and prescribed fire. Proposed monitoring of these actions will produce a comprehensive data set on wildfire risk reduction treatments and community and habitat protection in the WUI to inform future efforts that can be expanded across Oregon. Public engagement, partnership, applied scientific theory, and rigorous monitoring will provide clear and demonstrable public benefit at a significant scale and emphasize the importance of ongoing maintenance to perpetuate the benefits of initial treatments. Rogue Forest Partner activities in the West Bear project will:

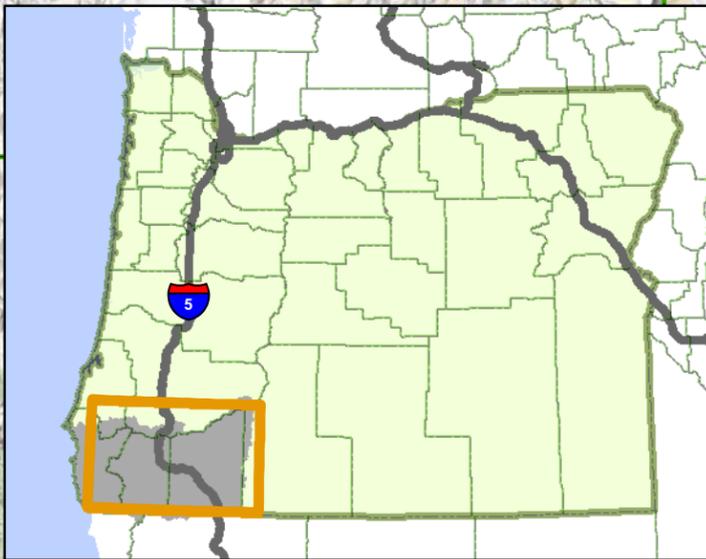
1. Engage with homeowners and landowners to develop and implement wildfire mitigation plans and monitor ecologically sound forest health restoration treatments
2. Implement wildfire risk reduction projects on public and private forestlands to protect homes, critical infrastructure, and reduce impacts to vulnerable populations.
3. Enhance forest resiliency and restore function to unique ecosystems by accomplishing treatments that improve tree survival and preserve large and old structure needed by wildlife.
4. Conduct multi-party monitoring of ecological and socioeconomic project outcomes to replicate, scale, and communicate applied theory and adaptive management for broad public benefit.
5. Coordinate broad stakeholder engagement, secure public support, and advocate for increased public and private investments in forest health and resiliency, wildfire risk reduction, and community protection and preparedness in southwest Oregon

Support

In addition to the Rogue Forest Partners unanimously agreeing to the change in project areas, we reached out to local watershed councils, Tribes involved in our projects and local conservation groups. All organizations and groups we contacted were supportive of this exchange. Because the Middle Applegate project area contains extensive BLM administered lands, significant consideration of the change with the BLM Ashland Resource Area staff was given. Additionally, we consulted with local OWEB staff and the RFRI project manager before elevating this proposal to the OWEB board.

Summary

Exchanging the West Bear planning area for the Middle Applegate planning area would provide a significant increase in treated acres (5,000 acres) consistent with the objectives of the RFRI strategic action plan and would provide sufficient investment to significantly influence likely future fire impacts. This is an opportunity to co-invest with active partners to successfully transform a critical landscape. The inclusion of the needed monitoring and engagement funding creates an opportunity to leverage this important work, build momentum and comprehensively invest in future landscapes.



- FEMA Anderson Creek
- Jacksonville LSR Project
- Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative
- NRCS RCPP

Streets by Type

- Freeway
- State Highway
- Major Arterial

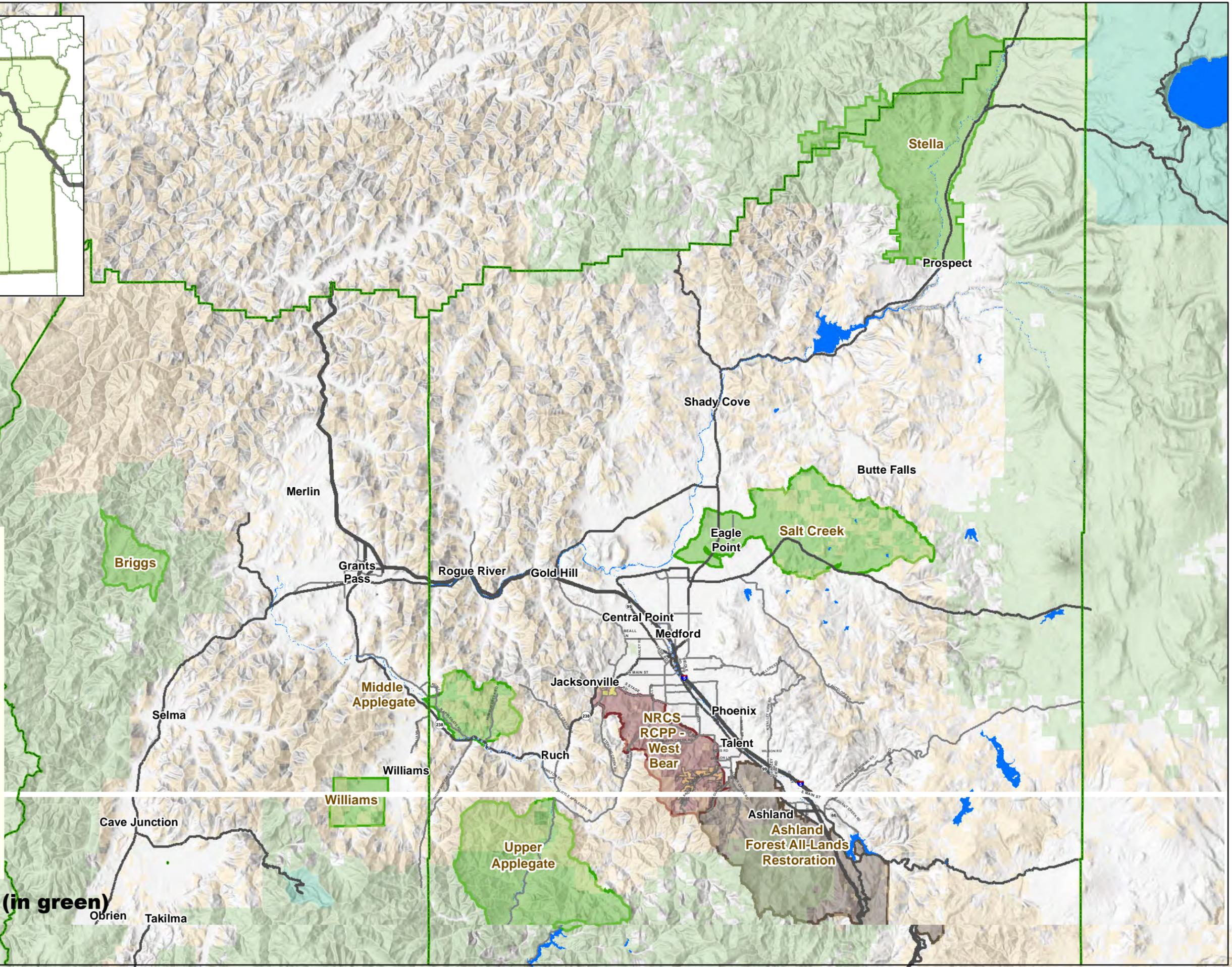
USA Federal Lands

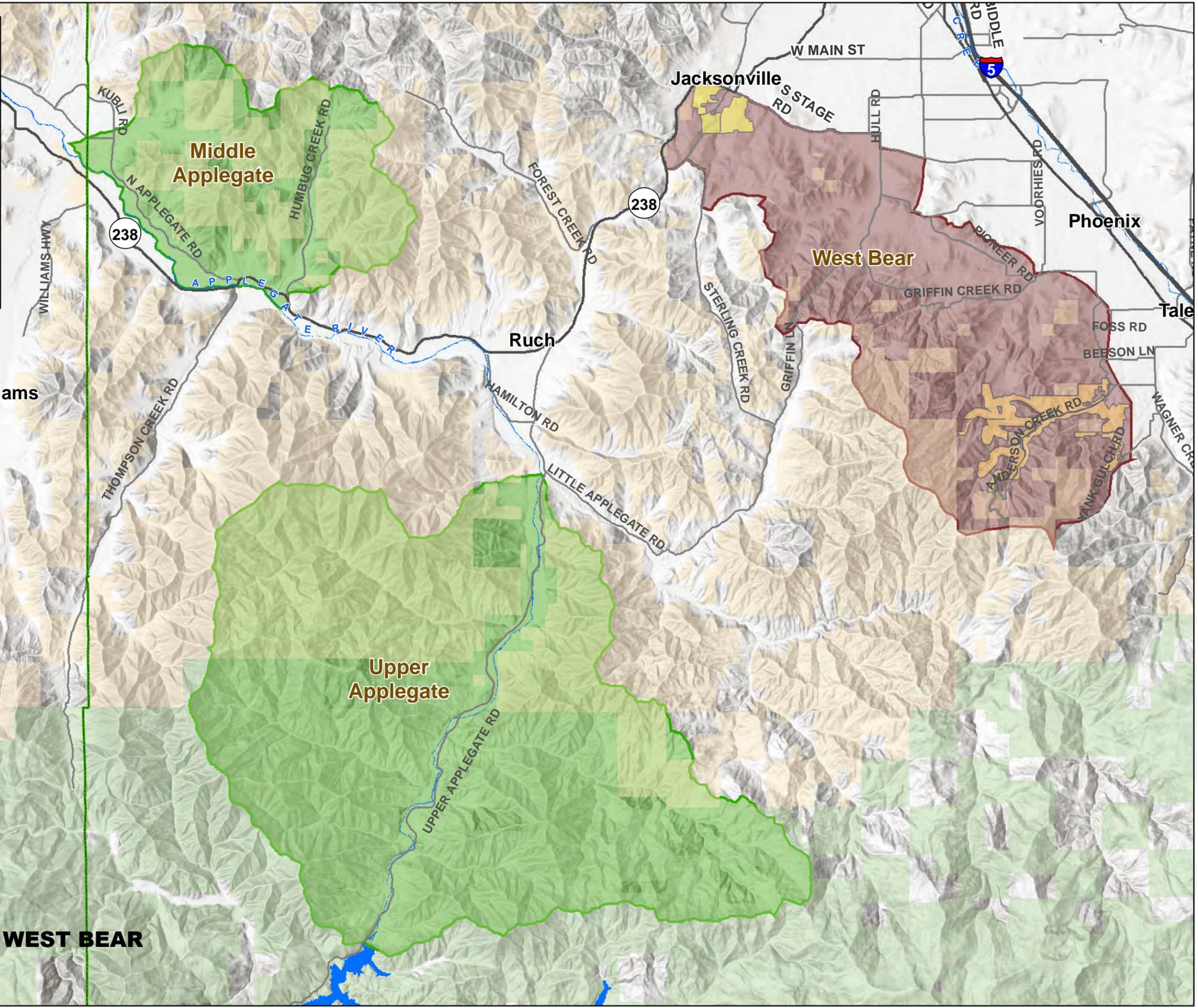
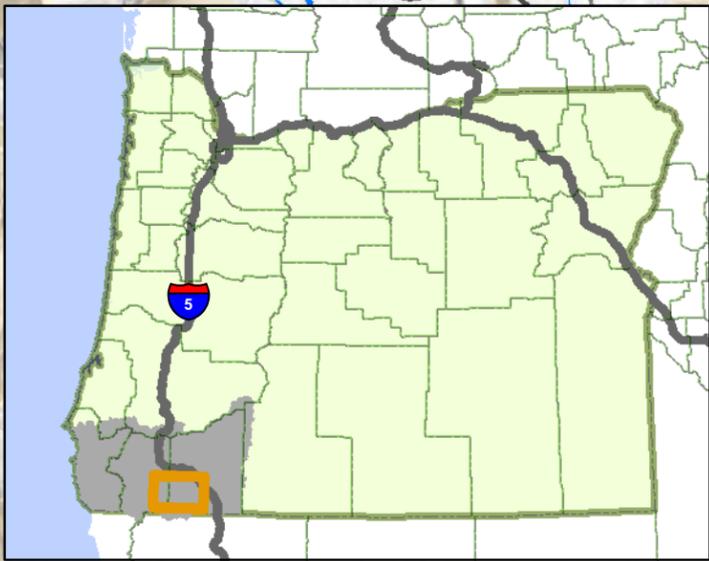
- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Rivers and Lakes

N

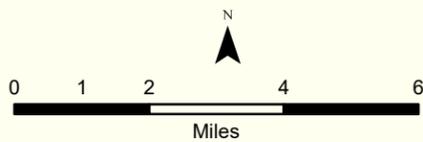
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MAP 1 RFRI PROJECTS (in green)





- FEMA Anderson Creek
 - Jacksonville LSR Project
 - Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative
 - NRCS RCPP
- Streets by Type**
- Freeway
 - State Highway
 - Major Arterial
- USA Federal Lands**
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Forest Service
 - National Park Service
 - Rivers1



MAP 2: MIDDLE APPLGATE & WEST BEAR



Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Salem OR 97301-1290
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Agenda Item O supports OWEB's Strategic Plan Priorities 2, 5, 6, and 7.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Update about Climate Executive Order 20-04 Activities
July 27-28, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will update the board about implementation activities for Governor Brown's Executive Order (EO) 20-04, issued in March of 2020 and focused on climate. This is an information item only.

II. Background

In early March of 2020, Governor Brown issued the EO, which directs state agencies to take actions to reduce and regulate greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to the general directive for agencies to exercise authority and discretion in helping to meet greenhouse gas emissions goals and prioritize actions that will help vulnerable populations and impacted communities, OWEB is specifically identified in the Executive Order in several sections of the EO, including (but not limited to):

- Section 3.E. Participate on an interagency workgroup convened by the Governor's Office on climate impacts to impacted communities, with the intent of developing strategies to guide state climate actions.
- Section 12.A. Directives to the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) – In coordination with Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Forestry and OWEB, the OGWC is directed to submit a proposal to the Governor by June 30, 2021 for consideration of adoption of state goals for carbon sequestration and storage by Oregon's natural and working landscapes, including forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands, based on best available science.

III. EO Implementation Activities

OWEB staff participated in the Interagency Workgroup on Climate Impacts to Impacted Communities, which was convened by staff from the Governor's Office. The aim of the workgroup is to: 1) Coordinate state collaboration across sectors to put equity at the center and develop climate policy that benefits frontline communities; 2) Determine how state agencies can be accountable to frontline communities; and 3) Identify top priorities for climate impacted communities. The ultimate goal is to develop a climate justice

strategy to serve impacted communities and recommendations for potential improvements. Release of the workgroup's report and recommendations is pending, with an expected release in July. At the July board meeting, staff will update the OWEB board about the report's content.

Staff also have been deeply engaged in the OGWC work related to natural and working lands (NWL). First, OWEB assisted with outreach to ensure OGWC received input about NWL challenges and opportunities from relevant groups—ranging from agricultural and forestry interests and conservationists, to tribes, environmental justice groups, and landowners. Outreach included a targeted survey for Oregon's agricultural and forest landowners, and the organizations that support them; and a series of focused discussions to inform the OGWC recommendation. Second, OWEB staff have partnered with other agencies on technical work to make recommendations about how to improve data inventories for Oregon's agricultural, forest and estuarine landscapes. Results from the outreach and technical work is being incorporated into the OGWC report and recommendations. The draft report is scheduled for release for public comment on July 16, 2021, and the final approval of the report by OGWC is schedule for August 4, 2021. At the July board meeting, staff will update the board about the report's content and recommendations, with a particular focus on those items that have a nexus to OWEB.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD



Virtual Meeting
Oct 26-27, 2021



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Agenda

October 26 & 27, 2021

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the October 26 & 27 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Phone:**
 - **Oct. 26:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 851 5089 1153 and passcode: 145130
 - **Oct 27:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 893 0633 8398 and passcode: 072101
- The board book (eBook) is available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/about-us/Pages/board/meetings.aspx>
- For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

Written and verbal public comment

OWEB encourages public comment on any agenda item.

Written Comments

Written comments should be sent to April Mack at April.mack@oregon.gov. Written comments received by Thursday, Oct 21 at 4:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Items C, F, H, and I). To provide verbal comment, you must contact April Mack at April.mack@oregon.gov, by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, and provide the following information:

- Your first and last name,
- The topic of your comment, and
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

Tuesday, October 26, 2021**A. Board Member Comments (8:30 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 (9:30 a.m.)

The minutes of the July 27-28, 2021 virtual meeting will be presented for board approval. *Action item.*

C. Public Comment (9:35 a.m.)

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

D. Committee Updates (10:00 a.m.)

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

E. Director's Updates (10:45 a.m.)

Executive Director Lisa Charpillioz Hanson and OWEB staff will update the board on agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information item.*

F. Spring Open Solicitation Grant Offering Board Awards (11:05 a.m.)

NOTE: Verbal public comment specific for this agenda item will be heard at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Introduction

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives will provide background information on the Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering and funding recommendations.

Public Comment [approximately 12:45 p.m.]

This time is reserved for public comment on pending 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 applications must be received by OWEB staff by the **October 21, 2021 deadline** to be provided to the board in advance of the meeting. **Verbal comments should be limited to three minutes.**

Board Consideration of Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications

The board will consider grant applications submitted through the Spring 2021 Open Solicitation grant offering. Applications, supporting materials, and funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the board. *Action item.*

G. Post-Fire Recovery Funding (2:00 p.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis will provide an overview of the General Fund appropriations to OWEB during the 2021-2023 biennium in support of post-fire natural resources recovery in 2020 fire impacted areas. The board will be asked to approve receipt of these

General Funds for the purposes outlined in House Bill (5006 and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through appropriate agreements. *Action item.*

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the October 26 & 27 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
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Written Comments

Written comments should be sent to April Mack at April.mack@oregon.gov Written comments received by Thursday, Oct 21 at 4:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Item C) at approximately 9:35 am. on October 26 and (Agenda item H) at approximately 8:05 a.m. on October 27. To provide verbal comment, you must contact April Mack at April.mack@oregon.gov, by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, and provide the following information:

- Your first and last name,
- The topic of your comment, and
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

Wednesday, October 27, 2021**H. Public Comment (8:05 a.m.)**

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

I. Land Acquisitions Awards (8:20 a.m.)

NOTE: Verbal public comment specific for this agenda item will be heard at approximately 8:40 a.m.

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Acquisitions Coordinator Miriam Forney will provide an overview of the April 2021 land acquisition grant offering and outline staff recommendations for grant awards. *Action item.*

J. Telling the Restoration Story (9:30 a.m.)

Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho will provide an update to the board on the 'Telling the Restoration Story' targeted grant offering and provide an example from restoration efforts at Horsetail Creek. *Information item.*

K. Oregon Plan Biennial Report (9:45 a.m.)

Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide an update about the agency's development of the 2019-2021 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The board will be asked to approve recommendations to include in the report, which will be submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office. *Action item.*

L. Water Committee (10:15 a.m.)

Board and Legislative Coordinator Eric Hartstein will introduce the objectives the water committee has developed for board consideration as areas of focus for the committee moving forward. The board will be asked to approve these objectives. *Action item.*

M. DEI Update (10:55 a.m.)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will facilitate a discussion with OWEB grantees on their diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts and how they are incorporating these principles into watershed conservation activities. Courtney Shaff will then provide an overview of the process to hire a consultant for (DEI) to work with the board and staff and discuss the creation of a permanent board DEI committee. *Information item.*

N. Climate Resources (11:55 a.m.)

Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch will update the board about climate-related technical resources developed to assist OWEB grant applicants. *Information item.*

O. Granting Practices (12:55 p.m.)

Tribal Liaison Ken Fetcho and Portland State University graduate student Alli Miller will summarize findings from a recent assessment conducted to better understand how OWEB's grant practices impact federally recognized Tribes' ability to apply for and receive agency grants. *Information item.*

P. 2022 In-Person and Virtual Board Meeting Dates and Format (1:25 p.m.)

Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide an update about in-person and virtual options for future board meetings. The board will be asked to approve a format that includes meeting in-person either two or three times per year once it is safe to do so. *Action item.*

Q. Other Business (1:40 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 when OWEB meetings convene.

Voting Rules

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

General Business

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

Action on Grant Awards

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

Executive Session

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

session, the presiding board member will make a public announcement and explain necessary procedures.

More Information

If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call April Mack, OWEB Board Assistant, at 971-345-7001 or send an e-mail to april.mack@oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise April Mack as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Barbara Boyer, *Board Co-Chair, Board of Agriculture*
Molly Kile, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Mark Labhart, *Fish and Wildlife Commission*
Brenda McComb, *Board of Forestry*
Meg Reeves, *Water Resources Commission*
Vacant, *Public (Tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Jamie McLeod-Skinner, *Public*
Randy Labbe, *Public*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *Board Co-Chair, Public*

Non-voting Members

Eric Murray, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Vacant, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Cory Owens, *U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service*
Dan Brown, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Paul Henson, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
Dan Shively, *U.S Forest Service*

Contact Information

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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 – Lisa Charpilloz Hanson
lisa.charpilloz-hanson@oregon.gov
OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board – April Mack
april.mack@oregon.gov
971-345-7001

2022 Board Meeting Schedule

Jan 25 & 26, Virtual
April 26 & 27 TBD
July 26 & 27 TBD

October 25 & 26 TBD

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

www.oregon.gov/OWEB.

The Approach We Take

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

Our work is characterized by...

Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership

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

Using best available science supported by local knowledge

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

Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

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

Demonstrating impact through meaningful monitoring and evaluation

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

Reaching and involving underrepresented populations

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



OWEB Staff Culture Statement

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

2021-2023 SPENDING PLAN for M76, GF & PCSRF Funds	2021 Spending Plan	TOTAL Awards To- Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To- Date	Other Funding Received & Delegated
Open Solicitation:				
Restoration	32.000		32.000	0.460
Fire Recovery & Restoration				
Riparian/upland rest. & water quality	10.750		10.750	
Floodplain restoration & reconnection	5.000		5.000	
Technical Assistance				
Restoration TA	3.000	0.000	3.000	
CREP TA	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.400
Stakeholder Engagement	2.250	0.000	2.250	0.000
Monitoring grants	4.250	0.000	4.250	0.000
Land and Water Acquisition				
Acquisition	9.000	0.000	9.000	0.000
Weed Grants	3.250	3.250	0.000	0.000
Small Grants	2.800	2.800	0.000	0.000
Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	1.000	0.150	0.850	0.000
TOTAL	74.500	7.400	67.100	0.860
% of assumed Total Budget				
Focused Investments:				
Deschutes	1.915	1.915	0.000	0.000
Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat	1.400	1.400	0.000	0.000
Harney Basin Wetlands	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000
Upper Grande Ronde	0.466	0.466	0.000	0.000
John Day Partnership	4.000	4.000	0.000	0.000
Baker Sage Grouse	2.435	2.435	0.000	0.000
Warner Aquatic Habitat	2.293	2.293	0.000	0.000
Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp	2.700	2.700	0.000	0.000
Clackamas Partnership	3.082	3.082	0.000	0.000
New FIP Solicitation	10.000	0.000	10.000	0.000
FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.750	0.000	0.750	0.000
TOTAL	29.141	18.391	10.750	0.000
% of assumed Total Budget				
Operating Capacity:				
Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	15.121	15.121	0.000	0.000
Statewide org partnership support	0.225	0.225	0.000	0.000
Organizational Collaboration	0.500	0.130	0.370	0.000
Partnership Technical Assistance	1.500	0.000	1.500	0.000
TOTAL	17.346	15.476	1.870	0.000
% of assumed Total Budget				
Other:				
CREP	0.750	0.750	0.000	0.000
Governor's Priorities	1.000	0.800	0.200	0.000
Strategic Implementation Areas	1.500	1.500	0.000	0.000
Gov. directed - Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000
Gov. directed - Sage Grouse Conservation Partnership	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000
TOTAL	3.930	3.730	0.200	0.000
% of assumed Total Budget				
TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	124.918	44.997	79.921	0.860
Funds transferred from/to other agencies				
Transfer to ODFW - PCSRF	12.884	12.884	0.000	0.000
Transfer to Eugene Water & Electric Board - GF	4.000	0.000	4.000	0.000
Transfer from ODF for Forest Health Collaboratives - O	0.500	0.000	0.500	0.500
Transfer from PSMFC - IMW - OF	0.600	0.000	0.600	0.600
transfer from NRCS - Farm Bill technical support - FF				
TOTAL	17.984	12.884	5.100	1.100
TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds	142.902	57.881	85.021	1.960

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

July 27 & 28, 2021 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting

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

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT

Alvarado, Ron
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Hatch, Audrey
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHER

Brink, Steve
Creager, Clayton
Creutzburg, Megan
Devos, Al
Jeans, Jason
Lightcap, Scott
Lorion, Chris
Mork, Lauren
Owens, Cory
Placido, Elaine
Weybright, Jared

ABSENT

Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
Shively, Dan

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

Co-Chair Appointment (Audio = 1:30)

Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister announced the need to elect a new co-chair as Jason Robison is stepping down. *Action item.*

Jamie McLeod-Skinner nominated Barbara Boyer. Jason Robison motioned to elect Barbara as co-chair, Randy Labbe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:04:35)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies provided 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 (Audio = 1:05:17)

The minutes of the March 9 & 10, 2021 virtual meetings were presented for board approval. *Action item.*

Liza Jane McAlister made the motion the board approve the minutes from the March 9 & 10, 2021 virtual meeting. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment (Audio = 1:05:58)

Vanessa Green from Network of Oregon Watershed Councils shared ways that the organization networked community-building strategy over the past year has served watershed councils. Vanessa also highlighted the new Affinity Groups, which is an initiative launched this year by the Oregon Conservation Partnership.

Kelley Beamer of Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts shared Information on the organization's new State of the Lands Report. Kelley also discussed the upcoming Oregon Conservation Partnership's summer tours and recent success they've with earned media.

D. Committee Updates (Audio = 1:21:36)

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

E. Director's Updates (Audio = 1:48:44)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and OWEB staff updated the board on agency business and late-breaking issues. These included updates on Wildfire Response Grants, Legislative and Budget, and OWEB's Online Systems. *Information item.*

F. Spending Plan (Audio =2:46:26)

After presentations by Elaine Placido of Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, Megan Creutzburg of Sage-Grouse Conservation Partnership, and Chris Lorion of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided the 2021-23 Spending Plan for board review and approval. *Action item.*

Spending Plan Public Comment (Audio = 4:08:51)

Jan Lee from Oregon Association of Conservation Districts supports the spending plan changes in the climate area under the Governor's Priorities portion of the spending plan.

Kelley Beamer of Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts referenced the importance of land acquisitions in the spending plan.

1. Molly Kile made the motion to approve the request in the 'Other Funding Received and Delegated' and '2021 Spending Plan' columns of Attachment B: Proposed OWEB 2021-2023 Spending Plan. Jason Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Molly Kile made the motion to approve table 1-3 of Attachment D regarding spending plan policy decisions, carry forward, and delegation authorities for the 2021-2023 spending plan. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion with the adjustment to the July date of July 27 to July 1 for Weed grants. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Molly Kile made the motion that all funds recaptured from grants in the weed grant, small grant and FIP initiatives line items remain in those programs for future granting using policies established for the program. Jason Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. OWEB's Role in Managing Funds (Audio =4:56:48)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams facilitated a board discussion with Steve Brink of Idaho Power, Scott Lightcap of Bureau of Land Management, Al Devos of Oregon Department of Forestry, Jason Jeans of Natural Resources Conservation Service and Clayton Creager of California Water Boards, on grant programs OWEB is, or will be, administering on behalf of those organizations. *Information item.*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 by Co-Chair Barbara Boyer.

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

H. Public Comment (Audio =0:1:16)

Jan Lee from Oregon Association of Conservation Districts testified on behalf of Oregon Conservation Partnership on the recent success with earned media on projects. *Information item.*

I. Council Operating Capacity Grant Awards (Audio =0:5:00)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff provided an overview of the 2021-2023 Council Capacity grant cycle process and outlined staff recommended grant awards. *Action item.*

Meg Reeves made the motion the board award the 2021-2023 Council Capacity grants as described in Attachment C with an award date of July 1, 2021. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Organizational Collaborations Grants (Audio =1:06:04)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff provided an overview of the 2021 Organization Collaboration grant offering and staff funding recommendations. *Action item.*

Barbara Boyer made the motion the board award the Organization Collaboration Partnership Technical Assistance Project grants consistent with the staff recommendations in Attachment A. Meg Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

K. Update on Stage 0 Monitoring Investments (Audio =1:55:03)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho, Lauren Mork of Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, and Jared Weybright from the McKenzie Watershed Alliance provided updates on the progress made to date to implement a multi-pronged approach to address monitoring and information needs for Stage 0 restoration. *Information item.*

L. Conveyance of Willamette Confluence Property from The Nature Conservancy to McKenzie River Trust (Audio =1:41:40)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams discussed a request from The Nature Conservancy to convey the OWEB land acquisition project at the Willamette Confluence Preserve to McKenzie River Trust. *Action item.*

Randy Labbe made the motion for the board to approve the conveyance of the Willamette Confluence Preserve (OWEB Grant No. 208-3090-8358) from The Nature Conservancy to McKenzie River Trust, conditioned on staff and Oregon Department of Justice approval of the final form of all conveyance-related circumstances and documents. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

M. Willanch Telling the Restoration Story (Audio =3:20:52)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, and Conservations Outcome Coordinator Audrey Hatch shared information about Willanch Creek Telling the Restoration Story project, and what emerged from the board's investment in that effort. *Information item.*

N. Rogue Forest Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Geography Change Request (Audio =3:30:55)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer discussed the Rogue Forest Partners request to adjust their FIP initiative geography to include the West Bear area and remove the Middle Applegate area. *Action item*

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved the board approve the proposed change for the Rogue Forest Partners to include the West Bear area and remove the Middle Applegate area in their FIP initiative geography. Jason Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

O. Updates on Climate Executive Order Activities (Audio =3:44:25)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch updated the board about implementation activities for Governor Brown's Executive Order (EO) 20-04, issued in March of 2020 and focused on climate. *Information Item*

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 by Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

October 26 & 27 2021 OWEB Board

Meeting Agenda Item C

Written Public Comment



Curry Watersheds Partnership

Post Office Box 666 - Gold Beach, OR 97444 - Phone (541)247-2755 - Fax (541)247-0408 - info@currywatersheds.org

September 22, 2021

Eric Williams
Grant Program Manager
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Dear Mr. Williams:

We are writing to provide clarification for the Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement grant application (#221-9902-19498). While Curry Watersheds Partnership certainly appreciates the value of the project and is interested in partnering with the Wild Rivers Land Trust (WRLT) to assist with the various elements in the application that mention our organization, we want to clarify that we have not at this time entered into any formal agreements with WRLT relating to this project, and we are unable to assume in perpetuity any responsibilities pertaining to this project.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Liesl Coleman in blue ink.

Liesl Coleman, Curry SWCD Manager

Handwritten signature of Kelly Timchak in blue ink.

Kelly Timchak, LRWC Coordinator

Handwritten signature of Miranda Gray in blue ink.

Miranda Gray, SCWC Coordinator

Curry Soil & Water Conservation District | South Coast and Lower Rogue Watershed Councils

Supporting our communities to care for our lands and waters, now and into the future.

Committee Members

Stephen Brandt (chair), Dan Brown, Molly Kile, Brenda McComb

Background

The Monitoring Committee met on September 2, 2021 to: welcome new committee member, Dan Brown; discuss the committee's themes for inclusion in the OWEB board recommendations section of the 2019-21 Oregon Plan Biennial Report for Salmon and Watersheds; an update about the coordinating committee process for vetting new ideas from board members and committees; debrief from the Stage 0 monitoring item at the July board meeting; provide feedback regarding metrics for measuring success in stakeholder engagement grants; discuss monitoring related agenda items for the October board meeting; and briefly discuss upcoming committee topics.

Key Points from the Committee's Discussion

The committee welcomed Dan Brown, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Dan shared background about himself and areas of overlapping interest and opportunity with EPA related monitoring and granting initiatives.

The committee then discussed monitoring themes for inclusion in the biennial report. Discussion focused on emphasizing the strong monitoring foundation provided by the strategic plan and ongoing monitoring programs and investments—including use of evidence-based decision-making, shared monitoring learnings, and adaptive management. In addition, the committee expressed interest in highlighting the importance of potential new areas of focus, including post-fire impacts and climate related monitoring.

The committee reviewed the proposed process for 'vetting' new ideas that emerge from board members or committee processes, to ensure consistent and comprehensive consideration of new activities while being mindful of OWEB's statutory structure and staff capacity. Committee members noted that some ideas may be less formal and simpler follow up on, so that a threshold for use of this process would be helpful. There also was discussion about the timeframe for running ideas through such a process, acknowledging the interest in timely consideration of new ideas while ensuring a deliberate process.

Committee members and staff debriefed from the Stage 0 monitoring presentation at the July meeting. Discussion focused on follow-up with grantees about feedback from the board about several questions and areas of interest, with the intent of exploring what work to address these could be folded into Phase 2 funding requests to the board this biennium.

Staff updated the committee about a discussion that occurred at the DEI committee regarding metrics for measuring success in stakeholder engagement grants (see July 2021 DEI committee update for details). Monitoring committee members indicated agreement with the DEI committee's direction, along with raising interesting considerations about how OWEB helps to ensure various communities have equitable access to granting opportunities.

The committee briefly touched on monitoring related agenda items at the October meeting, including a Telling the Restoration Story report. In the interest of time, staff invited committee members to follow up by email or phone with any questions about the written status updates for ongoing projects. Staff noted that in December, the monitoring and focused investment committees will meet jointly to detail out the structure for piloting post-FIP reporting investments beginning this biennium.

To Be Presented at the October 2021 Board Meeting by:

Stephen Brandt

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director
renee.davis@oregon.gov or 971-345-7231

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Water Committee Update

Committee Members

Jamie McLeod Skinner (chair), Barbara Boyer, Molly Kile, Meg Reeves, Gary Marshall, Eric Murray

Background

The Water committee met on September 22, 2021. The committee discussed their biennial report recommendations (see Agenda Item K), received an update on the water and climate policy coordinator position and finalized a suite of objectives for the committee to focus on for board approval at the October meeting (see Agenda Item L).

Water and Climate Policy Coordinator

In addition to a brief discussion of the leadership transition at OWEB, staff updated the committee about the results of the recruitment for the new, limited duration Water and Climate Programs Coordination position at OWEB and discussed some of the initial work involving interagency and legislative coordination that the position will entail.

To Be Presented at the October 2021 Board Meeting by:

Jamie McLeod-Skinner

Staff Contact

Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Coordinator
Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-910-6201

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Acquisitions Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Meg Reeves (Chair), Barbara Boyer, Randy Labbe, Mark Labhart

Background

The Acquisitions Committee was reconstituted by the board in April 2020 to include both review of annual land and water acquisition applications as well as regular policy meetings covering both programs. The committee met September 30, 2021 for a briefing on land acquisition applications that will be addressed at the October board meeting.

2021 Land Acquisition Applications

Staff briefed the committee on the content and draft evaluations for each of the land acquisition applications received in the 2021 solicitation. The following applications were reviewed:

- Oak Creek Preserve – Greenbelt Land Trust
- Mt Ashland Forest Climate Resilience – Pacific Forest Trust
- Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement – Wild Rivers Land Trust
- Siuslaw North Fork – The Nature Conservancy.

Committee members asked clarifying questions on the content of the applications and evaluations in preparation for discussion at the October board meeting.

To Be Presented at the October 2021 Board Meeting by:

Meg Reeves, Committee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 971-345-7014

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Focused Investment Committee Update

Committee Members

Bruce Buckmaster (chair), Randy Labbe, Mark Labhart, Gary Marshall, Dan Shively

Background

The Focused Investment Committee met on September 8, 2021 to discuss: a Committee theme for the Oregon Plan Biennial Report, post-FIP reporting, the FIP solicitation timeline, and Cohort 1 Progress Tracking Reports.

Oregon Plan Biennial Report Theme

The committee reviewed Strategic Plan Priority 7 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds as a starting point for discussion. The theme could blend all three strategies under this priority: invest in landscape restoration over the long term; develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies; and foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission. The committee recommended blending the three strategies with an emphasis on inclusive partnerships operating at a landscape scale over a long period of time through an adaptive management approach based on monitoring. The committee also emphasized the importance of socio-economic outcomes resulting from FIP implementation. Eric Hartstein will draft a theme paragraph for committee review by the end of September.

Post-FIP Reporting

In preparation for a December 8 joint meeting with the Monitoring Committee, staff will reach out to FIPs who may be ready to pilot post-FIP reporting, including Ashland and Grande Ronde. The Monitoring Committee requested that the pilots include a river FIP in addition to an upland FIP. Staff outreach will ground truth necessary funding for post-FIP reporting.

Regarding format, the committee discussed that Progress Tracking Reports (PTRs) will be used as a starting point, with a shift to outcomes vs outputs. It was also noted that Progress Monitoring Frameworks include mid- and long-term outcomes.

FIP and Partnership TA Solicitation Schedule

Staff briefed the committee on interest to date in consultations, which are required in the solicitation process. Consultations will occur this fall, providing eligibility and application guidance ahead of the January application deadline. Based on available dates, committee interviews with applicant partnerships will be held June 14-15, 2022, with funding recommendations provided to the board for awards at the July 2022 meeting.

Cohort 1 Progress Tracking Reports

The final PTRs from Cohort 1 FIPs will be submitted this fall and shared with the board at the January meeting. Each PTR will be a 2-page report featuring near and mid-term outcomes and a section on climate. The committee discussed formatting and content of a questionnaire that will go to each FIP, the responses to which will inform the adaptive management table.

To Be Presented at the October 2021 Board Meeting by:

Bruce Buckmaster

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 971-345-7014

Committee Members

Bruce Buckmaster (Chair), Stephen Brandt, Paul Henson, Brenda McComb, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Eric Murray

Background

The Climate Committee met on September 16, 2021 to discuss a range of topics, including staffing updates; proposed process for board coordinating committee to vet new ideas; proposal from committee members McComb and McLeod-Skinner and Chair Buckmaster for discussion by the committee; and committee themes for inclusion in the OWEB board recommendations section of the 2019-21 Oregon Plan Biennial Report for Salmon and Watersheds. The committee met again on September 21 to further refine a proposed OWEB statement of purpose about climate.

Staffing Updates

In addition to a brief discussion of the leadership transition at OWEB, staff updated the committee about the results of the recruitment for the new, limited duration Water and Climate Programs Coordination position at OWEB, along with transitions occurring in the Governor's Office.

Coordinating Committee Vetting Process

The committee reviewed the proposed process for 'vetting' new ideas that emerge from board members or committee processes, to ensure consistent and comprehensive consideration of new activities while being mindful of OWEB's statutory structure and staff capacity. Committee members expressed some concerns that the process should not stifle robust conversation and brainstorming. Staff noted the responsibility of the agency is to be transparent and accountable. Committee members expressed general support for this process, underscoring the particular importance of consistency and written documentation as OWEB is going through staffing transitions. They noted that the decision-making process is inherently subjective, and each suggestion or new idea will be open to some level of interpretation. Committee members stressed the importance of continuing to use good judgement and build upon the trust that currently exists among board members and staff.

Climate Purpose Statement Proposal from Subset of Committee Members

A sub-set of committee members introduced a draft proposal to the committee. The proposal recommends a statement of OWEB's purpose regarding climate impacts. They also noted the strong urging of partners and stakeholders including Oregon Association of Conservation Districts' interest in carbon sequestration and the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts' support for climate action. The intention is to recognize the impact of climate change on OWEB's mission, and to outline specific actions towards addressing and accounting for climate impacts. The committee and staff agreed there is value to proposing a short, clear, and definitive OWEB Statement of Purpose on Climate Impacts, and including relevant and measurable goals.

The committee discussed how the specific actions recommended to accomplish the Purpose statement need further development. Specifically, there is strong interest in refining the proposal to better articulate adaptation and resilience goals, along with biodiversity considerations. The committee discussed referencing Executive Order 20-04 and the work of the Oregon Global Warming Commission, along with ensuring efforts build climate-resilient communities. They also discussed the importance of considering different climate related objectives—for example, sequestration through replanting projects vs. resilience through dam

removal projects—and the importance of considering timeframes over which carbon emissions impacts vs. sequestration benefits will occur.

The committee had a robust discussion about the importance of ensuring that all potential grantees have the information and capacity to contribute towards the climate goals. Part of this discussion focused on the role of OWEB as a funder being able to foster capacity and knowledge for grantees to plan projects with measurable climate benefits and being mindful of how to ensure under-represented communities have access to such information and planning resources. Additional capacity and tools may be needed, especially as it relates to highly technical measurement and quantification processes, such as emissions and sequestration estimates. New approaches to capacity, such as providing applicants with access to centralized climate expertise, may need to be considered.

The committee discussed whether the climate impacts criteria are intended to be additive (on top of existing OWEB criteria) or an entirely new framework. The committee may choose to propose a “pilot” effort, investing a specific amount of funding to accomplish climate goals, and measure the outcomes of the investment. While Executive Order (EO) 20-04 clearly directs climate action and integration of climate benefits throughout agency processes, it will be important to consider existing resources, programs, and processes. New or shifting investments in climate benefits would need to be reconciled with the intent of existing fund sources, including Constitutionally dedicated Lottery funds and Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funding. Climate related funding criteria may need to be specified; if so, rulemaking will be needed to incorporate these into OWEB’s grant-making. The ultimate intent is not to use emissions impacts or carbon sequestration as sole criteria, but rather to foster a broad array of climate adaptation and resilience benefits while fulfilling our mandate. Work should proceed at the state enterprise level, in close collaboration with other state agencies and the Governor’s Office to share expertise and capacity among the natural resource agencies and appropriately utilize the roles and responsibilities of different agencies, including regulatory and granting agencies, among others.

The committee agreed to meet again to discuss the development of an OWEB statement of purpose on climate impacts (see ‘Summary of 9/21/21 Committee Meeting’ below and Attachment A to this committee report for the proposed revised OWEB statement of purpose for climate).

Committee Themes for Oregon Plan Biennial Report

Staff discussed the process for each board committee developing themes for inclusion in the biennial report, along with ideas prepared by staff based on EO 20-04. The committee determined that their recommendation could build from the process above regarding a statement of purpose on climate impacts and will be finalized in parallel with that process.

Summary of 9/21/21 Committee Meeting

As follow-up to the discussion at the 9/16 committee meeting regarding the proposal for a climate purpose statement, the committee reconvened on 9/21/21 to discuss and refine the proposal. Attachment A of this committee report outlines discussion and products from the 9/21/21 meeting, including a proposed Statement of Purpose for climate that the committee will share with the OWEB board at its October meeting and request feedback. Following the October 2021 board meeting, the proposed statement, along with feedback from the full board, will be considered by the coordinating committee at their November meeting, anticipating a request for the full Board to vote on approving the final statement at the January 2022 board meeting.

To Be Presented at the October 2021 Board Meeting by:

Bruce Buckmaster

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 971-345-7014

Attachment

- A. Proposed OWEB Climate Statement of Purpose and Climate Lens

Proposed OWEB Climate Statement of Purpose and Climate Lens.

I. Preamble

Oregon State Agencies have been directed by Governor Brown (Executive Order 20-04) to address climate change in a comprehensive and urgent manner. Among many actions required in the order, agency decision-making is specifically cited.

“Agency Decisions. To the full extent allowed by law, agencies shall consider and integrate climate change, climate change impacts, and the state's GHG emissions reduction goals into their planning, budgets, investments, and policy making decisions. While carrying out that directive, agencies are directed to:

- (1) Prioritize actions that reduce GHG emissions in a cost-effective manner.
- (2) Prioritize actions that will help vulnerable populations and impacted communities adapt to climate change impacts; and
- (3) Consult with the Environmental Justice Task Force when evaluating climate change mitigation and adaptation priorities and actions.”

II. Statement of Purpose

Consistent with its Mission and statutory framework, and in response to the ever-increasing impacts of global climate change on Oregon’s watersheds, including wildfire, extreme weather events, and loss of biodiversity, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board will add climate action criteria to its operations and funding decision process. OWEB funded projects will contribute measurably to climate-smart adaptation, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and reducing vulnerability.

Desired outcomes

Near term outcomes (measurable, actionable):

- Reduce emissions
- Increase carbon sequestration
- Protect carbon storage
- Take actions that address climate related proximal risks and consequences to biodiversity
- Reduce vulnerability of plant, human, animal communities to the consequences of climate impacts
- Provide for climate adaptation into the future

Long term outcomes (aspirational, bold):

- Enhance resilience: Capacity to recover in the future
- Reduce climate vulnerability

Actions, “How to get there”:

OWEB will continue to assist all grantees with technical resources and guidance.

Pursue rulemaking processes as necessary.

Develop climate criteria: Begin with review of existing criteria within administrative rules.

Continue to measure/account for climate benefits from project activities.

III. Climate Lens Definition

Climate Lens- a project ranking tool designed to determine the relative value of proposals according to how they meet OWEB’s established standards of climate action. OWEB climate standards generally follow IUCN Global Standards, but these may be modified to incorporate specific criteria determined to best fulfill the OWEB Mission.

The climate committee expects the climate lens to address the following:

- Climate Mitigation GHG reductions through emission reductions & carbon sequestration (NbS/NCS)
- Climate Adaptation & Resilience – through the use of NbS for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of biodiversity & ecosystem services (incl. carbon storage)
- Co-benefits of climate action [ecosystem services, biodiversity, and societal (equity being key)]
- Areas of highest vulnerability to impact (short-, mid- and long-term)
- DEI and environmental justice
- Encouragement and support of best practices by all stakeholders
- Collaboration with climate-focused partners and staff in other agencies to share the load
- Incorporating ecological approaches in fulfillment of project goals
- Consideration of short-term impacts for achievement of long-term net gains to ecosystems & biodiversity
- Establishment and use of quantifiable goals – for example, emissions baselines and reductions, monitoring of sequestration and storage, prioritization of species anticipated for future carbon sequestration, timelines for progress based on accounting

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update E-1 Strategic Plan Update

This report provides the board updates on progress implementation of the 2018 strategic plan.

Background

In June 2018, the board approved a new strategic plan. Beginning with the October 2018 board meeting, staff developed a template to track quarterly progress on strategic plan priorities.

Attached is the latest update of actions related to the strategic plan between August 2021 and October 2021. Other information on the strategic plan is also contained in the committee updates as well as other staff reports.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager, at Eric.Williams@oregon.gov or 971-345-7014.

Attachments

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Progress Report, August 2021—October 2021

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Strategic Plan Progress

QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE: August 2021-October 2021

Priority 1 – Board awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

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

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Presented to the OWEB board about the Willanch 'telling the restoration story' in the Coos Watershed – July 2021
- ✓ Updated OWEB website to add the Horsetail Creek Telling the Restoration Story work products and developed a presentation to report this information to the OWEB Board at the October 2021 meeting

Strategy: Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- Oregon Lottery media campaigns have new stories every year of watershed work and progress.
- 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 Strategy that reach non-traditional audiences.

To Make This Difference: (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;
 - understand why healthy watersheds matter to their family and community;

- o understand their role in keeping their watershed healthy.
- Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches.

Near-Term Measure:

- Fall 2018 Oregon Lottery campaign featured 6 partners from 5 OWEB regions with cumulative reach of 2,347 YouTube views, 30-second feature on watershed restoration has 2,003 YouTube views (accessed 12/10/2019).
- 54 articles featured partners and OWEB in the news (January -November 2019).

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

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

Strategy: Listen, learn, and gather Information about diverse populations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Participated in coordination meetings with federally recognized Tribes in 2020 fire impacted areas regarding use of cultural resources assessment funding through Oregon Department of transportation (ODOT) via House Bill (HB) 5006
- ✓ .

Strategy: Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop funding strategy with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Released a Request for Proposals to hire a contractor to facilitate board and staff diversity, equity, and inclusion training.

So That: (Outputs)

- OWEB board and staff have been trained in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
- OWEB has DEI capacity.
- 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.
- OWEB grantees and partners have access to DEI tools and resources.
- DEI are incorporated into OWEB grant programs, as appropriate.
- Board and staff regularly engage with underrepresented partnerships and stakeholder groups to support DEI work.

To Make This Difference: (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.

Near-Term Measure:

- Staff has participated in 365 hours of training (July 2018-August 2020).

Potential Impact Measure:

- ✓ 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.

Priority 3 – Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

Strategy: Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB’s past capacity funding

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Champion best approaches to build organizational, community and partnership capacity

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- 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.
- Local capacity strengths and gaps are identified to address and implement large-scale conservation solutions.
- 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 implement restoration projects more effectively.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Partner’s access best community capacity and strategic practices and approaches.
- OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds.

- Lessons learned from past capacity investments inform funding decisions.
- Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity.
- Restoration projects involving multiple agencies are implemented more efficiently and effectively.
- State-federal agencies increase participation in strategic partnerships.

Near-Term Measure:

- Under Development.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

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

Strategy: Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Engaged in discussions among agency water infrastructure funding agencies, legislators, and organizations representing community infrastructure providers to determine specific ways to coordinate water infrastructure funding.

Strategy: Align common investment areas with private foundations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Engaged in meetings with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and World Resources Institute about coordinated investment opportunities to address post-fire recovery and watershed health needs.

Strategy: Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Received approval in OWEB's Legislatively Adopted Budget for 2021-23 to administer funding from PacifiCorp and Idaho Power Company for targeted restoration work, should that funding be made available.

Strategy: Partner to design strategy for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Coordinated with DEQ and ODF to lead conversations across state and federal agencies related to post-fire recovery in natural and cultural resources. This work resulted in \$26 million in post-fire recovery investments through OWEB, ODF, and ODOT via HB 5006.
- ✓ Engaged in discussions with Governor's Office and affected groups about potential use of disaster funding in HB 5006 to address needs related to drought and post-fire recovery.

- ✓ Coordinated with ODF about the potential for local partners to strategically utilize both post-fire recovery funding through HB 5006 and funding for fire resilience activities through Senate Bill 762.

- -

So That: (Outputs)

- 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.

To Make This Difference: (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.

Near-Term Measure:

- Increase in the use of new and diverse funding sources by grantees.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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 Strategy.
- 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

Strategy: Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

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

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop engagement Strategy for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- 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.
- Strategy and stories are being utilized to reach owners and managers of working lands who are not currently working with local organizations.
- Landowner engagement Strategy and tools are developed and used by local conservation organizations.
- 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.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Generations of landowners continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability.
- Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands.
- Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future.
- Sustained vitality of Oregon's natural resources industries.

Near-Term Measure:

- Percentage of landowners identified within Strategic Implementation Areas that receive technical assistance.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

Priority 6 – Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategy: Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Updated OWEB website to add the Horsetail Creek Telling the Restoration Story work products and developed a presentation to report this information to the OWEB Board at the October 2021 meeting
- ✓ Began outreach to recruit new Telling the Restoration Story applicants for OWEB's targeted grant program intended to assist restorationists develop outreach materials using monitoring data to communicate restoration outcomes and impacts

Strategy: Invest in monitoring over the long term

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Began outreach with the second cohort of Implementation FIPs to scope monitoring projects to pursue OWEB supplemental funds for restoration effectiveness monitoring that is guided by their theory of change

Strategy: Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Developed a scope of work and grant application process so tide gate practitioners can access OWEB funds to develop a scalable tide gate monitoring protocol
- ✓ Worked with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to complete monitoring plan guidance for FIP restoration initiatives

Strategy: Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Worked with the Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitoring Watershed Working Group to prepare a collective response to the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) survey that summarized their findings and lessons learned to inform future restoration actions across the PNW
- ✓ Developed Climate Related Technical Resources to assist OWEB applicants with integrating scientific information about climate impacts in Oregon for their projects

Strategy: Define monitoring priorities

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop and promote a monitoring framework

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- Additional technical resources—such as guidance and tools—are developed and/or made accessible to monitoring practitioners.
- A network of experts is available to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects.
- A dedicated process exists for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described.
- Strategic monitoring projects receive long-term funding.
- Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level.
- 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.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Partners are using results-based restoration ‘stories’ to share conservation successes and lessons learned.
- Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs.

- Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning.
- Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring.
- 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.
- Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared.
- Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed and regional scales.
- Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results

Near-Term Measure:

- 14 outreach products were developed through staff, grants, or partnerships (January-December 2019)

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

Priority 7 – Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon’s watersheds

Strategy: Invest in landscape restoration over the long term

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB’s mission

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ Incorporated questions in OWEB grant applications to help better understand how grantees are connecting their work to climate adaption and sequestration

So That: (Outputs)

- OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community.
- OWEB’s landscape-scale granting involves effective partnerships around the state.
- OWEB and partners have a better understanding of how restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway.
- 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 in not demonstrated based on demonstrated past performance.
- OWEB encourages a culture of innovation.

- OWEB 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.
- OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk.

Near-Term Measure:

- 16.98% of Oregon is covered by a Strategic Action Plan associated with a FIP or Coho Business Plan.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update E-2: Key Performance Measures Reporting

This update describes this year's Key Performance Measures (KPM) reporting.

Background

As part of the agency's Annual Performance Progress Report (APPR) to the Oregon Legislature, OWEB reports on several KPMs. These metrics are part of an approach to measure performance and outcomes of state government. Measures must: gauge progress toward agency's goals and mission; identify performance targets to be achieved during the two-year budget cycle; use accurate and reliable data sources; and measure customer satisfaction.

Results from 2021 APPR

KPM results submitted in the 2021 APPR are listed below, with comparisons to 2020 shown in parentheses.

Operations – Percentage of total funding used in agency operations, with a target of 11%

- **2021 result = 7.70% (2020 = 8.79%)**

Payments – Percentage of complete grant payment requests paid within 24 days, with a target of 100%

- **2021 result = 100% (2020 = 100%)**

Customer Service – Percent of customers rating their satisfaction with the agency's customer service as "good" or "excellent": overall customer service, timeliness, accuracy (provide information correctly the first time), helpfulness, knowledge and expertise of employees, and availability of information, with a target of 91% for each measure

- **2021 results: Overall = 95.6% (2020 = 91.8%); Timeliness = 90.3% (2020 = 89.0%); Accuracy = 96.7% (2020 = 94.0%); Helpfulness = 96.7% (2020 = 94.5%); Expertise = 95.6% (2020 = 91.8%); Availability of Information = 90.2% (2020 = 81.3%)**

Funding from Other Sources – Percent of funds contributed from other sources on OWEB-funded restoration projects, with a target of 50%

- **2021 result = 59.3% (2020 = 62.74.8%)**

Grant-Making Across Oregon – Percent of Oregon's 76 sub-basins (defined as 8-digit hydrologic unit code areas) within which Oregonians benefit from OWEB's grant programs, with a target of 90%

- **2021 result = 94.7% (2020 = 93.42%)**

Timeliness of Grant-Making – Percent of open solicitation grant agreements executed within one month after board award, with a target of 75%

- **2021 result = 45% (2020 = 16.18%)**

Watershed Council Governance – Percent of OWEB funded watershed councils that demonstrate effective organizational governance and management using OWEB merit criteria, with a target of 100%

- **2021 result = 100% (2020 = not reported due to timing of funding cycle)**

Fish Populations – Percentage of monitored native fish species that exhibit increasing or stable levels of abundance, with a target of 75%

- **2021 result = 71% (2020 = 84%)**

Streamside Habitat – Number of riparian miles restored or enhanced as a result of OWEB-funded grants, with a target of 203.9 miles

- **2021 result = 165.7 miles (2020 = 300.65 miles)**

Native Fish Habitat Quantity – Miles of fish habitat opened as a result of OWEB-funded grants, with a target of 113.9 miles

- **2021 result = 113.12 miles (2020 = 73.17 miles)**

Upland Habitat – Acres of upland habitat restored or enhanced as a result of OWEB-funded grants, with a target of 50,015 acres

- **2021 result = 36,317 acres (2020 = 44,685 acres)**

Native Species Habitat and Water Quality – Percent of restoration, acquisition or technical assistance funding invested to address habitat for threatened, endangered or species of concern, or water-quality concerns identified on 303(d) listed streams, with a target of 90%

- **2021 result = 90.2% (2020 = 92.3%)**

The FY 2020-21 APPR, including full descriptions about this year's results, is available [on OWEB's Performance Measures webpage](#).

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 971-345-7231.

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-3: 2021 Wildfire Recovery Immediate Response Grants

This report provides the board an update about the 2021 offering for OWEB's Wildfire Recovery Immediate Response Grants.

Background

In October of 2020, the OWEB Board awarded \$1 million in funding to support emergency wildfire response grants, following the devastating 2020 fire season. At the July 2021, the board received a status update about the 2020 wildfire response grants that were awarded. In addition, the board approved an allocation of \$300,000 under the Governor's Priorities line item in the 2021-2023 OWEB spending plan for wildfire recovery immediate response grants this biennium. These grants will use experience gained by OWEB in 2020, to make available a limited grant offering to respond to gaps in wildfire recovery funding in the short term. The funding objectives include:

- Investing in local organizations to respond to short-term fire recovery needs in a way that benefits long-term restoration; and
- Filling priority short-term gaps by supporting early recovery activities for which other funding sources are limited or unavailable.

2021 Wildfire Recovery Immediate Response Grant Offering

The structure of the grant offering was refined to reflect the different nature of the 2021 fire season and the lower funding amount available for the 2021 grants. The 2021 fire season has begun to slow, with ongoing fires mostly holding steady in size. As of 9/13/21 and per data from the Oregon Department of Forestry, over 750,000 acres in Oregon have been impacted by wildfires, with the majority of this footprint being in the Bootleg Fire area. This differs from the 2020 fire season, which saw 1.2 million acres burned across several very large fires (for example, the Holiday Farm and Beachie Creek fires) and a few smaller, but incredibly destructive fires in more developed areas, such as the Alameda Fire.

Being mindful of the differences between the 2020 and 2021 offerings, staff have adhered to parameters from the 2020 fires for minimum total fire size of 2,500 acres and size of non-federal acres impacted of 1,950 acres, when determining which fires were eligible for the 2021 offering. The four fires that met these criteria are:

- Bootleg Fire (Region 4)
- Cougar Peak Fire (Region 4)
- Elbow Creek Fire (Region 5)
- Skyline Ridge Fire Complex (Region 2)

Given the lower funding amount available for 2021 wildfire response grants, staff established a sliding scale for funding, based on the number of non-federal acres impacted by each fire. This approach will ensure that funding is available for high-priority, immediate response activities in areas most impacted areas by the 2021 fires, while reserving some of the \$300,000 for wildfire recovery immediate response grants in the Governor's Priorities line item of the spending plan for use following the 2022 fire season. Funding levels based on non-federal acres impacted are:

- \$25,000 for 1,950-25,000 acres of non-federal lands impacted – Elbow Creek and Skyline Ridge
- \$50,000 for 25,001-100,000 acres of non-federal lands impacted – Cougar Peak
- \$75,000 for over 100,000 acres of non-federal lands impacted – Bootleg

OWEB-funded work will focus on addressing short-term needs through September 2022 on tribal or private lands (not including industrial forestlands) that have been identified as areas of high impact by wildfire in a federally led assessment, such as those through U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management, or other assessments with approval from OWEB. Eligible activities under the OWEB wildfire recovery immediate response grants include:

- A limited suite of conservation practices that Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and/or Farm Services Agency likely will fund in wildfire impacted areas including conservation cover, cover crop, herbaceous weed treatment, mulching, range planting, woody residue treatment and fencing. Applicants will need to confirm in OWEB grant applications that funding requested from OWEB for these practices does not duplicate other funding opportunities (e.g., federal Farm Bill programs). OWEB funding should focus on areas where these on-the-ground activities are not eligible for other funding. Proposed activities must comply with specifications in accepted manuals of practice, such as the NRCS Field Guide.
- Other stabilization practices designed to protect or restore habitat or water quality that are specified in a qualifying assessment and discussed in advance with OWEB.
- Log transport and stockpiling for future restoration.
- Technical assistance to participate on local assessment teams and, to select and plan restoration practices.
- Stakeholder engagement to secure landowner involvement in immediate recovery activities and coordinate post-fire restoration actions.

Applicants will use a streamlined online application to apply for the funding. Organizations in each fire area work together to determine a single lead entity to apply for and administer the OWEB funds. OWEB staff, including the appropriate Region Program Representative, will complete application review.

The grant offering was made available on October 1, 2021 with applications accepted on a rolling basis through January 31, 2022 with funds required to be spent by September 30, 2022.

At the conclusion of the grant, grantees will be asked to report on the following in their project completion reports: How funds were used; Feedback about whether/how funds were beneficial to addressing near-term post-wildfire risk to native fish and wildlife habitat and/or water quality; How work completed supported disproportionately impacted communities; and If/how the project utilized minority and women-owned contractors/businesses.

At future meetings, staff will update the board about awards made under the 2021 Wildfire Recovery Immediate Response Grants offering, which will total an amount of up to \$175,000.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 971-345-7231.



Kate Brown, Governor



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Spring 2021 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 42 restoration grants, 18 technical assistance grants, 18 monitoring grants, and 10 stakeholder engagement grants.

II. Spring 2021 Grant Offering Background and Summary

A total of 144 applications were received requesting nearly \$19 million. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

III. Review Process

Staff continued to use a virtual review process where all eligible grant applications were reviewed by the agency's six Regional Review Teams (RRTs). Staff scheduled virtual site visits for as many proposed projects as possible, with all RRT members invited to the 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, which are provided in Attachment B. After classifying applications as "Fund," "Fund with Conditions," or "Do Not Fund," the RRTs then prioritized the projects recommended for funding by application type.

The RRT evaluations and recommendations, along with staff recommendations, were distributed to all applicants. Attachment C includes the number of applications recommended by RRTs and staff for each region by project type, as well as staff-recommended award totals by application type and region. Prior to the board meeting, staff will forward to the board any written comments received from applicants regarding the RRT and staff recommendations.

IV. 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 that improve greater sage-grouse habitat. The recommended Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant awards include three projects that meet the criteria, shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Sage-grouse Projects

Project Number and Name	Recommended Award
221-5037 “Watering Juniper Chapter 2”	\$106,861
221-5039 “Poison Creek Wet Meadow Rehab: Stop the Invasion”	\$155,265
221-5052 “We Ain’t Greenhorns but We Need Help Fixin’ Willow Creek”	\$62,701
Total	\$324,827

The three sage-grouse projects, if awarded, will bring the total since 2015 to \$10,842,695.

V. Funding Recommendation

Staff considered the RRT recommendations and funding availability in developing the staff funding recommendations provided in Attachment D, which includes the number of applications recommended for funding by RRTs and staff by region and grant type. The funding recommendations for the Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Spending Plan and Funding Recommendations for Spring 2021 Grant Offering

Grant Type	Current Spending Plan Balance	Previous Awards	Staff Recommendation	Remaining Spending Plan Balance
Restoration	\$33,500,000	\$0	\$7,987,705	\$25,512,295
Technical Assistance	\$4,500,000	\$0	\$1,116,398	\$3,383,602
Monitoring	\$4,250,000	\$0	\$1,837,110	\$2,412,990
Stakeholder Engagement	\$2,250,000	\$0	\$556,881	\$1,693,119
TOTAL	\$44,500,000	\$0	\$11,497,994	\$33,002,006

Staff recommend the board award funds for the staff-recommended projects listed in Attachment D.

Attachments

- A. Grant Applications Submitted
- B. Evaluation Criteria
- C. RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations
- D. Regions 1-6 Funding Recommendations

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Offering

Applications Received by Type

	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	4	0	8	7	19
Region 2	6	4	11	11	32
Region 3	6	1	1	9	17
Region 4	3	3	7	9	22
Region 5	5	0	6	18	29
Region 6	5	2	5	13	25
Totals	29	10	38	67	144

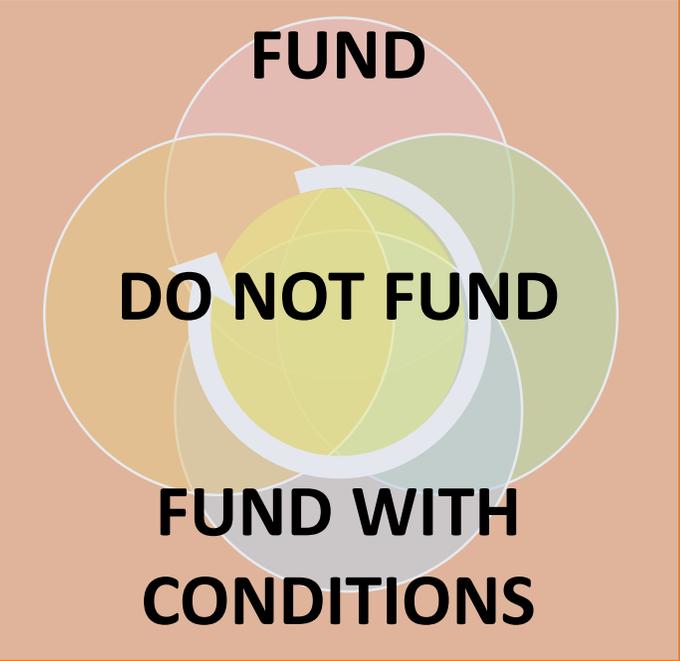
Dollar Amounts by Application Type

	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	214,543	0	478,084	1,636,201	\$2,328,828
Region 2	567,161	242,389	723,077	3,364,036	\$4,896,663
Region 3	828,965	27,293	51,740	2,540,392	\$3,448,390
Region 4	434,814	213,984	498,065	1,809,663	\$2,956,526
Region 5	514,720	0	281,075	1,794,250	\$2,590,045
Region 6	578,788	73,215	265,804	1,842,933	\$2,760,740
Totals	\$3,138,991	\$556,881	\$2,297,845	\$12,987,475	\$18,981,192

Open Solicitation – Restoration Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Recommend



Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize



CRITERIA

How well project meets criteria for project evaluation & preferences, including:

- Causes over symptoms of disturbance
- Whole watershed approach over site-specific
- Collaboration over single-party



CERTAINTY OF SUCCESS

Certainty of success, based on the organizational capacity of the applicant & the likelihood the project will meet its ecological objectives



BENEFIT TO OREGON PLAN

Benefit to the Oregon Plan for Salmon & Watersheds, as evidenced by its expected benefits to watershed functions, fish habitat or water quality



COST BENEFIT

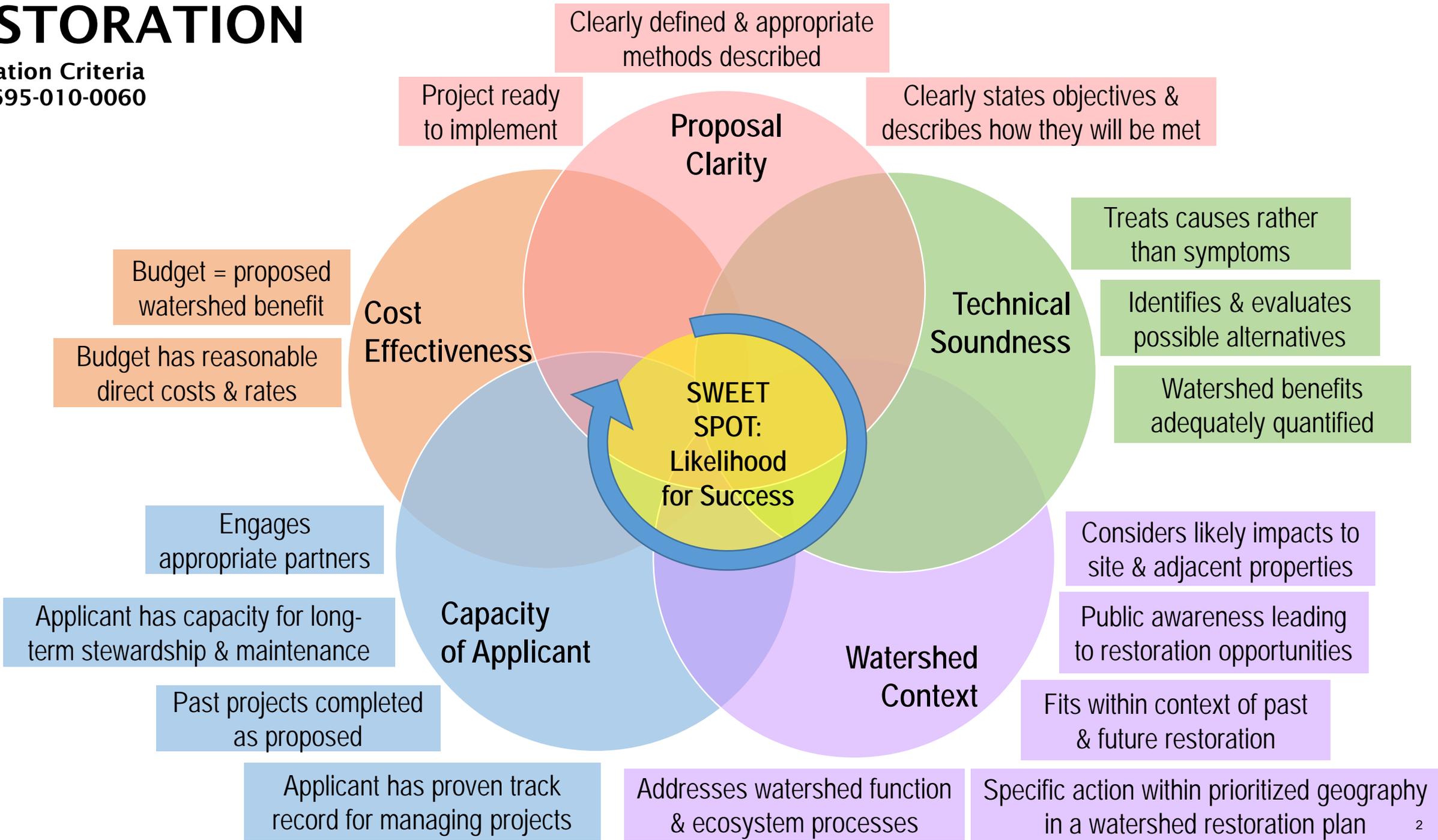
Project costs relative to the anticipated watershed health benefits

Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

RESTORATION

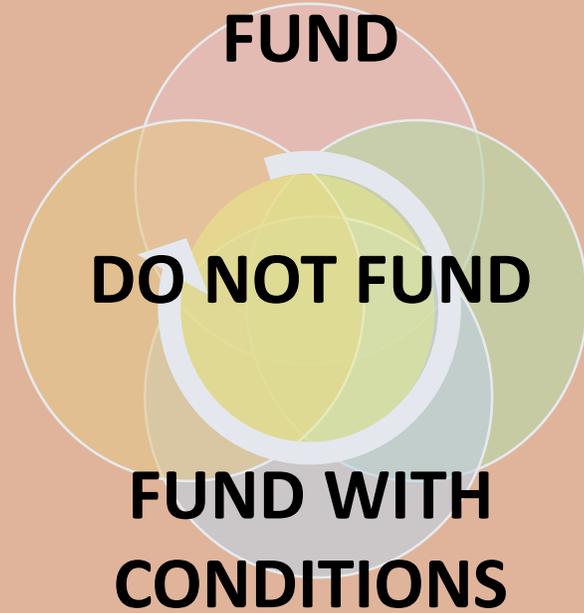
Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-010-0060



Open Solicitation – Technical Assistance Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Recommend



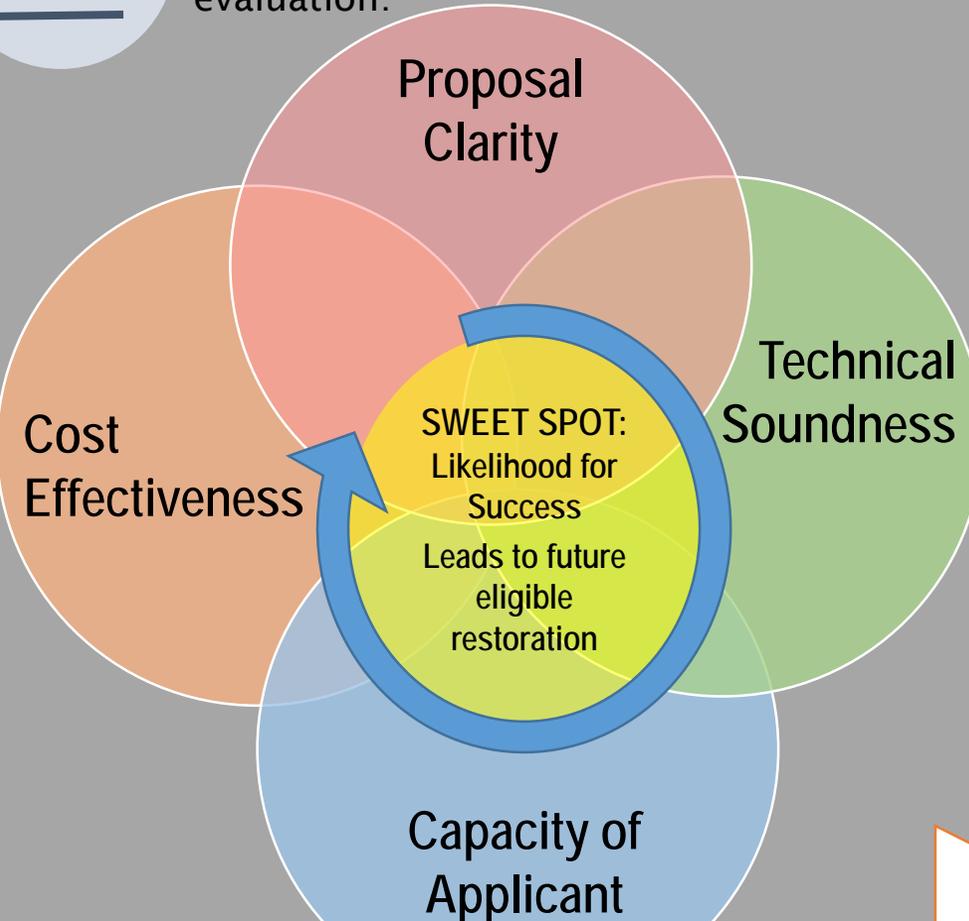
Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize



CRITERIA

How well project meets criteria for project evaluation:



Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-030-0045

Technical Design & Engineering = project feasibility reports, designs, or engineering materials that directly lead to site-specific restoration or acquisition projects within a specified timeframe

Resource Assessment & Planning = 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

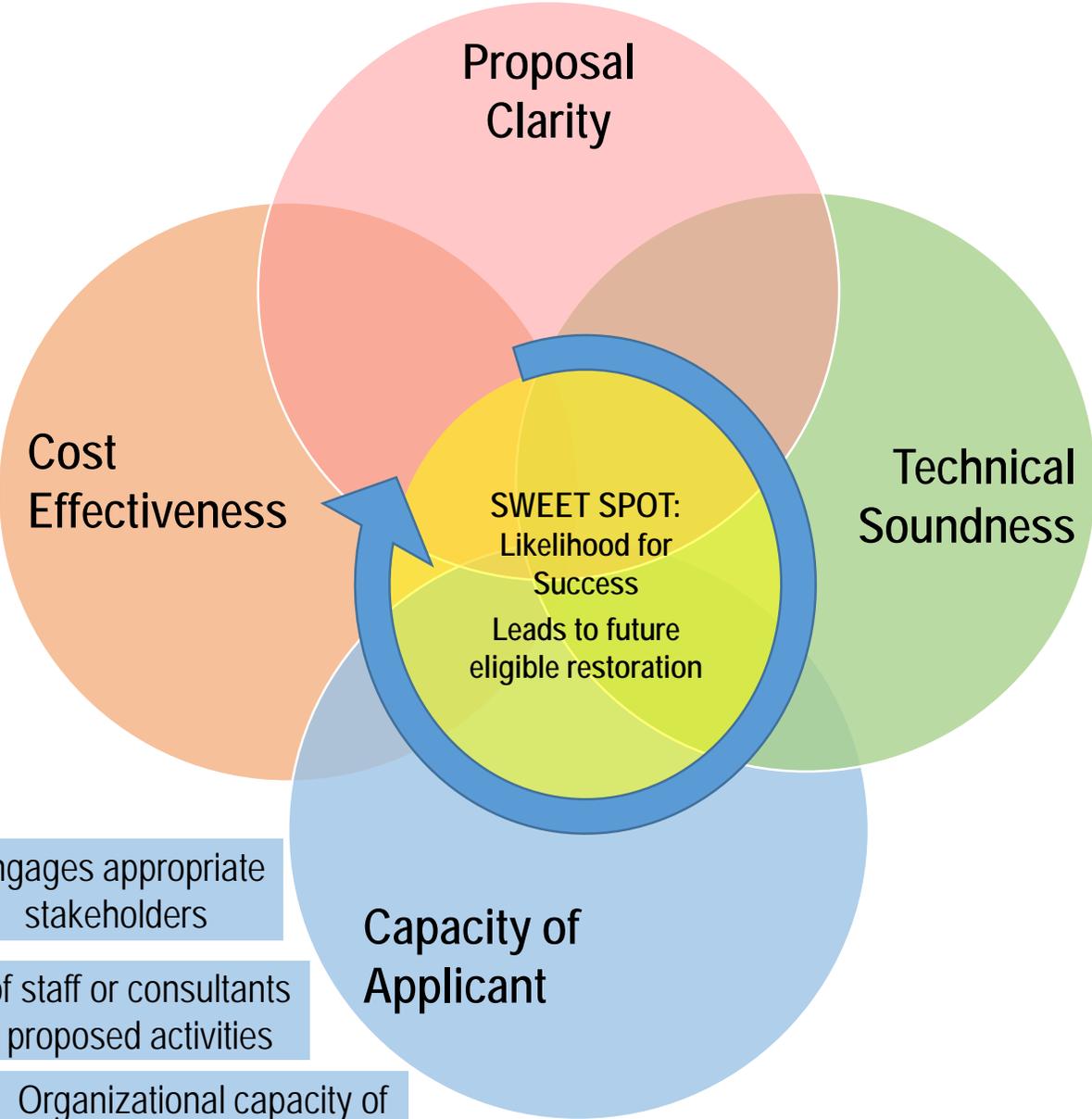
Describes a clear need

Cost aligns with work necessary to accomplish project objectives

Engages appropriate stakeholders

Qualifications of staff or consultants to accomplish proposed activities

Organizational capacity of applicant



Technical Design & Engineering

- Addresses limiting factors in existing conservation or recovery plan
- Describes alternative analysis that demonstrates a range of options were considered
- Appropriate data will be collected to inform designs
- Professionally accepted technical or engineering approaches will be used

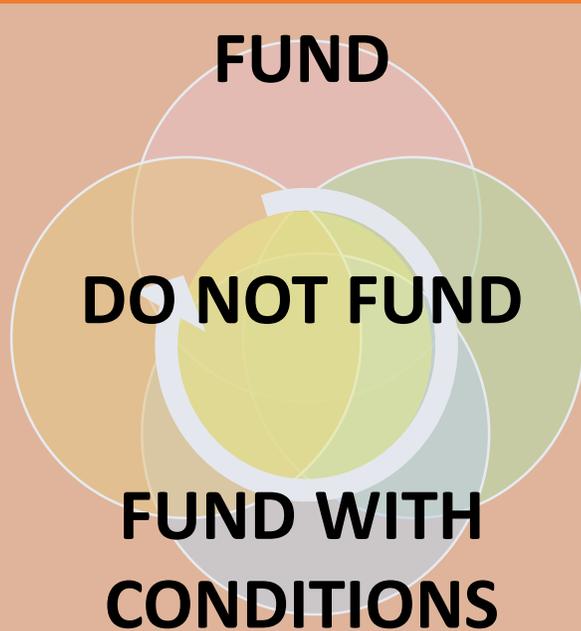
Resource Assessment & Planning

- Scope & scale is feasible, & partners have demonstrated ability in collaborative work at this scale
- Process by which data will be managed & shared with partners
- Professionally accepted methods & parameters will be used

Open Solicitation – Stakeholder Engagement Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Recommend



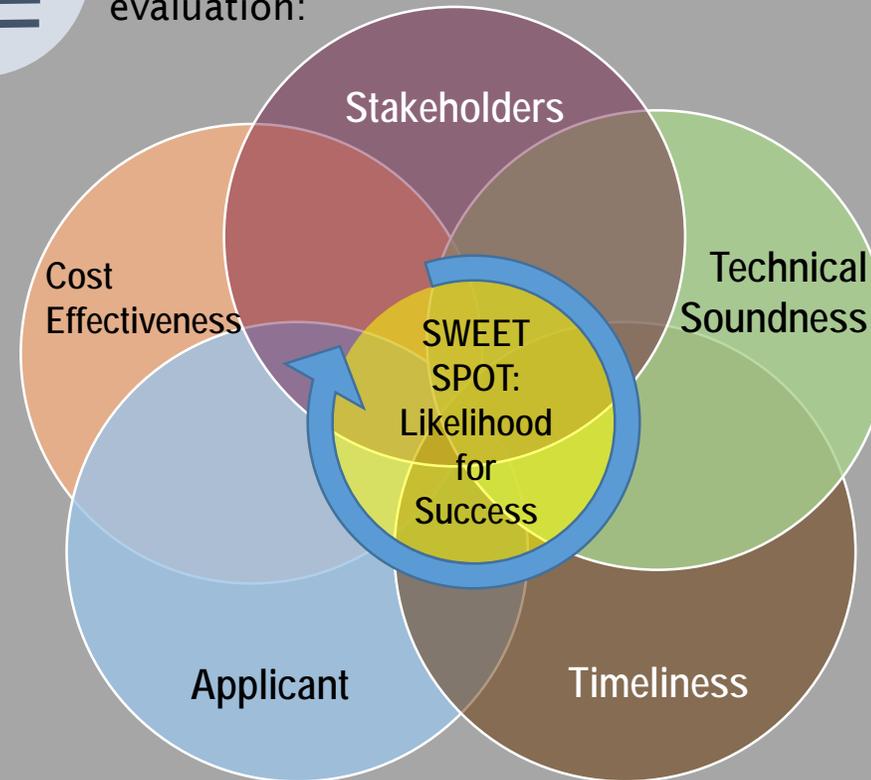
Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize



CRITERIA

How well project meets criteria for project evaluation:



CERTAINTY OF SUCCESS

Based on the organizational capacity of the applicant & likelihood the project will meet its stakeholder engagement objectives

Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

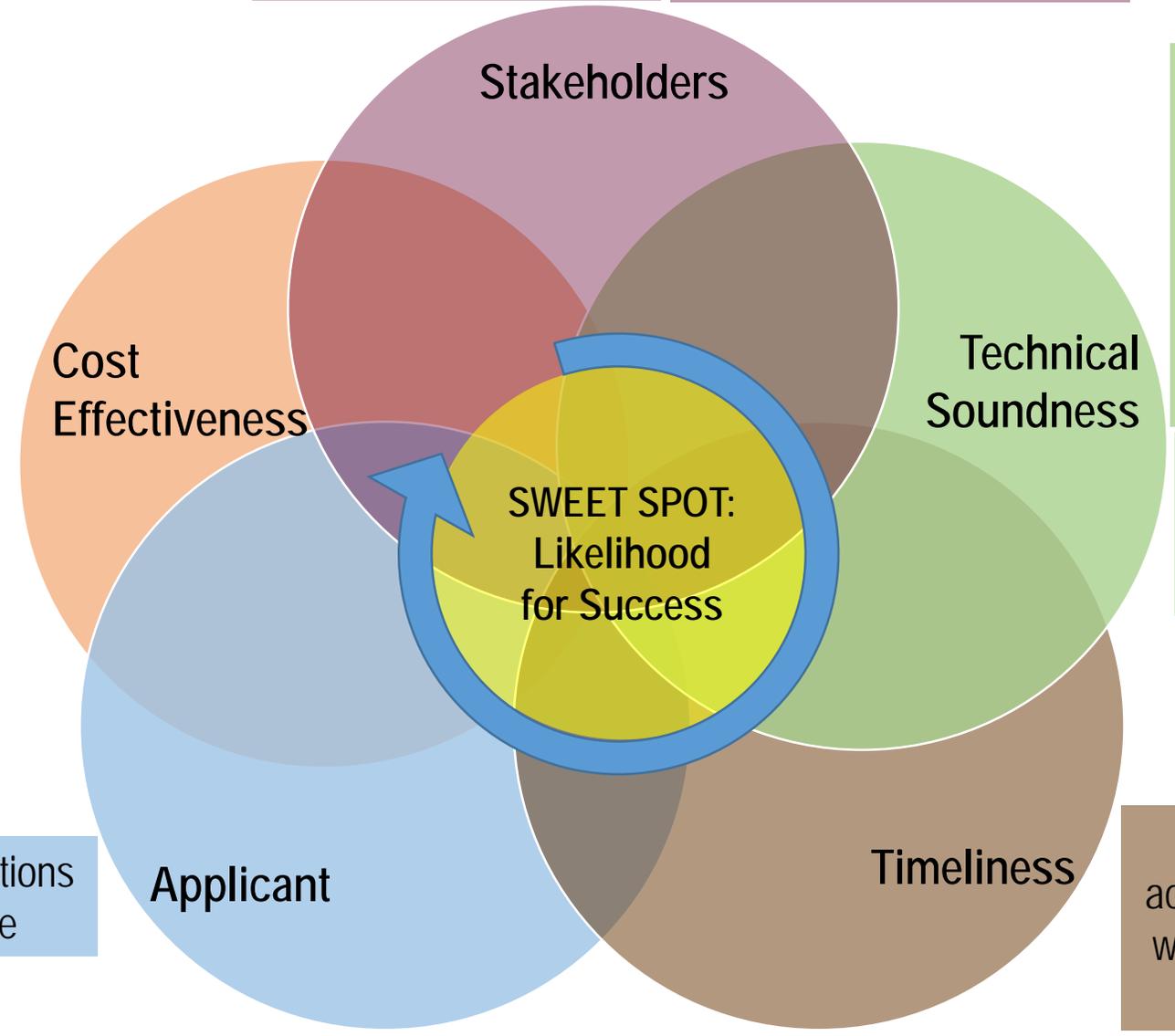
Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-015-0070

“Stakeholder Engagement Project” means a project whose purpose is to communicate and engage with landowners, organizations and the community about the need for, feasibility, and benefit of a specific eligible restoration or acquisitions project or program that leads to development of eligible projects within an identified geography.

Projects whose primary purpose is education are  NOT ELIGIBLE

Applicants engage with appropriate stakeholders in the appropriate geography

Likely effectiveness of multidirectional communication among the applicant & stakeholder



Shows qualifications & experience

Expected outcomes of resulting restoration or acquisitions include protecting or restoring fish or wildlife habitat, watershed function, and or water quality or quantity

Evidence base linking engagement to eligible project types

Resulting restoration or acquisition projects, or program will lead to timely development of eligible projects

RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations for the Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering

Restoration

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	6	6	100%
2	9	5	56%
3	8	8	100%
4	8	5	63%
5	13	10	77%
6	9	8	89%
Total	53	42	79%

Technical Assistance

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	5	2	40%
2	10	4	40%
3	1	1	100%
4	7	5	71%
5	6	3	50%
6	3	3	100%
Total	32	18	56%

Monitoring

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	2	2	100%
2	4	4	100%
3	3	3	100%
4	2	2	100%
5	3	3	100%
6	4	4	100%
Total	18	18	100%

Stakeholder Engagement

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	0	0	n/a
2	4	4	100%
3	1	1	100%
4	3	3	100%
5	0	0	n/a
6	2	2	100%
Total	10	10	100%

Totals by Region

Region	Restoration	Technical Assistance	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement
1	\$1,417,979	\$133,795	\$112,498	\$0
2	\$2,091,461	\$299,995	\$374,643	\$242,389
3	\$1,940,519	\$51,740	\$290,978	\$27,293
4	\$790,717	\$348,169	\$263,856	\$213,984
5	\$639,527	\$166,895	\$297,479	\$0
6	\$1,107,502	\$115,804	\$497,556	\$73,215
Total	\$7,987,705	\$1,116,398	\$1,837,010	\$556,881

Item F Att D
Regions 1-6 Funding
Recommendations

North Coast - Region 1 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2020

- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 1 Cities
- Region 1 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 1 Boundary



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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
221-1029	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	Sand Lake Habitat Enhancement Project: Large Wood Placements	Large wood structures will be placed instream in partnership with private landowners to restore spawning and rearing habitat for native fish, including Oregon coast coho salmon, on three high priority Sand Lake Basin tributaries north of Pacific City.	84,573	Tillamook
221-1031	Trout Unlimited Inc	Green Creek Priority Fish Passage Project	A fish passage barrier will be replaced with a new structure designed to provide full passage for native migratory fish on Green Creek, a tributary of the Trask River. The project is a high priority for the Salmon SuperHwy partnership in Tillamook County.	549,866	Tillamook
221-1032	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	The Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP)- a proposal for sustainable program development	High quality and genetically appropriate plant material will be propagated and distributed to over 30 local partnering organizations for restoration projects in NW Oregon.	204,149	Tillamook
221-1030	Scappoose Bay WC	South Scappoose Reach F Construction	Instream and streamside habitat will be restored and enhanced on South Scappoose Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay. The project is located on a highly visible stream reach within a city-owned park and supports habitat for Lower Columbia salmon.	170,677	Columbia
221-1027	North Coast WS Assn	North North Fork Klaskanine Fish Passage Project	Fish passage will be restored at a hatchery on the North North Fork of the Klaskanine River to improve access to nearly five miles of habitat for native fish, including endangered coho salmon populations.	274,078	Clatsop
221-1033	CREST	West Sand Island Prairie Restoration	Rare coastal dune habitat will be restored on West Sand Island, an island near the mouth of the Columbia River. Several endangered species that frequent coastal prairie will benefit, including streaked horned lark and western snowy plover.	134,636	Clatsop
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,417,979	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-1028	Lower Nehalem WC	Jetty Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project	218,222	Tillamook	

Region 1 - North Coast Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-1036	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	North Coast Watershed Councils Restoration Assistance 2021	A coalition of north coast watershed councils will collaborate to share the resources of a highly qualified consultant to plan and develop watershed restoration that benefit salmon, lamprey, steelhead, and trout.	73,240	Tillamook
221-1037	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	Siletz Tribe's Lower Fivemile Wetlands Restoration Planning CLONE	Stream restoration will be designed by an experienced technical team to restore stream channels and native plant communities on a property in the Tahkenitch Lake watershed in Douglas County.	60,555	Douglas
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				133,795	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-1034	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	Sitka Sedge Tidal Wetland Project (SSTW): Alternatives Evaluation & Preliminary Design	Design alternatives will be evaluated to restore tidal hydrology and estuary habitat at the southern extent of the Sand Lake estuary in Tillamook County.	74,976	Tillamook
221-1041	City of Newport	Big Creek Watershed Forest Resource Assessment	A forest resource assessment will be conducted to inform the development of a land management plan and acquisition strategy for lands in the City of Newport's Big Creek watershed, the primary source of drinking water for the City.	49,445	Lincoln
221-1035	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	Tillamook Bay Watershed Coho Strategic Action Plan	Regional partners will convene to develop a Strategic Action Plan for the Tillamook Bay watershed to coordinate and accelerate habitat protection and restoration for Oregon coast coho salmon.	74,971	Tillamook

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-1038	CREST	South Tongue Point Restoration Designs	29,387	Clatsop	
221-1039	Columbia SWCD	Clatskanie Floodplain-Confluence Strategy	59,400	Columbia	
221-1040	Columbia SWCD	Page Creek, Fish Passage and Habitat Complexity Design 3	56,100	Columbia	

Region 1 - North Coast Stakeholder Engagement

Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
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None

Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff	
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Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
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None

Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
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None

Region 1 - North Coast Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-1044	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	2021-2022 Continuing Columbia SWCD Water Quality Monitoring Program	Water quality will be monitored by a group of partners in the lower Columbia watershed to build on an extensive existing dataset and inform future watershed restoration.	25,094	Columbia
221-1043	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	TEP 2021 Bacteria Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program	Citizen scientists will collect water samples at established monitoring locations on a year-round basis to continue a long-term bacteria monitoring effort within Tillamook County watersheds.	87,404	Tillamook
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				112,498	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-1045	Upper Nehalem WC	Coho Response to Beaver Dam Analogues	91,278	Washington	
221-1046	Salmon Drift Cr WC	Echo Mountain Fire and Ocean Tributaries Water Quality Surveillance	37,767	Lincoln	

Region 1 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	1,664,272
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1027-19510

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North North Fork Klaskanine Fish Passage Project

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$274,078

Total Cost: \$508,555

Application Description

The North Fork Klaskanine is a major tributary to Young's Bay and the first major watershed that ocean-returning fish encounter in the Lower Columbia River. It has low gradient habitat, good canopy cover, intermittent sections of wide valley that provide high intrinsic potential habitat for ESA listed coho, and ample beaver activity. The North Fork has received limited attention for habitat restoration due to passage impediments from ODFW's Klaskanine Fish Hatchery. Recently ODFW and USFWS partnered to complete survey and passage assessments on the North Fork Klaskanine and its tributaries to maximize wild fish passage and stream connectivity while maintaining hatchery management. This led to a 2020 removal of one hatchery dam on the North Fork Klaskanine. In this proposal, OWEB funding is requested to restore passage at a second hatchery dam on the North North Fork Klaskanine at Intake 3 to improve access to 4.7 miles of habitat. The project will build a roughened channel to backwater the dam and provide full fish passage through the constructed riffle and over the dam. The roughened channel will extend ~260 feet downstream from the dam-crest at a 3.5% slope. The crest of the constructed riffle will provide fish passage throughout the full range of flows for all native species. The base of the dam will be buried, but not removed. The diversion will continue to meet hatchery needs, the fish screen will meet regulatory requirements, and the associated fish bypass and sediment sluice pipes will be reconfigured to fully function while meeting the new downstream channel alignment. ODFW is coordinating with ODOT on reviewing, approving and funding some structural protection to the Hwy 202 bridge located upstream of the dam. Project partners include ODFW, USFWS, North Coast Watershed Association, Oregon Department of Transportation and Resources Legacy Fund.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal thoroughly describes the complex site conditions associated with the stream dynamics around the hatchery facilities.
- Implementation of the project has a degree of urgency as matching funds have been secured.
- Similar roughened channel designs have been successful in the South Fork Klaskanine and the South Fork Necanicum rivers. There is high confidence that the project team will implement a similar successful project.
- The project will have a near immediate benefit to Pacific lamprey, providing passage and making overwintering habitat available.
- Construction of the roughened channel will improve fish access to 4.7 miles of stream habitat.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1028-19512

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Jetty Creek Fish Passage and
Habitat Enhancement Project

Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$218,222

Total Cost: \$425,591

Application Description

Jetty Creek is located just upstream of the mouth of the Nehalem River, 3 miles north of the City of Rockaway Beach in Tillamook County. The stream supports ESA listed coho salmon, chum salmon and coastal cutthroat trout. Most of the Jetty Creek watershed is managed for private timber and it serves as the primary surface water source for the City of Rockaway Beach. Jetty Creek is currently below the ODFW benchmarks for instream large wood. Juvenile fish also struggle to overwinter in Jetty Creek due to the simplified channel and gradient. Several road-stream crossings in Jetty Creek do not meet the federal fish passage standard of 1.5 times active channel width. This project is partnering with private landowner, GreenWood Resources to improve stream function and enhance salmonid habitat quality by implementing the following: install 7 full channel spanning large wood structures, construct 5 alcoves and upgrade 2 undersized culvert crossings with bridges that meet the federal fish passage standard. The Lower Nehalem Watershed Council will provide project management, coordinate partner communication, contract for the LW placements/alcove implementation oversight and construction, contribute to the cost of bridges, and manage the project grants and schedule. GreenWood Resources will provide all the wood needed for the project, construction contracting for the implementation and engineering review for the culvert upgrades. Forest engineering firm McGee Engineering is providing the culvert replacement designs. Experienced natural resources professional, Steve Trask, will be contracted by LNWC to provide on the ground guidance to the construction contractor installing the large wood structures and alcoves. Because the project is on industrial timber land, the only permits required are the Oregon Department of Forestry Notification of Operations and Tillamook County sign off on the Land Use Compatibility Statement form.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will improve habitat complexity, a known limiting factor for Oregon coast coho salmon, within Jetty Creek. The creek provides important overwintering habitat for juvenile fish.
- The partners involved have a proven track record of success and demonstrated ability to complete these types of projects.
- Costs for materials and supplies, particularly the bridges, are reasonable.

Concerns

- The application lacks detail on the placement and design of the proposed alcoves. Similar alcoves constructed in the past have had limited success. It is unclear how the location for the alcoves was selected and proposed hydrologic information would be particularly useful in evaluating durability of the alcoves by predicting the potential for them to fill in with sediment. Additional information describing the basis of designs for the alcoves is needed to evaluate technical soundness of the approach.
- One of the proposed alcove locations may disrupt a functioning wetland that fringes the stream.
- The culverts slated for replacement are not fish passage barriers at low flows. They are undersized and sediment-filled, but are likely not posing immediate passage issues.
- The proposed excavation work has the potential to negatively impact stream temperature.
- The bridge design is over-spanned for the active channel width. This may be a positive project element, but there is not enough information on the project design in the application to determine the suitability of this approach.
- Jetty Creek is a drinking water source for the community of Rockaway Beach. It is important to carefully consider sedimentation potential of any restoration project that could impact water quality.

Concluding Analysis

Jetty Creek is an important place to work to improve fish habitat and the stream will benefit from the addition of large wood. This project will build on previous restoration work downstream at the City of Rockaway Beach's water facility that improved upstream passage for fish. The plan for the alcoves, however, lacks important details that are needed for determining the 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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1029-19538

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Sand Lake Habitat Enhancement
Project: Large Wood Placements

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds
Council

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$84,573

Total Cost: \$132,037

Application Description

Sand Creek, Jewel Creek and Andy Creek are three high priority Sand Lake Basin tributary streams located on Oregon's coast, 5 miles north of Pacific City in Tillamook County. These streams were selected based on recommendations in the NNSL's 2019 Sand Lake Basin Limiting Factors Analysis (LFA) that identified stream reaches where restoration activities would have the greatest positive impact for coho salmon. The LFA builds on recommended on-the-ground restoration components included in the NOAA Fisheries Final ESA Recovery Plan for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon (2016). Home to ESA listed coho, Chinook, chum, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey, these low-gradient streams with good spawning gravels lack channel complexity, pools and floodplain connectivity due to historic land management practices that have led to the absence of instream large wood. The project proposes to partner with industrial timber landowner Stimson and private landowners to place 47 large wood structures in 2.69 miles (3,876 meters) of stream. Each large wood structure will be comprised of 5-7 logs with a minimum of three of the logs having rootwads attached. ODFW and USFS provided support to NNSL to conduct field visits to each tributary and identify LW placement locations and staging areas. Stimson Lumber will supply the wood for the projects on their ownership. USFS will supply the wood for the private landowner projects via the Siletz Tribe through the USFS Tribal Wood Donation Program. Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watersheds Council will provide project management, secure the wood, manage the contracts, contract with a habitat restoration specialist to provide construction oversight and contract with a contractor for all project implementation. USFS will provide federal permitting support for the LW placements on private lands. OWEB funds will be used to support: project management, habitat specialist for project implementation and construction actions.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides a clear rationale for the importance of working in the proposed location of the Sand Lake watershed.
- The proposed work is the result of a recently completed Limiting Factors Analysis completed by the applicant.
- The project builds on past restoration work, there has been riparian planting and fencing downstream along with numerous fish passage projects completed in the watershed.

- Landowner engagement within the watershed has been positive and there is stakeholder support for the project.
- The design is technically sound, with wood appropriately sized and slated to meet ODFW benchmarks for key pieces per mile.
- Existing monitoring efforts in the basin may complement the restoration work by providing data as to how instream complexity affects water quality parameters.
- The applicant has a proven track record of success implementing similar types of projects.
- There is an effective partnership behind the project that brings technical resources to the work.

Concerns

- No significant concerns are identified.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project will increase habitat complexity at priority locations in the Sand Lake watershed identified during a recent strategic planning process. While the Sand Lake coho populations are considered dependent and a lower priority for restoration actions, the project is targeting key watershed limiting factors and is likely to have a positive benefit on life history diversity of coho. The design is technically sound and the partners are ready to implement a successful project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$84,573

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$84,573

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1030-19574

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: South Scappoose Reach F Construction

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$170,677

Total Cost: \$216,178

Application Description

This project is located in Columbia County in the City of Scappoose on South Scappoose Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay, 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), and the Scappoose Creek Limiting Factor Analysis (SBWC, 2012): 1) lack of physical habitat quality and complexity, including loss of floodplain connectivity and 2) the loss of complex riparian vegetative function and stream shading. Project will complete construction of Phase 3 of the South Scappoose Restoration Project to restore natural habitats on 0.2 miles of South Scappoose Creek. This project supports restoration actions on 0.7 miles directly upstream, where construction in 2019 completed a stream bank layback, floodplain benches and additional side-channel reconnections. Partners include Scappoose Bay Watershed Council, City of Scappoose, Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project expands on previous restoration efforts on South Scappoose Creek.
- Technical assistance work has been completed in the past and the results were utilized to prioritize and plan the proposed restoration.
- The designs are technically sound and rely on data and modeling that has proven effective.
- The project has a strong community nexus with a City of Scappoose partnership and will serve as a positive landowner engagement tool.
- The proposed alcoves are designed with a basis in hydrologic modeling that is technically sound.
- The planting effort is comprehensive and includes appropriate site preparation techniques and planned maintenance.
- The species selected for the riparian planting are appropriate for the site.
- The project location is a priority in which to work for Lower Columbia River fish species.
- The proposed restoration will help to address ongoing temperature issues in the Scappoose watershed.

- The proposed timing of the work at the onset of the City's planning process will result in cost efficiencies.
- The applicant and project partners have a proven track record with this type of project.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the proposed white oak listed in the planting section of the application is applicable to the project site.

Concluding Analysis

The project represents an opportunity to continue highly successful restoration work on South Scappoose Creek within a popular city park. The City has been working with the watershed council and other partners to improve aquatic and riparian habitat along the creek, and Reach F will build on those highly visible successes. The restoration work is likely to achieve the stated objectives.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$170,677

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$170,677

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1031-19586

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Green Creek Priority Fish Passage Project

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$549,866

Total Cost: \$879,376

Application Description

The Green Creek fish passage restoration project is located on Tillamook County owned Trask River Road just east of the town of Tillamook. Green Creek drains a 0.74 square mile watershed, flowing from the headwaters and upper reaches in State Forest, through a rural residential area, entering agricultural land in the lower reaches, to its confluence with the Trask River. Green Creek provides 1.7 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed coho salmon, as well as, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. Resident brook and/or Pacific lamprey likely occur in the watershed but are not well-documented. In April 2020, ODFW determined the active channel width of Green Creek to be 10-ft. The current culvert is a circular, corrugated metal pipe, approximately 50-ft in length and 4-ft 5-in in diameter. Replacing the undersized, deteriorated, and perched culvert with a 25-ft bridge will restore full passage for native migratory fish, improve stream function, and decrease County road maintenance while allowing for large wood and streambed material to move through the system. Project partners include: Tillamook County, Trout Unlimited (TU), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Forest Service (USFS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). Bridge designs, hydraulic analysis, and geotechnical report were provided by a private engineering firm in cooperation and consultation with the County and Trout Unlimited. USFWS is covering federal ESA compliance under PROJECTS and Section 106/ SHPO cultural consultation. NOAA is completing NEPA compliance. Trout Unlimited will submit the ACOE/ DSL Joint Permit application, ODFW fish passage approval, fish salvage permit, and County permits. Tillamook County Public works provided design review and will provide construction oversight and temporary construction easements with affected landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is clear and articulates the need and urgency for the proposed work.
- The crossing is prioritized for replacement within a larger strategic framework.
- Restoring fish passage at the project location builds on previous restoration work in the Tillamook Bay watershed.
- The project is partly the result of an OWEB-funded Technical Assistance grant which produced technically sound designs in a timely manner.

- Site specific constraints necessitating the chosen alternative are well-described within the application narrative.
- Green Creek is a high priority for fish passage restoration due to the need for more temperature refugia in the watershed.
- The project addresses limiting factors in the watershed and will restore access to 1.7 miles of aquatic habitat for ESA listed coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout.
- There is an effective partnership behind the project as the work is part of the Salmon SuperHwy strategic effort to restore fish passage in the Tillamook-Nestucca watersheds.
- The applicant has a proven track record of successfully implementing projects of this scope and scale.
- The site conditions, constraints, and expected ecological benefit all justify the cost of the project.

Concerns

- No significant concerns are identified.

Concluding Analysis

The partnership behind the Salmon Super Hwy continues their systematic work addressing fish passage and watershed connectivity with this project at Green Creek. The application clearly presents technically sound designs to restore passage at a priority location.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$549,866

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$549,866

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1032-19618

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: The Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP)- a proposal for sustainable program development

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$204,149

Total Cost: \$361,759

Application Description

The Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP), a Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) program, is an integral part of the conservation community in Northwest Oregon (NWOR). Locally adapted, genetically appropriate native plant material is critical for ensuring success in watershed scale restoration projects. TEP's Native Plant Nursery (NPN) supports >30 organizations annually by propagating and distributing >50,000 affordable, high quality, ethically sourced plants which would otherwise be unavailable to NORP partners. TEP supplies this essential material at 25% of its current value to NORP partners, thereby allowing partners of varying capacities to utilize the remaining 75% of the plant value as match to leverage additional funds needed for the success of restoration projects. As a result, landscape-scale watershed restoration projects are being implemented by NORP partners on private and public lands in seven counties (Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln, Lane, Columbia, Washington, and Yamhill). Due to this unique partnership, every dollar invested in NORP has an exponential benefit in terms of on-the-ground restoration in the watersheds of the Lower Columbia, Upper Willamette, North, and Mid-Oregon coast. NORP Partners include the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State Parks, the National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Soil & Water Conservation Districts, watershed councils, land trusts, the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), and local youth programs. Discounted plant material is not essential to all of NORP partners, therefore TEP intends to develop and implement a new fiscal model over the next three years. NORP is ongoing and reevaluation of it is critical to ensure its longevity and sustainability as a program. In order to securely move through the fiscal planning and implementation process, the partnership is requesting \$205,149 in program management funds from OWEB to assist with NORP personnel costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application presents a clear approach and timeline to accomplish the work.
- The partnership is looking at the development of a new funding model that will help alleviate the need for a focus on grant opportunities.
- NORP is a critical facet of restoration within the North Coast region. The demand for plants and nursery services continues to grow and NORP has continually stepped up to meet the needs.
- The work that NORP proposes to continue addresses several limiting factors within north coast watersheds, including the lack of native species diversity, temperature issues, and canopy cover.

- Projects that utilize NORP plant stock typically have an improved rate of success over projects that utilize other plant materials with genetics from outside of the coastal region.
- The applicant has a long history of successful project implementation, and this effort will allow an increased focus on improving the capacity of the partnership.
- A long-standing partnership with the Oregon Youth Authority provides ancillary community benefits to the work.
- The applicant has a track record of managing complex budgets and funding portfolios.

Concerns

- The application is unclear as to what specific experience the project manager has in fiscal planning of the nature proposed.

Concluding Analysis

Throughout northwest Oregon, non-profit organizations, agencies, and municipalities have come to rely on NORP to produce high quality, genetically appropriate plant material for restoration projects. This application represents a pivotal step in the development of the partnership. It will continue to support the distribution of plant material to restoration projects throughout the region, but also enable NORP staff to spend much-needed time on the development of a sustainable funding plan for the work. The partnership's track record indicates a likelihood for success in accomplishing the ecological objectives of the work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$204,149

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$204,149

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1033-19643

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: West Sand Island Prairie Restoration

Applicant: CREST

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$134,636

Total Cost: \$212,086

Application Description

The coastal dune prairie restoration will occur on approximately 48 acres of the southern end of West Sand Island, located in Clatsop County, Oregon, within Baker Bay near the mouth of the Columbia River. [Note: OWEB's mapping tool does not allow accurate pin placement - please ignore and see uploaded map]. The island is a former shifting sand shoal that has been expanded by dredge spoil deposits and stabilized by the property owner, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project area is rare coastal dune habitat that has been largely lost in Oregon and Washington. This prairie offers potential habitat to several ESA-listed species, including streaked horned lark and western snowy plover. Recent invasion by nonnative species has severely degraded the habitat quality by changing the vegetation community structure and function. The primary culprit species include gorse, Scotch broom, and European beachgrass. Scattered coniferous trees throughout the site discourage use by larks and plovers, who avoid tall woody vegetation and European beachgrass. Without intensive restoration, the remaining native prairie will be lost. A separate, current restoration project in 2020 masticated mature Scotch broom and gorse on the east shore and southern tip of the project site. Follow-up herbicide treatments and native plantings will occur in 2021-2023. As part of this grant, approximately 40 acres will be burned in 2022 to remove mature European beachgrass, gorse, and Scotch broom through the majority of the site. Foliar treatments of herbicide in subsequent years will prevent recolonization. Native seed and plugs will be used sparingly, to add diversity but maintain desirable bare ground. The project is a partnership between CREST and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with logistical and technical support from the National Parks Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, North Coast Land Conservancy, and Eco Studies Institute.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The restoration proposal is thorough and well-considered. The selected approach to preserve the existing high value plant communities and remove encroaching invasives is appropriate for the site.
- West Sand Island provides a unique opportunity to restore coastal prairie, an imperiled habitat type within the region. The habitat present on the island represents some of the best available remaining examples of these rare plant communities.
- Opportunities to restore coastal prairie habitat are limited and this project could benefit numerous pollinators and streaked horned larks, as well as provide overwintering habitat for western snowy plovers.

- The application builds on a previous OWEB-funded Technical Assistance grant that produced a sound action plan for site restoration.
- The applicant addressed concerns identified in a previous application submission and presented a much clearer path of action.
- There is urgent need for this project as encroachment by invasive species on the rare plant communities continues at a rapid pace.
- The approach incorporates adaptive management to ensure continued success throughout the duration of the site preparation, planting, and maintenance.
- The applicant has developed partnerships with relevant entities interested in restoring the habitat on the island and continues to engage with local stakeholders.
- The approach is cost-effective at the scope and scale of restoration proposed.

Concerns

- Limited information is provided about how the success of the project will be tracked.
- There is limited detail on the plan to conduct burning on the island as a site preparation technique.
- The long-term sustainability of this type of restoration in the absence of natural disturbance regimes is unclear.

Concluding Analysis

Coastal prairie habitat is a priority for restoration and West Sand Island represents a unique opportunity to enhance conditions for several rare and listed plant and wildlife species. This project is a resubmittal, and the applicant clearly addressed the previous concerns around the scope and scale of the work. This approach to coastal prairie restoration is well-balanced and works with the natural systems on the island and aims to achieve realistic ecological objectives that are likely to succeed. Site preparation work on the island has already commenced and the applicant has high capacity to implement the work proposed. A newly formed Friends of West Sand Island group is engaged and committed to supporting the long-term sustainability of the restoration work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$134,636

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$134,636

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1034-19520

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Sitka Sedge Tidal Wetland Project (SSTW): Alternatives Evaluation & Preliminary Design

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$74,976

Total Cost: \$228,816

Application Description

“Sitka Sedge Tidal Wetland” project (SSTW), is a significant opportunity to improve tidal wetland function, habitat complexity, species diversity, and water quality in the Sand Lake estuary. TEP in partnership with OPRD, proposes a \$228,816 project (\$74,976 OWEB request) to evaluate dike breach and setback flood protection alternatives key to restoration of Beltz Marsh. SSTW concludes with preferred preliminary restoration design for Beltz Marsh enabling restoration of 68-acres of tidal habitat. SSTW, is a unincorporated portion of Tillamook County on Oregon’s north coast. SSTW comprises the southern extent of Sand Lake Estuary nested within the 357-acre Sitka Sedge State Natural Area (SSSNA). Tidal wetland access is a critical limiting factor in pursuit of healthy coastal watersheds. Over 70% of Oregon’s estuarine wetlands have been lost to conversion. Sand Lake loss is due to levee construction and draining that altered tidal wetland function and quality resulting in significant impact to sensitive species and habitats. Sand Lake is critical habitat for ESA threatened Oregon Coast Coho salmon (ESU) and NOAA’s recovery plan states the primary limiting factor for recovery is access to intact rearing habitat in tidal wetland. Sand Lake, one of Oregon’s least developed estuaries, is located along the Pacific Flyway, providing indispensable habitat for diverse migratory bird species. The project area supports 17 federal and/or state species of concern, nine of which are OWEB North Coast priority species. Establishing a dike alternative that provides uninhibited tidal connectivity to Beltz Marsh including comprehensive tidal wetland design is the first step in a larger project that includes upstream fish passage improvements on three salmon streams, floodplain wetland restoration, and large wood placement on Beltz and Reneke Creeks. Additionally, SSTW evaluates setback flood protection alternatives for the Tierra Del Mar community to mitigate impacts of Sea Level .

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting restoration project will restore tidal marsh habitat to the Sitka Sedge Natural Area. Estuarine habitat is a priority for restoration along the Oregon coast.
- The proposed 2D modeling will help communicate with stakeholders in the watershed and is a critical step to completing a restoration design.
- An increased understanding of the storm water interactions within the neighboring community of Tierra del Mar will improve project soundness.
- The temporal scale on which the data is proposed for collection is appropriate and relevant.

- The project engages the appropriate partners and the project manager is highly experienced with similar work.
- The design approach aims to restore natural processes by removing a portion of the Beltz dike, which is an ecologically sound and more cost-effective approach than other alternatives considered.

Concerns

- It is unclear from the application what the alternatives analysis process will be moving forward and what other alternatives were considered to the setback levee.
- The application lacks some detail on the selected alternative. More information on the location of the proposed setback levee, the degree to which the existing levee will be removed, expected levee maintenance, and expected public use would have been helpful to understand the design approach.
- The proposed construction of a setback levee has the potential to hold water and may counteract its intended purpose of flood reduction. Hydrologic modeling to date has not shown a strong need for the setback levee and has indicated the community is not at risk of flooding from reconnecting tidal hydrology to the marsh.
- The modeling does not consider potential sediment issues.
- Previous technical and modeling work has been completed for the project but is not well-summarized in the application. Information on how that work will inform this next technical phase would have been helpful in evaluating the proposal.

Concluding Analysis

The technical approach to the design work is sound and builds upon many years of community engagement and previous hydrologic modeling by project partners. The landowner, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, has committed to an ecological outcome that will restore a greater degree of tidal connectivity than other restoration alternatives previously considered. This technical assistance effort proposed is critical for continuing momentum for restoration of this high priority estuarine site.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,976

Review Team Conditions

n/a

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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1035-19537

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Tillamook Bay Watershed Coho Strategic Action Plan

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$74,971

Total Cost: \$129,159

Application Description

Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP), in cooperation with Wild Salmon Center (WSC), proposes to facilitate development of a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for Tillamook Bay Watershed. The SAP will convene regional natural resource professionals and land managers to collaborate on a detailed restoration plan addressing limiting factors related to spawning and rearing habitat for the Tillamook Bay population of Oregon Coast (OC) coho. Oregon Coast coho are a federally-listed species; their recovery is a priority for both federal (NOAA Fisheries) and state (ODFW) agencies. No coho-specific comprehensive plan incorporating both the estuary and contributing watershed exists. Loss and degradation of key habitats and ecological processes have contributed to declines in OC coho (and other salmonids) and the ecologic, economic, and cultural systems that rely upon them. Dedicated to improving and conserving these habitats and processes as a means of restoring salmon populations, TEP seeks to develop a two-phase SAP project to clarify both long-term habitat restoration priorities and to coordinate and accelerate short-term project implementation. Phase 1, presented in this application, encompasses goal setting, habitat assessments, and several data and expert-driven spatial analyses, which result in the “strategic framework”. A future Phase 2 will initiate stakeholder outreach and finalize planning process steps. Partners committed to participating: US Fish & Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, Bureau of Land Management, OR Dept of Forestry, OR Dept of Fish & Wildlife, OR Dept of Environmental Quality, The Nature Conservancy, Tillamook Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Stimson Lumber, Tillamook Creamery, Trout Unlimited and Tillamook Bay Watershed Council. OWEB funds will be used to contract WSC to facilitate SAP development and a graphic artist and document preparation specialist to assist in preparing the SAP report.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The chosen approach to strategic planning is effective and focuses on specific limiting factors to Oregon coast coho recovery.
- The applicant clearly describes the process that will be undertaken, and the proposal indicates that the cost and effort necessary to produce the deliverables is well-understood.
- The products from other similar planning processes along the coast have been high quality and useful for restoration practitioners focused on Oregon coast coho recovery.
- The selected consultant is highly qualified and experienced with similar planning efforts in the Nehalem, Siletz, Siuslaw, Elk, Umpqua, and Rogue rivers.

- Preliminary stakeholder engagement has already occurred, and an appropriate assemblage of partners are interested in participating in the planning process.
- The two-phased approach outlined in the application is appropriate given the expected level of detail to be included in the strategic action plan.

Concerns

- The application is unclear as to whether the proposed phase of the project will result in a Strategic Action Plan.
- The project may result in generating a need for more stakeholder engagement work and not immediately result in restoration.
- The original Coho Business Plan applicant has had challenges meeting deliverables of past grants.
- The cost for the SAP is high given that another phase will be necessary to complete the SAP. Similar single-species strategic planning efforts on the coast have recently been completed for significantly less cost.
- The cost for the graphic designer for the document seems high and it is unclear why a graphic designer is included at this phase of the project given that another phase is necessary to produce the final document.

Concluding Analysis

The Tillamook Bay watershed would greatly benefit from the development of a strategic action plan for Oregon coast coho salmon. The planning process selected will serve as a catalyst for engaging partners in the watershed around coho recovery and is likely to produce a useful document for restoration planning. While the past similar “Coho Business Plan” efforts have been slow to produce deliverables, the partnership approach taken by this application may help to broaden responsibilities around the planning process and lead to a successful outcome.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,971

Review Team Conditions

n/a

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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1036-19539

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: North Coast Watershed Councils
Restoration Assistance 2021

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds
Council

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$73,240

Total Cost: \$91,749

Application Description

Since 2012, a coalition of North Coast watershed councils has collaborated to increase the collective number of grant applications submitted for restoration projects. This coalition encompasses watersheds from Nicolai-Wickiup on the lower Columbia River all the way south to Neskowin Creek, all of which are within Clatsop and Tillamook Counties. This proposal is intended to continue this very successful collaboration. With the assistance of OWEB funding, these councils share the resources of a highly qualified consultant for pre-project field work, project design solicitation, proposal drafting, and contract preparation. Each Council's needs are similar, so sharing the services of a highly qualified contractor effectively leverages each organization's ability to secure funding and move high-priority projects forward. This has resulted in a proven model that takes advantage of economies of scale with only one contract. Partners US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) support this program, seeing the value in hiring a "third arm" for the participating Councils. The partners increase that value by providing additional match. This cooperative effort has demonstrated the efficiencies that can be created by sharing resources among Councils, and it is more important than ever considering the ongoing reductions in ODFW and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) staffing and budgets. The best way to maintain or increase restoration is to find efficiencies through contracting. Participating councils include: North Coast Watershed Association (NCWA), Necanicum Watershed Council (NWC), Lower Nehalem Watershed Council (LNWC) and Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watersheds Council (NNSL). Deliverables include 8 submitted grant applications.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal is clear and identifies watershed limiting factors and solutions.
- The deliverables expected from the technical assistance work are clearly identified and quantified.
- The project has a long track record of success and has shown to be a model of collaboration for the region.
- Resulting restoration projects developed through previous iterations of this project have been technically sound and of high quality.
- Engaging a technical provider long-term who is knowledgeable in the region continues to help provide support and consistency during organizational staff transitions.

- The approach to collaboration around technical assistance is cost-effective.

Concerns

- No significant concerns are identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a continuation of a long-running technical assistance effort that serves multiple watershed councils in the north coast. The quantity and quality of successful projects developed through this effort have been impressive. Resulting restoration projects target limiting factors within the watersheds encompassed by the work and often build on previously implemented work. This project has a high likelihood of success with an engaged technical provider continuing to deliver collaboration and consistency to the partnering organizations.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$73,240

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$73,240

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1037-19603

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Siletz Tribe's Lower Fivemile Wetlands Restoration Planning_CLONE

Applicant: Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Region: North Coast

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$60,555

Total Cost: \$85,035

Application Description

The Lower Fivemile Wetlands property, herein after referred to as the Property, was purchased in 2015 with OWEB funding. OWEB holds a conservation easement on the Property. The occurrence of the property's conservation status has created a unique opportunity to retain (in perpetuity) diverse aquatic habitats that will continue to assist with conservation of one of the most productive salmonid rearing watersheds in the state of Oregon. More broadly, the conservation status of the 125 acre Property will continue to contribute to the basin-wide conservation complex composed of additional Tribal lands (6,500 acres with 17 miles of lake shoreline) and additional USFS Fivemile-Bell Landscape Management Project properties (5,000 acres). The Property is located in Douglas County and is the first private property located upstream of Tahkenitch Lake on Fivemile Creek (43°49'35.17"N 124° 3'48.47"W). The forest properties immediately upland of the Property to the East and West are owned and managed by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI). The Tribe completed a management Plan that was approved by OWEB this past year (see Appendix 2). The main purpose of the project is to carry out an assessment of existing conditions specific to the seasonal hydrology and the marsh surface and channel flow path elevation patterns. This work will then be used to generate a 2D model to allow for consideration of regrading of the marsh's surface, relocation of the channel network, and development of site appropriate plant community restoration objectives. Project tasks include seasonal water table assessment, Geomorphic Grade Line Modeling (Powers et al; River Res. Applic. 2018;1–11; John Wiley and Sons; A process-based approach to restoring depositional river valleys to Stage 0, an anastomosing channel network), and plant community restoration design. Project partners include CTSI, USFS Siuslaw National Forest, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes the need for the technical assistance work.
- The scale of the restoration work will be landscape-level. The project site is adjacent to the Fivemile-Bell restoration project and the proposed work will have outsized ecological benefits because of this connectivity.
- The project builds on previous conservation investments. The lower Fivemile site is in tribal ownership and was purchased in part with an OWEB Acquisition grant. The work proposed is consistent with the draft management plan for the property.
- The landowner is considering levee removal which is likely to have a high benefit to aquatic habitat.

- The partners involved with the project are experienced, highly qualified, and have the capacity to complete the proposed work.

Concerns

- The reed canary grass infestation on the property is significant and it will be challenging to develop effective site preparation techniques. More information on design alternatives in the application related to the reed canary grass would have been beneficial.
- The restoration design will need to consider sediment transport before proceeding along a design pathway, and the application is limited on detail in how this will be assessed.
- The future conditions at the site are challenging to design for, given the expected continued water fluctuations driven by the downstream lake levels affecting site hydrology.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance proposal represents an important opportunity to continue watershed-level work in a priority location that addresses key limiting factors for Oregon coast coho salmon and other fish and wildlife. The plan to pursue a process-based approach is technically sound for the site and the assembled team of partners is among the most highly qualified in the Pacific Northwest to design and implement this type of restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$60,555

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$60,555

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1038-19604

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Tongue Point Restoration Designs

Applicant: CREST

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$29,387

Total Cost: \$41,939

Application Description

The South Tongue Point Restoration project is located on the Columbia River's Cathlamet Bay on the edge of the town of Astoria, Oregon. Located just south of the Tongue Point port, the site is part of a landform that was built up out of the river with dredge spoils in the 1940s-1950s during the ship building boom. That landform buried natural channel and bank habitat, and was constructed with a simplified structure that offers limited aquatic habitat for ESA-listed salmonids and other aquatic species of interest. The project's location - adjacent to the outlets of two salmon-bearing streams (Mill Creek and John Day River) - means that holding sites for spawning salmonids and rearing/feeding sites for juvenile salmonids would be particularly valuable and likely highly utilized. This project will excavate tidal channel complexes into the site's interior from the eastern and southern shores and grade channel banks to maximize aquatic food webs. The project will provide rearing and feeding habitat for ESA-listed salmonid species in addition to numerous other aquatic species, and will provide macrodetritus and food resource inputs to the Columbia River Estuary. Channel formation will include the placement of slash and large woody debris, further enhancing food web productivity. Following excavation, the site will be revegetated with a diverse mix of native species that includes high structural diversity. CREST is working closely with the soon-to-be landowner (Clatsop Community College), who plans to use the site as a living laboratory for their nascent Environmental Studies program. CREST is also working with Columbia Land Trust, which led the acquisition of the site from the Department of State Lands and the transfer to the College with an appropriate easement. The design and engineering consultant for conceptual design and alternative analysis is Stillwater Sciences, and Stillwater will likely conduct the full design process.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The need for the project is clearly articulated within the application.
- The conceptual design is technically sound.
- The partnership surrounding the project is cohesive and the involvement of the Clatsop Community College will generate additional outreach benefits within the community.
- The applicant is highly experienced with this type of project and has a proven track record of success.
- The cost of the technical assistance work is reasonable for the proposed phase of design.
- A successful design and restoration effort at South Tongue Point could inform future work addressing dredge spoil locations.

- The project builds on previous conservation investments with acquisition of the site funded by a USFWS Coastal Wetlands grant.

Concerns

- The application is unclear about the distinct acreage that is involved with this design effort.
- There is potential for contaminants to be present at this site due to the many years of accumulated dredge spoils, and the application does not address this design consideration in a substantive way. No contingencies are provided for the potential discovery of contaminants.
- The resulting restoration project may be prohibitively expensive for the expected ecological benefit.

Concluding Analysis

The project provides opportunity to develop a restoration design that increases ecological benefit on a priority site within the Youngs Bay estuary. The application, however, does not consider potential contaminant concerns for this location. The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment conducted for the purposes of the initial land acquisition identified contaminants as a concern and recommended testing prior to any ground disturbance. Sediment testing is not identified within this application and it is recommended that it be included at this stage of design or addressed with a discussion within the narrative. Contingencies for other design alternatives should be identified if contaminants are discovered during the planning 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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1039-19616

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Clatskanie Floodplain-Confluence Strategy

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$59,400

Total Cost: \$77,400

Application Description

The project area is located along Keystone Creek tributary-confluence area of the lower Clatskanie Floodplain area (approximately RM 5-6). Spanning 2 river miles, these areas represent the intersection of low gradient tributary systems with the broader floodplain of mainstem Clatskanie river. This proposal seeks technical assistance to better understand broader hydro-geomorphic processes supportive of habitat restoration and flood hazard mitigation opportunities identified along this reach. A multi-partner working group will be established to scope and solicit technical services for organizing these opportunities into a coherent strategy for future project design and implementation. Services will include design support for selected projects to be used for initial permitting needs and implementation applications for funding. This effort expands upon geomorphic assessment information being conducted by local partners and completed projects in the area. Resources will be dedicated to collecting additional topographic and hydrologic information to understand range of hydrologic patterns for determining relative benefit and risk of existing opportunities. Project partners include private landowners, Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District, Columbia County Public Works department.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location is identified through the watershed council's strategic action planning process.
- The technical assistance work may help prioritize future restoration work within the Clatskanie floodplain.
- The appropriate partners are engaged with the project.

Concerns

- The deliverables of the technical assistance work are unclear. It is unknown whether the work will result in future technical assistance requests or serve to facilitate restoration projects.
- The stated deliverables and products developed through the technical assistance work do not align with the proposed budget. The budget may not reflect the resources required to complete the work.
- There is no map provided within the application that clearly demonstrates what the geography of the technical assistance work will be.

- The scope of the project described in the application is unclear and provides limited detail. The project aims to complete a body of work at very different scales. It will be challenging to complete both conceptual designs for a specific location but also broader landscape planning for an unidentified geography.

Concluding Analysis

The project will endeavor to continue restoration in the Clatskanie floodplain, a priority location for addressing limiting factors for several listed fish species. Previous work has been done in the area and this work will build on those efforts. The application, however, is lacking key detail around what deliverables can be expected and where the project will take place. From the information provided, it is challenging to understand how the products can be distilled into a manageable scope for a technical assistance provider. The application narrative indicates there are willing landowners already on board to implement restoration on their properties, but those properties are not described clearly in the materials submitted. Separate projects to pursue these specific landowner sites may be more effective than combining them with an overarching technical assistance effort that may detract from accomplishing an effective design for those sites.

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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1040-19617

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Page Creek, Fish Passage and Habitat Complexity Design_3

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$56,100

Total Cost: \$71,100

Application Description

The proposal solicits resources to expound upon the success of previous restoration efforts to maximize the ecological potential of the Page Creek subwatershed in the Clatskanie Basin (RM 8.8). Funds will be used to procure technical services related to removal of the final fish barrier 2 miles from its confluence with the Clatskanie river. This will re-establish access to 1 mile of spawning habitat. Scope of effort also includes design elements that contribute to instream habitat complexity. Pre-design information in the form of topographic and geotechnical surveys will inform existing condition as well and serve as a platform for developing design alternatives. Technical services will also include geomorphic, hydrologic and hydraulic investigation as part of alternative analysis conducted in collaboration with Technical Advisory Committee. Information will be important to determining the type of structure required that is consistent with underlying geology while maximizing needs for migrating fish populations. Design sets for preferred alternative will be developed to level of detail necessary to engaging feedback from regulatory community and along with preliminary cost estimates. This feedback will be important to scoping final design process, regulatory requirements and implementation proposals. Selected firm will work collaboratively with the watershed council and project partners to developing design concepts that will be sustainable in light of elevated coastal storm events from climate change.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Clatskanie basin is identified as a high priority for habitat restoration by ODFW for lower Columbia fish species.
- The proposed technical assistance work will lead to the replacement of the last remaining barrier on Page Creek and complement previous fish passage investments downstream.
- The landowner is highly supportive and engaged in the project.
- Technical assistance work upfront is important for a successful restoration project at this site. The culvert is in a stream reach with a steep gradient and replacement of the structure may be complex. The geotechnical work will be important to ensure the technical soundness of the design approach.

Concerns

- The application provides limited detail on the overall importance of Page Creek relative to fish populations in the watershed.

- There is no clear plan to move this project from technical assistance work to restoration with only 30% designs proposed.
- The cost for technical work may be high for only achieving 30% designs.
- A significant portion of the budget is directed toward assessments. Directing these funds toward design instead may produce a higher level of design.
- The project would benefit from more partnerships, including with ODFW and other organizations conducting strategic fish passage restoration in the Columbia County.

Concluding Analysis

The technical assistance project is a resubmittal and several previous concerns with the project continue to be unresolved. The site is complex and likely to need additional design work beyond what is proposed, but a pathway to bring the designs up to a permitting or implementation level is still not described. There are still questions as to why the project location is a priority for the overall watershed as the application lacks details on fish populations in Page Creek itself. Since other strategic fish passage efforts in the area have not identified this location as a priority, the proposed project may be more of an opportunistic effort that is not likely to produce significant ecological benefit.

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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1041-19638

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Big Creek Watershed Forest Resource Assessment

Applicant: City of Newport

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$49,445

Total Cost: \$66,245

Application Description

The City of Newport owns a substantial amount of property in and around its municipal raw water storage reservoirs in the Big Creek Watershed, which is partially within and just east of the city limits. These lands were purchased to address the City's domestic water supply needs and they have significant habitat value. The Greater Newport Vision 2040 encourages watershed conservation and habitat protection/restoration through strategic partnerships (Strategy B6) and the City's Comprehensive Plan calls for acquisition of land within the watershed when available or necessary to protect water quality (Water Policy 4, Public Facilities Element). While the City controls a significant amount of property within the watershed, it does not have a plan for how those lands should be managed nor has it taken steps to identify how best to prioritize future acquisitions. This forest resource assessment will address both of these needs by (a) assessing the forest resources on public and private lands within the Big Creek Watershed; and (b) identifying management strategies for publicly owned lands that achieve high quality habitat and improve water quality; and (c) developing a strategic action plan to inform implementation of management strategies and future land purchases; and (d) conducting outreach to landowners in the watershed to develop relationships and a mutual understanding of short- and long-term property management goals. A consulting forester will be hired to conduct a timber inventory on public lands and develop a high-level strategic forest management plan within the watershed. Findings and recommendations will be vetted with key stakeholders and agency topic area experts. Information related to the City's plans for rebuilding the reservoir will be factored into the plan as well. Project partners include the Oregon Coast Community Forest Association, Oregon State University Extension Services, Sustainable Northwest, area landowners, and partner agencies.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project approach is proactive and indicates the City is committed to water quality and watershed health in the Big Creek watershed.
- The technical assistance work adopts a whole watershed approach that will provide information to help land managers protect public drinking water as well as fish and wildlife habitat.
- The plan for the survey work is appropriate for the parameters of interest. It looks at other forest attributes beyond solely timber.
- The proposed timber inventories will be helpful to understand future restoration opportunities.

- The project team has an effective partnership with many community stakeholders represented.
- The work is cost-effective for the expected ecological benefit.

Concerns

- Opportunities for fish habitat restoration are limited due to the presence of the Big Creek dam blocking fish access to the project area.
- The application would benefit from more detail on the other types of natural resource assessments that will be accomplished beyond timber inventories.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed technical assistance work will help inform critical land management decisions by the City of Newport. The City emphasizes its commitment to managing the property for watershed health throughout the application narrative and indicates a desire to expand City ownership in the watershed. The assessment work and deliverables completed with this project will allow for an informed process for partners to expand conservation opportunities in the watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,445

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

b/a

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1043-19493

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: TEP 2021 Bacteria Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$87,404

Total Cost: \$127,940

Application Description Bacteria concentrations in many streams, bays, and beaches in Tillamook County are at levels that exceed the State standards for recreational contact and shellfish harvest. These waterbodies usually occur lower in the watersheds and are associated with urban and agricultural landscapes. DEQ developed three Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in the north coast of Oregon to address this problem: the North Coast Subbasins, Tillamook Bay Watershed, and Nestucca Bay Watershed.

Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) monitors E. coli and enterococcus bacteria concentrations in Tillamook County as a part of its Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program (VWQMP). The goal of the VWQMP is to evaluate the status and trends for bacteria levels in the streams, sloughs and bays throughout Tillamook County. The ongoing monitoring effort includes 73 sites throughout Tillamook County.

TEP uses citizen scientist volunteers to collect water sample at established monitoring locations throughout Tillamook County. Approximately eight volunteers collect water samples for TEP twice a month on a year-round basis. VWQMP water samples are brought to the TEP office where they are processed and analyzed for bacteria using IDEXX equipment and methods.

Sample results are recorded by TEP staff and entered into an online database. Recent results are available to the public through an interactive map on TEP's website. Every two years, TEP compiles, formats, and rates all data per DEQ protocols for accuracy. Bacteria data are forwarded to DEQ, which compares the most recent two years' of data to the appropriate State water quality standards to determine the status of the streams, sloughs, and bays. DEQ also performs regression analysis for each site to determine if statistically significant changes (trends) in bacteria concentrations are present. TEP and DEQ use this information to inform partners and the general public about water quality improvements.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This monitoring project will leverage the historic bacteria data the applicant has collected since 1997

to understand bacteria trends.

- The applicant will continue to follow professionally approved sampling methods to collect the water samples.
- The applicant will work with DEQ to perform the trend analysis.
- The applicant will make the data immediately available on their website so that the data are accessible to the public and other interested parties.
- The applicant will submit their data to DEQ to be incorporated into the statewide water quality database.
- The applicant will write a two-year summary report to identify trends at the different sites.
- The applicant performs outreach to communicate the results to local watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts through a variety of venues.
- The applicant is experienced at collecting these data, with an established history of collecting and reporting this information over many years.
- The costs proposed in the application are appropriate for the work necessary over two years and include staff time and supplies and materials needed for sample processing.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The applicant does not describe how this project complements other current or planned water quality monitoring efforts across the watersheds being monitored.
- The application does not include monitoring questions, which makes it difficult to review the application relative to specific evaluation criteria.
- The Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) referenced in the application is outdated from 2002 and does not include the majority of the sites in the application. It also lacks a description of the QA/QC procedures for processing water samples at the applicant organization's office for presence of E. coli and enterococcus.
- While the applicant proposes to use approved methods, the application does not describe the methods, or the QA/QC procedures followed to process water samples for presence of E. coli and enterococcus at their office. The study design generally explains where sites are located within the impaired listing locations but does not explain how the sites are distributed across the watershed and into the estuaries.
- The design also does not describe the sampling frequency or provide a justification about why water samples should be collected twice a month, 12 months a year. This information would justify need for this intensity of sampling, given the extensive data record that already exists.
- The application does not provide a description of QA/QC procedures to train and oversee the volunteers that collect the water samples and transport them to the applicant's office for sample processing.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendations

Require applicant to write a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and have it approved by DEQ to reflect current sampling sites and the lab procedures that will be used to handle and process water samples.

Ensure consistent submittal of data to DEQ every two years.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is a long-term monitoring effort that has amassed a valuable data set that is utilized by restoration practitioners in the Tillamook Bay watershed.
- Monitoring techniques approved by DEQ will be used.
- Data collected from the project is used to validate the success of restoration projects and prioritize locations for additional work.
- The applicant has a long history of success with this type of work.
- The project exhibits a model of collaboration with citizen scientists that continues to be successful.
- The quality of the data is consistent.
- The project thoroughly spans a large geography and is cost-effective for the scope and scale of the project.

Concerns

- The overarching goals of the ongoing monitoring effort are not well-described in the application.
- It is unclear how the work fits in with the current EPA monitoring.
- The applicant organization has experienced a high rate of staff turnover that could impact capacity for the proposed work.

Concluding Analysis

This long-running bacteria monitoring project in the Tillamook watershed has continually produced high quality data used by restoration practitioners and other community stakeholders to track water quality. The application would have benefited from more details on the long-term vision for the work and how the project directly connects to future restoration. The extensive track record of restoration success in the watershed indicates the monitoring work is likely to continue to providing critical data to inform restoration planning.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$87,404

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$87,404

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1044-19511

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: 2021-2022 Continuing Columbia SWCD Water Quality Monitoring Program

Applicant: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$25,094

Total Cost: \$47,594

Application Description The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP), the Columbia SWCD and partners request \$25,094 to continue water quality monitoring in four key subbasins in Columbia County. We have been collecting these data since 2017, and this grant will support the FIFTH AND FINAL YEAR of planned data collection. Monitored watersheds include: Clatskanie River and Beaver Creek, which drain to the lower Columbia River (LCR) and Scappoose and Milton Creeks which drain into the Multnomah Channel and then to the LCR. These important watersheds provide spawning, rearing and refugia habitat for state and federally listed threatened species of salmon and steelhead. The LCR Conservation and Recovery Plan lists degraded water quality- elevated temperatures and excessive fine sediments- as limiting factors to coho, Chinook, steelhead and chum species using these watersheds. This project will collect and analyze comprehensive and scientifically sound water quality data that will be used to fill data gaps, build a dataset that provides an understanding of ambient conditions and potential problems. This understanding will allow us to address limiting factors to improve watershed conditions.

This project will build on existing data from 2008-2010 (Scappoose/Milton) and 2017-2020 (all subbasins) and collect samples in discrete upper and lower watershed locations to measure bacteria, temperature, turbidity, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and pH. Results will be used to analyze watershed status and trends, detect changes, identify water quality issues and potential sources, and determine priority stream reaches for restoration. We will produce a water quality report, and information will be distributed to Columbia SWCD's community members to educate and engage them in conservation, restoration, and best management practices. Project partners include: Columbia SWCD, Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, Scappoose Bay Watershed Council, and Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application references several plans to identify the need for ongoing data collection in water quality impaired waterbodies.
- The application describes the existing water quality data collected with OWEB and DEQ funding, including a single ambient water quality site that DEQ maintains. The study design complements the existing data and monitoring sites.
- The applicant will collect water quality data year-round and the sampling sites are distributed across various land uses in the watersheds.
- The applicant will follow professionally accepted methods and has an updated and approved sampling and analysis plan with DEQ.
- The applicant will submit the water quality data to DEQ and make the data available to the public by producing an annual report and posting it on multiple websites.
- Staff from the applicant organization who are working on this project have technical experience collecting and reporting water quality data and have provided high quality work on past monitoring.
- The applicant has communicated in the past with DEQ to obtain technical assistance for this monitoring project.
- The applicant is working with the local SWCD and watershed councils to communicate the results to community stakeholders and landowners.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- While the application notes the importance of fish habitat in this area, the application does not mention if fish and habitat data are being collected in these watersheds by other partners and if and/or how the proposed water quality data can complement those efforts.
- The trend analysis could benefit from more than 5 years of data being collected.
- The application did not clearly describe the analysis procedures needed to answer the following questions: "Do water quality trends relate to land-use patterns, riparian stream shade, or known watershed issues? What are the mitigation measures that can be recommended?"
- The current SAP does not include the discrete water quality parameters that the application proposes to measure.
- The budget did not include maintenance of monitoring equipment for discrete water quality parameter measurements.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

Coordinate with DEQ to update the SAP to include the discrete water quality parameters.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on previous status and trend monitoring in the lower Columbia River watershed and represents the fifth year of ongoing monitoring work. Previous years of data collection have resulted in a quality dataset.

- The proposed monitoring work fills a known data gap and is one of the only water quality monitoring efforts occurring in the area.
- Summer sampling is proposed to be increased, which is an appropriate change based on the long-term trends identified to date. This will also allow for secondary analysis of the information.
- The partnership around the data collection is cohesive and represents many stakeholders in the county. The involvement of a multi-faceted team in the work has increased the quality and cost-efficiency of the information collected.
- The project team has a long track record of running successful monitoring projects.
- The lab identified for bacteria analysis is experienced and produces high quality work.
- Combining some of the monitoring sites as proposed demonstrates increased efficiency and adaptive management.

Concerns

- Enhanced collaboration with DEQ on data analysis would benefit the project.
- The proposed frequency of the turbidity and dissolved oxygen data collected may not fully characterize the status and trend of these water quality parameters.
- The plan for turbidity monitoring is unclear in the application, with both summer and year-round mentioned as possibilities.

Concluding Analysis

The monitoring effort is backed by an effective partnership in Columbia County and has produced high quality data to date that is utilized by watershed and community stakeholders. The project team continues to be adaptive with the monitoring design, as evidenced by plans to consolidate some of the monitoring sites and increase or decrease sampling as needed to better capture watershed trends. This effort is described in the application as the last and final year of a five-year effort, although the applicant is encouraged to consider continuing the monitoring for an additional three years to meet an eight year long-term dataset threshold important for a status and trends analysis.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$25,094

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$25,094

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1045-19595

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Coho Response to Beaver Dam Analogues

Applicant: Upper Nehalem WC

Region: North Coast

County: Washington

OWEB Request: \$91,278

Total Cost: \$115,678

Application Description 1) The Pilot Beaver Dam Analog Pilot Study project is located in the upper Nehalem watershed on public lands managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry and private lands managed by OSU Blogett Tract and Olympic Resource Management. See attached Maps depicting BDA locations.

2) The project needs to gain funding support to continue long-term landscape scale effectiveness monitoring of the BDA Pilot Study project to determine their effectiveness in creating critical over-winter rearing habitat for ESA-listed OC Coho Salmon on the Oregon Coast. The BDAs have been implemented and 3 years of monitoring have been completed, funding is needed for 7 additional years to complete the study.

3) The field work includes biological survey by RBA summer / winter snorkel surveys for juvenile presence to compare changes in over winter retention rates at each site (27) and physical attribute survey to measure effects of BDA design on beaver response and channel form at each site (57).

4) Project partners WSC, NOAA, ODF, ODFW, UNWC, Olympic Resource Management, OSU Blodgett Tract, and Trask Consulting

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application will build on initial monitoring efforts and would provide longer term data important to understanding the physical and biological outcomes of BDAs and the strengths and weaknesses of various designs and sites for placement.
- The restoration project being monitored and the data collected will inform a key limiting factor for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon, as previously specified in existing data and assessments.
- Monitoring overwinter Coho abundance and distribution is a reasonable approach to address the variability in adult returns from year to year.
- The consultants collecting the fish abundance and distribution data will be consistent throughout the project and have extensive experience doing this work.

- The applicant worked with NOAA and state resource agencies to develop the restoration and effectiveness monitoring study design.
- The applicant will share the project reports on their website and provide it to the partners involved, including state and federal agencies, timber companies, and other watershed councils and SWCDs in the area.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application proposes to produce exportable BDA designs to other coastal watersheds, but it was not clear if the characteristics of this watershed--where these designs are being piloted--can be applied to the diverse hydrologic and sediment conditions seen across the coast.
- The application did not provide a clear path to answer all of the monitoring questions or describe how the specified objectives link to each monitoring question listed in the study design section of the application.
- The application did not describe the data collection methods and analysis for all the parameters and objectives. It was not clear how “successful” BDAs would be determined.
- The application did not describe how fish passage will be monitored, yet this was described as a “success metric” in the study design.
- The description of quality assurance and quality control was somewhat limited and did not go into detail about what quality control measures were in place. This information is important to ensure repeatability, given the surveying needed to understand changes over time with sediment aggradation and other surface area and elevation related data.
- The applicant’s approach may over-estimate juvenile rearing capacity by simply applying a constant multiplier to the measured surface water area.
- It was not clear how NOAA and other technical staff with expertise about beaver are involved in the analysis of the data to inform future project development.
- The application lacks detail about how outreach will occur more broadly to reach restoration practitioners across the coastal watersheds. There is a brief mention of a BDA workshop in the project schedule table to occur in 2024 and in the budget narrative. The application, however, does not describe additional details that explain how this workshop will be planned and if adequate resources are budgeted for the event relative to its scope.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Monitoring beaver dam analogues (BDAs) will provide valuable information to assist with planning restoration projects that implement this technique.
- The applicant has a proven track record of implementing and managing projects in the Nehalem watershed.

Concerns

- The application lacks details needed to understand and evaluate the project.
- It may not be feasible to extrapolate results to other areas of the state with the selected monitoring design.
- A link to the limiting factors density model described in objective 4 in the application would have been helpful to understand the approach.
- It is unclear if the selected approach will effectively assess the efficacy of BDAs.
- There is a lack of detail in the proposal on metrics to be monitored, raising questions about the usefulness of the products that will be developed to measure success.
- The data collected and monitoring results have a high potential to be subjective with the monitoring techniques employed.
- There is an unclear connection between the objectives and monitoring questions described in the application.
- The applicant may have limited capacity for the proposed monitoring.
- The timeline stated in the application is confusing and there are inconsistencies between the timeline table and the narrative.

Concluding Analysis

Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs) are growing in popularity as a restoration technique throughout the state and monitoring their efficacy in a watershed where they are commonly utilized could provide helpful information. However, the application is limited in detail regarding data collection methods and analysis of the parameters. There is no description related to how success would be determined for BDAs nor how some of the chosen metrics would be monitored. There is a partnership with engaged stakeholders interested in this type of monitoring effort, but limited information as to how the technical experts would be engaged in the eventual data analysis or how the data would be used to inform future project development. The information contained in the application is not sufficient to evaluate likelihood of project 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-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1046-19613

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Echo Mountain Fire and Ocean
Tributaries Water Quality Surveillance

Applicant: Salmon Drift Cr WC

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$37,767

Total Cost: \$81,130

Application Description Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council (SDCWC) proposes collecting continuous dissolved oxygen and temperature data in a paired watershed.

Panther Creek was heavily impacted by the Echo Mountain Fire Complex in September 2020. Bear Creek also a tributary of the Salmon River was unaffected and is of similar size and landuse and will serve as a comparison.

In addition, we propose an extension of a baseline data collection of understudied ocean tributaries. Project will focus on Agnes, Baldy, and Logan Creeks in Lincoln City. Project addresses the need to better understand current water quality of these systems as they relate to federal and state water quality standards, including those directly related to salmonid life cycles.

Notably, our work has a statewide and international interest. Streams monitored discharge directly into the Cascade Head Marine Reserve and/or Protected Areas. These state designations are similarly also within the recently reauthorized UNESCO Cascade Head Biosphere Reserve.

Water quality data to be collected will include physical parameters of flow, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, temperature, and turbidity along with biological parameter of bacteria as indicator of fecal contamination. Data acquisition will include both routine and storm sampling to best characterize these lesser understood and potentially ecologically under-valued watersheds.

Data will be used to determine impairments, prioritize future restorations for anadromous fish migration, and be of value to recreational users of area beaches and harvesters of shellfish. In addition, the program addresses the need of additional outreach as we partner with a wider demographic of society, specifically local youth, to achieve our water quality monitoring objectives. Project partners include Oregon DEQ, Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, Career Tech, Robertson Environmental, and the City of Lincoln City.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the previous monitoring efforts in the streams where monitoring is proposed.

- The applicant has a DEQ approved sampling and analysis plan (SAP) and will update this document to include new project elements proposed in this application.
- The applicant will utilize Swim Guide to make the bacteria data available to the public in a timely manner.
- The applicant plans to submit the water quality data for upload to the DEQ database, and a final report will be written and made available to the public by posting this online.
- The applicant has experience collecting and reporting similar data and the capacity to implement this project as proposed.
- The applicant will work with community members and the local high school to recruit volunteers to participate in collecting and analyzing this water quality data.
- The costs are appropriate to support the proposed monitoring project and the applicant is leveraging several sources of funding to analyze the water samples for presence of bacteria and provide a variety of monitoring equipment.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application is difficult to follow, given that the applicant is combining two different monitoring efforts into one application.
- The application does not pose the monitoring questions in the objectives. Rather, it describes two broad monitoring questions in the problem statement, which makes it difficult to understand how monitoring questions pertain to objectives and apply the evaluation criteria.
- The study design also is difficult to follow. For example, the application includes an objective to measure streamflow, but it is not clear why these data are being collected and how they will be used to interpret the water quality data.
- The proposed parameters to be monitored to understand the fire's effects on water quality are not well described. For example, there is not a clear explanation about why turbidity is not proposed to be monitored.
- There is no monitoring question stated regarding storm sampling, and the application does not clarify if storm sampling will be done to measure fire effects in Bear and Panther Creeks.
- The application does not describe the methods or the QA/QC procedures they plan to follow to process water samples for presence of bacteria. The DEQ approved SAP states that these samples will be processed by the Surfrider and Blue Water Task Force lab.
- The application did not include a description about how the data will be analyzed to answer the two broad questions stated in the problem statement.
- The study design does not describe how the sampling frequency will address the project's monitoring questions.
- The application does not describe how the data will be interpreted and applied to inform future restoration projects.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation Strengths

- The monitoring effort fills a data gap by collecting data on smaller tributaries directly connected to the ocean.
- There is an opportunity to collect dissolved oxygen and other data from fire-impacted areas.
- The staff is very experienced with this type of monitoring and brings a track record of success.
- The in-house analysis provides an element of cost-effectiveness to the proposed project.

Concerns

- The proposal lacks clarity and details needed to understand and evaluate the project.
- Monitoring questions are not paired with the objectives.
- A more defined plan for bacteria monitoring would be helpful, including how the data will be utilized and communicated out to stakeholders.
- Details are lacking on some of the proposed methods and quality assurance and control procedures that will be followed.
- Targeted post-storm monitoring is not planned, which may be helpful in meeting the monitoring objectives of the proposal.
- There is no information on why flow data will be gathered.
- A larger group of partners with research experience may be needed to help with the data analysis.

Concluding Analysis

The project will benefit the community by addressing water quality in both direct ocean tributaries and fire-impacted areas and builds on partnerships cultivated by the applicant over many years of successful monitoring work. This monitoring application combines two different monitoring efforts with separate objectives and questions into one proposal without an explanation on how these efforts are related and will effectively be paired to inform future restoration projects.

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

- Partnerships are strong and ODFW has committed to both supporting this project and addressing the downstream barrier.
- The applicant has a proven track record implementing similar projects.
- The project is cost-effective for the expected ecological benefit.

Concerns

- The application would have benefited from a more thorough discussion of alternatives that were considered.
- The ecological benefit of this project is dependent on addressing the downstream fish passage barrier.
- According to the lower Columbia River Recovery Plan, the proposed restoration location may not be a high priority for contributing to recovery goals.
- There may be permitting costs that are not accounted for in the budget and project management time.

Concluding Analysis

The project is part of a multi-phased effort to improve fish passage at an ODFW hatchery. Restoring passage at this location with the construction of the proposed roughened channel will provide immediate benefits to wild fish and lamprey and eliminate the need to extensively transport wild fish past the hatchery facilities. The overall ecological benefit of this project is closely tied to the future replacement of another barrier associated with the hatchery downstream and the application includes evidence from ODFW indicating a commitment to address this downstream barrier. The partnership behind the project has strong technical and permitting expertise which leads to a high likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$274,078

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$274,078

Staff Conditions

N/A

South Coast - Region 2 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2021

- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 2 Cities
- Region 2 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 2 Boundary



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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
221-2038	Coos Watershed Association	Kentuck Creek Habitat Complexity and Stream Remeander Project	Stream channel re-meandering combined with streamside fencing and planting will help improve water quality and instream rearing habitat for salmon on Kentuck Creek, a tributary that drains to the Coos Estuary.	539,627	Coos
221-2030	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	West Fork Evans Creek Tributaries Enhancement Project	Large wood structures will be placed in Rock, Battle, and Salt Creeks, tributaries of the West Fork of Evans Creek, to improve spawning and rearing habitat for adult and juvenile salmon.	262,611	Jackson
221-2029	Coos SWCD	North Bank Working Landscape & Tidal Channel Restoration	A failing tide gate in the lower mainstem Coquille River will be replaced to restore fish passage and improve water quality and tidal floodplain habitat for over-wintering juvenile salmon.	372,664	Coos
221-2034	Elk Creek WC	Parker Creek Instream Restoration	Large wood structures will be placed over a two mile section of Parker Creek, a tributary to Elk Creek near Elkton, to improve instream habitat conditions for salmon spawning and rearing.	155,341	Douglas
221-2036	Coquille Watershed Association	Whole Watershed Restoration for the Dement Creek Subbasin	Stream conditions will be improved throughout the Dement Creek basin by implementing prioritized restoration actions, including constructing instream large wood structures, installing fence, and planting streamside areas to improve habitat conditions and water quality for salmon.	761,218	Coos
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				2,091,461	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-2035	Curry SWCD	Crook Creek Restoration Enhancement	Stream conditions will be improved on Crook Creek, a tributary to the Pistol River estuary, by widening the existing streamside plant buffers, replacing an existing undersized road crossing, and placing large wood structures instream to add habitat complexity for native fish.	93,389	Curry
221-2028	Elk Creek WC	Ellenburg Creek Instream Restoration (2021)	Natural stream functions will be restored on Ellenburg Creek, located in the Elk Creek watershed, by placing large wood structures instream to capture sediment and create pools that will improve spawning and rearing habitat for coho salmon and steelhead.	170,708	Douglas
221-2033	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Olalla Creek and Tributaries Fish Passage and Enhancement Project	Two culverts will be replaced to open fish access to two miles of stream habitat and large wood structures will be placed instream to improve habitat conditions for coho salmon.	204,535	Douglas

Region 2 - Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Cycle July 26, 2021

221-2037	Coos Watershed Association	Seelander Creek Habitat Restoration Project	Rearing and spawning habitat and water quality will be improved for salmon through streamside planting and fencing and fixing multiple road crossings impeding fish passage to provide fish access to additional miles of stream habitat on Seelander Creek, a tributary that flows into Catching Slough near Coos Bay.	449,139	Coos
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Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount Requested	County
221-2032	Coquille Watershed Association	Twelvemile Creek Basin Road Improvements for Fish Passage and Water Quality		300,190	Douglas
221-2039	Curry SWCD	Donaldson Ranch Gully Stabilization		54,614	Curry

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-2046	Coquille Watershed Association	Leslie Wetland Reserve Restoration Project: Phase 1 Alternatives Analysis	Design alternatives will be developed and assessed to determine the most effective and feasible restoration actions necessary to restore tidally influenced wetland habitat on a property near Bandon that will be protected for fish and wildlife in perpetuity.	74,997	Coos
221-2044	Coos Watershed Association	Palouse Tide Gate Upgrade Development: Final Design	Designs that address fish passage, water quality, and safety concerns for a failing tide gate structure will be created to increase coho productivity in Palouse Slough, which drains into Haynes Inlet in the Coos basin.	75,000	Coos
221-2040	Coos SWCD	Noble Creek Tidal Lands Restoration Phase I Technical Assistance	Designs will be developed to restore fish passage and access to tidal wetland habitats, implement agricultural Best Management Practices that improve water quality concerns, and address drainage and flood control concerns of a failing tide gate on Noble Creek, a tributary to the Coos River estuary.	75,000	Coos
221-2041	Coquille Watershed Association	The Coquille River Strategic Action Plan for Coho Salmon Recovery - Phase 1	A strategic action plan will be created to guide and prioritize coho salmon restoration efforts that will have the greatest impact on coho recovery and resilience in the Coquille River basin.	74,998	Coos
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				299,995	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-2045	Coos Watershed Association	Palouse Creek Restoration Project Development	Restoration actions will be designed to improve stream channel conditions, water quality, streamside habitat, flood conveyance, fish access to instream habitat, and pasture management along the mainstem and tributary streams in the Palouse subbasin.	74,995	Coos
221-2047	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Watts Toppin Dam Fish Passage Project	Fish passage design alternatives will be developed for the Watts Toppin Irrigation Dam located on Williams Creek, a tributary to the Applegate River near Provolt, along with an evaluation of opportunities to improve irrigation efficiency that will increase instream flows.	67,175	Josephine
221-2042	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Yellow Creek Instream Technical Assistance	A comprehensive plan will be developed for the Yellow Creek drainage, located near Elkton, to address watershed concerns impacting coho and enhance instream fish habitat, water quality, and streamside conditions.	42,875	Douglas
221-2049	Coos SWCD	Winter Lake Phase 3: Hydrologic Enhancement Design	Engineering and designs will be developed to replace undersized culverts and install grassed waterways on sections of the Beaver Slough Drainage District floodplain, which will improve pasture conditions and overwinter habitat for juvenile coho salmon.	56,523	Coos

Region 2 - Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Cycle July 26, 2021

221-2050	Curry SWCD	Indian Creek Sediment Reduction	Sediment impacts in Indian Creek, a tributary to the Rogue River near Gold Beach, will be addressed by designing two bridge crossings that will reduce sediment inputs that affect water quality and fish habitat.	34,986	Curry
221-2043	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Upper Umpqua Fish Passage Design	Fish passage designs will be developed at seven culverts in Upper Umpqua River tributaries to improve access to 37 miles of stream habitat.	71,898	Douglas

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT						
Project #	Grantee	Project Title			Amount Requested	County
221-2048	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Kennedy Slough Tidegate and Channel Design			74,630	Douglas

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon Stakeholder Engagement					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-2059	South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership	Highland Ditch Stakeholder Association	Landowners will be engaged to form an organization that will equitably and safely distribute irrigation water, eliminate fish kills, manage irrigation system maintenance, and remove fish barriers from Cow Creek, a major tributary of the South Umpqua River near Azalea.	10,417	Douglas
221-2060	Rogue River WC	Stakeholder Engagement along the Bear Creek Corridor	Stakeholders from law enforcement, public safety, fire prevention, advocates for the unhoused, government decision-makers, and the public will be engaged to collaboratively solve environmental, social, and health concerns impacting stream conditions in the Bear Creek watershed, a mostly urbanized watershed in southern Oregon that was recently affected by the 2020 Almeda Fire.	64,691	Jackson
221-2057	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Umpqua Oaks Partnership Landowner Outreach	Landowners in targeted areas of Douglas County will be engaged through surveys, workshops, and other outreach materials to identify opportunities to restore historic oak habitat and inform next steps for developing projects.	40,172	Douglas
221-2058	Illinois Valley SWCD	Illinois Valley Collective Mobilization for Fire and Fish	Stakeholders in the Illinois River valley will be convened to develop restoration projects with cooperative landowners to address stream habitat concerns and dangerous forest conditions on their properties that increase risk for catastrophic wildfire.	127,109	Josephine
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				242,389	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
None					

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-2054	Rogue Valley COG	Almeda Post Fire Monitoring	The magnitude and persistence of water quality impacts from the Almeda urban wildfire will be assessed to help allocate limited resources for the protection of aquatic life and inform response strategies in the event of future fires.	170,783	Jackson
221-2056	Curry SWCD	Temperature Monitoring of 3 High Priority Watersheds in the Sixes Subbasin	Summer water temperature will be monitored in the Elk and Sixes watersheds to better understand the status and trends of water temperature and inform restoration and conservation efforts by multiple local and state partners.	45,865	Curry
221-2053	Coos Watershed Association	Coos Watershed Real-time Hydrological and Meteorological Monitoring 2021-2023	Continued year-round hydrological and meteorological data will be collected at six stream gaging stations in the Coos River watershed to establish a long-term data set needed to understand water quality status and trends.	102,772	Coos
221-2052	The Understory Initiative	Baseline Vegetation and Surface Water Monitoring after Restoration Activities at Latgawa Creek	Stream and wet meadow restoration completed on Latgawa Creek, located in the Cascade Mountains of Jackson County, will be monitored to determine the effectiveness of these actions in restoring native vegetation and reversing stream down cutting and lowered water table.	55,223	Jackson
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				374,643	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-2051	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Archie Fire Post Restoration Project Effectiveness Monitoring	138,655	Douglas	
221-2055	Curry SWCD	Storm Chasers: Volunteer Storm Sampling on the South Coast	53,863	Curry	

Region 2 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	3,008,488
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2028-19492

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Ellenburg Creek Instream
Restoration (2021)

Applicant: Elk Creek WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$170,708

Total Cost: \$228,708

Application Description

Ellenburg Creek is a tributary to Sand Creek in the Lower Pass Creek sixth-field subwatershed. There are nearly three miles of high intrinsic potential coho spawning and rearing habitat in Ellenburg Creek. [ODFW maps] The lower part of the creek (0.4 miles) is managed for agriculture (grazing); the upper reaches are private and industrial forest land.

Past land management practices, such as stream cleaning, removed most of the large wood from the channel, increased water velocities, and eroded much of the streambed to bedrock. Though there is ample gravel, there are few pieces of large wood to retain gravel, aggrade the channel, or create deep pools, all essential for juvenile coho survival. [Ellenburg Creek Restoration Action Plan, Cascade Environmental Group/Elk Creek Watershed Council, 2016]

The Ellenburg Creek Instream Restoration project will place 213 key logs (all conforming to Guide to Placing Large Wood in Streams, ODFW, 1995) at 28 sites in 1.5 miles of Ellenburg Creek. LWD structures will slow water, capture bedload, and create complex pools that will improve both winter and summer rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids. In addition, approximately 100 whole trees with root wads will be used to augment these structures to create added complexity and trap sediment. 5,000 willow stakes will secure accumulated sediment and stabilize streambanks. Three cross sections will be established monitor project effectiveness.

Increased bedload retention will enhance hyporheic flows and improve both water quality (reducing summer water temperatures) and water quantity (increasing water storage and release into the summer).

Project partners include Eric Himmelreich, ODFW Habitat Biologist (project design), Jim Muck, NOAA Fisheries (design review), Aaron Beavers, Hydrologist, NOAA Fisheries (fish passage design), Seneca Jones Timber Company (whole tree donation), Roseburg BLM (funding for bioassessment and action planning), and two private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous project evaluation concerns related to project design and longevity of winter downed trees in the stream are addressed.
- The project approach is technically sound and will benefit habitat for ESA-listed coho.
- The Ellenburg Creek area is a restoration priority for BLM. The Elk Creek Watershed Council's Ellenburg Creek Assessment (2016) also indicates focus on upstream reaches, like the project area, is a priority.
- StreamNet data indicates fish spawning and rearing occurs in the project area.
- The applicant involved relevant agencies during the design process, including early coordination with NOAA for the boulder structures and ODFW for oversight of project installation.
- The project team has relevant experience implementing similar projects.

Concerns

- Additional information characterizing stream habitat and passage conditions below the project reach would provide helpful context to better understand current conditions in the project area.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a resubmit and previously fell below the staff recommended funding line. Ellenburg Creek contains ESA-listed coho habitat with a high intrinsic potential. This creek currently lacks large wood important for fish habitat, and stream reaches below the project site have water temperatures that exceed standards for salmonids. Large wood will be placed between stream miles 0.4 to 1.9 with the last structure designed to facilitate fish passage over a bedrock falls that is a barrier to salmonids.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$170,708

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2029-19496

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Bank Working Landscape &
Tidal Channel Restoration

Applicant: Coos SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$372,664

Total Cost: \$647,494

Application Description

The North Bank Working Landscapes (NBWL) project area consists of 30.0 acres of pasture located upstream from Randolph Island, River Mile (RM) 7.5 on the Coquille River, near Bandon, Coos County. The site was historically tidal saltmarsh prairie (Benner, 1992). Diking and draining to convert the site for agricultural use occurred in the early 1900s. This was facilitated by construction of a 0.5mi berm along the river, and installation of linear drainage channel network with 1ft diameter culvert and tide gate. Tidal influence on these channels is currently near zero as the single tide gate servicing the property is a top-hinged “flapper” gate which does not allow for tidal inflow. Flooding still occurs on the project area during winter or whenever the main Coquille River reaches flood stage. The dike has suffered from erosion in multiple locations. Site conditions currently result in poor water quality, little or no fish access to channels, and both ecological and agricultural productivity has been reduced.

Previously awarded OWEB technical assistance funds have been used to develop and refine a restoration proposal for this site. Restoration project actions include installation of a new culvert and Muted Tidal Regulator (MTR) tide gate to restore and maximize fish passage; reconstruction of 4,466 ft of sinuous, on-grade, tidal channel network to provide greatly improved tidal floodplain habitat and hay production; riparian fencing along both sides of the primary reconstructed channel; re-establishment of native riparian vegetation along the banks of the primary channel for direct improvements to water quality over current conditions; installation of large woody debris to increase hiding cover and complexity; and repair to damaged segments of the dike. This project is led by Coos SWCD in partnership with the Stalley/Young families and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and has received invaluable technical contributions from the Coquille Indian Tribe.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns are addressed regarding designs and providing a water management plan.
- The project is technically sound and ready for implementation with NOAA consultation already completed.

- The project compliments other working land projects occurring in the project area.
- The water management plan addresses previous concerns related to mosquitos.
- Springs located upland of the project site have cold water temperatures, so the project has potential to provide cold water refuge areas for fish.
- The landowner will be enrolling in CREP.
- The applicant has put in a lot of time in project development through an OWEB technical assistance grant and has been responsive to technical input from agencies and stakeholders. They have developed effective partnerships that will enhance their ability to carry out the project.

Concerns

- Currently the land is managed for hay but if livestock are allowed to graze, there will need to be measures developed and implemented to protect secondary stream channels.
- The application narrative lacks information describing the source of the large wood and it is unclear whether costs for the large wood is included in the application budget.
- The design approach seems to prioritize agricultural land uses over habitat enhancement. The project cost to benefit ratio could be improved with emphasis and focus on habitat enhancements over agricultural land uses.

Concluding Analysis

The lower Coquille River is listed for bacteria to meet shellfish criteria, developing larger buffers and plenty of channel sinuosity will be an important approach in this system to address bacteria concerns. The project will help restore fish access and habitat opportunities in a tidally influenced off channel area of salt marsh prairie that is critical to the recovery of ESA-listed coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$372,664

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$372,664

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2030-19499

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: West Fork Evans Creek Tributaries Enhancement Project

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$262,611

Total Cost: \$420,751

Application Description The West Fork Evans Watershed Tributary Enhancement Project seeks to expand the geographic scope of the West Fork Evans and Sand Creek LWD Project (OWEB grant #219-2032-16692) through additional LWD placements in tributaries to the West Fork Evans Creek sub-basin of the upper Rogue River. Specifically, we aim to improve spawning and rearing habitat for adult and juvenile salmonids along approximately 2.0 miles of Rock, Battle, and Salt Creeks. This project is proposed for lands owned and managed by Lone Rock Resources and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). West Fork Evans Creek and its tributaries are a component of the Upper Rogue SONCC population within the Interior Rogue stratum and are identified as high priority for restoration under NOAA's Final Recovery Plan for SONCC Coho Salmon. In addition to ESA-listed Coho Salmon, the project will benefit Summer and Winter Steelhead and Cutthroat Trout.

Historic land management practices in the watershed have led to simplified instream habitat. Biologists concur that a reduction in habitat quantity and quality across a variety of habitat types necessary to support salmonid life histories has limited recruitment and recruitment potential into the spawning population. To ameliorate this problem, APWC proposes to enhance instream habitat complexity through installation of approximately 40 large wood structures (reduced from original submission of 52 per RRT comments). Desired project outcomes include: 1) enhanced winter-rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids via improved floodplain connection and off-channel habitat development; 2) enhanced summer-rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids via increased pool development and hiding cover, and; 3) accrual of suitable substrate for adult salmonid spawning. These outcomes will increase spawning success and juvenile survival rates and contribute to long term viability of native fish populations. Project Partners include Lone Rock Resources, BLM, and Valleys of the Rogue WC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns regarding stream access and project design are addressed.
- The project will achieve ecological uplift by increasing spawning and rearing habitat opportunities.
- The applicant will be using equipment and placement techniques developed to minimize impacts to the resource.

- West Fork Evans Creek is a federally designated key watershed to recover ESA-listed coho and an important area to target restoration actions identified in the draft Upper Rogue Coho Strategic Action Plan. Both adult and juvenile coho use the area consistently and there is an increased frequency of fall chinook following removal of dams below the project area.
- West Fork Evans Creek is a major tributary for the Middle Rogue and is an important area for restoration working towards the recovery of Southern Oregon Northern California Evolutionarily Significant Unit coho.
- The project provides an opportunity to create habitat in a cold water refugia. It is critical to get streambed material aggrading to increase spawning habitat in the project reach, which is currently dominated by bedrock.
- The scope of work complements previous instream habitat work above and below the project sites.
- The BLM is an active project partner, which is demonstrated by a large wood contribution for the instream structures.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified in the review.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant is seeing positive results from earlier work to reduce ATV access and impacts to streams. The project builds on previous restoration efforts within the West Fork Evans Creek watershed and has a high likelihood to improve habitat for ESA-listed coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$262,611

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$262,611

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2032-19544

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Twelvemile Creek Basin Road Improvements for Fish Passage and Water Quality

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$300,190

Total Cost: \$457,491

Application Description This project will address water quality and fish passage issues caused by poor road conditions in the Twelvemile Creek Basin, a 24,000-acre drainage to the Middle Fork Coquille River (MFCR) near Camas Valley, Douglas County. The MFCR has the potential to provide year-round rearing habitat for native salmonids and Pacific lamprey but lack of spawning habitat in tributaries continues to be a watershed issue. Primary limiting factors affecting spawning habitat in Twelvemile Creek include a lack of stream complexity and poor water quality. To address these limiting factors, CoqWA, Roseburg BLM, ODFW and Roseburg Resources Co. (RRC) are working towards a shared goal of improving habitat for native fish in the basin through instream restoration and sediment abatement. After completing a full watershed assessment using OWEB TA and BLM funds, restoration prioritization was developed for both instream habitat (Phase 1) and road improvements (Phase 2). Instream habitat restoration, was recently funded through OWEB and will be completed in 2021.

This grant application is for Phase 2 and will address the top priority candidates for road improvements that were identified during the assessment. Specifically, improvements will address fish barriers, maximize sediment abatement, and enhance natural flow regimes. If poor road conditions are left unaddressed, the unnatural transport of nonnative, fine sediment has the potential to impair water quality, decrease food sources, and fill interstitial spaces within gravel beds. Together with project partners, CoqWA will build on instream restoration work by improving water quality and fish passage by replacing 2 fish barriers (including the installation of a 45' bridge), replacing 3 non-fish bearing culverts, installing 30 drainage culverts, regrading 2.3 miles and decommissioning 0.5 miles of road. Both Roseburg BLM and RRC have provided engineering designs, cost estimates, and will be sharing implementation responsibilities.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous project evaluation concerns related to costs and culvert designs are addressed.
- The project will implement specific actions within a geography that is prioritized in a watershed restoration action plan.
- The project compliments recently completed instream work in the Twelvemile Creek system. The application provides a sound rationale for the need to address fish passage impediments at the stream crossings.

- The project is likely to provide water quality benefits by reducing sediment impacts to downstream locations where coho and other fish species are more abundant.
- The fish passage work will open access to a significant amount of quality habitat.

Concerns

- The bridge replacement designs are not included in the application and are not yet complete; however, there are funds in the budget to finish them. Bridge designs are needed to better understand the design solution and evaluate technical soundness.
- The project will not realize full fish passage benefits at this time because there is a barrier affecting passage for coho located on the mainstem Middle Fork Coquille just downstream of its junction with Twelvemile Creek.
- The application mistakenly identified a DEQ listing for sediment. Twelvemile Creek is only listed for temperature on the 303(d) list of water quality impaired waterbodies.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed restoration project resulted from an assessment and prioritization process that was funded by an OWEB Technical Assistance grant (#219-2013) to create a targeted approach for addressing instream, riparian, and sedimentation issues impacting Twelvemile Creek. The barrier below the confluence of Twelvemile Creek and the Middle Fork Coquille River prevents coho from accessing the habitat in Twelvemile Creek. ODFW plans to address this barrier in the future but has not determined an approach or timetable. Until there is a better understanding about how this downstream barrier will be addressed, it is difficult to determine the extent to which the proposed project will benefit fish.

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2033-19545

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Olalla Creek and Tributaries Fish Passage and Enhancement Project

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$204,535

Total Cost: \$334,635

Application Description Olalla Creek and three of its tributaries, located in the southern portion of the 103,000-acre Olalla-Lookingglass Creek Watershed, are identified as needing improved fish passage and fish habitat enhancement. According to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) High Intrinsic Potential (HIP) maps, Olalla Creek, Byron Creek and Bushnell Creek have high potential to provide quality spawning and rearing habitat for Coho salmon and steelhead. Old Lane Creek was not surveyed for HIP. It has spawning surveys that ODFW conducts. The ODFW Habitat Restoration Biologist confirmed that Old Lane Creek is suitable for Coho salmon. Gordon Hanek, Byron Creek Estates Road Master, identified two deteriorating culverts maintained by his rural homeowner's association. PUR and ODFW staff designed instream habitat enhancement and riparian enhancement on Gordon's property, while BLM staff designed enhancement work on Byron Creek. We have completed a Technical Assistance grant for the design of two culvert replacements and instream restoration. We are seeking a restoration grant to replace these culverts and implement the instream restoration on Olalla and Byron Creeks. Our project partners include Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Byron Creek Estates. This project is of high priority for PUR because of the fisheries value it offers and positive impact it will have on local businesses impacted by COVID. We were successful with Title II funds in acquiring \$97,642.00 in matching funds. However, these funds only have a 2-year lifespan and OWEB funds are needed to fill in the funding gaps. OWEB funds will be used to 1) replace two failing culverts (one on Old Lane Creek and one on Bushnell Creek) to re-open two miles of fish habitat, 2) place 36 logs and 25 trees into 0.5 miles of Byron Creek on private and BLM land, 3) plant wattles of willows along Olalla Creek on private property.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The work has potential to improve stream function and provide spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-listed coho. The fish passage work will provide access to two miles of cool water refugia in Byron Creek.
- The project addresses limiting factors identified in a watershed assessment.
- The restoration approach is built upon an OWEB technical assistance project.
- A qualified engineer designed the stream crossings that will replace the failing culverts.

- The applicant has relevant experience working with landowners and successfully developing and implementing similar type projects.

Concerns

- The use of alder trees for instream structures may have limited longevity because they will break down more quickly compared to other tree species.
- The design approach for a couple of the project sites with vertical streambanks may not be effective. Placing large wood into streambanks of incised channels and then planting willows is not likely to address the causes impacting stream conditions. Re-shaping streambanks of incised channels before planting is typically more effective. Additional design detail and examples demonstrating previous success with the proposed approach would be helpful in determining the likelihood the project will achieve restoration goals. More information illustrating streambank and site conditions throughout the project reaches where large wood will be placed would also be helpful to understand the design approach and evaluate technical soundness.
- The applicant provided active channel width information in response to previous evaluation concerns regarding the project design potentially not meeting NOAA fish passage criteria. However, there may be additional design considerations that need to be incorporated to meet NOAA fish passage requirements. The applicant is encouraged to engage with NOAA directly to ensure the project design meets their requirements.
- Match is limited to two years so there is time sensitivity to getting the project implemented.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a resubmit and the applicant provided additional information to clarify project elements. The proposed restoration activities are likely to improve water quality conditions and salmonid access to cool water refugia located upstream of the project site. The project demonstrates the applicant's thoughtful approach to achieve and maintain effective working relationships with landowners. The expected resulting ecological uplift from the project work is likely higher than the application narrative describes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$204,535

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2034-19548

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Parker Creek Instream Restoration

Applicant: Elk Creek WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$155,341

Total Cost: \$222,643

Application Description

Parker Creek is a tributary to Elk Creek in the Middle Elk Creek sixth-field subwatershed. There are nearly four miles of high intrinsic potential coho spawning and rearing habitat in Parker Creek and its two main tributaries. [ODFW maps] The lower part of the creek is managed for agriculture (grazing); the upper reaches are private and industrial forest and BLM land.

Past land management practices, such as stream cleaning, removed most of the large wood from the channel, increased water velocities, and eroded much of the streambed to bedrock. Though there is ample gravel, there are few pieces of large wood to retain gravel, aggrade the channel, or create deep pools, all essential for juvenile coho survival.

The Parker Creek Instream Restoration project will place 288 key logs (all conforming to Guide to Placing Large Wood in Streams, ODFW, 1995) at 29 sites in 2.0 miles of Parker Creek. LWD structures will slow water, capture and retain bedload, and create complex pools that will improve both winter and summer rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids. In addition, approximately 50 whole trees with root wads will be used to augment these structures to create added complexity and trap sediment. 5,000 willow stakes will secure accumulated sediment and stabilize streambanks.

Increased bedload retention will enhance hyporheic flows and improve both water quality (reducing summer water temperatures) and water quantity (increasing riparian water storage and release into the summer).

Project partners include Eric Himmelreich, ODFW Habitat Biologist (project design), Sunnydale Land Company (industrial timber landowner), and Roseburg BLM (funding for action planning and permitting).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A straightforward and technically sound approach to addressing resource concerns on Parker Creek is presented in the application.

- Four stream miles with high intrinsic potential for ESA-listed coho habitat will be restored.
- Parker Creek has been simplified, lacks large wood, and is scoured to bedrock. Adding large wood and planting willows will increase watershed function and improve fish habitat.
- Project is in priority restoration area for the applicant.
- ODFW will help oversee project implementation.

Concerns

- Project costs for project management, mileage, and willow planting are inconsistent with costs in similar project applications submitted by the same applicant. Additional information on how costs were calculated and why costs may be higher due to unique project conditions is needed to evaluate whether these costs are reasonable.
- It is difficult to understand the extent to which the project will improve water quality because current water quality conditions of the stream are unknown.
- A letter of support from the landowner would strengthen the application.

Concluding Analysis

The project involves a landowner who has partnered successfully on previous restoration work. The project location is well-suited for the proposed restoration approach because Parker Creek is a low gradient stream in a shaded valley bottom. The creek is likely to be responsive to large wood placement that will capture materials and form stream habitat features needed by coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$155,341

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$155,341

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2035-19553

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Crook Creek Restoration
Enhancement

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$93,389

Total Cost: \$139,654

Application Description Located near the central Curry County coast, Crook Creek is a tributary to the Pistol River estuary. In the proposed project reach, past land use activities resulted in channel incision, the simplification of instream habitat, and elevated stream temperatures. Restoration efforts were undertaken in the late 1990s and early 2000s in response to conditions at the time. Present conditions in the project reach reflect the impacts of past land use and subsequent efforts to restore stream function and habitats: the channel remains incised, but has developed some degree of sinuosity and a small floodplain inset within the high terraces that represent the historic floodplain; a narrow buffer of trees is established on the high terraces, providing shade to the stream and roughness to the channel through erosion of the terrace.

Although the early restoration efforts have had positive impacts (e.g., habitat is gaining complexity and stream temperatures were recently documented as cooling through the project reach), as Crook Creek has continued to evolve, it has exposed the frailties of those early restoration efforts. Most notable is the narrowness of the riparian buffer and the failure to address an access bridge that is confining the channel. The proposed project would expand the existing riparian buffer, replace the existing bridge with one appropriately sized to accommodate Crook Creek, and place large wood structures in the channel to add complex habitat in the near-term. These activities would promote the continued development of high-quality, self-sustaining habitat conditions in Crook Creek and its adjacent riparian area.

The proposed project was developed through activities associated with the Pistol River Strategic Implementation Area, an effort by ODA, ODFW, OWEB, DEQ, and Curry SWCD to generate ecologic uplift in the watershed. This project offers an opportunity to preserve the gains of past restoration while building on the successes of those efforts.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will build on past successful restoration on the property and presents a new opportunity to double the width of existing riparian buffers to allow for more natural stream process.
- The proposed work was developed as part of an ODA Strategic Implementation Area.

- Crook Creek is listed on the 303(d) list of water quality impaired waterbodies for temperature year-round, and the proposed restoration will contribute to addressing this issue.
- The stream has populations of chinook that will benefit from the project as well as lamprey. The work will address key threats to coho.
- The applicant has the capacity and experience to implement the project.

Concerns

- The application lacks information describing considerations incorporated into the project to address potential impacts to adjacent properties.
- The application includes a conceptual bridge design but lacks site specific bridge plans. The budget also has specific line items for the bridge; however, it is difficult to evaluate whether these costs are reasonable and necessary with only a conceptual design that is 30% complete. The application indicates an engineer will be hired to complete the design, but there is no clear timeline for this in the project schedule.
- Crook Creek goes sub-surface at the mouth with Pistol River, understanding the extent to which this may impact, and limit potential benefits of upstream restoration actions would be helpful to better understand the cost benefit of the proposed project.
- If the applicant intends to use the project to recruit additional restoration opportunities in the community, it would be helpful to learn how it will be incorporated into the applicant's outreach efforts.
- The current restoration approach is designed around an agricultural operation that currently does not employ livestock. It is uncertain if the property will be grazed in the future; therefore, establishing a contingency plan for grazing ahead of time with the landowner will be important to protecting restoration investments.

Concluding Analysis

The project provides an opportunity to expand the restoration footprint of earlier restoration work, which will have positive benefits to habitats important to ESA-listed coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$93,389

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2036-19584

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Whole Watershed Restoration for the Dement Creek Subbasin

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$761,218

Total Cost: \$951,615

Application Description Dement Creek is a 9,700-acre tributary to the South Fork Coquille River (SFCR) located near Broadbent, OR in Coos County. As one of the major tributaries to the SFCR, Dement Creek has been prioritized for restoration because it has reaches with high intrinsic potential for coho and provides spawning and rearing habitat for coho, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey. Currently, Dement Creek is impacted from the legacy of past land use practices such as splash dams, stream cleaning, timber harvesting in the riparian area, clear cutting, extensive road building, and conversion of the lower watershed to pastures for livestock grazing. These actions have exacerbated limiting factors including high levels of sediment loading, high summer water temperatures, and lack of habitat complexity for native fish. A watershed assessment was completed in 2020 and has allowed CoqWA to prioritize stream reaches, riparian reaches, road sections and failing infrastructure for effective habitat and sediment abatement restoration actions. Together with the BLM, ODFW, Coos Curry CREP technician, and private landowners, CoqWA will address all prioritized actions identified in the watershed assessment. Specifically, we will improve instream habitat by constructing 16 large woody debris (LWD) structures, 17 LWD and boulder structures, increase riparian buffers on pastures through planting 9.5 acres and fence setbacks (70 ft. average), and decrease sediment loading by installing over 50 cross drains with rock outfalls, cleaning ditches, installing a sediment trap, creating a stormwater swale, and creating berm notches and lead off ditches into the forest floor on 4.2 miles of roads in the basin. These whole watershed restoration actions will optimally address the site specific limiting factors identified in the basin, providing improved habitat complexity and water quality for anadromous fish in Dement Creek through a win-win approach.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns related to plant stewardship and watering are addressed.
- The South Fork Coquille Sediment Study indicated the most effective locations to address sediment issues is in main tributaries, like Dement Creek, to stop sediment inputs and channel degradation below on the mainstem.
- Dement Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-listed coho, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey.

- The road improvement actions will help reduce sediment inputs and address priority water quality concerns.
- The project is based on restoration priorities identified in a recently completed watershed assessment.
- Multiple state and federal agencies, Coos County, industrial timber, and the participating agricultural landowners were involved in developing the project.
- Water quality monitoring data is collected for turbidity and water temperature, and continued monitoring is likely to document sediment reduction after project implementation.
- The project will help the applicant to continue building relationships with agricultural producers, which could lead to additional restoration opportunities
- The applicant has experience implementing similar projects.

Concerns

- Understanding the extent of the watershed benefits from projects with multiple restoration components is challenging. Additional details in the application narrative describing the different approaches at each project site would be helpful to better understand the collective habitat benefit for the cost.
- The conceptual design schematic and project photos included in the application indicate some root wads may be pushed into incised streambanks. Normally root wads are placed facing out from the streambank with the trunk buried into the bank and the root wad extending into the stream channel. This protects the streambank and traps sediment. More detail on the design approach would be helpful to better understand proposed treatments across the range of site conditions.
- The archeologist cost is a lump sum in the budget, additional explanation in the budget narrative explaining how this line item was estimated would help in evaluating whether the cost is reasonable.

Concluding Analysis

Dement Creek has a history of splash dams, stream cleaning, and road building and the lower portion of the stream is significantly impacted by livestock grazing. The project will take a phased approach to address poor instream habitat conditions and impaired water quality. The applicant has developed a sound approach for conducting watershed assessments while working with landowners and stakeholders to implement prioritized on-the-ground projects. Project activities will address top watershed limiting factors in Dement Creek and improve water quality and habitat complexity for ESA-listed coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$761,218

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$761,218

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2037-19634

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Seelander Creek Habitat
Restoration Project

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$449,139

Total Cost: \$668,388

Application Description This project proposes to restore watershed function through riparian planting/fencing, improving fish passage, access to off-channel habitat and by addressing 10 fish passage crossings. Seelander Creek is a DEQ 303(d) listed stream that drains into Catching Slough near Coos Bay, and is situated along a narrow agricultural valley that's been heavily impacted by past land management practices, resulting in stream channelization, channel simplification, and removal of riparian trees and shrubs.

The project proposes to install 13,250' of livestock exclusion fencing along 1.9 miles of stream and wetland habitat and provide riparian setbacks ranging between 20' and 40'. These setbacks will create 10.3 acres of riparian buffers where we will plant native tree, shrub, and wetland species according to our planting plan. CoosWA will perform annual plant establishment activities for 5 years to insure a goal of 80% plant survival.

To address 10 failing and undersized (24-72") crossings we will partner with the Coos County Road Dept. to replace 2 crossings, work with lowland landowners to upgrade an Ag bridge and 2 culverts, fully decommission 2 Ag crossings and replace 3 outdated and failing culvert/tidegate structures with 2 fish friendly mitigator style gates. All crossings have been sized to meet NOAA fish passage criteria (1.5xACW and >20% embeddedness). These structures will improve access to key salmonid habitats and provide access to nearly 7 miles of critical spawning and rearing habitat (key limiting factors). Additionally, this section of Catching Slough ranked very high in our recent coho SAP.

OWEB funds will be used for project management, contracted services, designs, archeology, plant establishment, travel, project materials, and indirect costs. The landowners, County Road Department, CREP, Local Tribes, BLM, RMEF, OYC and ODFW will provide match contributions in the form of contracted services/labor, project supplies/materials, and technical assistance.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner has some portions of the property enrolled in CREP.

- Seelander Creek supports ESA-listed coho and is a lowland tributary to the Coos River estuary.
- The project work will address issues with stream channelization, loss in stream function, and simplified riparian areas.
- The project will improve rearing habitats for ESA-listed coho and help address water quality concerns. Catching Slough, located downstream of Seelander Creek, is listed on the 303(d) list of water quality impaired waterbodies for temperature and fecal coliform, which impacts shellfish in the estuary.
- There is a diverse array of partners supporting the project.
- New stream crossings will be sized to meet NMFS fish passage criteria.
- The project team has extensive experience engaging landowners and working on similar projects in the project area.

Concerns

- Designs included in the application are only examples from other restoration work because project designs are still in progress through an OWEB technical assistance project. This may indicate the restoration project is not ready for implementation.
- The project approach reestablishes buffers and protects mainstream areas but does not reintroduce more natural stream function like meandering that would increase habitat benefits. This approach emphasizes actions that address symptoms of watershed degradation over the cause, which is the historic practice of pushing streams against hillslopes and out of the valley. Adding channel re-meanders would restore historic stream features lost from this practice; however, the narrow valley may limit options to add meanders without compromising working lands.
- Additional information describing the proposed tide gates, including their placement, size, and purpose, would be helpful to better understand the project and determine whether management and maintenance plans for their operations are adequate to ensure ecological benefits from the investment.
- Additional site photos in the application would have provided helpful context to understand existing site conditions.
- The project schedule seems ambitious given the project is still in design phase and there may not leave enough time for regulatory review and permit acquisitions.
- It is unclear from the application if the small channels located in the fields will be protected from livestock using fencing.
- It is not clear if there is a grazing or water quality management plan associated with the application.
- It is uncertain whether there are coho in Seelander Creek according to the StreamNet database, which may indicate there is a downstream barrier.

Concluding Analysis

The project is in a lowland area that functions as a wetland supporting overwinter transitional habitat for juvenile ESA-listed coho. The importance of these areas has been highlighted in the draft Coos River Coho Strategic Action Plan.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$449,139

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2038-19636

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Kentuck Creek Habitat Complexity and Stream Remeander Project

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$539,627

Total Cost: \$1,127,078

Application Description This project will restore watershed function through riparian planting/fencing, improving fish passage, development of off-channel habitat, and address 4 fish passage crossings. The Kentuck Creek sub-basin is a DEQ 303(d) listed tributary that drains to the Coos Estuary, situated along a narrow agricultural valley that's been heavily impacted by past land management practices, resulting in stream channelization and removal of riparian trees and shrubs.

The project proposes to install 9,000' of livestock exclusion fencing along more than 1.6 miles of stream and provide riparian setbacks ranging between 35 and 180 feet. Buffers will be planted with a variety of native tree and shrub species according to existing planting plans. Prior to planting, small patches of invasive blackberry will be addressed throughout the project area. Plant establishment activities will occur for 5 years to ensure a goal of 80% plant survival.

We propose to remeander ~6,100 feet of stream in addition to addressing 4 failing and drastically undersized stream crossings (installing 1 railcar bridge & 3 culverts). These actions will improve hydrologic connectivity between mainstem and tributary habitats and provide access to ~6.5 miles of critical spawning and rearing habitat (key limiting factors) in Kentuck Creek. All crossings will meet NOAA fish passage criteria (1.5xACW and >20% embeddedness).

OWEB funds will be used for project management, contracted services, plant establishment, travel, project materials, and indirect costs. The USFWS and Wild Salmon Center (WSC) have contributed 100% of the funds required to complete designs, archeology assessments and full permitting. The Landowners, County Road Department, CREP, WSC and ODFW will also provide match contributions in the form of contracted services/labor, project supplies/materials, and technical expertise during the duration of the project. OYC match will fund an 8-member youth crew for plant stewardship activities.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is ready for implementation as indicated by the completed designs and permitting

underway.

- The project activities are high priorities in the draft Coos River Coho Strategic Action Plan.
- The proposed riparian buffer is very large and will provide significant space for potential stream re-meanders and expanded wetland areas.
- Two landowners are already enrolling in CREP.
- The work builds off momentum of previous projects in the Kentuck Creek area. For example, an upstream gravel pit related project created a settling pond that has contributed to significant improvements to water quality by capturing sediment and decreasing turbidity downstream.
- The project has a potential for outreach to neighboring landowners that could lead to future restoration projects.
- The stream has high intrinsic potential for ESA-listed coho habitat.
- Kentuck Creek is listed on the 303(d) list of water quality impaired waterbodies for temperature and fecal coliform.
- There is a diversity of partners involved in the project.
- The tide gate at the mouth of the stream has been recently replaced.

Concerns

- The budget includes only two culverts, but the application narrative identifies three to be replaced. Since the county is addressing one of the three culverts, it may be included as match in the budget.

Concluding Analysis

The project will restore watershed function through riparian planting and fencing, improving fish passage, developing off-channel habitat, and addressing multiple fish passage crossings. Landowner support and ownership in the project's outcomes is demonstrated by their willingness to set aside significant portions of pasture for wetland creation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$539,627

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$539,627

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2039-19637

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Donaldson Ranch Gully Stabilization

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$54,614

Total Cost: \$119,760

Application Description This project is located on the Donaldson's 582-acre ranch in the Floras Creek watershed, within the town of Langlois' municipal Source Water Protection Area (SWPA). Pasture gullies on the Donaldson Ranch deliver extremely turbid water and coarse sediment directly to Floras Creek, within a mile of Langlois' water intake. They are one of the largest sources of sediment within the SWPA, and they are increasing in size and severity. Sediment from these gullies impacts spawning and rearing habitat in Floras Creek; degrades the quality and subsequently increases the cost of Langlois' drinking water; and contributes to channel instability in lower Floras Creek and eutrophication in New River. This project will stabilize ~4,800 feet of gully channel and 21 isolated headcuts that were inventoried in 2020, using rock grade control structures and riparian fencing and planting. This work is part of an ongoing initiative to improve water quality and instream habitat within the SWPA, which began in 2010 with the completion of Langlois' Drinking Water Protection Plan. Project partners include the landowner, CREP, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Oregon-Washington Drinking Water Providers Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will improve rearing and spawning habitat conditions for ESA-listed coho.
- The proposed restoration work will help protect and improve water quality in the Floras Creek watershed, which is a drinking water source.
- The project area historically supported Fall chinook.
- The applicant has successfully completed gully restoration projects on the proposed project property and neighboring properties. The project will build upon these past efforts.

Concerns

- The project may be treating symptoms rather than causes of watershed degradation. If grazing practices remain unchanged, the proposed techniques are unlikely to achieve the stated restoration goals. Livestock are likely to return to restored areas because fencing will not be used to manage grazing, which will result in gullies reforming and loss of any long-term resource protection benefits expected from the investment.
- It is unclear how the proposed restoration actions will be protected without a grazing management plan included in the application that provides this information.

Concluding Analysis

Pasture gully erosion contributes significant sediment into Floras Creek, impacting fish habitat and drinking water for the community of Langlois. The project is built on previous successful actions to stop active gully erosion in the area. This is an ongoing problem and focusing only on arresting the impacts from gullies may not achieve long-term solutions that a more a holistic approach could provide by incorporating other restoration actions such as fencing, plantings, and grazing management.

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2040-19514

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Noble Creek Tidal Lands
Restoration Phase I Technical Assistance

Applicant: Coos SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$200,017

Application Description

Lack of slow-water refugia off-channel habitat has been identified as one of the major limiting factors affecting Oregon Coast ESU coho salmon recovery. In the Coos Estuary, these habitats, including tidal wetland habitats, have been converted to pasture using tidegate infrastructure to the extent that only a fraction of the historic acreage of tidally influenced wetlands currently exists. Restoration of floodplain tidal wetlands is a top priority for coho recovery in federal, state, and local action plans. The Noble Creek Tidal Lands Restoration Phase I Technical Assistance (TA) Project (Coos Bay, OR, Coos County) will address limiting factors by creating technical designs to implement restoration of functional fish passage to 6.4 miles of coho habitat and ~90 acres of critical off-channel wetland and tidal habitats. This project is the first step in implementing critical habitat restoration for coho and other anadromous fish while also providing improved pasture infrastructure and water management for the landowners in the Noble Creek Drainage. To achieve this, the Coos SWCD is partnering with ODFW, Coos Watershed Association and the landowners in the area. OWEB TA funds are needed at this phase to 1) complete the initial data collection, cultural resources and geotechnical investigations, and site surveys necessary to develop 1-3 restoration alternative scenarios, 2) Develop the selected restoration alternative to the 60% (structural and geotechnical engineering designs for tidegate replacement/removal to meet State and Federal fish passage requirements); 3) finalize designs for tidal channel restoration, wetland enhancement, and riparian fencing and planting plans to the 60%, 4) coordinate meetings between project partners and stakeholders to ensure adequate input at all stages of the process. Together these actions will result in a restoration project design that is 60% complete, and sufficiently developed to begin Phase II Technical Assistance.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns are addressed.
- The resulting project designs will incorporate floodplain habitat features including large wood placement, riparian revegetation, and fencing actions to address habitat and water quality issues impacting salmonids.
- The project area has a lot of potential for improving salmonid rearing habitat.

- The effort could lead to future work to address upstream habitat issues.
- Multiple watershed plans establish a clear need for the work, including the draft Coos River Coho Strategic Action Plan.
- The proposal includes consideration of eliminating the main tide gate at the mouth of the stream, which will improve fish passage and restore a more natural hydrologic regime. This will benefit both earlier and expected future restoration actions upstream by providing habitat connectivity.
- The effort engages a supportive landowner and the resulting project activities will improve their land management capabilities while also improving habitat for ESA-listed fish.
- The applicant is experienced with these types of projects and has assembled the right suite of partners to successfully undertake the technical assistance work.
- The expected project types resulting from the proposed design work are traditionally complex and costly making the investment of technical assistance a prudent course of action.

Concerns

- ODEQ is not listed as a technical reviewer. Given the water quality nexus, adding ODEQ technical expertise during project design is likely to improve the project outcomes.
- The ownership of the main tide gate is not clear and identifying this will be a critical component in moving forward.

Concluding Analysis

The project complements a stakeholder engagement effort currently underway in the watershed. Managing landowner expectations will be critical when examining new infrastructure alternatives. In this endeavor, the applicant will need to clearly lay out project alternatives with the landowners and clear messaging of expectations, looking at cost effectiveness and ecological values. There is potential for significant habitat benefits to result from this project, including protecting tidally influenced wetland areas and promoting restoration actions that improve water quality and habitat for ESA-listed coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2041-19521

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: The Coquille River Strategic Action Plan for Coho Salmon Recovery - Phase 1

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$74,998

Total Cost: \$156,818

Application Description This grant proposes to develop a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for Coho Recovery focused on the Coquille Basin. This plan is critical to develop to ensure that the watershed's limiting factors for coho recovery are assessed and addressed in a strategic, multi-decadal framework. Currently, Coquille watershed specific limiting factors have not been defined, there is a lack of a long term strategy for coho recovery in the watershed, and there is a lack of integration of climate change into project prioritization. The goal of the SAP is to develop a comprehensive restoration strategy prioritizing projects that have the greatest impact on coho recovery and resilience. Specifically, this plan will provide a slate of vetted projects that will result in targeted watershed enhancement focused on coho recovery/resiliency. The SAP development process, facilitated by the Wild Salmon Center (WSC), has been implemented in six other coastal watersheds to date. Activities include a data gathering phase, spatial analysis process and integration of local expert knowledge. This work then allows the team to identify priority sub-watersheds/anchor habitats to focus work in and identify what restoration strategies to implement. The team will create a list of near term high priority projects and identify implementation costs, ultimately leading to the completion of on-the-ground work. Phase 1 (funding requested in this application) will be focused on restoration prioritization, Phase 2 will be focused on finalizing the SAP and publishing, and Phase 3 will be the implementation of vetted projects. The SAP will be developed by the Coquille Coho Partnership, a diverse group of stakeholders that will include the Coquille Watershed Association (CoqWA) as the local convener and the Wild Salmon Center (WSC) who will provide SAP facilitation and additional technical resources. Several other agencies and stakeholders are participating in this partnership (noted in the Project Management table).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application demonstrates a clear need for the proposed activities designed to result in restoration that addresses coho limiting factors identified in the NOAA coho recovery plan.
- The approach steps down planning efforts into the sub-watershed scale. This level is consistent with BLM planning and will help focus restoration in the most strategic locations.
- The project will focus long-term project prioritization for the Coquille River basin.

- The effort builds on lessons learned from other Coho Strategic Action Plan (SAP) work in the region, including the upper Rogue River, Elk River, and Coos River SAPs. Incorporating these experiences helps define strategic work tasks and leads to the best use of funds.
- Project costs are commensurate with previous SAP development efforts.
- The products from SAPs provide an effective framework for engaging landowners and stakeholders to strategically address limiting factors for coho.
- The applicant engaged the right suite of project partners, including local, state, and federal agencies, tribes, land trusts, and other non-governmental organizations.
- The partnership with the Wild Salmon center is appropriate and will bring to this work their leadership and lessons learned from previous Coho SAP efforts.

Concerns

- The application lacks information on how industrial landowners within the project footprint will be engaged.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal represents the first of three phases that will result in the development of a Coho SAP for the Coquille River basin. The work has a high likelihood of resulting in a slate of projects targeted for coho recovery and improving their population resilience.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,998

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$74,998

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2042-19546

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Yellow Creek Instream Technical Assistance

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$42,875

Total Cost: \$98,441

Application Description Yellow Creek, located South of Elkton, Oregon, flows through a patchwork of private timber and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property. The Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR), Roseburg District BLM, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Roseburg Resources Company (RRCo) and Lone Rock Resources (LRR) are working together to restore the Yellow Creek drainage to benefit Oregon Coast (OC) Coho salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout and other aquatic species. According to ODFW High Intrinsic Potential Maps, Yellow Creek has the highest, high and medium potential areas throughout it and its major tributaries (Bear Creek and Doe Creek). In 2005 PUR and BLM placed structures in the lower reaches of Yellow Creek and Bear Creek. The structures coalesced into a few large jams that now form the most complex habitat in the system. We have learned from phase 1 and developed a lot of experience since this project was completed and want to design untreated reaches. The untreated reaches of all three creeks lack large wood and complexity. This project has become a priority at PUR not only for the amount of potential habitat we could restore but because BLM will be conducting a nearby timber sale. We plan to take advantage of being able to source wood from so close. Our BLM Partner has advised us that to take full advantage of this timber sale, we need to get trees marked and staged as soon as possible. To address the limiting factors in the Yellow Creek drainage we are seeking OWEB TA funds to 1) design instream fish habitat structures that will enhance the habitat in a total of 11 miles of the Yellow Creek drainage, 2) Assess invasive species in the riparian zones and create a plan of action for areas in need, 3) work with all the partners involved to produce an instream placement and funding strategy, 4) work with all the partners/landowners on selecting materials for the instream placement, 5) prepare an OWEB restoration grant application for submission.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant addressed previous evaluation concerns by providing a clear cost breakdown.
- The Yellow Creek sub-basin is a high priority restoration focus area for the BLM.
- The proposal clearly characterizes the historic land uses, such as splash damming and logging, that have impacted this watershed's function, highlighting the need for developing restorative actions.
- The resulting restoration work will be able to utilize planned BLM forest treatments as a source for large wood for instream projects.

- The project will help address water quality concerns, such as sediment and temperature, within the stream corridor.
- The design approaches will consider machine and helicopter placed options for wood installation.
- The project focuses work on a few large landowner's properties, making it easier to coordinate and execute activities.
- The applicant has a proven track record with turning instream and riparian design projects into on-the-ground work.
- All match funding sources have been secured, indicating the project is ready for implementation.

Concerns

- It is unclear how the invasive species data collection objective fits into the overall project plan and how this effort will be coordinated.
- Sediment transport resulting from road crossings is not addressed in the application and is a big issue affecting habitat suitability for fish.

Concluding Analysis

The project takes a comprehensive approach to developing a plan to improve aquatic and floodplain habitats over an eleven-mile section of stream that provides quality coho habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$42,875

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2043-19556

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Umpqua Fish Passage Design

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$71,898

Total Cost: \$175,600

Application Description The Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers is partnering with the Roseburg BLM and ODFW Fisheries Staffs to focus on seven (7) fish passage issues in a specific set of Upper Umpqua River tributaries. Wolf Creek, Powell Creek, Bottle Creek, Cougar Creek and Rock Creek all support Coho salmon and/or steelhead trout, along with Pacific Lamprey and cutthroat trout. These species, along with other important aquatic species, are what make the Umpqua so special. While this project is focused on fish passage specifically, the overall results of improved fish passage will significantly benefit the aquatic life and hydrologic function in these watersheds.

This project will consist of conducting outreach to Roseburg Resources and Douglas County. We have worked for many years with Roseburg Resources on various projects, but PUR has not worked with the County in over ten years. Reestablishing our working relationship with the County and continuing our relationship with Roseburg Resources has a strong potential to lead to many future restoration projects. The County owns 3 of the 7 culverts and were identified by our Umpqua Basin Fish Passage Team prioritization model and BLM project partner. The BLM owns 3 of the 7 culverts and Roseburg Resources owns 1 of the 7. The initial step in this project will be to reach out to the landowners where the culverts are located to make initial contact and get permission to proceed with culvert design alternatives. Once permission has been granted and the barriers have been confirmed, design alternatives will be created and then prioritized for replacement. This effort will be accomplished through the work of ODFW, BLM and PUR biologists and technicians and a contracted engineer. The outcome of this project will be design alternatives and prioritization for up to 7 known barriers in the Upper Umpqua River System, enabling the project team to apply for restoration funds to complete Fish Passage Restoration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal rationale links to survey work of barriers and stream systems in the Upper Umpqua River that identified issues impacting salmonid productivity, including culverts reducing habitat connectivity and limiting fish production.
- The Rock Creek culvert is a high-ranking barrier identified in the Umpqua Basin ODFW Priority barrier database.

- Addressing the barriers will improve instream processes, such as sediment transport and stream function.
- The project team is experienced in working on fish passage issues.
- The budget narrative clearly describes costs for the proposed project activities.

Concerns

- The coarse scale maps included in the application lack information needed to understand the quality of habitat in the project area, such as a characterization of aquatic habitats, fish habitat suitability, and fish presence.
- Additional information is needed to better understand potential benefits from improved passage. For example, the application lacks information describing current site conditions at each barrier, such as the extent to which each barrier is currently a complete or partial barrier to fish passage. Also, there are a couple of barriers located higher in the watershed that may limit habitat benefits for anadromous fish species. More discussion on each barrier and how they are related to other potential barriers would be helpful to better understand project benefits.
- Additional information describing upfront engagement with the three land managers is needed to better understand the viability of the partnerships to build the foundation necessary to get this work accomplished.
- One of the letters of support included in the application is for another project.
- The number of hours in the budget for coordination work seem high for a project with a few landowners involved.

Concluding Analysis

The project will develop designs to address seven fish passage barriers on five streams, which will result in a total of thirty-seven miles of improved access. Work is likely to benefit anadromous species, including coho and pacific lamprey; however, additional information is needed to understand the extent of the ecological benefits from this project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

10 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$71,898

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2044-19565

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Palouse Tide Gate Upgrade
Development: Final Design

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$181,276

Application Description Palouse Slough drains into Haynes Inlet in the Coos basin and is one of the highest producing coho anchor habitat streams on the Oregon Coast. Its primary tide gate consists of a collapsing, undersized tide box with two top-hinged wooden doors located under a county bridge, confounding the responsibilities for replacement and leading to a strong desire to decouple the structures. Upgrading the Palouse tide gate will improve hydrological function to mimic natural seasonal and tidal cycles, restoring the hydrology and water quality. Greater tidal connectivity to Haynes Inlet will improve estuarine water and habitat quality for juveniles as well as salmon forage species that accelerate juvenile survival rates. This tide gate upgrade is the first step toward the comprehensive basin scale restoration of Palouse Slough to protect and expand this critical area of Oregon Coast coho anchor habitat.

The proposed technical assistance project is the second & final development phase for the Palouse tide gate upgrade, building upon Phase 1's alternatives analysis study that investigated the best long-term solution for the Palouse tide gate design and the feasibility of decoupling the infrastructure. After a robust review by a team of local/regional experts, a preferred design alternative selected is a sheet pile structure with a 4-bay modular gate just upstream of the existing infrastructure. The main objectives for this proposed technical assistance project are to 1) take the preferred design alternative to 100% engineered designs, 2) develop a water management plan, 3) secure all necessary permits for construction, and 4) finalize the bidding documents for construction. CoosWA will continue to work with the technical team through the proposed phase of this tide gate upgrade project. The Coos Co Road Dept and the Haynes Drainage District are committed to providing technical assistance/review for this second phase and are renewing their MOUs with CoosWA for this upcoming phase.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project area contains great opportunities for building on the quality rearing and over-wintering habitat conditions that are present in the Palouse system.
- There is a lot of momentum at the local and state level for addressing failing tide gates. The proposed work capitalizes on stakeholder engagement the applicant has been implementing in the watershed around tide gates.

- The approach builds on previous tide gate design and replacement efforts, and the new tide gate will improve the tidal cycle exchange, salinity gradient, and fish access to habitat.
- The project is identified in the draft Coos River Coho Strategic Action Plan and will implement priority actions identified in the NOAA Coho Recovery Plan.
- The applicant has a lot of experience working in tidally influenced areas.
- There is a robust coho life cycle monitoring effort in the Coos basin area.
- The proposed project complements Technical Assistance application 221-2045, also submitted this cycle, that will identify and design habitat restoration opportunities above this project area.

Concerns

- It is unclear from the proposal whether there are interior gates located above the main gate that will be addressed, which could limit the effectiveness of the tide gate upgrade and restoration benefits.
- More characterization of habitat conditions found within the overall sub-watershed would be helpful to understand the greater project benefits.
- Additional detail on the longevity of the selected sheet pile structure design alternative is needed to better understand the life expectancy of the proposed tide gate replacement work.
- It is not clear from the application how the project will balance fisheries needs with agriculture land uses.
- The habitat directly above the tide gate is simplified, suffers from poor water quality, and is constrained by levees to protect agricultural areas. It is unclear how the channel meandering goal will be achieved without levee or dredged spoil pile removal to provide the greatest habitat benefits from the project.
- More description on landowner roles and time commitment is needed to better understand whether the in-kind match is a reasonable estimate.

Concluding Analysis

The Palouse Creek sub-basin is the biggest producer of coho in the Coos River watershed. The project is a high priority and is likely to succeed in expanding anchor habitat for Oregon Coast coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2045-19569

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Palouse Creek Restoration Project
Development

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$74,995

Total Cost: \$94,823

Application Description In the Palouse subbasin, the high quality spawning habitat seeds the productive estuarine Haynes Inlet system of Coos Bay, promoting the high potential coho productivity in this subbasin. The high quality marshland once present in lower Palouse has been heavily altered to create and sustain agricultural pastures, resulting in stream channelization, undersized infrastructure, and removal of riparian vegetation. These activities negatively impacted the water quality and instream habitat of the subbasin, resulting in the ODEQ 303(d) listing of Palouse Creek for bacteria, sediment, and stream temperatures.

This technical assistance project will develop restoration treatments to restore watershed function and critical lowland rearing habitat by improving stream complexity, floodplain connectivity, water quality, and flow conveyance across 1.3 stream miles and 45 acres in the Palouse subbasin. The main objectives of this project are to 1) develop a channel reconfiguration design, 2) develop a riparian planting plan, and 3) evaluate culvert conditions to meet the landowner's goal of creating a successful working landscape. CoosWA will work closely with NRCS, SWCD, and CREP to incorporate available resources into the proposed restoration treatments. Additionally, CoosWA will partner with the Coos County Road Department (CCRD) to evaluate and upgrade undersized or failing culverts that directly impact the project area. OWEB funds will be used for project management, mileage, contracted services, material and supplies, and indirect costs. CoosWA is providing water level and surveying materials, and the CCRD, ODFW, and BLM are providing in-kind match through technical assistance for design development. NRCS and CREP are invested to providing technical expertise and guidance to this project. The Granum family is committed to develop a comprehensive restoration plan that incorporates ranch productivity goals, water quality protection, and instream habitat improvements.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is upstream of a tide gate that is currently in a design process for replacement.

- The alternatives being considered are technically sound and appropriate. The approach is effective for establishing expectations regarding ecological and agricultural outcomes. The resulting project will benefit working lands and natural resources.
- The project will have high visibility that could lead to additional restoration opportunities in the community.
- The landowners are open to employing newer techniques with larger restoration footprints.
- The applicant has a proven track record at implementing similar type projects and moving them forward into restoration actions.
- Resulting restoration actions will benefit habitats important to ESA-listed coho and address water quality parameters, such as temperature on a stream listed on the 303(d) list of water quality impaired waterbodies.

Concerns

- More detail describing landowner roles and time commitment is needed to better understand whether the in-kind match is a reasonable estimate.
- The scope of the work will impact the current agricultural footprint, landowner communication to manage their expectations will be critical in building a foundation for a successful restoration project.
- Additional information describing the sequencing of the proposed project with the Palouse tide gate design technical assistance proposal, 221-2044, would be helpful to understand the timeliness of the proposed work. The tide gate design is a logical first step and can be a standalone project and does not appear to be tied to the products from this proposal.

Concluding Analysis

Palouse Creek is a highly productive coho stream that drains directly into the Coos River estuary. The project will treat 45 acres and improve habitat on 1.3 stream miles, improving water quality and habitats for salmonids.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,995

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2046-19577

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Leslie Wetland Reserve Restoration
Project: Phase 1 Alternatives Analysis

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$74,997

Total Cost: \$118,479

Application Description In the Coquille watershed, less than 5% of the historic acreage of tidal wetlands remain. Consequently, lack of slow-water refugia and off-channel habitat has been identified as a critical limiting factor affecting Oregon Coast ESU coho recovery. The Leslie Wetland Reserve is a 50 acres tidally influence wetland reserve protected under a NRCS conservation easement in perpetuity in Leneve, OR (Coos County). A restoration project in the 1990's attempted to revert the 50 acres of bottomland from pastureland to the historic wetland state by removal of tide gates and drainage ditches. While beavers have colonized the upper valleys, the majority of the easement, including the alluvial floodplain, is still in poor condition and almost entirely lacks wetland function. This technical assistance application seeks to develop an alternatives analysis that will address the following issues: 1) lack of floodplain connectivity due to an incised channel that is too straight and deep; 2) hydrological constrictions above and below the floodplain due to undersized culverts; and 3) lack of native plant diversity and a monoculture of reed canary grass. This grant request, Phase 1 of technical designs, will result the development of a robust project team, field data collection sufficient to develop an alternatives analysis for restoration actions, a selected alternative, and preliminary cultural resources surveys to inform future designs. Phase 2 of technical designs will result in the development of the preferred alternative, remaining cultural resource surveys, secured permits, cost estimates, and identification of funding sources for implementation. The Coquille Watershed Association with partner with the Leslie Family, ODFW, the U.S. Forest Service, the Coquille Indian Tribe, NRCS, and Coos County Roads Department among other interested restoration practitioners to develop a suite actions to reach our goals.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The technical assistance phase is well articulated and justified in the application narrative.
- The application clearly presents a breakout of the work tasks required for project implementation.
- Addressing invasive reed canary grass will be essential to improve stream channel sinuosity and create complex habitats.
- The 50-acre project area is under an existing NRCS easement.
- The landowners are engaged in the project and provided a letter of support.

- A range of alternatives were considered and are appropriate approaches to improving habitat conditions.
- Habitat conditions in the tributary upstream of the project area are good, which is indicative by the presence of beaver dams and evidence of coho spawning.
- The resulting restoration will implement actions to help address water quality issues identified in the TMDL as well as address issues impacting coho identified in the NOAA coho recovery plan.
- The applicant has sought the right set of expertise for implementing this project, along with a diverse mix of funding partners.

Concerns

- Addressing 50 acres dominated by invasive reed canary grass is a big lift and the likelihood of success is unclear with a well-established infestation in a tidal system and seed sources located above and below the project site.

Concluding Analysis

The project will help restore critical tidally influenced wetland areas important to ESA-listed coho and a myriad of other species. The landowners have demonstrated a conservation ethic and are invested in the success of the project and maintaining its restoration benefits. The project builds on local momentum and partnerships developed to restore these important habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,997

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$74,997

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2047-19578

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Watts Toppin Dam Fish Passage Project

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Josephine

OWEB Request: \$67,175

Total Cost: \$128,565

Application Description This project addresses the need for fish passage improvement at the Watts Toppin Irrigation Dam located at RM 2.1 on Williams Creek, a main tributary to the Applegate River near Provolt, Oregon. Williams Creek and its tributaries are among the most important producers of salmon and steelhead in the Applegate River Basin. Watts Toppin Dam is listed on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Statewide Fish Passage Priority List as the 5th highest priority in the Applegate Watershed. The 4 higher priorities are currently in varying stages of planning and/or design for removal or retrofit by APWC and/or other entities. The proposed project will bring fish passage conditions at Watts Toppin Dam to current standards and evaluate opportunities to improve irrigation efficiency and dedicate senior water rights instream. The project will benefit ESA-listed Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, Steelhead Trout, Coastal Cutthroat Trout, and Pacific Lamprey.

The proposal seeks to build upon the recently completed Lower Bridgepoint Fish Passage Project (OWEB grant 220-2015), located 1 mile downstream of Watts Toppin Dam. The project, was similar in scale and design to the proposed project. Together, they will substantially improve access to valuable upstream spawning and rearing habitats. Additionally, the proposed project is located within the current Applegate SIA and will complement these activities. Topographic survey work has been conducted and conceptual design alternatives are being developed for a roughened channel. This proposal will support engineering for final design, permitting, and bid support; permit applications; and water user coordination. Additionally, an evaluation of the current irrigation system will be conducted to characterize water losses and look for opportunities for irrigation efficiencies. Project partners include water users, Rogue Basin Partnership, BLM, Williams Cr WC, and Paul Allen Family Foundation through American Rivers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is in an existing ODA Strategic Implementation Area.
- The design approach will utilize a roughened channel leading up to Watts Toppin dam. These features are known to provide volitional fish passage without a ladder.
- Addressing the passage issue will improve fish access to cool water and quality habitat upstream.

- The work builds off an earlier project to improve fish passage at the Lower Bridge Point Diversion located a short distance below the project site.
- The project will implement actions that address factors limiting coho production identified in the NOAA recovery plan.
- There is a potential for an instream water right to result from the project, which would add value by addressing low summer flow conditions.
- The project site is included in the Applegate temperature TMDL.
- The proposal will develop a preferred design option and build upon previous planning efforts. The scope of work presented is clear.
- The applicant has a proven track record implementing similar type projects.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the full breadth of the project's ecological goals can be met because not all landowners support an option for dam removal.
- The dam is not a complete barrier to fish passage. Low summer flows exacerbated by water withdrawals impede juvenile passage. At high flows, upstream and downstream passage is known to occur.
- A large seasonal push up dam below the project site at the mouth of Williams Creek impedes juvenile passage seasonally and will limit the potential benefits from the proposed project.

Concluding Analysis

Williams Creek provides valuable habitat for salmonids but is impacted by low flows, poor water quality, and fish passage barriers. The project will develop a design alternative to provide for fish passage at low flows and allow juveniles access to cooler water and higher quality habitat upstream. The complexity of the fish passage issue at Watts Toppin irrigation dam makes the use of a technical assistance phase critical to developing a successful restoration pathway.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$67,175

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2048-19583

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Kennedy Slough Tidegate and Channel Design

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$74,630

Total Cost: \$144,013

Application Description Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers and our partners are working collaboratively to restore the health of the Umpqua Estuary by working with owners of tidal wetlands to protect functional habitat, restore degraded habitat, educate the public and evaluate project effects. The goal of this project is to complete designs for fish passage, tidal channel, and dike work needed to improve the ecological conditions of Kennedy Slough, a tidally influenced wetland located in the lower Smith River. Tidal wetlands along the lower Smith River have been significantly altered for urban and agricultural use by clearing, filling in, diking and draining. This habitat is critical feeding and refuge for many aquatic species including steelhead, salmonids, eulachon and Pacific lamprey. Preliminary designs (30%) for tidegate replacement, channel reconstruction, and dike work have been completed for the Kennedy Slough project. To create a final design for the Kennedy Slough project, work is needed to 1) finalize the conceptual project design, 2) obtain cultural review concurrence, 3) engage permit agencies for pre-submittal review, 4) submit all permit and concurrence applications, 5) provide outreach to neighboring tidegate and wetland owners, and 6) apply for project implementation funding. Project partners include Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District, National Marine Fisheries Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Port of Umpqua, Smith River Watershed Council and private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will address the loss of estuarine overwintering habitat for coho, which is the most important limiting factor for coho identified in the NOAA recovery plan.
- The project builds on past habitat enhancement work in the area, including the Glover Tide Gate Restoration Project (220-2011). The applicant is applying lessons learned from this previous project to the current effort.
- The site is adjacent to wetland habitat owned and managed by ODFW.
- The applicant is seeking input from other groups more experienced with tide gate restoration and is engaging with the appropriate agency, stakeholders, and community partners.
- Resulting restoration projects will restore access to habitat and improve conditions of historic tidal wetlands that are essential for overwintering coho along with a myriad of other species.

Concerns

- Landowner commitment to the project long-term is uncertain because it is unclear if one of the properties is still for sale.
- There are two property owners involved in the project and it appears that each may have different expectations for their “desired future condition”, which could limit the effectiveness of the project. For example, the expectations for where flooding pastureland will occur is unclear.
- Reed canary grass will be left untreated at the upstream site, which could potentially limit the effectiveness of the future restoration project.
- The proposal lacks details describing the extent of the riprap placement in relation to the ordinary high-water line. This information will be a key point in the permitting process.
- The proposal lacks an alternative analysis.
- It is unclear whether the applicant has related experience in conducting tide gate projects. There could be merit to completing the adjacent tide gate restoration project to establish a track record.
- The application budget lacks details needed to determine whether costs align with work necessary to accomplish project objectives. For example, the additional engineering support seems high given the chosen design approach and no more alternatives will be examined.

Concluding Analysis

The project will address two failing tide gates and provide access to over-wintering tidal habitat important to juvenile ESA-listed coho by building connectivity between estuaries and wetlands. The proposal lacks detail related to the project design needed to determine the likelihood for the project to succeed. This work is very important to the recovery of coho and the restoration of more natural tidal flows into wetland areas. It is critical that the design work going into these complex restoration projects consider a variety of factors, including landowner expectations, and design alternatives.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2049-19592

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Winter Lake Phase 3: Hydrologic Enhancement Design

Applicant: Coos SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$56,523

Total Cost: \$194,004

Application Description

The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District (Coos SWCD) & team are developing the Winter Lake Phase III tidal floodplain hydrologic connectivity project. The project is within the Beaver Slough Drainage District (BSDD) floodplain (River Mile 20.5) of the Coquille River, 2.5 miles west of Coquille, Coos County, OR. Historical water management through installation of tidegates, berms, and channel excavation in the early 1900's disconnected fish access to over 14,000 acres of tidal floodplain habitat in the Coquille River basin severely truncating production potential for coho. Early tidegate infrastructure has changed little since tidegates were installed in the early 1900's. Oregon Coast (OC) coho have declined from ~150,000 average /412,000 peak adults prior to Euro- settlement to ~14,000 annually today. .

In 2017 the largest tidegate project within the Pacific Coast was installed; the C3P tidegate project on the BSDD (Winter Lake Phase I). In 2018 installation and reconnection of ~8.0 miles of tidal channel was completed in Unit 2 of Winter Lake (Phase II). Coos SWCD in coordination with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), BSDD, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and landowners are proposing to develop engineering and design for replacement of undersized culverts and installation of swale channels/grassed waterways that will critically enhance the capacity of BSDD Units 1 and 3 to produce OC coho juveniles and pasture grass due to enhanced hydrologic connectivity. This project will provide the infrastructure necessary to fully utilize the investment developed through Phase I and II. The project will aim to incorporate NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy (EQIP/RCP) funding with other match sources for implementation of the project. The project team includes: SWCD, ODFW, TNC, BSDD, and Coquille Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns are addressed, specifically regarding the installation of grazing management tools to protect water quality.
- The project is located within the footprint of the China Camp Creek Tide Gate Replacement Project. The land behind the completed tide gate project includes three units with extensive channel and riparian restoration completed in Unit 2 as part of the previous project. Units 1 and 3 are reserved primarily for agricultural purposes and the proposed technical assistance will result in 90% designs for channel restoration compatible with the agricultural practices in these units.

- The project builds on a restoration work undertaken to replace tide gates and restore habitat in Unit 2, which is currently in a monitoring phase.
- Partners have relevant experience, and their roles are well defined in the application.
- Given past investments and lessons learned, the applicant and partners are realizing cost effectiveness.

Concerns

- It is unclear how the project will achieve improved tidal exchange in Units 1 and 3.
- The design will address only a portion of the limiting factors identified in NOAA recovery plans for coho, which limits potential habitat benefits from the project. For example, water temperatures get high in this part of the Coquille and it needs to be addressed more comprehensively.
- The grass swales described in objective 3 of the application will provide limited habitat opportunities.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a resubmit. The applicant has continued to refine the proposal for a design approach that will improve the channel system on agricultural lands found within Units 1 and 3 of the larger China Camp Creek and Winter Lake restoration project. These two units have water levels that are currently operated by a Water Management Plan designed to consider that coho will have access to these units during the winter months and that these units are managed for agriculture the rest of the year. The project builds on momentum in the Coquille River watershed to improve fish access through tide gate infrastructure and restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$56,523

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2050-19614

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Indian Creek Sediment Reduction

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$34,986

Total Cost: \$43,959

Application Description This project is located on Indian Creek, a tributary to the Rogue River. The creek lies within Curry County, near the town of Gold Beach. Indian Creek headlands begin in BLM lands and go through one single owner ranch property, through an ODFW volunteer-run fish hatchery (supported by the landowner), and then empties into the Rogue estuary at approximately river mile 1.2. Indian Creek is an important tributary for fall Chinook, coho salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout.

The landowners are conservation minded and have participated in several of our grant programs (fish passage work, large wood through small grants) throughout the years, as well as NRCS programs on their land. They are currently working within the Conservation Stewardship Program to implement forest conservation practices on their land to enhance wildlife habitat. This includes increasing riparian buffers, creating meadow gaps, diversifying forests, prescribed burns, and creating wildlife snags in several areas. There are currently two locations that cross Indian Creek, which are currently low water crossings and there is a need to reduce their impact to the streams by placing crossings in both locations. One location did previously have a bridge for nearly a century, but it has now failed. Having personally driven across the low water crossings, I have seen 20-30 Chinook scatter quickly upon driving into the stream and have seen productive redds on either side of the crossing. There is also a notable plume of sediment that occurs each time you pass. We would like to see this remedied.

We are proposing to place bridges in both locations to accommodate ranch vehicles, with one bridge needing to pass log trucks as well. We are currently working with the landowner, NRCS, and ODFW staff about how to best address this problem, and how we can best reduce sediment impacts to this important stream for both fish and wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project addresses water quality concerns identified in the TMDL related to sedimentation.
- The stream has high intrinsic potential for coho habitat.
- The planned cultural resource surveys are necessary and appropriate.

- The applicant brings seasoned and capable staff along with a cadre of experienced partners.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the applicant is coordinating with the BLM regarding the compatibility of the project design within the BLM right-of-way and potential future logging on BLM land located above the project site.
- Additional information on the crossing, including the intended use, frequency of use, and the timing of use would be helpful to better understand project technical soundness.
- Additional alternatives analysis that includes consideration of options, such as low water crossings, would strengthen the application.

Concluding Analysis

There are currently two locations that cross Indian Creek that are low water crossings. Crossing solutions will be developed to reduce sediment impacts to water quality in Indian Creek, which supports coho and other salmonids.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$34,986

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2051-19567

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Archie Fire Post Restoration Project
Effectiveness Monitoring

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$138,655

Total Cost: \$607,628

Application Description Unfortunately, severe large forest fires are becoming more frequent in Oregon. There is a need to determine how best to approach restoration and rehabilitation of streams affected by fires. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR) were planning a large-scale stream restoration and effectiveness monitoring project in the Rock Creek Watershed, a major tributary to the North Umpqua River in Douglas County when the Archie Creek Fire burned over 70% of the watershed. Most of this burn was high severity with 100% tree mortality. Additionally, the adjacent watershed (Canton Creek) was mostly unburned, so the potential exists for a paired watershed study. This devastating fire has presented an opportunity to study post-fire water quality impacts in a severely burned watershed, as well as the effectiveness of stream restoration work to mitigate those impacts. Adding a comparison to Canton Creek will provide a substitute for pre-data that we were beginning to collect when the fire occurred. The BLM BugLab at Utah State University is collaborating on the project. They are designing the study so that the data is of statistical significance and have a professor who will analyze and publish the results in peer-reviewed literature. PUR will collect and analyze stream temperature, shade cover, pebble counts, and water quality. Also, PUR will collect all samples for benthic macroinvertebrates, Epilithon, organic matter and nitrate, nitrite, and phosphate that will be sent to the Bug Lab for analysis. Data will be collected for five years. Aquatic macroinvertebrates are good early indicators of stream quality since they respond quickly to physical, chemical, and biological conditions, an indicator of conditions essential for fish survival. USGS re-established a real-time stream gage in Rock Creek in April 2021 and added a sonde to provide year-round water quality data, this will provide critical data for the project.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This monitoring project will complement the existing data in Rock and Canton creeks in regard to fish, water temperature and flow data. The application describes the current and planned post-fire monitoring efforts underway and the plan to engage with several agencies to communicate the results of the collective efforts.

- The applicant will follow professionally accepted protocols and has a DEQ approved Sampling and Analysis plan that will be updated if the project is funded.
- The applicant is partnering with several organizations to collect the data and has engaged with the Utah State University Bug Lab to assist in the macroinvertebrate monitoring element, including sample collection, bug identification, and enumeration.
- The data will be stored internally and with partnering agencies, including submitting water quality data to DEQ.
- The applicant will disseminate the findings in a number of ways, including generating a peer reviewed journal article, providing a final report to OWEB and making the report available on the applicant's website, and presenting at professional conferences, such as American Fisheries Society and/or CONNECT.
- The applicant has many years of experience collecting water quality data. They are working with USGS and BLM to install and operate streamflow gages, and these agencies have the necessary experience to properly operate the gages.
- The applicant took the time to engage an array of technical experts to scope this project and leverage resources to submit a comprehensive application.
- The applicant is engaging community stakeholders and plans to share data with the Glide Water Association to help with operation of their water treatment plant.
- The budget is appropriate for the timeframe, given the data will be collected over a total of five years and three different reports will be written to summarize data at key time intervals.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application poses broad monitoring questions, and it is not clear the monthly sampling (May to September) is needed to answer the question specific to macroinvertebrates.
- While not a major concern, the application did not describe the substrate and stream canopy methods or analysis procedures to understand how they will use these data to answer their monitoring questions.
- The turbidity grab samples will yield limited information. Given the remote location of this watershed, storm events may be hard to capture. Also, it is not clear if stream restoration efforts will reduce turbidity levels.
- Given the focus on benthic macroinvertebrates and algae, this project does not plan to track bed movement (aggradation and degradation) that is likely to occur and impact both of those parameters.
- The application did not describe how all the data will be integrated to understand differences in the control and burned watersheds and restored vs. unrestored reaches.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

Review the frequency of macroinvertebrate monitoring to ensure the data are needed to answer questions stated in the application and determine how this aligns with the monitoring questions stated in the Utah State University document that was uploaded with the application.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The monitoring protocols and methods are appropriate, and science based.
- The applicant has an approved ODEQ monitoring and sampling plan.
- The macro-invertebrate sampling approach has been locally used for over 20 years.
- The applicant has extensive monitoring experience, and a suite of appropriate state and federal partners are engaged and dedicated to this work.
- A diversity of partners supports the project, which is demonstrated by match contributions.
- The applicant has a successful background in implementing quality monitoring work.

Concerns

- The proposed frequency of macro-invertebrate sampling may not provide enough data to detect a measurable change.
- It may not be appropriate to evaluate the effect of installed habitat structures on water quality because these structures are not designed address turbidity.
- The Archie Fire was not a typical wildfire because of its high severity and intensities that resulted in 100% tree mortality instead of a mosaic burn pattern. Due to this, monitoring results from the proposed project may not be transferable to other situations.
- Monitoring results may not be indicative of a typical post wildfire response because post-fire management for the Archie Fire has included a very aggressive wood salvage component.
- Additional explanation for the selection of Canton Creek as a control for evaluating water quality is needed to clarify the suitability of the choice.
- It is unclear from the application how the proposed data is relevant and necessary for informing future aquatic restoration in Rock Creek.
- The geography has burned in the past with seven fires in the last ten years. It may be difficult to incorporate previous changes before this fire occurred.

Concluding Analysis

Using macro-invertebrates as a stream quality indicator has been applied in the past and can be an effective surrogate for comparing and characterizing stream conditions. While determining the impacts of fire on aquatic ecosystems is valuable, the application lacks details indicating the proposed project is the right approach, in the right place, and at the right time to achieve the proposed monitoring goal.

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2052-19575

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Baseline Vegetation and Surface
Water Monitoring after Restoration Activities at
Latgawa Creek

Applicant: The Understory Initiative

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$55,223

Total Cost: \$74,874

Application Description Located in the Cascade Mountains of Jackson County, Oregon, decades of grazing and water diversion practices have impaired ecological function of Latgawa Creek and surrounding wet meadow complexes. A collaborative effort between the Vesper Meadow Education Program, The Understory Initiative, The Beaver Coalition, and US Fish and Wildlife Service is attempting to restore hydrologic function along Latgawa Creek by installing a series of Post Assisted Log Structures (PALS). The intent of the PALS is to reverse the channelization within Latgawa Creek and raise the local water table by slowing water flow and encouraging the accretion of sediment behind the structures. This partnership will also be addressing the loss of native riparian vegetation by treating invasive plants and installing or otherwise encouraging the re-establishment of native plants that have particular ecological and/or cultural importance within the project area. We are proposing to monitor landscape changes to these restoration activities and help address a current gap in a rapidly developing field of study. Specifically, we will record data before and after restoration activities including 1) measures of plant community composition and structure with a focus on noxious weed cover, riparian woody species density, and the cover of species identified by Siletz and Grand Ronde Tribal members as culturally important, species that are known to be important habitat features for the Federal ESA Candidate species; Mardon skipper (*Polites mardon*), the Oregon Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus affinis*); and 2) measures of improved hydrologic function within the stream-meadow complex. Measures of hydrologic function will include in-stream discharge, surface water temperature, and surface water storage capacity in riparian areas impacted by the PALS. Additional project partners include ODFW, independent field biologists, and the Klamath Bird Observatory.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application adequately describes the monitoring planned for 2021, prior to restoration with matching funds.
- The applicant is working with Tribes that have interest in this area to incorporate indigenous knowledge into the vegetation monitoring efforts by identifying plants that have cultural value.
- The application describes how this monitoring project relates to other bird and butterfly monitoring on adjacent lands by the applicant and partners.

- The applicant will follow professionally accepted protocols to collect the data and will develop a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) to be approved early in the project by DEQ.
- The application describes how the various data will be stored and reported annually after each field season.
- The application adequately describes the partners and staff working on this project. All of those that are mentioned have sufficient qualifications and experience to complete the work as proposed.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It is not clear how this restoration effectiveness monitoring project relates to the vesper sparrow. This restoration project is installing BDAs to increase wet meadow habitat; however, this species is not typically found in this habitat type (although it can be found near the edges of wet meadow).
- It was not clear how extensive the pre-project vegetation data are to track changes due to restoration actions over the course of the project.
- Quantifying hydrologic changes post restoration will be challenging, given that the applicant proposes to collect only one year of pre-project data.
- It was not clear how high flow data will be measured once high flows overtop the banks and spread water across the floodplain.
- The application proposes to partner with ODFW to install the streamflow gage but did not specify who from the agency would be assisting. It was not clear why OWRD was not consulted on this portion of the project.
- The data analysis for water temperature is not well described. The applicant assumes that decreased water temperatures will occur; however, this is not certain given the restoration goal to increase water surface area and residence time in the project area.
- The application lacked detail to understand the hydrologic data analysis to measure changes in surface water storage capacity and flood attenuation. It was not clear what metrics would be used to represent these terms used in the application and how evapotranspiration would be accounted for in the analyses.
- It is unclear if the hydrologic analysis will help answer the monitoring questions. The applicant proposes to track precipitation events, but the application does not adequately describe recording rainfall or obtaining data from nearby weather stations to interpret the data.
- It was not clear if there is sufficient funding in the budget to cover the staff time to collect detailed hydrologic measurements and analyze the data to answer the monitoring questions.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on and complements other monitoring in the area.
- Collecting water temperature will be helpful in evaluating the impacts of Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA) on water quality.

- The proposed monitoring effort is important for characterizing hydrologic and vegetation responses to restoration actions along Latgawa Creek. Restoration actions have been implemented to address incision of high elevation meadows that contribute to many of the issues impacting downstream aquatic resources.
- An array of qualified partners will bring appropriate experience to the project.
- The applicant will follow professionally accepted protocols to collect the data and will develop a Sampling and Analysis Plan for ODEQ approval.

Concerns

- Additional parameters could be helpful for evaluating restoration actions, such as channel aggradation resulting from BDA and post-assisted log structures (PALS) installation.
- Adding soil surveys may be helpful to better understand how water moves through the system.
- The budget includes lump sums, additional detail describing costs is needed to determine whether costs rates are reasonable for the proposed work.
- One year of pre-project data collection during a drought-stricken period may have limited applicability for an effective comparison with post-restoration data.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed monitoring is reasonable, follows established methods, and can help inform future restoration efforts in Latgawa Creek and surrounding wet meadow complexes. The applicant is working with Tribes to incorporate indigenous knowledge into the project work and will share data with Tribal members from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to assist with collaborative First Food plant restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$55,223

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$55,223

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2053-19593

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Coos Watershed Real-time Hydrological and Meteorological Monitoring 2021-2023

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$102,772

Total Cost: \$168,081

Application Description The Coos Watershed, located on the Southern Oregon Coast, is the home of an important population of the ESA listed coastal coho salmon. The ESA Recovery plan for the Oregon Coast coho salmon (NOAA 2016) cites the need for increased quantity and quality of freshwater and estuarine rearing habitat. Historically, the need for hydrological and meteorological data was identified in the IMST's Recovery of Wild Salmonids in Western Oregon Lowlands (2002), and in OWEB's Monitoring Strategy for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (2003). NOAA's A Strategic Plan for Enhanced Coastal Observational System and Predictive Hydrodynamic Model for Improved Management of the Coos Bay Estuary, Oregon (2005) ranked continuing gaging station operations as the highest priority. The lack of long term hydrological data has driven the Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) to meet this need. Most recently, Oregon's 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy (OWRD 2017) recommends that the state continue to maintain the stream gage network, collaborate with other groups, and promote continuous monitoring of changing climates.

OWEB funds will be used for staff to operate, and maintain six real-time stream gaging stations. Hydrological data will be analyzed and summarized by water year, and reported quarterly and annually on the CoosWA website. Discharge data will be further compiled into the long-term data set, flow duration estimates will be recalculated with the updated data. Meteorological data will be summarized by water year. Instantaneous data will be available in real-time on our website.

Since 1999, CoosWA has partnered with OWEB, OWRD, ODEQ, NOAA, U of O, CB/NB Water Board, SSNERR, CTCLUSI, Coquille Indian Tribe, and BLM to support a Water Resources Program that will develop a data set large enough to perform meaningful statistical analysis for monitoring, assessment, research, project effectiveness, and restoration projects needs.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This project will continue to complement a hydrodynamic model in the Coos Estuary that is maintained by the University of Oregon (UoO).
- The application supports streamflow gages and builds upon an existing network of gages in the watershed.
- The application provides a useful history about why the streamflow network was developed and the uses of the data collected to date.
- The application adequately describes how flow and water level data will be collected, along with quality assurance/quality control methods for data collection, management, and analysis.
- The staff working on this project has many years of experience collecting and managing streamflow gaging data.
- The application describes how past data have been shared via the applicant's website and directly with the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, UoO, recreationists, and fisherman.
- The budget is adequate to cover expenses, given that the project leverages the existing streamflow gaging equipment to continue to collect data for two additional water years.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application does not include monitoring questions, which makes it difficult to review the application relative to specific evaluation criteria.
- It is not clear what the applicant's specific plans are to apply the data in a meaningful manner.
- The application does not describe how the continuous water temperature and turbidity data will be collected, managed, and analyzed to meet the objectives described as they relate to benefitting salmon.
- The application does not describe how data will be reported at end of the year and made publicly available in a summarized report that interprets the data.
- The budget includes costs for the annual Kisters user group meeting, but the application does not describe how this relates to the project, which makes it difficult to know if this cost is appropriate for the work necessary to accomplish the objectives.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Appropriate methods and strategies will be used and are well defined in the application.
- The project activities are identified in multiple state and federal plans to evaluate limiting factors impacting ESA listed species.
- The resulting project data will be available on the applicant's website.
- The data collected is useful to a wide variety of watershed stakeholders.

- The data analysis will develop records to help understand how well instream wood structures perform over various flood intervals.
- The applicant is coordinating with appropriate local and state partners that support and actively utilize the information developed from the proposed monitoring work.
- A former USGS employee with appropriate technical expertise assists with data review and Quality Assurance and Quality Control.

Concerns

- Letters of support from state and federal partners would have helped document their commitment to the project work.
- The application lacks some details related to the monitoring questions the applicant hoped to answer with the proposed work.

Concluding Analysis

There is a significant need for gaging stations to collect long-term hydrological data, and yet funding sources for their operation is limited. The information provided from this project is actively used by the applicant to develop restoration projects and inform other monitoring work. The data is also valued by many other efforts and users, including public agencies and private individuals.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$102,772

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$102,772

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2054-19602
Project Name: Almeda Post Fire Monitoring

Project Type: Monitoring

Applicant: Rogue Valley COG

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$170,783

Total Cost: \$287,613

Application Description

The project is located in southwestern Oregon in the Bear Creek Watershed, a major tributary of the Rogue River. The watershed encompasses the Medford urban area and includes the municipalities of Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford, Central Point, Jacksonville, and Jackson County. Specifically, the project focuses on the area burned by the Almeda fire.

In September 2021, the Almeda fire burned 3000 acres and destroyed over 2500 homes and 600 commercial businesses within the cities of Phoenix and Talent in addition to rural homes and farms along Bear Creek from Ashland to Medford. In addition, the fire destroyed native and planted riparian vegetation that helped improve local water quality conditions by providing shade, habitat, erosion protection, and contaminant filtration.

An urban fire of this magnitude presents water quality concerns of short-, mid-, and long-term duration. Toxic materials from destroyed homes and businesses, farm properties, materials used in firefighting have been distributed through ash, smoke and sediment – into the air, soils and water. As sites cleanup, restoration and rebuilding take place, materials continue to enter the stream, washing into the creeks directly or through storm drains. Impacts are heightened by the dramatic loss of riparian vegetation.

Research shows that the most significant impacts occur 2-5 years post fire. Local resources are close to exhausted, so additional funding is essential to analyze data collected, evaluate trends, and continue critical monitoring activities.

Funding would allow us to continue implementing the monitoring program develop a formal SAP/QAPP, complete a comprehensive evaluation of data collected, and prepare a final report that can be used locally, by researchers (OSU) and by other communities impacted by urban fires to determine water quality monitoring needs and responses.

Partners include DEQ, RRWC, RVCOG, Jackson SWCD, SOU, RVSS, as well as local communities.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application is engaging a large group of partners to continue to collect water quality data to meet a variety of objectives.
- The application describes the existing TMDL related and post-fire water quality data that are available, and the applicant is incorporating insights from past urban fires in California to inform their monitoring approach.
- The applicant has the majority of the QA/QC procedures described in existing quality assurance plans and will use this information to develop a DEQ approved SAP.
- The applicant and partners will use established monitoring methods to collect the data and will continue to develop a monitoring plan to organize the different compents of the project.
- The applicant will develop a central database to manage the data internally and submit water quality data to DEQ.
- The applicant and contractors working on this project have the qualifications and experience to complete the project as proposed.
- The applicant is meeting with local community stakeholders and monitoring leads to coordinate and bring the necessary expertise to fully develop and implement this project during the next three to four years.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The project has lots of moving parts, which made the application challenging to understand at times, related to how and when all the data would be collected. In addition, the process and timing for development of a final report (including who will be the lead in coordinating this among the many partners) was not clear, given the timeline described in the application.
- The complexity of the project makes it challenging to understand how the data would be analyzed to answer all the questions posed in the application.
- The application lacked detail about some of the monitoring methods, including a citation for the benthic algae sampling approach described in the application.
- It is unclear if there is enough funding in the budget for project management to complete the final report.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendations

- Coordinate with DEQ to develop a SAP early in the life of the grant.
- The monitoring plan should clearly describe the roles of each organization in relation to each monitoring objective described in the application.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant is incorporating techniques from a City of Santa Rosa template for understanding water quality impacts from urban wildfire.
- The project will continue and expand existing sampling sites to build onto an existing data set.

- Existing data sets from Bear Creek will be beneficial for comparisons with data collected through the proposed monitoring project.
- Improving the understanding of chemical impacts from fire suppression is valuable.
- The project will employ and develop new Best Management Practices (BMPs) in response to wildfire in the urban setting that will be valuable moving forward to inform response strategies in the event of future fires. New fires in 2021 thus far show how important this work is in developing BMP's.
- The project will continue monitoring efforts that were quickly put together post-fire and will incorporate development of a formal Sampling Analysis Plan (SAP).
- A long list of partners representing a wide swath of interests are dedicated to the monitoring effort.
- Eighty percent of fall chinook spawn in the Rogue River downstream of its confluence with Bear Creek. This highlights the need to understand and address water quality impacts from the wildfire, especially during early season runoff that will likely wash pollutants from the burn areas into the stream.
- The applicant is effectively leveraging partner resources.

Concerns

- The public benefit for fish, wildlife, and water quality are over-shadowed in the application by the public benefit due to an emphasis in the narrative on drinking water and the sewer system. Given the importance of the spawning habitat located downstream of Bear Creek on the Rogue River, the watershed benefits from the proposed monitoring is likely significant.
- Recent data has not gone through formal Quality Assurance and Quality Control procedures and there currently is not a SAP guiding the monitoring work; however, the proposed project will include these important monitoring components for future data collection.

Concluding Analysis

Bear Creek flows through an urbanized environment and is a significant tributary to the Rogue River. The Alameda Fire is much different than most wildfires due to its impacts to an urban setting, making it unique in Oregon. The proposed monitoring will evaluate post-fire impacts on water quality to inform BMP development and response to future fires.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$170,783

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$170,783

Staff Conditions

The applicant will coordinate with DEQ to develop a SAP early in the life of the grant. The monitoring plan should clearly describe the roles of each organization in relation to each monitoring objective described in the application.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2055-19607

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Storm Chasers: Volunteer Storm Sampling on the South Coast

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$53,863

Total Cost: \$100,320

Application Description Southern Oregon coastal watersheds are flashy systems with complex geology and historic land-use practices that, when acted on by common short-term, high-intensity storm events, can mobilize significant amounts of sediment in short periods of time. These sediment mobilization events often have negative impacts downstream such as deterioration of aquatic habitat quantity and quality, and increased erosion and stream aggradation on working lands. The Curry Watersheds Partnership (Curry SWCD, Lower Rogue Watershed Council, and South Coast Watershed Council) will monitor sediment mobilization during storm events to identify and prioritize areas for potential restoration actions, and track changes over time. Synoptic storm water quality grab samples will be collected by trained citizen science volunteers, and samples will be processed and analyzed by experienced staff members. Flow data will also be collected by experienced staff members to quantify storm intensities and conduct comparative water quality analysis between sites and over time. The results of this project will be used to identify and prioritize areas for sediment abatement restoration actions, calibrate NetMap model results, and engage and educate our community on issues related to sediment mobilization.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application clearly describes how this project will leverage previously collected storm data and the current technical assistance grant the applicant has underway.
- This data will allow the applicant to perform focused road surveys in the future, based on data interpretation, to inform potential restoration.
- The monitoring questions are clearly stated, and the proposed monitoring approach is appropriate to answer them.
- The applicant will develop a DEQ approved sampling and analysis plan and submit water quality data to DEQ to be stored in the AWQMS database.
- In general, the methods cited for streamflow measurements are appropriate.
- The applicant will provide annual reports to local partners, USFS, and ODFW, and post the reports on their website to be made available to the public.
- The staff that will work on this project have the necessary qualifications and experience to apply the proposed data collection and analysis methods in a successful manner.

- The applicant has engaged a technical expert at USGS to develop the flow monitoring and analysis approach.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application does not describe how the data can complement other monitoring efforts that may be occurring or planned by different agencies and organizations (e.g., USGS, USFS, BLM, private industrial landowners) across such a large geographic area.
- The application does not describe what equipment or methods will be used to measure specific conductivity and turbidity.
- The application does not describe the number of sites to be monitored in this application but uploaded a map that had over 50 sites identified.
- The large number of sites to be monitored with the assistance of volunteers will be a challenge logistically. There was no description of quality assurance/quality control measures regarding how samples collected by volunteers will be handled and tracked to ensure high quality data are collected.
- The rotating panel approach to measure water levels at different sites over three years could be a challenge to implement across a large number of sites.
- The proposed approach to collect water level data with 3-foot staff levels has limitations, given that the streams are likely to exceed this height during storm events and could result in a data gap when water samples are collected.
- The budget narrative did not describe how the monitoring program coordinator's expenses were calculated to determine if the costs are appropriate to accomplish the objectives.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

Consider selecting a subsample of dedicated sites to track water levels over the project timeline.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project work is prioritized based on previous data collection efforts.
- The return of some volunteers from past efforts will provide continuity.
- The applicant is experienced in implementing monitoring efforts.

Concerns

- The number of sites to be sampled is unclear in the application. A map shows around fifty sites, but the narrative does not provide an exact number of sites that aligns with the map.
- The high number of sites to be sampled will be challenging, especially if volunteer recruitment is low. It is unclear from the application whether volunteers are already committed to participate in the project.
- It is unclear how data collected will characterize flow when information will not be collected at regular time intervals.

- It is uncertain whether the proposed protocols will result in consistent data quality. For example, it is unclear how flow data captured during storm events based on volunteer observation will be reliable compared to using gages or staff plates.
- There may be liability concerns regarding the use of volunteers during storm events in potentially dangerous locations.
- The map included in the application lacks context for understanding the proposed project in relation to other efforts in a large geographic area.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds off previous monitoring efforts; however, it is unclear from the application whether the approach is likely to succeed in effectively collecting data in a consistent manner.

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2056-19610

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Temperature Monitoring of 3 High Priority Watersheds in the Sixes Subbasin

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$45,865

Total Cost: \$78,985

Application Description Continuous summer water temperature monitoring is proposed in 3 high-priority watersheds within the Sixes Subbasin (HUC8): the Elk River, Sixes River, and Morton Creek. Extreme summer water temperature has been identified as a primary water quality limiting factor for aquatic species in this subbasin, and is Category 5 on ODEQ's 303(d) list. Strategic Action Plans recently completed for both the Elk and Sixes also identify temperature as a known data gap. While temperature data from these watersheds does exist, a majority of that data is 10 to 20 years old and presumably not representative of current conditions. The highest quality current temperature dataset in this subbasin is an ongoing long-term monitoring effort in Morton Creek, an ODA Focus Area in which ODA has been coordinating continuous temperature monitoring since 2017 until recent COVID-related budget cuts halted funding. This project will establish summer water temperature monitoring sites in the Elk and Sixes watersheds, and continue efforts in Morton Creek, to understand the current status of these thermal regimes, calibrate and develop temperature models of the Elk and Sixes, contribute towards trend analysis in Morton Creek, and inform the restoration and conservation efforts of multiple local and state partners. Fifty-four temperature loggers will be deployed for 3 consecutive years throughout the 3 watersheds at sites determined to best meet project goals and objectives. Data will be analyzed following standard protocols and shared with ODEQ. Model development will be carried out with assistance from ODFW REDD group staff with experience developing similar models. The results of these efforts will be shared via reporting and presentations to the Elk River Coho Partnership, Siskiyou Coast Estuaries Partnership, Curry Watersheds Partnership boards, ODFW, USFS, ODA, and the general public.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This project will leverage the existing water temperature data that have been collected in Morton Creek in coordination with ODA since 2017.
- The applicant has coordinated with several stakeholders in the watershed to minimize the potential for duplicative efforts.
- The application describes the flow data available in the Sixes and Elk basins that will assist them in interpreting the water temperature results and developing the model.
- The applicant has an existing DEQ approved sampling and analysis plan (SAP) and will create a new one to include the additional sites they plan to monitor.

- The data will be submitted annually to DEQ at the end of each field season to be incorporated into the statewide database.
- The applicant has a plan to share the results within their local partnership in which several state and federal agencies participate. The report will be placed on their website and presented to local watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts.
- The applicant has the necessary experience to collect the water temperature data and is working with a qualified contractor to model stream temperatures using spatial stream network (SSN) models.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application did not describe the fish and habitat data that may exist or how any of these current or planned monitoring efforts can leverage the water temperature data.
- The application lacked details on both the NetMap and SSN modeling efforts, making it difficult to understand how the water temperature data will be used and the final products that will result. While the letter of support from ODFW did provide additional details that were helpful, the information would have been useful in the application.
- The time needed for ODFW to model stream temperatures may exceed the amount of time stated in the application's budget.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation:

Connect with ODFW staff who are performing survey efforts to map Yellow-legged Frog distribution in these watersheds; they are likely interested in the water temperature data.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Land management and current land uses have changed a lot in the project area making this data capture important to understand land use changes.
- The data collected will be useful and informative for targeting and developing future restoration actions.
- The locations of the monitoring sites are appropriate for data collection and meeting project objectives.
- Morton Creek has limited habitat and water quality information and this effort will help fill data gaps.
- The need for the proposed water temperature data is well described in the application and is supported by both ODA and ODEQ.
- The existing SAP will ensure data is captured utilizing procedures for quality assurance and quality control.
- There is a long list of partners engaged in this effort.
- The applicant is experienced at this type of monitoring work with proven success.

Concerns

- It is challenging to capture stream temperature variability in large river systems, and this can make analyzing and using the data difficult.

Concluding Analysis

The project team is experienced with monitoring and working within the targeted project areas. The data collected will inform future restoration as well as provide data to better understand the stream temperature issues impacting the project areas.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$45,865

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$45,865

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2057-19517

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Umpqua Oaks Partnership
Landowner Outreach

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$40,172

Total Cost: \$57,292

Application Description The project will take place in Douglas County, Oregon (see attached maps below) within four high priority areas identified by the Umpqua Oak Partnership (UOP). These areas were selected based on local knowledge of sites that contain large tracts of historic oak habitat, has potential for significant oak restoration, has issues with invasive species, has the potential for developing fire resistance with private landowners and private landowners willing to do Oak projects.

Oak habitat is declining over its range in the Western United States. The Oregon Conservation Strategy (ODFW, 2006) estimates that oak woodland habitat may now only occupy 4-7 percent of their historic range. Oak and associated plant communities provided vital resources to Native American communities. Oak savannah and oak woodlands provide habitat for more than 200 species of native wildlife, plant species endemic to oak habitats and insect life.

This project proposal would be to complete the landowner survey, statistical analysis, final report and use the results to help inform next steps in the outreach, education and project development. Follow-up to this program would be to organize and implement an Oak Woodland Day which would be open to landowners/public as a way to promote the results of the outreach, extend our contact list, include the benefits of Oaks, threats, potential projects, oak restoration techniques and funding. Additionally, we would plan two days of tours of project sites where restoration activities are taking place. This project would include funds to pay the UOP coordinator to complete the survey, statistical analysis, final report, conduct presentations to landowner groups and organize the Workshop and tours. Educational materials such as a Landowner Guide to Oak Restoration which includes the Umpqua Basin and revised will be purchased for distribution to interested landowners.

Project Partners and UOP members are included as an Upload.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The engagement effort targets a high priority geography for restoring and protecting oak woodland habitats.

- The Umpqua Oak Partnership utilizes lessons learned from other oak working groups throughout the State and is adapting techniques to move towards the development of a strategic action plan.
- The survey will reach over 1,400 landowners and was created by graduate students with a strong foundation for developing the kind of proposed engagement approach.
- The applicant appropriately identified different geographies to target in the project.
- The Umpqua Oak Partnership is poised to be a catalyst to kickstart public land managers' focus and efforts towards oak habitat restoration.
- A long list of supportive project partners is working to pull together restoration strategies across public and private lands.
- The applicant has relevant experience and previous success engaging private landowners in restoration.

Concerns

- The landowner survey is long. The length and time to complete this survey could create a barrier to private landowners.
- The pathway to restoration is unclear from the application because priority areas or specific project types expected to result from the stakeholder engagement project are not identified.
- It is unclear whether the project will build off or coordinate with the existing NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategies program focusing on oak habitat.

Concluding Analysis

The Umpqua Oak Partnership gained traction during a Focused Investment Partnership development effort and has moved forward with successfully working to conserve and enhance important oak habitat in the Umpqua basin. USFWS has been an active partner in this effort, providing technical expertise since its early inception. The project engages the appropriate partners and stakeholders in a suitable geography and has a high likelihood of resulting in restoration and conservation opportunities.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$40,172

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$40,172

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2058-19518

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Illinois Valley Collective Mobilization
for Fire and Fish

Applicant: Illinois Valley SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Josephine

OWEB Request: \$127,109

Total Cost: \$194,455

Application Description Project location is entirely within Josephine County and the Illinois River watershed; specifically, private lands within the high priority subwatersheds of West Fork Illinois River, East Fork Illinois River, and Sucker, Althouse, and Deer creeks. This encompasses the rural hubs of Selma, Cave Junction, Takilma, and O'Brien.

This project need is to engage landowners in multidirectional communication to address, on their properties, (1) dangerous forest conditions compounding catastrophic wildfire risk, and (2) riparian and instream habitat limitations.

The proposed work is for stakeholders to come together to: coordinate resources, develop a messaging plan and engage in multidirectional communication with private landowners, develop restoration projects with cooperative landowners, and establish a replicable model to maintain and expand successes.

Project partners include: IV Conservation District (IVSWCD), IV Watershed Council (IVWC), IV Community Development Organization (IVCanDO), IV Fire District, City of Cave Junction, Josephine County, Oregon Department of Forestry, Grayback Forestry, Wilson Biochar, KS Wild, NRCS, USFS, and BLM. Each of these partners is already actively participating in the Illinois Valley Fire Resiliency Oversight Group (IVFROG).

Partners share a vision to restore watershed function and health for the benefit of all communities, by building relationships and cultivating a local culture of conservation and collaboration. The project has been community-driven from its onset. This style of grassroots leadership increases the efficacy in outreach and engagement. These values emphasize the approach of localized participatory process that permeates this proposal.

The Illinois Valley (IV) supports thriving human and ecological communities across a landscape struggling to recover from historic land management practices that adversely impacted watershed conditions.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns are addressed by providing information describing the type of products and associated outcomes that are expected from the proposed project.

- The applicant clearly describes a link between the proposed stakeholder engagement effort and upland forest habitat conditions that directly impact important aquatic and fisheries resources.
- The applicant clearly laid out objectives and activities relating to the roles required for successful landowner engagement.
- Improving fire resiliency at a broader landscape scale will benefit riparian habitats.
- The project geography includes water quality impaired streams identified on DEQ's 303d list. Objectives identified in the application could lead to actions that improve water quality conditions.
- The project is very timely with the recent Slater fire raising awareness within the community and focusing attention on fire and forest health issues, which has resulted in a high degree of interested landowners.
- The project brings together and involves the right suite of public and private partners necessary to achieve the project goals.
- The project partners have demonstrated success in engaging stakeholders.
- The project will build off previous successful planning and restoration efforts on private lands.

Concerns

- The pathway from the engagement work to achieving on-the-ground restoration outcomes is not clear in the application.
- The project approach to prioritize private landowners first in the process and then incorporate agency staff later could be less efficient and create missed opportunities in the process. Engaging all stakeholders within the same time frame might prove more effective.
- It is unclear whether the project interacts with or builds off work related to the NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategies in Josephine County.

Concluding Analysis

There has been an increase in unpermitted tree removal to increase defensible space by private landowners in the project geography that cite previous fires as a reason for these actions. The proposed project work will provide an avenue to work with landowners on related resource issues in manners that improve forest and riparian health as well as provide for increased fire resiliency.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$127,109

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$127,109

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2059-19536

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Highland Ditch Stakeholder Association

Applicant: South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$10,417

Total Cost: \$14,417

Application Description Location:

Highland Ditch is a 1911 2.5 mile legacy irrigation diversion located along Cow Creek, a major tributary of the South Umpqua river. Azalea, Oregon is the nearest town. The diversion is located approximately 7 miles below Galesville Reservoir, main water supply source for cities located in the South Umpqua river basin.

Project Need:

The current primitive irrigation diversion is a chronic source of ESA listed fish kills and over utilization of water resources. Present efforts to manage these problems have been insufficient due to a lack of collective community engagement . An association must be formed to address the degraded ditch condition and water distribution for irrigation purposes. Updated irrigation controls and a permanent fish screen need to be installed. The project has a high potential for removing a diversion dam associated with the stakeholders.

Proposed Work:

Engage all landowners and stakeholders to form a function organization that will equitably and safely distributing irrigation water, eliminate ESA listed fish kills, manage irrigation system maintenance and remove fish barriers from the related segment of Cow Creek.

Project Partners:

11 Highland Ditch private landowners, their leasers and renters.
South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership (surcp.org)
Oregon Dept. of Water Resources (ODWR)
Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant is a trusted member of the community and well positioned to lead the proposed effort. The applicant has contacted all the private water users to make them aware of the stakeholder

engagement work.

- The current condition of the water diversion and ditch system clearly demonstrates an urgent need to address fish passage and diversion issues identified in the application.
- There is a high potential for the stakeholder engagement to result in eligible restoration projects centered around fish passage and water quantity. The water right associated with the ditch is senior to others in the area and an instream transfer is a possible result of this work.
- The Cow Creek drainage provides ideal coho spawning and rearing with cool water refugia areas that have high intrinsic potential for coho habitat.
- Natural resource agency staff are engaged due to the importance of Cow Creek aquatic resources and opportunities to improve the ditch system. This will help in identifying viable solutions and with permitting aspects.
- The legal costs seem appropriate given the specific needs for legal advice and document review necessary in the formation of a special district.

Concerns

- The degree to which landowners are currently engaged is not well demonstrated in the application either through letters of support or clarity on landowner roles or expected participation during the project.
- While facilitation will be an important component to the success of the project, it is unclear whether this cost is included in the application budget.

Concluding Analysis

A water user association will likely be created as an outcome of the proposed stakeholder engagement project. This will be an important step towards facilitating the decision-making processes needed to effectively address water use along the ditch, fish entrapment, fish passage, and other issues.

Historically, the ditch likely diverted more water than permitted, however, there are no current or past enforcement actions by either OWRD or ODFW. Having a local non-profit leading this effort is a sound approach given the potential contention and conflict among the water users. The work has a high likelihood of success with the applicant engaging with the appropriate stakeholders in the appropriate geography.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$10,417

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$10,417

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2060-19632

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Stakeholder Engagement along the Bear Creek Corridor

Applicant: Rogue River WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$64,691

Total Cost: \$109,509

Application Description The Bear Creek watershed in Jackson County is the most urbanized watershed in southern Oregon, traversing 5 communities (Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford, and Central Point) with a combined population of over 134,000 people. Bear Creek is rated in the "poor" water quality category by Oregon DEQ. It is water quality-limited for phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and bacteria. Salmonids, including Coho Salmon (currently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act), use the creek for spawning, rearing, and migration. Young salmonids can only survive the hot summer by finding pockets of cool water. The vegetative canopy over Bear Creek was estimated to provide only 15% shade cover prior to the Almeda Fire, likely less now. The creek corridor also has dense colonies of invasive plants such as Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, and reed canary grass, which suppress native plants, increase wildfire risk, and obscure line of sight for law enforcement. The Bear Creek Greenway parallels the creek for 20 miles, providing a popular thruway for recreation. but also an attractive encampment area for the unhoused population of the area, which brings with it issues related to public safety, environmental health, and fire risk. Management of the creek and Greenway is made more complex by the multitude of jurisdictions involved--from the state level down to the local.

Rogue River Watershed Council, partnering with Jackson County Parks, Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Rogue Valley Sewer Services, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District, The Freshwater Trust, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and Rogue Riverkeeper, proposes to engage stakeholders from outside the restoration community--most specifically, those in law enforcement, public safety, and fire prevention, advocates for the unhoused, and government decision-makers to secure commitments to collaborate in solving the many issues related to the creek's health. We will also engage the general public

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes a diverse list of public and private partners, including local government, which is very important to the success of this effort to improve watershed health in the Bear Creek corridor. The applicant assembled the right people to successfully engage with the variety of stakeholders involved in this high-profile opportunity.

- The project hits directly on the issues affecting the riparian corridor along Bear Creek, which provides habitat for salmonids and has challenging water quality issues. The application presents a template for effectively incorporating the variety of issues impacting watershed health into one engagement effort, including fire prevention, unsheltered population residing along the creek, sanitation, fish habitat, and water quality.
- The removal of riparian vegetation post fire is a regional concern. The proposed project could bring to light how riparian vegetation can and should be protected in the urban environment.
- The project is very timely given recent fire history and a culmination of the efforts by the applicant and recent initiatives involving the health and safety on Bear Creek.

Concerns

- The resource, social, and health concerns along Bear Creek are vast and will be difficult to address and correct for the long-term.
- Convening all the right entities needed to assist in addressing resource concerns in Bear Creek might be a big reach given the social, health, safety, and environmental issues impacting this area. Securing the right mix of consulting services to address the variety of concerns affecting the stream corridor could prove difficult.

Concluding Analysis

There are a wide variety of factors and interests along Bear Creek, including public health, fire, homelessness, and natural resources. A group of partners committed to the project's success has been assembled and will build on the applicant's proven track record of coordination and engaging with appropriate stakeholders in the project geography to accomplish planning, restoration, and monitoring efforts. The project is likely to result in meaningful restoration and protection of riparian habitats critical to restoring fish habitat and improving water quality.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$64,691

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

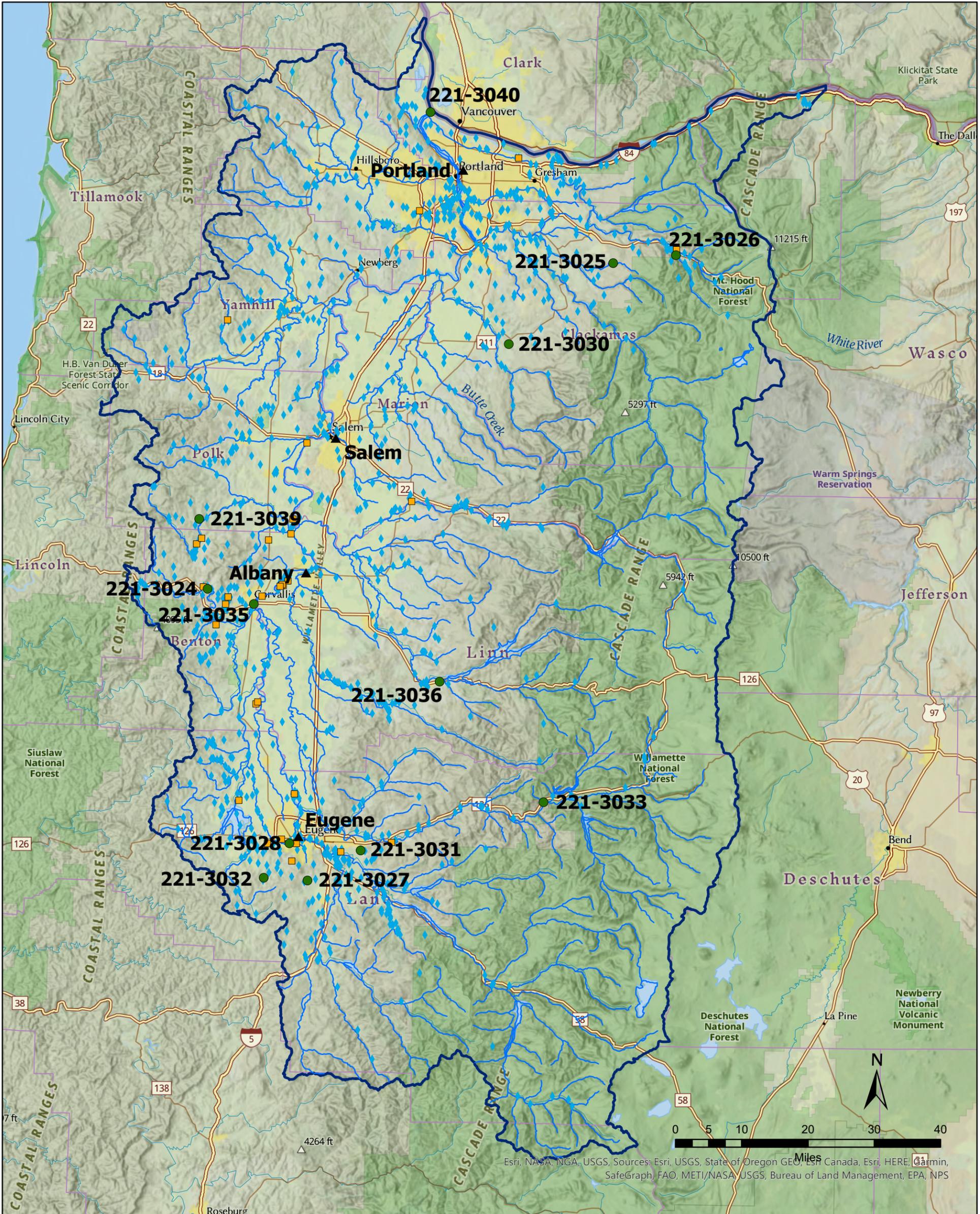
Staff Recommended Amount

\$64,691

Staff Conditions

N/A

Willamette Basin - Region 3 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2020

- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 3 Cities
- Region 3 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 3 Boundary



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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
221-3026	The Freshwater Trust	Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project	The recovery of naturally functioning conditions within the stream channels and floodplain areas of Salmon River, Zigzag River, Boulder Creek, and Clear Fork will be accelerated to increase the abundance and productivity of Upper Sandy basin salmon and steelhead populations.	291,383	Clackamas
221-3027	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Salyers Family Ranch: Oak Woodland Restoration Phase 2	Oak habitat will be restored across over one hundred acres within the lower Coast Fork Willamette watershed to preserve large legacy oaks, promote native plant diversity, and increase habitat connectivity for native birds and other wildlife.	338,827	Lane
221-3025	Clackamas River Trout Unlimited	North Fork Eagle Creek Dam Removal Project	Fish passage will be restored to eight miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat for native fish by removing a privately owned dam from the North Fork of Eagle Creek, a tributary to the Clackamas River Basin, which is a high priority basin for the recovery of endangered salmon populations.	127,237	Clackamas
221-3030	Molalla River Watch Inc	Woodcock Creek & Grimm Road Fish-Passage Project	A box culvert on Woodcock Creek in the Molalla River watershed will be replaced with a bridge to restore natural streambed processes and will open more than eleven miles of stream habitat to native aquatic species.	348,671	Clackamas
221-3024	Institute for Applied Ecology	Prairie restoration for Willamette daisy recovery	An interconnected network of prairie habitat will be created in the Willamette Valley that supports Willamette daisy populations sufficient to eventually delist this plant from federal and state Endangered Species Acts.	345,883	Benton
221-3032	Long Tom WC	Regenerating Native Plant Communities with Cultural Fire	Cultural burning will be re-introduced to restore native plant diversity, return historical management practices to the land, build Tribal fire capacity for multiple tribes, and better understand the relationship between fire and existing plant communities to inform long-term landscape management with fire.	130,289	Lane
221-3028	Long Tom WC	Urban Stormwater Improvements for Healthy Human, Ecological, & Aquatic Communities	Retrofits will be made at a parking lot in Eugene to integrate rain gardens that will improve water quality exiting the site and reduce urban stormwater pollution entering streams that negatively impacts native fish.	207,248	Lane
221-3031	Middle Fork Willamette WC	Thurston Hills Natural Area Oak Restoration and Enhancement Phase 3	Oak woodland and prairie habitat will be improved in the Thurston Hills Natural Area to increase plant species diversity, increase fire resilience, and increase knowledge and awareness among City of Springfield residents of the importance of oak habitats.	150,981	Lane
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,940,519	

Region 3- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Cycle July 26, 2021

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
221-3029	Tualatin River WC	Balm Grove Dam Removal	450,193	Washington

Region 3 - Willamette Basin Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-3033	McKenzie River Trust	Phase II Finn Rock Reach Floodplain Habitat Restoration Engineering and Permitting	Engineering, modeling, and permitting work will be completed to undertake extensive floodplain restoration actions that will improve habitat for native fish utilizing the middle McKenzie watershed.	51,740	Lane
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				51,740	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County	
None					

Region 3 - Willamette Basin Stakeholder Engagement					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-3040	Columbia Slough WC	Healthy Industrial Lands Initiative Phase II	Stakeholder engagement will build strategic and meaningful relationships within the industrial community to increase voluntary investments in watershed health on private industrial properties in the Columbia Slough floodplain.	27,293	Multnomah
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				27,293	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County	
None					

Region 3 - Willamette Basin Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-3039	Luckiamute WC	Luckiamute Temperature Monitoring Phase 3	Data will be collected to understand water temperature status and trends in the Luckiamute watershed to prioritize and design habitat restoration projects that improve water quality and habitat for native fish while adaptively managing for climate resiliency.	88,891	Polk
221-3035	Institute for Applied Ecology	Willamette daisy restoration effectiveness monitoring	The effectiveness of restoration and reintroduction activities designed to increase the abundance of Willamette daisy and overall prairie habitat quality will be monitored to determine progress toward recovery of this endangered native plant.	166,715	Benton
221-3036	South Santiam WC	South Santiam Temperature Monitoring	Data will be collected to maintain a high-quality, multi-year dataset to better understand water temperature trends in the South Santiam River and make data-informed decisions for prioritizing restoration.	35,372	Linn
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				290,978	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-3034	Sandy River Basin WC	Sandy River Cold Water Refuge Monitoring	144,751	Multnomah	
221-3037	Willamette Riverkeeper	Freshwater Mussel Occurrence and Habitat - North Santiam Basin	78,253	Linn	
221-3038	OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin	American Beaver Population Ecology in Dynamic Forested Landscapes of Western Oregon	314,983	Linn	

Region 3 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	2,310,530
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3024-19527

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Prairie restoration for Willamette daisy recovery

Applicant: Institute for Applied Ecology

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$345,883

Total Cost: \$741,666

Application Description

This project focuses on the endangered Willamette daisy, which occurs in the Willamette Valley and southwest Washington. Most populations are declining and fragmented with restricted gene flow between sites. Plants struggle to survive in habitats invaded by exotic grasses which create dense thatch, especially in the context of modern-day fire suppression. Of 21 known populations, only 6 have more than 200 plants, and only one of 9 Recovery Zones has meets USFWS recovery criteria. Without direct intervention, the risk of extinction is very high. Through habitat restoration and augmentation of Willamette daisy, we will be moving this species closer to recovery and eventual delisting. Nine project locations (Pearcy-Schoener, Bald Hill Farm, Finley NWR, Yamhill Oaks, Cornerstone, Baskett Slough, Ankeny NWR, Santiam Kingson Hills, Chankawan) are in three Recovery Zones (Corvallis West, Salem West and Salem East), five counties (Yamhill, Polk, Benton, Marion, Linn) and five Watersheds (Marys River, Deer Creek-South Yamhill River, Salt Creek, Rickreall Creek-Willamette River, Lower North Santiam River). Reintroduction sites include protected areas on public and private land. The proposed work will restore prairie habitat using techniques such as herbicide treatments, mowing and prescribed burns before seeding and planting with native prairie species, including Willamette daisy plugs and seed. Seed will be sourced from USFWS-funded production fields or from commercial nurseries. The project builds on other restoration projects funded by USFWS and OWEB at the nine project sites. It draws upon a highly functioning network of government agencies, non-profits and private landowners who are working towards prairie restoration and listed species recovery in the Willamette Valley. Partners include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Benton County, Polk and Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Greenbelt Land Trust, and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Federally listed endangered Willamette daisy populations will be augmented at nine project sites distributed over three recovery zones identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This will contribute towards achieving delisting criteria by spreading daisy populations, currently clustered in smaller geographies, across a broader landscape.
- Project objectives are measurable and clearly described in the application. For example, the tables included in the application describing Willamette daisy population targets, current status, and treatments needed for each project location, is helpful for understanding the proposed work over a broad geography.

- The proposed project builds on work completed through previous OWEB grants to restore Kincaid's lupine; another Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed upland prairie plant species.
- The proposed restoration approach will address limiting factors impacting Willamette daisy populations, including encroachment by invasive plant species and woody trees and shrubs that crowd or shade out native prairie species and convert open prairie habitats to forests.
- The proposed project includes a long-term vision for adaptively managing prairie habitats and species through entries for seeding, herbicide treatments, and mowing. This is critical to reach ESA de-listing goals and is feasible because all the project sites are protected by their location on public land or within a conservation easement. Prairies are early-seral habitat, meaning they are primarily dominated by grasses, forbs, and shrubs, which were historically managed by Indigenous people utilizing prescribed fire. These habitats are now highly disturbed and degraded due to human impacts such as agriculture, urban development, and fire suppression. Restoring and maintaining prairie systems and associated plant species requires a long-term commitment and multiple treatment entries over time because these habitats were historically maintained by people for thousands of years.
- The applicant has experience growing out prairie species and implementing prairie restoration; they are co-inventors of methods proving to be effective in restoring upland habitats in the Willamette Valley.
- There is a long, diverse list of partners contributing to the project that provided letters of support, which demonstrates partner commitment and an "all-hands" approach to implement the project.
- Details provided in the budget describing how project costs were calculated provides necessary contextual information for evaluating project cost-effectiveness.

Concerns

- The restoration sites overlap with OWEB-funded restoration and monitoring projects focused on Kincaid's lupine. Additional information describing how the two efforts to restore ESA-listed prairie species are related would provide helpful context to better understand this project. In particular, a description of how monitoring and restoration actions at the same project sites are broken out for the Willamette daisy and Kincaid's lupine, and yet are complementary, would be helpful for understanding how the efforts are leveraged to achieve overlapping prairie restoration goals and not duplicative.
- The proposed method for growing out Willamette daisy seed typically has a lower rate of success. The applicant likely chose the proposed approach to balance costs. Since Willamette daisy seed material supply is no longer as limited as it has been previously, the tradeoff of a lower overall seed germination success rate to limit costs may be appropriate.
- Project match costs are grouped into lump sums in the application budget. Additional detail is needed to better understand how match will be applied to the proposed work.

Concluding Analysis

The Willamette daisy has been somewhat neglected and is one of the last species to be addressed in prairie habitat because it has been difficult to restore due to challenges with growing out daisy plant stock. It has taken time to understand how to effectively collect and propagate Willamette daisy seed. Work in recent years has increased the understanding for what is needed to be successful in restoring Willamette daisy populations. The proposed project will target Willamette daisy recovery and also use it as a surrogate to the recovery of prairie habitats, the approach being "build it around one species and the rest will follow." As a result, this will contribute to recovery goals for both the Willamette daisy species and prairie habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$345,883

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$345,883

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3025-19558

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Fork Eagle Creek Dam Removal Project

Applicant: Clackamas River Trout Unlimited

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$267,237

Total Cost: \$355,562

Application Description

The North Fork Eagle Creek Dam Removal project addresses the decline in Lower Columbia River ESA listed salmonid fish populations partly attributed to a lack of access to high quality habitat. This project will restore full volitional fish passage to 8 miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed Lower Columbia River winter steelhead, coho salmon and spring Chinook within the North Fork Eagle Creek sub-basin. The project will also restore natural channel processes including sediment and large wood distribution. The project site is in the Clackamas River basin on the North Fork of Eagle Creek near Estacada. This dam is listed on OR Dept of Fish & Wildlife's Statewide Fish Passage Priority List as the 8th highest priority within the North Willamette Watershed District. The dam lies downstream of a highly functioning natural stream reach. Removing the dam will restore passage for juveniles and improve adult salmon throughout the year, especially during summer low flow periods. This dam is not a complete barrier to upstream fish passage for adult salmon and steelhead but is a complete barrier for juvenile salmon and other resident adult native migratory fish species including cutthroat trout. The project is composed of two sites: Site 1 - Remove the dam. Site 2 - Side channel connectivity and bank stability. To protect the homes adjacent to the stream and prevent bank sloughing from continuing to contribute sediment to the channel, large wood will be installed on the the upstream landowner's streambank and an historic side channel will be reconnected to take pressure off the actively eroding bank that threatens the existing well. The project partners and key roles include: design engineering and permitting support, Waterways Consulting; project management and technical design review, OR Dept of Fish & Wildlife; grant management, Trout Unlimited; engineering design funding, Resources Legacy Fund and permitting support, Confluence Consulting.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is well thought out and restoration objectives are clearly described in the application.
- The proposed restoration builds on previous work in the Eagle Creek basin, including stream habitat improvements and the Eagle Fern Dam removal scheduled for 2021.
- Limiting factors for lower Columbia Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish will be addressed, including lack of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat. The project will expand access to cold water refuge that is critical for all native fish.

- The North Fork Eagle Creek Dam is identified in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Statewide Fish Passage Priority List as a high priority for removal. The dam is currently a complete passage barrier to pacific lamprey and juvenile salmon and steelhead, and a partial barrier for adult salmon and steelhead.
- Removing the dam will open fish access to approximately eight miles of high-quality stream habitat located in mostly publicly owned lands.
- The project approach is technically sound.
- A variety of alternatives were considered through the design process and the most cost- effective approach for the ecological benefit was selected.
- Sediment released after the dam is removed will likely provide habitat and water quality improvements by building gravel beds that increase hyporheic exchange, which will result in cooler water flows.

Concerns

- There is some uncertainty related to the stability of the riverbank after dam removal since the dam appears to have been built to stabilize the stream channel. This may be a concern for the residential infrastructure located directly adjacent to the stream; however, the restoration design process took into consideration how to maintain streambank stability for these structures.

Concluding Analysis

Removing the North Fork Eagle Creek dam will allow native fish to seek out cold water habitat, which is critical for continued survival of Willamette ESA-listed fish species. Areas upstream of the dam have high quality spawning habitat, fish just need access to use it. The proposed project will have a high benefit for the cost by opening access for ESA-listed fish to eight miles of stream habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$267,237

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Site two was determined to be ineligible for Open Solicitation because of the Focused Investment Partnership overlap rule (OAR 695-047-0100(4)).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$127,237

Staff Conditions

Site two objectives and associated costs must be removed from the project application.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3026-19570

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$291,383

Total Cost: \$1,109,439

Application Description

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 on behalf of the Sandy River Basin Partners (the Partners). The Sandy River originates on Mt. Hood and flows 56 miles northwest before entering the Columbia River, near Portland, Oregon. The proposed project will address primary limiting factors by increasing off channel habitat/floodplain connectivity and large wood abundance in high priority tributaries of the Sandy, including the mainstem Salmon River, Boulder Creek (both in the Salmon River sub-watershed) and Zigzag River (located within the upper Sandy sub-watershed). Proposed work is on public land managed by the USFS and BLM located near Zigzag, Oregon in Clackamas County. Sandy River salmon and steelhead populations have declined over the last century due to degradation of habitat and other factors. The Partners have identified the Salmon River and upper Sandy sub-watersheds among the top areas providing high quality habitat for the basin's native fish. The Partners are aligned on a near term goal of restoring these priority watersheds to advance Sandy basin-scale restoration. Restoration actions to be undertaken as part of the proposed project 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. 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.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly defined methods and a description of how project objectives will be met, providing a clear pathway to success.
- The applicant is targeting restoration in geographies and habitats prioritized for addressing limiting factors to Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish recovery.
- Proposed habitat restoration treatments and approaches, including adding instream large wood structures, creating side-channels, and removing berms, are technically sound techniques proven to effectively restore stream processes and provide ESA-listed fish habitat benefits.
- The restoration strategy will address impacts from previous land management practices, primarily related to logging, that contributed to stream habitat decline.

- Project designs are nearly completed, and the application includes an explanation of alternatives that were considered and a justification for the chosen approach.
- The proposed restoration expands on previous project phases that have demonstrated quantified benefits to fisheries. Post-project effectiveness monitoring from previous project phases indicates the stream restoration approach is successful in restoring fish habitat. The measured fish response documented a 500% increase of fish present in areas with completed stream restoration work.
- The project team has a consistent track record for implementing similar high-quality projects.
- The project budget includes typical costs for the proposed restoration activities.
- A diversity of partners support the project, which is demonstrated by letters of support and match contributions.

Concerns

- The application includes only one map that covers a large geographic area. The applicant is encouraged to provide additional maps in future applications that include details about the position of the proposed work relative to previous restoration efforts and future phases of work. This would provide a better understanding of the proposed current phase of work within the context of the broader, long-term strategy for restoring stream habitat in the Upper Sandy Basin geography.
- Additional information on site conditions would be helpful to understand the different design approaches at each of the project sites. The design approach for the Zigzag site is more engineered compared to the Rock Creek design approach, which may be driven by site specific considerations of the geomorphic processes driving the system. A more engineered approach may be needed to manage risk associated with restoration actions at Zigzag. A description of conditions unique to the individual project sites that had to be considered in the design approach would provide context to better understand different levels of engineered solutions.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project builds on stream restoration over time that has a record of producing a quantified fish response to habitat improvements. The Sandy River watershed provides habitat to numerous ESA-listed fish species, making it a priority area for instream habitat restoration. The project has a high ecological benefit-cost ratio and certainty of success, which is documented by monitoring data from previous phases of restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$291,383

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$291,383

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3027-19573

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Salyers Family Ranch: Oak
Woodland Restoration Phase 2

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$338,827

Total Cost: \$600,979

Application Description

This 133.1 acre project is in Lane County, west of the City of Creswell, in the Camas Swale sub basin. The property (~2000 acres) known as the Salyers Family Ranch is owned by private landowners, the Salyers Family. Approximately 1600 acres of the ranch known as Creswell Oaks is protected by a conservation easement. This property contains rare and degraded Willamette Valley oak woodland, savanna, and upland and wet prairie habitats. The lack of disturbance has allowed open-grown Oregon white oaks within the project area to be threatened by conifer encroachment and overtopping and the establishment of woody vegetation in the understory. This loss of native habitat reduces biodiversity and negatively impacts important species that rely on these open canopy habitats including acorn woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, and western gray squirrel. The proposed project will implement oak woodland restoration on 133.1 acres by: (1) thinning firs and small diameter oaks around legacy oak trees; and (2) enhancing the herbaceous understory by controlling undesired species and reseeding with native forbs and grasses; (3) convert closed canopy oak woodland to a 20-60% open canopy thereby reducing the rate of Oregon white oak woodland loss and habitat fragmentation, with the long-term goal of increased recruitment, structure and function. Partners include Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC), Salyers Family Ranch (Creswell Oaks), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly defined restoration methods and a description of how project objectives will be met.
- The restoration design is based on experience from previous project phases.
- The restoration treatment approach is technically sound for addressing limiting factors for oak woodland habitats. The proposed work also incorporates prioritized actions recommended in multiple planning documents related to oak woodland habitats.
- The proposed restoration across a 133-acre footprint leverages habitat benefits resulting from previous restoration investments on the property.
- The equipment that will be used for mechanical brush management is efficient and effective.
- Materials resulting from treatment of woody vegetation will be mulched instead of piled and burned; as a result, carbon will stay in the soil instead of being released into the atmosphere. Mulching will also be effective for preparing the site for seeding by providing more effective seed to soil contact.

- The applicant has the capacity to complete the proposed restoration and has a proven track record completing similar projects.
- The applicant is engaging appropriate partners to implement the project.
- The landowner has the capacity and experience to implement restoration and has a history of implementing multiple projects across a variety of habitat types on the property. The landowner has also participated in a wide variety of conservation programs, including adding habitat protections through a conservation easement with BPA. Restoration investments are likely to be maintained in the long-term because multiple generations managing the property participate in restoration activities.
- The application budget is detailed. The cost per acre is comparable to similar projects and appropriate for the proposed restoration treatments and stewardship work needed to maintain habitat improvements.

Concerns

- No concerns identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project property contains a wide range of habitat types that offer significant restoration opportunities, and any investment is further leveraged by restoration already completed both on the site and in the region. The property also has the largest breeding population of Oregon Vesper Sparrow in Willamette Valley. Since this species is under consideration for potential listing under the Endangered Species Act, early action to restore habitat that supports this species is a priority. The project site also offers opportunity to demonstrate how working lands can effectively be balanced with restoring native plant communities.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$338,827

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$338,827

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3028-19598

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Urban Stormwater Improvements for Healthy Human, Ecological, & Aquatic Communities

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$207,248

Total Cost: \$280,143

Application Description

Location: Willamette Christian Center 2500 W. 18th Avenue Eugene, Oregon
Need: This site impacts the Upper Willamette River (UWR) Chinook evolutionary significant unit (ESU). Eugene is the largest urban area in the Upper Willamette Basin, and the primary contributor of high temperatures, heavy metals, petrochemicals, and emerging pollutants such as PFAS and 6PPD-quinone - all of which are known to impair fish survival, especially coho salmon. Likewise, the best management practice to reduce the impacts of all of these urban stormwater pollutants continues to be green stormwater infrastructure. Pollutants are typically conveyed through stormwater generated on and adjacent to this site and enters the UWR through the Long Tom River (via Amazon Creek), which accepts untreated stormwater from over 70% of Eugene's urban areas. The Upper Willamette River, Amazon Creek, the A-3 Drain, the Amazon Diversion Canal, Fern Ridge Reservoir, and the Long Tom River are all 303-D listed Creeks for pollutants including lead, mercury, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and turbidity-all of which are recognized as common urban sourced pollutants. The City of Monroe draws the majority of its drinking water from the surface waters of the Long Tom below the confluence with Amazon Creek, making the project within a drinking water source protection area.
Proposed Work: This is phase II of a multi-phase project with the church having taken on the initial phase by themselves, with technical assistance from LTWC. Phase II will treat stormwater from a two acre parking lot, lands adjacent, and air pollution from a bordering primary traffic arterial that currently adds to the stormwater load onsite. Please refer to the attached diagrams and full construction document set for current conditions and proposed solution.
Partners: Urban Waters & Wildlife Partnership (UWWP) , City of Eugene, Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC), Willamette Christian Center, Arbor South Architecture.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly defined methods and a description of how project objectives will be met, demonstrating a thoughtful approach to address urban water quality.
- Previous application evaluation concerns are addressed by clarifying habitat benefits expected from the proposed restoration and providing detailed information on planting plans, long-term stewardship, and costs.

- The project site selection was completed through a screening process for prioritizing stormwater related projects designed through a previous OWEB Technical Assistance investment. The proposed project focuses on one site that is ready for implementation and will have the largest impact compared to other identified locations.
- The restoration treatment approach is technically sound for treating stormwater. The City of Portland's most recent stormwater management manual, along with EPA and DEQ stormwater management guidance, were used to design the project.
- Planting plans are provided in the application and selected plant species are appropriate for the project site.
- The proposed restoration actions are identified in a number of watershed and water quality plans. Also, every recovery plan for Endangered Species Act listed fish species highlights the devastating impacts of stormwater on native fish.
- Treating nonpoint source pollution will also provide water quality benefits for drinking water sources.
- The project provides opportunities for raising public awareness about watershed restoration.
- The applicant has a proven track record with similar projects.
- Appropriate partners will be engaged to implement the project, some of which are new to watershed restoration projects.
- Project costs are clear in the application budget and based on bids provided as an upload to the application.

Concerns

- The literature provided in the application documenting links between stormwater pollutants and impacts to fish and the benefits of using trees and shrubs to reduce heat islands, are likely transferrable for understanding the potential benefits of the proposed project; however, including project specific effectiveness monitoring to document benefits to aquatic systems from the proposed work would be helpful for understanding the impact of urban stormwater investments to watershed health and inform future stormwater related projects.
- The project has a high cost for a small area; however, this is reflective of work in an urban environment. While the restored area is small compared to other watershed restoration projects, the project area is large for an urban landscape.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed urban stormwater improvement project is part of an innovative approach to improve water quality. Since only new development is required to incorporate stormwater treatment, the proposed project addresses a gap in stormwater management by integrating stormwater infrastructure retrofits into previous urban developments. Urban stormwater pollution has significant impacts to native fish, potentially limiting the benefits of stream habitat restoration. Oregon's voluntary approach to restoring habitat has been successful outside of urban areas; applying the same voluntary approach to address stormwater impacts on water quality within urban areas on water quality is likely to provide a significant ecological benefit to native fish.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$207,248

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$207,248

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3029-19605	Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Balm Grove Dam Removal	
Applicant: Tualatin River WC	
Region: Willamette Basin	County: Washington
OWEB Request: \$450,193	Total Cost: \$774,307

Application Description

Project Location: Gales Creek winds for more than 50 miles through western Washington County, offering some of the best fish habitat in the region. Thirteen miles upstream from where Gales Creek joins the Tualatin River, at 10660 NW Balm Grove Loop, Gales Creek, Oregon (Washington County Property Tax Lot 1N4060003500), an obsolete, three-foot-tall concrete dam at Balm Grove has impeded fish passage since at least 1936. The City of Forest Grove is approximately 7 miles southeast of the property. Project Need: The project need is to restore passage for native migratory fish throughout the mainstem of Gales Creek and assist in recovery of federally listed Winter Steelhead of the Upper Willamette River Distinct Population Segment. The removal of Balm Grove Dam would open up approximately 29 miles of instream habitat to Winter Steelhead; over 25 miles of habitat to Coho Salmon and Pacific Lamprey; over 87 miles to Coastal Cutthroat Trout; and over 5 miles to Mountain Whitefish and Mountain and Largescale Sucker (Myers 2021). Additional benefits include sediment and wood transport, local water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat and connectivity. Proposed Work: This application is requesting funding to remove Balm Grove dam, a high-priority fish passage barrier (ODFW 2019); restore instream habitat; and create floodplain access. In addition, Clean Water Services (CWS) intends to enhance approximately a quarter mile of the Gales Creek riparian area in the vicinity of the dam, 11 acres of riparian forest and most of the upland on the property. CWS anticipates maintaining the riparian plantings for at least 20 years. Project Partners: Tualatin River Watershed Council (TRWC) CWS Metro Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (Tualatin SWCD) Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Confederates Tribes of Grand Ronde Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Tualatin Riverkeepers Joint Water Commission

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application describes clearly defined methods.
- Removing Balm Grove dam is the highest priority restoration action in Gales Creek and is ranked number four in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Statewide Fish Passage Barrier Priority List for removal.
- Plans for removing the dam are technically sound.
- Habitat benefits to steelhead, cutthroat, and pacific lamprey fish populations resulting from dam removal are clearly articulated in the application. A significant number of stream habitat miles will be made available to native fish.

- Partner support for the project is documented with letters of support from a diversity of organizations, including state agencies, local governments, nonprofits, and tribes.
- The landowner purchased the property with conservation in mind, is actively engaged in project design development, and has demonstrated project support through significant match.
- The project provides opportunities for raising public awareness about watershed restoration.
- The partners implementing the project have capacity to complete the project.

Concerns

- The application indicates dam removal will address a temperature sink; however, it is unclear what evidence was used to verify the dam and associated reservoir is contributing to increasing stream temperatures. The primary project benefit, however, is fish passage.
- Additional information is needed to understand the stream restoration objectives and design for large wood structures to evaluate technical soundness of the approach. Plans for instream large wood structures will result in a treatment that significantly exceeds ODFW benchmarks for instream large wood. The ecological value of placing the proposed volume of large wood downstream post dam removal is unclear. The stream system does not appear starved for gravel, which would merit a heavy approach to large wood placement to ensure mobile sediment are captured to provide important stream habitat elements. Also, the dam is a run-of-river structure, therefore, it is unlikely that it is holding a significant amount of gravel that could be lost downstream after dam removal. Given the channel will experience an increase stream dynamism after dam removal, there may be value in seeing how the channel responds post-dam removal before adding instream large wood structures.
- It is difficult to determine how costs associated with large wood debris placement are broken out across two proposed project phases, so it is unclear exactly how much large wood is planned for the phase one placement versus future phases.
- Large wood structures will be placed in a stream transition zone where large wood may not provide the greatest habitat benefits. Instream large wood placement may be a higher priority for locations higher up in the watershed where there would be greater benefit for native fish habitat.

Concluding Analysis

Removing the Balm Grove dam will allow native fish to seek out cold water habitat, which is critical for continued survival of Willamette Endangered Species Act listed fish species. The cost-benefit of the large wood structure project objectives is difficult to evaluate because it is unclear why wood treatments need to exceed ODFW benchmarks. There is significant potential for the stream to migrate post-dam removal and there may be merit in observing how dam removal affects the system, how the channel evolves, and how sediment moves before determining a large wood placement strategy. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address the above concerns.

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-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3030-19609

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Woodcock Creek & Grimm Road
Fish-Passage Project

Applicant: Molalla River Watch Inc

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$358,351

Total Cost: \$688,351

Application Description

An existing 10' wide box culvert in Clackamas County between Colton and the City of Molalla carries Woodcock Creek under Grimm Road. Woodcock Creek is a tributary of Milk Creek, which flows into the Molalla River. Woodcock Creek drains 12.8 square miles and contains 25.2 miles of anadromous fish habitat. This culvert is the remaining complete fish passage barrier on Woodcock Creek and prohibits access to 11 miles or more of high-quality habitat. The existing box culvert is undersized and perched approximately 16" on the outfall end, making it a partial or complete barrier to fish passage. Additionally, the culvert has a flat concrete floor which creates a sheet flow with an average depth of two inches at lower flows and with extreme velocities at higher flows. Upstream aggradation and excessive erosion downstream are constant problems due to the constricting nature of the narrow culvert. The proposed solution is to replace the box with a modular bridge, 1.5 times bank-full stream width. Replacing the culvert will reduce erosion, allow natural streambed processes to occur, and potentially provide an additional 11 miles or more of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat for ESA threatened upper Willamette DPS winter steelhead, upper Willamette DPS spring Chinook, coho, and cutthroat. Also, much needed habitat complexity will be added by installing large wood, boulders, and plantings throughout the project area. Partners include Molalla River Watch (MRW), ODFW, and Clackamas County Department of Transportation & Development (CCDTD). CCDTD has provided survey work, engineered design development of the preferred alternative, and will provide construction oversight. MRW will replant the associated riparian zone. ODFW will continue to provide technical support. Additional partners and funding are being pursued. OWEB funds will be used for construction of the modular bridge, riparian restoration, project management, grant administration, and community outreach.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous application evaluation concerns are addressed by providing additional information regarding other potential fish passage barriers and the available habitat located upstream of the project site, and by adding an instream large wood structure component to the project design.
- The project is ready to implement with completed designs and permit reviews underway.
- The project site is located in Woodcock Creek, which provides cold water refuge to native fish in the Molalla River.

- The project design is site-appropriate and will likely improve fluvial processes in addition to fish passage. The new modular bridge design will meet the 1.5 active channel width fish passage design criteria and will allow natural streambed processes such as sediment movement downstream.
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) provided stream survey information confirming there are no other barriers in Woodcock Creek. Replacing the crossing at Grimm Road will open 11 miles of stream habitat to native fish. The ODFW survey also confirmed that upstream habitat located on the Oregon State University demonstration forest property is suitable for spawning.
- The proposed project provides opportunity to leverage conservation efforts on properties located upstream of the project site.
- Alternatives were evaluated and the selected design was chosen to ensure long-term maintenance and sustainability of the restoration investment.
- The project design is by a qualified engineer, and the implementation team is experienced with a proven track record implementing similar projects.
- Appropriate partners will be engaged to implement the project and partner support is demonstrated by match and letters of support included in the application.
- The project costs reflect current construction rates.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the line-item cost for a portable changeable message sign is reasonable and necessary for implementing the project.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project will remove the final barrier on Woodcock Creek and is timely because it is unclear how long the current crossing at Grimm Road will remain stable since water flow is undermining the structure. Removing the fish passage barrier on Woodcock Creek will allow native fish to seek out cold water habitat, which is critical for continued survival of Willamette Endangered Species Act listed fish species. Addressing fish passage barriers allows fish to move upstream to colder water and allows sediment to migrate downstream forming gravel beds that increase hyporheic exchange, which will result in cooler water flows that improve downstream water quality.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Review Team Priority

4 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$348,671

Review Team Conditions

Remove sign costs and associated indirect cost.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$348,671

Staff Conditions

Remove sign costs and associated indirect cost.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3031-19628

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Thurston Hills Natural Area Oak Restoration and Enhancement Phase 3

Applicant: Middle Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$150,981

Total Cost: \$276,774

Application Description

Thurston Hills Natural Area (THNA) is 665 acres and located on the southeastern edge of the City of Springfield within Lane County and the lower Middle Fork Willamette Watershed. THNA is comprised of rare but degraded Willamette Valley Oregon white oak woodland, prairie, and savanna habitats. Proposed project area contains open-grown Oregon white oaks that are threatened by conifer encroachment and overtopping, with an understory that has been heavily invaded by exotic woody vegetation. Non-native grasses and woody vegetation have invaded the adjacent prairie and savannah habitat. This loss of native habitat reduces biodiversity and negatively impacts threatened species that rely on oak habitats. To build upon the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council's (MFWWC) previous oak restoration in THNA, we will release the oak stands through timber harvest and snag creation of encroaching conifers, implement repeated Integrated Pest Management treatments to remove invasive plants, and seed with native forbs and grasses. The close proximity of the site to recreation and urban zones also creates an opportunity to engage through outreach the local communities in oak restoration and fire mitigation practices. This project area will connect to two previously restored areas (Phases 1 & 2), thus establishing habitat connectivity across the site at varied elevations. MFWWC and Willamalane Park and Recreation District will jointly implement this project. US Fish and Wildlife Service will provide technical support for restoration prescriptions. We will coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management to align restoration efforts with their Fire-Dependent Ecosystems Restoration Project in which THNA is identified for hazardous fuel reduction work. OWEB funds will be used for MFWWC staff salaries, contracted services, travel, and project materials.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration provides an opportunity to leverage similar oak habitat restoration and land acquisition efforts in adjacent areas by expanding habitat connectivity.
- The project site was identified by the Rivers to Ridges Partnership, which is a group of public and non-profit organizations working to restore habitat across the Southern Willamette Valley.
- The proposed oak woodland restoration treatments are technically sound and include strategies typical for addressing oaks overtopped by encroaching fir trees. The proposed approach demonstrates that the applicant understands the structural requirements for restoring oak habitat. There are several large oaks that could be rescued through these restoration efforts.
- The proposed project includes an effective plan for controlling invasive plant species.

- The project provides opportunities for raising public awareness about watershed restoration.
- The applicant is taking a thoughtful approach for balancing recreation use with habitat restoration. This includes strategically leaving blackberry to limit access in some areas and utilizing on-site rangers to guide community use by helping the public understand how to reduce their impact to habitats.
- Appropriate partners will be engaged to implement the project.
- The landowner commitment to the project is demonstrated by a letter of support and match contribution.

Concerns

- The plant species list combines wetland and upland habitat species; however, it is unclear what portion of the project site has wet conditions. The project area appears to be an upland prairie site. Additional information on site conditions and existing habitats is needed to understand whether the plant species mix can be successfully planted in the project area.
- The cost per acre for the prairie seeding line item seems low for the seeding rate listed in the planting section of the application. Seed cost per acre in the budget may not accurately reflect actual cost for the proposed seeding rate.
- Additional information on how the seeding rate was determined would be helpful for understanding the restoration approach. The seeding rate is in line with some technical resources; however, it is high compared to similar projects.
- Planting on a steep slope will be challenging.
- While the applicant has a thoughtful approach for habitat restoration, it will be challenging to manage combining habitat with park use as urbanization is likely to expand nearby and increase recreation demand at the Thurston Hills Natural Area.

Concluding Analysis

The project location is a priority for restoring oak habitat communities to preserve sensitive species relying on these habitats. The proposed project offers an opportunity to expand connectivity of oak habitat in the region, therefore expanding the benefit of this restoration investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

8 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$150,981

Review Team Conditions

At first payment, applicant will provide evidence of a consultation with the Rivers to Ridges Partnership that confirms the final seeding plan and species is technically sound for the project site.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$150,981

Staff Conditions

At first payment, applicant will provide evidence of a consultation with the Rivers to Ridges Partnership that confirms the final seeding plan and species is technically sound for the project site.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3032-19641

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Regenerating Native Plant Communities with Cultural Fire

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$130,289

Total Cost: \$375,121

Application Description

Regenerating Native Plant Communities with Cultural Fire encompasses Rattlesnake Butte (Grand Ronde site), Andrew Reasoner Wildlife Preserve (conserved private site and host to Native youth internship program), and Camp Creek Hills (Siletz site). Funding is requested to support the re-introduction of cultural burning on three sites, including support for drafting burn plans, site preparation, day of burning costs, day after mop up efforts, and monitoring. The Willamette Valley's (WV) oak and prairie sites are ecocultural systems that require ongoing stewardship rooted in a cultural context of stewardship. It is anticipated that Grand Ronde will implement the prescribed fire concurrent with that heritage of stewardship. The Oregon Prescribed Fire Council will support burn organization as a training to build Tribal fire capacity across multiple Tribes. Burning at each site continues restoration actions on prairie-oak savanna and woodland habitats, using prescribed fire in small plots and native seeding a portion of the areas burned.. Plant responses will be compared in seeded and unseeded areas, and learning from the small plot burns will inform future management across the sites with fire, while gaining experience with prescribed fire across habitat types. One of the key questions is: will fire or a combination of fire/seeding allow us to restore the herbaceous plant community with minimal herbicide? The first plot burns are just a step in answering this question, but would inform management approaches across the sites, which seek to use fire at regular intervals to manage the habitats long term. This project is a collaboration with The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. LTWC is supporting partners along with Doug & Linda Carnine, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Institute of Applied Ecology, McKenzie River Trust, McKenzie Watershed Council, and Oregon Prescribed Fire Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration expands on an OWEB Stakeholder Engagement investment focused on building prescribed fire capacity in the Southern Willamette Valley.
- The problem that led to the loss of prairie and oak habitats is clearly described in the application, and the proposed solution addresses causes over symptoms of habitat degradation.
- The proposed project is an innovative restoration approach that will also build capacity and tools needed to bring a historic cultural practice back onto the landscape for long-term conservation of priority Willamette Valley habitats. Tribal fire crews will be utilized on sites with on-going restoration activities, which will increase prescribed fire experience within tribes.

- The proposed project will set the stage and framework for putting fire back on the landscape while burning acres that can and need to be burned to restore prairie and oak habitats.
- Project sites selected for treatment are located in geographies with high conservation value for oak and prairie habitats.
- Potential impacts to the project sites and adjacent properties were considered in the project plan. The project includes smoke management plans and plans for safe burn procedures, mop up, and monitoring to ensure sites are safe after a prescribed fire.
- The project provides opportunities for raising public awareness about watershed restoration and habitat benefits from prescribed fire.
- Partnership commitment is demonstrated by a variety of leveraged resources.
- The applicant has the capacity and experience to complete the proposed restoration and has a proven track record completing similar projects.

Concerns

- Few acres will be treated for a relatively high cost; however, the ecological values and benefits of fire are overshadowed by the social values discussed in the application. Additional detail on expected ecological benefits would likely demonstrate that the benefits from the proposed project will outweigh the costs.
- Weed control may be problematic on some of the project sites where herbicides will not be used; however, these sites are limited to locations identified for future tribal harvest.

Concluding Analysis

Restoration practitioners in the Willamette Valley have been restoring prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitats without a necessary tool that addresses the driver critical to enhancing these habitats. The cause of habitat degradation and widespread loss started when the relationship between Indigenous people, land, and fire was disrupted in combination with urban and agricultural development, invasive species encroachment, and fire suppression. More recently, the social license and public support for using fire as a management tool has increased. A landowner survey in the project area indicated more than 70% of respondents support the use of prescribed fire, which produces less smoke than wildfires. Prescribed fire has been successfully used in other habitats and landscapes; there are likely few habitats that would not benefit from a reset by prescribed fire. While the cost per acre for the proposed restoration approach is higher compared to more traditional techniques, the traditional approaches will never provide the same benefits as fire for restoring prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$130,289

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$130,289

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3033-19597

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Phase II Finn Rock Reach
Floodplain Habitat Restoration Engineering and
Permitting

Applicant: McKenzie River Trust

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$51,740

Total Cost: \$76,362

Application Description

The project will provide engineering and permitting assistance to facilitate a middle-McKenzie River floodplain habitat restoration project encompassing approximately 65 acres of floodplain. The project is on a side channel of the McKenzie River, near the town of Blue River, Lane County, 3.75 miles downstream of the South Fork McKenzie Floodplain Enhancement. It is directly upstream of the FRR phase 1 restoration scheduled to be implemented in the summer of 2021. The watershed issue to be addressed is the degradation of streams through simplification, the removal of large woody debris, and decreased floodplain connectivity. Impaired habitat complexity, diversity, and off channel habitats are limiting factors for spring Chinook salmon. At this site, former gravel extraction pits in the floodplain, and their attendant access road, has disrupted the flow regime within the side channel. Bathymetry shows that the side channel is incising, increasing flow velocities and transporting sediment. The proposed project will regrade the gravel ponds, and much of the side channel itself, and add substantial amounts of large woody debris, transforming the area to a depositional environment with increased permanently wetted surface area, floodplain connection, and habitat complexity. The consultant will develop the engineering necessary for the completion of all required permits to implement restoration actions. They will incorporate existing data (hydraulic modeling, aerial mapping, geomorphologic survey data, etc.) on project area from MRT, resource agencies, universities, and other sources and supplement and utilize as required. The consultant will develop and submit all applications and obtain all permits necessary to construct the final design. Environmental compliances associated with listed and or sensitive species and adjacent federal and state land will be obtained. Major project partners include the McKenzie Watershed Council and USFS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project expands on restoration work completed during summer 2021 for Finn Rock Phase 1.
- The application provides a clear explanation of the existing site conditions and what technical assistance is needed. Unlike Phase 1, Phase 2 Finn Rock will occur on private lands, which elevates the need for hydraulic modeling utilizing high resolution data from LiDAR and engineering work to ensure no net rise floodway permit requirements are met.

- Limiting factors identified in multiple watershed and species recovery plans will be addressed, including the lack of floodplain and habitat connectivity, habitat diversity, and winter refugia for anadromous fish.
- Future restoration actions will restore stream processes that will benefit terrestrial species with life history stages dependent on stream systems, including amphibians, insects, and birds, in addition to Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish species.
- The project scope and scale are reasonable and based on experience from previous implementation of similar projects in the McKenzie Watershed.
- A range of design alternatives were considered.
- The applicant and partners have a proven track record completing similar projects.
- The applicant has sufficient organizational capacity to complete the project.
- The applicant is working with a qualified consultant experienced in designing realistic plans for on-the-ground restoration.
- Costs are reasonable for the complexity of the engineered solution.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the applicant explored opportunities to build on existing data available for the area before deciding to collect new data; for example, there may be other LiDAR flight efforts underway that could be leveraged. Additional information on the data gaps within existing data would provide helpful context for understanding the need for new data and LiDAR to achieve the technical assistance goals and objectives.
- There may be restrictions from no-net-rise floodway requirements that limit restoration opportunities.
- It is unclear from the application how existing weeds within the project footprint will be addressed when restoration is implemented.
- The ponds resulting from previous gravel extraction likely have bass that are invasive predators of ESA-listed salmon smolts. Encouraging smolts to utilize restored habitat at the ponds could make them vulnerable to these predators; however, rivers become less habitable to warm water fish, such as bass, when rivers are restored to function like historic Pacific Northwest rivers with cold water refuge habitat.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant is taking an informed approach to utilizing a Stage 8 floodplain restoration design concept. Restoration is timely to take advantage of wood material resulting from recent wildfires to construct instream and floodplain wood structures. The resulting watershed project design will restore habitat for spring chinook salmon, trout, and other native aquatic species utilizing the middle McKenzie watershed. The proposed technical assistance is needed to move the project forward to be ready for implementation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$51,740

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$51,740

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3034-19524

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Sandy River Cold Water Refuge
Monitoring

Applicant: Sandy River Basin WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: \$144,751

Total Cost: \$208,695

Application Description EPA's 2021 Columbia River Cold Water Refuges Plan recommends that summer water temperatures within the Sandy River cold water refuge (CWR) be maintained at 18.78°C. The EPA report identified the Sandy River as one of 12 CWR tributaries of the Columbia, key to minimizing salmon, steelhead, and other native species exposure to warmer Columbia River temperatures. The Sandy River CWR may also be important to Pacific lamprey populations of the Sandy and tributaries of the Columbia River upstream. Given regional commitment to the persistence of Pacific lamprey and support of traditional tribal use of this species, understanding the use of this CWR by Pacific lamprey will provide information to guide Sandy River restoration activities.

To contribute to understanding of the importance of the Sandy CWR, we propose to monitor temperature in the Sandy River CWR. We also propose to survey for larval lamprey in the Sandy River delta and in Beaver Creek. Data gathered should identify the importance of the Sandy River CWR, delta channels, and delta side channels to lamprey habitat. In addition, we propose to survey Beaver Creek for larval lamprey prior to the full effect of restoration activities in the basin including plantings of native riparian shade trees. As one of our monitoring activities, we will repeat lamprey surveys post-restoration to assess response to the improved riparian areas. These monitoring activities will adaptively guide management actions needed to promote climate resiliency in the Sandy River watershed, to protect and restore native fish habitats, and to protect natural ecosystem functions in order to improve water quality.

Project Partners include US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Tributaries Network, Wisdom of the Elders, The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Cities of Gresham and Troutdale, City of Portland Water Bureau, Multnomah County, and Beaver Creek Conservation Partnership

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application clearly described the importance of cold water refugia to salmonids and lamprey and the need to collect additional data.
- The applicant will develop a sampling and analysis plan (SAP) for the water temperature monitoring component and have it approved by DEQ.
- The lamprey data will be made available through the Pacific Lamprey Data Clearinghouse and shared with ODFW.

- The applicant is working with qualified contractors on study design and implementation of lamprey monitoring and data analysis.
- The applicant will share the lamprey data with the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative, the Lamprey Technical Workgroup, and the regional management unit of the Willamette/Lower Columbia River. The water temperature data will be shared with the Beaver Creek Conservation Partnership. The applicant will hold two public meetings to present the study design and results of the final study.
- The applicant is engaging community stakeholders, including the Wisdom of the Elders, The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, cities of Gresham and Troutdale, City of Portland Water Bureau, and Multnomah County, that are likely to be interested in the data.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The maps uploaded to the application are challenging to understand. It is not clear where the monitoring would occur, and the maps do not appear to be directly linked to the proposed monitoring project.
- The application does not discuss existing water temperature data in the Columbia River or Sandy River that this project could complement.
- The objectives stated in the application are not well matched to the work proposed.
- The water temperature monitoring component of the application is not well described and is still in development. The review of existing data should have been completed to inform this proposal, and greater detail could have been provided on the proposed water temperature study design. The lack of information about study design makes it challenging to understand whether the design is sufficient to accomplish the objectives for temperature (i.e., understanding temporal and spatial dynamics) or contributions to the Sandy River cold water refuge temperatures.
- The application does not describe how the water temperature data will be analyzed to answer the monitoring questions posed in the application.
- The application lacked detail about how the water temperature and lamprey larval data will be synthesized to identify important habitats.
- The current watershed council staff lacks experience in monitoring data collection, and it is unclear what qualifications will be required to hire new staff, if funded.
- Lack of information about the study design makes it challenging to evaluate if the budget is adequate to achieve the objectives.
- It is unclear if the watershed council staff time proposed in the budget is appropriate, given that much of the intensive monitoring will be completed by a contractor.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes the importance of cold water refugia to salmonids and lamprey and the need to collect data to better understand the critical role of micro-habitats for lamprey. This data can be used to inform actions for restoration of lamprey habitat.

- The Environmental Protection Agency 2021 Columbia River Cold Water Refuges Plan identifies the Sandy River as one of twelve Columbia River tributaries providing cold water refuge to salmon and steelhead.
- The proposed project will complement ongoing temperature monitoring and restoration efforts on Beaver Creek focused on riparian restoration to improve stream temperatures.
- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) protocols will be used to collect water quality and lamprey data.
- Project oversight will be provided by a watershed council member with relevant experience.
- Appropriate partners will be engaged to implement the project. USFWS will provide necessary expertise to accomplish the proposed monitoring goals and objectives.

Concerns

- The application lacks details describing specific activities for achieving the monitoring objectives.
- It is unclear from the application how the proposed monitoring complements existing data and current monitoring efforts by other organizations, or whether the applicant explored existing data when developing the proposed project.
- The application lacks information describing locations for monitoring, how sites were selected, and how monitoring locations are related to other efforts. Since the Sandy Basin has a large geography, a map indicating monitoring site locations would be helpful for understanding the proposed monitoring approach.
- Additional information describing restoration efforts completed in Beaver Creek would provide helpful context for understanding how the proposed monitoring will provide data needed to inform future restoration in the area.
- The application indicates data will be shared; however, there is limited details provided to understand how data sharing will be done effectively.
- USFWS is contributing significant staff time and equipment needed to implement the proposed monitoring work; however, USFWS support and commitment to the project is unclear without a letter of support in the application.
- Estimated staff time for temperature monitoring is high compared to similar efforts. Additional information is needed to understand whether staff costs are appropriate and necessary for accomplishing the proposed monitoring objectives and not funding a position with a broader scope of work.
- It is unclear why two computer laptops are necessary for accomplishing the proposed monitoring work.

Concluding Analysis

While the virtual site visit provided some clarity about the proposed monitoring, the application lacks details necessary to understand monitoring site locations and activities. Additional details are needed to understand and evaluate the likelihood of success for this monitoring 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-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3035-19528

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Willamette daisy restoration effectiveness monitoring

Applicant: Institute for Applied Ecology

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$166,715

Total Cost: \$219,321

Application Description Less than one percent of the prairies that historically existed throughout the Willamette Valley ecoregion remains intact. As a result, many prairie species have declined, including Willamette daisy (*Erigeron decumbens*), which was federally listed as endangered in 2000. The Recovery Plan for the Prairie Species of Western Oregon and Southwestern Washington (USFWS 2010) identifies the need to restore and maintain population networks across the species' historic range. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently awarded the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) a Recovery Challenge grant focused on Willamette daisy recovery actions. IAE is applying for a complementary OWEB restoration grant (Prairie Restoration for Willamette Daisy Recovery), which aims to implement habitat restoration and Willamette daisy augmentation activities to meet recovery goals in the Salem East, Salem West and Corvallis West recovery zones. In this monitoring proposal, we seek to assess the effectiveness of Willamette daisy restoration efforts at all 19 project sites (10 OWEB and 9 USFWS). We will implement standardized Willamette daisy and habitat quality monitoring protocols to determine if sites meet recovery goals. Baseline data will be collected and analyzed the first year (2022) and compiled into a brief progress report. Post-project monitoring data will be collected in 2027, three to four years after restoration actions have been completed at each site. All data will then be analyzed in a final project report. This project helps fulfill the monitoring requirement of nine different local assessment plans in five counties. Partners include USFWS, Benton County, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Greenbelt Land Trust, Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District, Polk Soil and Water Conservation District, Jefferson Farm (private) and Patricia Wheeler and John Westall (private).

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The data to be collected will complement the range-wide assessment work that was completed in 2018.
- The project is connected to broader Willamette daisy and prairie restoration efforts in the Willamette Valley.
- The applicant is familiar with the monitoring methods and the methods are consistent with the 2018 survey. The applicant will refine the existing monitoring protocol to fit it to site-specific conditions.
- The study design and data collection methods and analyses are described in adequate detail.

- The data will be stored in the USFWS's threatened and endangered plant species database for Willamette Valley species, which the applicant currently maintains.
- The applicant will produce a final project report, and any resulting publications will be posted to their website, the Cascadia Prairie-Oak Partnership technical library, and ResearchGate.
- The information generated from this monitoring project will be presented to the Prairie Plant Working Group and interested landowners and stakeholders at regional meetings and conferences.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The monitoring questions are not listed in the objectives. The applicant does pose two broad questions in the problem statement, making it difficult to align the objectives with each question when applying the evaluation criteria.
- It was unclear if the resulting monitoring data across all 19 sites will be sufficient to inform future restoration actions.
- The application proposes to collect data in 2022 and then again in 2027. During this timeframe, issues can occur that could impact the project, creating logistical challenges around budgeting.
- The budget lacked detail to evaluate if the estimated costs in the budget are appropriate. It is not clear what the three permanent staff will do on this project, given that their roles related to this project are not articulated. The overall the costs seem high since there will only be two years of monitoring at 19 sites.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed monitoring is clearly linked to restoration actions and will provide significant knowledge needed to inform future Willamette daisy restoration.
- The monitoring questions relate directly to the Recovery Plan for the Prairie Species of Western Oregon and Southwestern Washington. The resulting monitoring data will help determine whether recovery criteria are met at each restoration site.
- The resulting plant community data will reflect whether restoration is successful at an individual site. Since the same actions implemented at different sites can have different results on Willamette daisy populations, it is difficult to compare monitoring results across multiple sites. The proposed monitoring approach will provide information about the range of Willamette daisy population responses to better understand what this species needs and inform future restoration work towards recovery.
- The monitoring timeframe is reasonable to ensure baseline data and effectiveness monitoring data is collected over a range of restoration activities needed to restore Willamette daisy populations.
- The applicant and partners have the capacity and expertise to complete the proposed monitoring and has a proven track record completing similar projects. The applicant is the expert in monitoring protocols for the Willamette daisy.

Concerns

- Protocols described in the application are more conceptual and references to standardized protocols are provided instead. Additional information in the application describing the protocols would be helpful to better understand monitoring methods that will be used. The protocols referenced in the application do, however, provide a sufficient explanation of the monitoring methods.
- The project budget has a significantly high number of personnel hours. Additional details describing roles of each position would be helpful for understanding whether costs are appropriate for the work necessary to accomplish the monitoring objectives. It is likely the budgeted time is reasonable because of the unique nature of the project where each monitoring site will require individual monitoring designs.
- In-kind match is grouped into lump sums and it is unclear how the match is related and contributing to implementation of the proposed monitoring objectives.
- It may be challenging to accurately estimate out-year costs over the long project timeline.
- The restoration sites to be monitored overlap with OWEB-funded restoration and monitoring projects focused on Kincaid's lupine. Additional information describing how the two efforts to restore and monitor Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed prairie species are related would provide helpful context to better understand this project. In particular, a description of how monitoring and restoration actions at the same project sites are broken out for the Willamette daisy and Kincaid's lupine, and yet are complementary, would be helpful for understanding how the efforts are leveraged to achieve overlapping prairie restoration goals.

Concluding Analysis

The monitoring approach models similar efforts that have impacted both recovery and de-listing of other prairie plant species. The applicant is one of the experts for the Willamette daisy and monitoring prairie plant populations. There is a strong need for the proposed monitoring to complement the companion Willamette daisy restoration project. The Willamette daisy is one of the most beleaguered of the ESA-listed prairie plant species that is finally getting concerted attention. The combination of the Willamette daisy monitoring and restoration grants will provide essential information to better understand how the Willamette daisy ticks and what is needed for species recovery.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$166,715

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$166,715

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3036-19550
Project Name: South Santiam Temperature Monitoring

Project Type: Monitoring

Applicant: South Santiam WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$35,372

Total Cost: \$46,303

Application Description The South Santiam Watershed Council (SSWC) seeks to continue and grow its stream temperature monitoring program in McDowell and Hamilton Creeks, two basins that are important for both migratory fish and overall watershed health in the South Santiam watershed. Several private landowners in these basins have undertaken voluntary measures to improve wildlife habitat, reduce non-native vegetation and increase critical shade to streams. They have continued to engage in fish conservation by hosting in-stream data loggers from May to October to help the council monitor stream temperatures. These data were collected as part of a long-term stream temperature monitoring program operated by Oregon Departments of Agriculture (ODA) and Environmental Quality (DEQ).

While funding from ODA for this effort has lapsed due to state-level budgetary downturns related to COVID, the council sees great benefit to maintaining an existing multi-year dataset and understanding the effectiveness of our efforts to enhance riparian habitats throughout the watershed. Further, the council seeks funding to expand efforts to collect year-round water temperature data and explore relationships between flow, streamside vegetation, air temperature and water temperature. These data will continue to support our partners' needs for data and will help inform strategic planning efforts for the council, directing future work to benefit fish, humans and habitat in the South Santiam basin.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This monitoring application will follow straightforward, widely accepted monitoring protocols for data collection.
- The applicant has an existing sampling and analysis plan (SAP) to collect water temperature data.
- The water temperature data will be submitted to DEQ annually.
- The final comprehensive report will be share with their partners and made publicly available.
- The applicant has experience collecting the continuous water temperature data, and the number of sites seem manageable for the staff.
- The budget seems reasonable for the objectives identified in the application, and level of detail in the budget is adequate.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application mentions USFS and DEQ monitoring sites, but it is not clear on how this information will be integrated in the study design or data analysis.
- The application lacks an objective or monitoring question to describe why flow is being monitored and how that information will be incorporated into the data analysis. Based on the available information in the application, it was not clear if estimating flow data using the buoyancy method at a quarterly interval will yield useful information.
- The application lacked detail on the WATR model to understand how the data will be incorporated into this modeling effort.
- The application lacks detail about how the appropriate community stakeholders are engaged beyond the landowners and volunteers participating in this monitoring project and related restoration projects.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed monitoring project continues a long-term stream temperature monitoring effort in the South Santiam watershed.
- The application has clearly stated project objectives and tasks for monitoring water temperature on two South Santiam River tributaries.
- Temperature monitoring is coupled with four miles of stream revegetation restoration projects. Data will be used to explore the relationships between streamside vegetation restoration and water temperature.
- Gathering year-round water temperature data is valuable for understanding long-term temperature trends.
- Landowners providing access to monitoring sites support and are committed to the monitoring effort.
- Standard temperature monitoring protocols will be used.
- The applicant has submitted previous monitoring data to Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).
- Project costs are reasonable and appropriate for the proposed monitoring work.
- Applicant staff have appropriate experience to accomplish the objectives outlined in the application.
- The applicant is engaging appropriate partners to implement monitoring work, including DEQ and Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

Concerns

- Additional details describing previous temperature monitoring and how data will be integrated from other monitoring efforts, such as DEQ monitoring sites, would provide helpful context for understanding how the proposed project complements existing monitoring data.
- Letters of support from project partners would strengthen the application.

- Additional information describing the WATR model, its connection to the monitoring project, and how it will support decision making is needed to better understand a path from the proposed monitoring to informing future restoration.
- The protocols for “neutral buoyancy” flow monitoring may not be adequate without an accompanying depth measurement. Flow measurement could be more accurate and as cost effective with a probe; however, the neutral buoyancy was chosen to engage volunteers in measuring flow and this method requires less training. The applicant should consider using a staff plate to track depth.
- The referenced Sample Analysis Plan (SAP) may be outdated; the applicant should work with DEQ to update the SAP as needed.
- The applicant may have limited expertise for data analysis; however, technical partners will be engaged to accomplish the analysis.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed monitoring project is technically sound and the applicant will engage volunteers and technical experts as needed to achieve monitoring objectives. The project will maintain and expand a long-term dataset that will provide information for understanding the effectiveness of riparian habitat restoration efforts, long-term water temperature trends, and inform future restoration strategic planning decisions.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$35,372

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$35,372

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3037-19608

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Freshwater Mussel Occurrence and Habitat - North Santiam Basin

Applicant: Willamette Riverkeeper

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$78,253

Total Cost: \$103,294

Application Description The monitoring for this project will occur instream, in anadromous fish-bearing reaches of the North Santiam River basin in Linn and Marion counties. eDNA lab analyses will take place in the Molecular Ecology lab at Utah State University.

Western freshwater mussels provide immense benefits to streams improving water quality, stabilizing substrate, and encouraging healthy benthic communities, all of which benefit salmonid populations; however, there is a dearth of information on the locations at which these long-lived, cryptic mussels reside. Studies of their habitat are necessary to conserve mussels and to help prioritize protection and restoration of stream reaches based on their populations. We propose a two-season survey effort to locate extant western ridged mussels (*Gonidea angulata*) and western pearlshell mussels (*Margaritifera falcata*) in the Santiam River basin gaining needed information on regional habitat associations. During the first season, we will collect water samples by paddle craft for eDNA analysis to gain a broad presence/absence understanding of population locations. The second survey season will target areas that showed mussel occurrence via positive eDNA results and conduct in-depth snorkel surveys to characterize mussel bed characteristics.

Results from this work will be publicly available on an interactive web map that will include a story-style website providing information on western mussels and their importance. Results will be published in a peer-reviewed journal and shared at conferences. We will reach out to local watershed councils, land management agencies, and tribes to provide results and context for their use to prioritize watershed protection and restoration, and how to restore habitat specifically for freshwater mussels. This early phase project will focus on the North Santiam River basin; to expand this work to additional basins.

Project partners: Willamette Riverkeeper ICF and the Molecular Ecology lab, Utah State Univ.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the data gaps associated with freshwater mussels (FWM) in this basin and how this project will complement previous surveys completed by the applicant.
- The study design to incorporate field surveys when collecting the water samples and use of follow-up surveys if eDNA is detected should help the partners learn more about FWM distribution in the North Santiam River.

- The eDNA water sample collection methods and lab analyses are well established and professionally accepted.
- The applicant will follow quality assurance/quality control measures when collecting and analyzing eDNA samples to prevent cross contamination and review the data when it is entered into web-based tools.
- The laboratory performing the eDNA analysis is experienced and the consultants that are working on this project have sufficient experience and
- qualifications to assist the applicant in completing this project as proposed.
- The data will be made publicly available using a public facing interactive web map for data visualization.
- The budget table and narrative provide adequate detail, and the estimated expenses are appropriate to accomplish the objectives.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application did not cite the source of the existing data for the North Santiam basin and it is unclear if the Xerces FWM database was accessed to identify potential data in this basin.
- It was not clear why the North Santiam River was chosen for this pilot project and if the recent 2020 wildfire could impact the data they are proposing to collect.
- It is not clear if this study design will be able to prove absence if the eDNA is not detected and the rapid survey does not identify any FWM when water samples are collected, given site selection and timing of sampling.
- The application does not mention submitting data to the Xerces Society to be uploaded to their FWM database.
- It is not clear how these data will be applied to inform future restoration actions, given that other stakeholders are the ones that will use this information for such purposes and outreach plans are not well articulated.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application describes a clear need for monitoring mussels to better understand their habitat needs and population distribution.
- The data could provide valuable information to assist with landowner outreach about watershed restoration and can be shared with organizations focused on restoration, such as the local watershed council and tribes, to inform restoration planning and prioritization.
- The monitoring approach includes a reasonable sampling plan using eDNA signals as a tool for locating mussel bed sites. If the proposed approach for using eDNA for monitoring mussels is successful, there is opportunity for this pilot effort to be replicated across the state.
- The interactive story-style web map to share data will provide a helpful outreach tool.
- The applicant has appropriate expertise to accomplish the proposed monitoring.

Concerns

- Additional information is needed to understand why the North Santiam watershed was selected for this pilot effort and how sampling locations were determined. The map provided in the application covers a large geography and lacks details needed to better understand sampling locations.
- It is unclear whether recent fires will affect access to sampling locations.
- Plans for gaining access agreements with landowners are not clearly described in the application.
- To maintain a streamlined budget, water quality monitoring is not included in the proposed monitoring project. Recent fires may have increased sediment loads into the North Santiam streams that could be negatively impacting mussel populations. Monitoring water quality may be important for understanding mussel population distribution.
- Since the proposed monitoring project is a pilot for using eDNA to monitor mussels, there is some uncertainty for the project to effectively result in data that could inform future restoration efforts.
- It is unclear whether appropriate partners and technical experts will be engaged to implement the proposed monitoring project. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife may be able to provide technical input on monitoring sites targeting anadromous fish-bearing reaches of the North Santiam River, and The Xerces Society may be able to provide helpful feedback on monitoring protocols since they have completed extensive work on mussel-related Best Management Practices.
- It is unclear how the proposed monitoring will inform future restoration because there is only one letter of support provided by an organization involved in restoration in the area.

Concluding Analysis

Freshwater mussels provide a number of benefits to Oregon stream health and anadromous fish populations; however, little is known about their distribution and habitat needs. The proposed monitoring project will use eDNA data as a pilot tool for detecting the presence or absence of mussels to better understand mussel population locations in the North Santiam Watershed. Additional detail is needed to understand the project, such as monitoring site locations and how data will be used by restoration practitioners, to determine whether it will be a cost-effective approach that has a clear pathway to 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-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3038-19623

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: American Beaver Population Ecology in Dynamic Forested Landscapes of Western Oregon

Applicant: OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$314,983

Total Cost: \$393,729

Application Description Incorporating beaver into management planning continues gaining support despite a lack of empirical evidence reflecting their current status and trends in Oregon. Information developed from beaver populations outside of our state should not be applied here due to the large variability in physiographic, hydrological, and vegetative conditions, in addition to the behavioral differences that exist among beaver populations within these systems. An essential first step in beaver-related stream restoration is identifying the resources and environmental conditions that influence beaver habitat use. Examining how natural (wildfire) and anthropogenic (timber harvest) disturbances influence beaver colonization at multiple spatial and temporal scales will provide a unique opportunity to identify changes in habitat composition and configuration that may affect beaver distribution, survival, and movement in a forest-dominated landscape matrix. This project will collect baseline monitoring data to improve understanding of American beaver population ecology and habitat use in the Western Cascades of Oregon by: 1) implementing repeated landscape-level beaver activity surveys to understand patterns of beaver distribution and dam construction, 2) tracking individuals from multiple family units to estimate survival, movement, and space use, generating models to assess the spatial-temporal patterns in beaver habitat relationships, 4) predicting beaver occurrence and dam locations. Providing a data driven framework to inform decision making and land management strategies will increase the effectiveness of future projects in aquatic systems as opposed to using a process of trial and error. Project partners include the Bureau of Land Management, National Wildlife Research Center, Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and private industrial landowners including Weyerhaeuser and Cascade Timber Consulting.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The data that will result from this project will complement previous monitoring in the Cow Creek Basin that was used to inform this study design.
- This project will collect data in the west Cascades and complement the data collection planned in the other two ecoregions (coastal and southwestern) of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Resource Management Plan areas.

- The application provides clear and succinct monitoring questions and the study design and data collection, management, and analysis methods are likely to answer these questions.
- The applicant is the co-author of the monitoring protocol. The method has been applied previously in a project that resulted in a published manuscript. This project will aim to improve the protocol and allow other practitioners to apply it, since there is a great demand for and interest in beaver related data.
- The data will be stored in tabular and spatial database in the cloud to provide back-up storage.
- The data will be made available to the BLM and private landowners who are partnering on this project and providing access to their lands. Information also will be shared more broadly via peer reviewed manuscripts and public presentations.
- The applicant is highly qualified and is one of the lead experts in the field to improve understanding of beaver ecology in forested landscapes.
- The applicant has produced several peer reviewed journal articles, demonstrating the ability to complete past projects in a successful manner.
- The applicant is engaging technical experts from a multi-disciplinary group from Oregon State University (OSU), USFS Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center, and the USDA/APHIS/WS National Wildlife Research Center.
- The budget and narrative provide sufficient detail to understand how the costs were estimated to complete this project over three years. This funding will include the publication of a peer reviewed journal article(s) and time for technicians to collect the data over a large geographic area.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- While data in Oregon is sparse, it would have been helpful to understand what data are available from other Western states to inform land management impacts to beaver ecology.
- The application did not describe how timber harvest and wildfire would be factored into the study design or data analysis to determine how these disturbances influence beaver colonization at multiple spatial and temporal scales.
- Additional detail about how information will be made available to the public, including which publications are being targeted and where presentations would be made, would help explain the audiences being targeted.
- The application identified future community stakeholders but does not clearly address how these stakeholders will be engaged over the course of the project or afterwards to share the results.
- The budget includes a lump sum match from the BLM, but the application does not describe what this contribution is or how it is related to this project.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly stated project objectives, tasks, and monitoring questions.
- There is a clear need for the resulting monitoring information to better understand American beaver population ecology and habitat use in the Western Cascades of Oregon.

- The proposed project will test detectability and repeatability of monitoring protocols.
- The monitoring approach includes a sufficient sample size and incorporates locations to better understand both timber and fire impacts on beaver habitat.
- The applicant has extensive experience monitoring beaver populations and is involved in the Beaver Working Group.
- A letter of support from a timber company participating in the project is included in the application.
- Costs are reasonable for the large geographic scale of the project.

Concerns

- The application lacks a description of a clear path for how the monitoring data will inform future restoration. The proposed monitoring will be used for a planning framework to update Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans and policies, but it is unclear how it will also lead to on-the-ground watershed restoration.
- Application materials, including letters of support, emphasize the research elements of the proposed project instead of how monitoring data will inform future restoration.
- The project area map included in the application provides only general locations for monitoring. A more detailed map indicating specific watersheds where monitoring will occur would provide context needed to understand the monitoring approach.
- Only one year of trapping and tagging may not provide enough data if tags go missing.
- Partner roles are unclear based on the limited letters of support provided in the application. It is unclear whether appropriate partners and technical experts will be engaged to implement the proposed monitoring project. Potential partners not included in the proposal include Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, and other stakeholders in the project area, such as watershed councils.
- The draft letter of support included in the application from BLM commits to cooperating on the project, however, it does not reference the BLM match documented in the application needed to meet the minimum 25% match requirement. Match could not be confirmed in the application because the BLM budget was not yet approved. Since BLM is the only match source listed in the application, it is unclear if the project is likely to succeed if there are no other potential match sources available to meet the minimum match requirement and provide the funds necessary to achieve the monitoring objectives.
- Due to constraints in the OSU process for submitting the application, match was documented as a lump sum in the application budget. As a result, it is unclear how match relates to the proposed monitoring objectives, what BLM match will contribute to the project, and in-kind partner roles in implementing the monitoring work. It is difficult to fully understand the entire project scope to evaluate the likelihood of success and whether project costs are reasonable.

Concluding Analysis

There is a clear knowledge gap regarding the distribution, movement, habitat selection, and influence of disturbances, such as fire and timber harvest, affecting the status and trends of beaver populations. The resulting monitoring information could be useful to restoration practitioners and land managers; however, the application is too broad and vague on how the proposed monitoring will provide information that is directly used to inform future 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-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3039-19631

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Luckiamute Temperature Monitoring
Phase 3

Applicant: Luckiamute WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Polk

OWEB Request: \$88,891

Total Cost: \$112,493

Application Description The Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) proposes to continue its temperature monitoring program in Phase 3. The project will collect continuous temperature data from surface waters in the Luckiamute River Watershed during the summer months of 2022 and 2023. The goal is to continue to fill a data gap of stream temperatures and trends in key locations to inform prioritization and planning for restoration projects. Sites will be selected to characterize priority tributaries and stream reaches, detect trends, collect baseline data, and continue to ground-truth results of the thermal loading model from the 2017 NetMap analysis. The LWC proposes to repeat 19 monitoring stations in the mid and upper Luckiamute watershed in Polk and Benton Counties. Work will include field deployment, mid-season checks, and retrieval of loggers. The LWC will also implement appropriate quality assurance and quality control measures to ensure high-quality data that meets A-level standards. As a result of Phase 3 work, 17 of the 19 proposed monitoring sites would have five to seven consecutive years of data. The LWC will establish a partnership with technical experts to conduct an analysis of the full dataset to assess trends and examine relationships with external drivers of temperature. The LWC will share data through presentations and the web-based interpretation and visualization application created during Phase 2. Project partners include field and technical volunteers, private landowners, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application clearly describes the existing data that have been collected and how the water temperature data that is proposed to be collected will complement current monitoring efforts, including a USGS streamflow gage, a remote automated weather station, and ODFW steelhead spawning surveys.
- The application lays out four monitoring questions and the study design and data collection, management, and analysis methods are likely to answer these questions.
- The applicant has a DEQ approved SAP and plans to update it, if funded.
- The applicant is following a professionally accepted monitoring protocol that includes a variety of quality assurance and quality control measures to collect high-quality data.
- The application clearly describes the data storage plan and process to review the monitoring results annually within their organization's Project Review Committee and Monitoring Sub-Committee. This helps ensure the applicant will apply the data in a meaningful way.

- The applicant will share the data with the public in a variety of ways, including making it available on a data visualization website that the applicant recently developed and plans to maintain. Results are also included in a newsletter that is mailed to their list of community members, submitted to DEQ to store in their AWQMS database, and posted in a final technical report on their website.
- The applicant has performed well on the previous two monitoring grants and is applying the data in a successful manner. Staff currently are continuing to work on this project and, if funded, the organization will hire a new monitoring coordinator.
- The applicant is engaging several technical experts to assist them in adaptively managing this monitoring project and applying the data.
- The applicant has engaged community stakeholders by recruiting landowners that allow access to the monitoring sites and by hosting an annual watershed-scale outreach program with local partners.
- The budget provides sufficient detail to understand how the expenses were estimated. The budget was informed by experiences with the previous two monitoring grants.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- This grant will fund the hiring of a new monitoring coordinator, so there is some uncertainty about the specific qualifications of the person who will lead the project.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly stated project objectives, tasks, and timeline for the proposed monitoring work.
- The proposed monitoring approach is technically sound, and the applicant has utilized technical experts over multiple project phases to adjust and improve monitoring efforts to achieve a more reliable data set. For example, the applicant has adjusted monitoring sites and added an air temperature data comparison to the monitoring project.
- Data will be shared using a data visualization application that can be accessed by the public.
- The proposed monitoring is directly linked to future restoration projects. The application includes a current example of how monitoring data is tied to identifying a current watershed concern, landowner engagement, and identifying a restoration strategy to address a water quality issue.
- The applicant has a proven track record with similar monitoring work and has demonstrated effective use of monitoring data in prioritizing restoration projects.
- Project costs are reasonable based on the objectives and activities described in the application.

Concerns

- The application lacks detail describing data analysis that will be completed and who will be completing this task; however, the council has a monitoring team that is likely to provide technical support for this work.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed monitoring project is phase three of an ongoing stream temperature monitoring project in the Luckiamute watershed. The applicant has a history of actively using this monitoring data to plan and prioritize restoration projects, which has also led to an effective watershed strategy and high-quality restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$88,891

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$88,891

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3040-19622

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Healthy Industrial Lands Initiative
Phase II

Applicant: Columbia Slough WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: \$27,293

Total Cost: \$76,493

Application Description

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council (Council) kicked off the Healthy Industrial Lands Initiative in 2020 with a grant-supported survey of industrial landowners in the Middle Columbia Slough (Phase 1) that was designed to learn about the private sector's motivations for, and barriers to, voluntarily investing in nature-based solutions to stormwater management and native habitat enhancements on their properties. Funding has been secured for Phase 2 which allows us to extend the survey to the rest of the industrialized floodplain of the Columbia Slough and collect further property owner data in 2021-22. But we learned during Phase 1 that we need additional time for deeper one-on-one conversations with property owners to build the kinds of relationships needed that lead to cooperative habitat improvements, including site visits to explore what kinds of projects might be possible on their property. Phase 2 of the survey is an opportune time to increase stakeholder engagement and foster relationships that will lead to businesses committing to enhancement projects. Thus, we are seeking OWEB funding as a match to expand our online surveys to also include phone and in person meetings and site visits. At the close of this phase of the project, we will have a strong understanding of who makes up the industrial sector in our watershed and their interest in improving the environmental values of their property. We will also have built stronger relationships to enlist early adopters in our Healthy Industrial Lands Initiative. As a trusted environmental leader in the community, the Council is well-positioned to drive the private sector toward greater investment in watershed health, creating more resilient ecosystems for people, fish, and wildlife in the watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Most of the previous application evaluation concerns are addressed.
- The proposed Stakeholder Engagement project is an innovative approach to engage industrial landowners, which have the largest ownership in the Columbia Slough Watershed.
- Landowners will be engaged beyond a computer-based survey through phone and in-person meetings. This approach is likely to result in businesses committing to restoration actions.
- The applicant has experience from the first phase of the Healthy Industrial Lands Initiative and is incorporating lessons learned into phase two.
- The applicant has sufficient employee capacity to achieve the proposed stakeholder engagement scope of work and will hire a consultant to provide expertise to implement the survey.
- The project costs are reasonable.

- Stakeholder engagement is timely by providing an opportunity for landowners to choose voluntary action before City of Portland regulatory environmental zone designations are initiated.
- Restoration opportunities will be staged in time to leverage future fund sources expected from Portland's Clean Energy Fund and consolidation of local drainage districts that could target specific stormwater and green infrastructure actions proposed to stakeholders through the project.

Concerns

- The application lacks letters of support confirming partner support and involvement.
- Outreach to invite people to participate in the survey depends on partners; however, it is unclear who those partners are and how this outreach will be implemented.
- Additional information on how the success indicator was determined for the objective related to enrolling landowners in enhancement work is needed to better understand project outcomes. Setting a target of four landowners enrolling in an enhancement project seems low given the expectation that there will be 150 survey respondents and 30 site visits with landowners. Additional information on what enrollment means may provide context for the work related to the four projects and demonstrate that four enrolled landowners is a reasonable success indicator for the organization's capacity. For example, does enrollment mean the landowner is committed, or that four projects will be fully developed, designed, and ready for funding?

Concluding Analysis

The Columbia Slough watershed is a highly urbanized watershed and most habitat restoration efforts have been limited to residential and public lands. Focusing stakeholder engagement on private industrial lands is unique and critical for future priority restoration to occur in the Columbia Slough watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$27,293

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

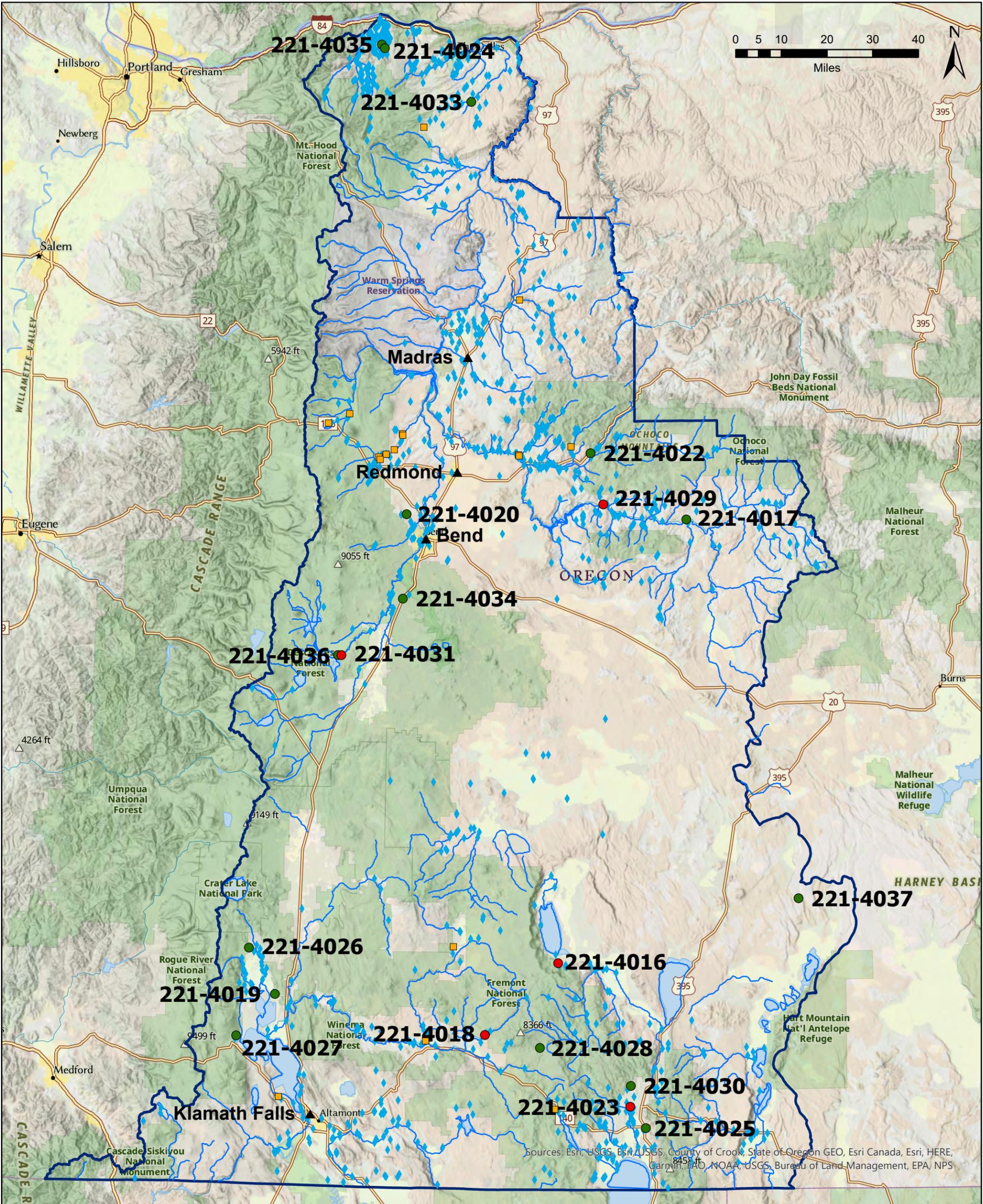
Staff Recommended Amount

\$27,293

Staff Conditions

N/A

Central Oregon - Region 4 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



Sources: Esri, USGS, Esri, USGS, County of Crook, State of Oregon GEO, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS

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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

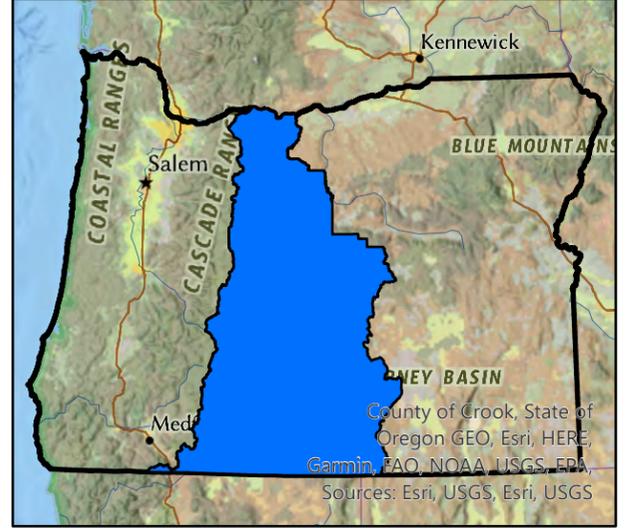
Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2020

- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 4 Cities
- Region 4 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 4 Boundary



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County of Crook, State of Oregon GEO, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS
 Sources: Esri, USGS, Esri, USGS

Region 4 - Central Oregon Restoration					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4022	Crook SWCD	Fish Passage and Screening in the Upper Ochoco Creek Watershed: Implementation Phase 1	Fish passage and screening work will be implemented on irrigation diversions along Ochoco Creek just upstream of Ochoco reservoir.	323,339	Crook
221-4019	Trout Unlimited Inc	Ranch Creek Redband Trout Habitat Enhancement	Redband Trout spawning and survival will be improved by enhancing instream habitat, providing fish passage at an irrigation diversion, and improving streamside vegetation along Ranch Creek, a tributary to Crooked Creek in the Upper Klamath Basin.	103,476	Klamath
221-4017	Crook SWCD	Lower Camp Creek Riparian Improvement	Native trees and shrubs will be planted along Lower Camp Creek and the Crooked River to improve water quality and stream conditions for native fish.	78,500	Crook
221-4024	Hood River SWCD	Neal Creek Phase II Instream Habitat Restoration Project	Fish habitat will be restored along portions of Neal Creek by adding large wood into the stream, which will improve the connection between the stream and floodplain and increase spawning and rearing habitat.	85,402	Hood River
221-4020	Tumalo Irrigation District	TID Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration Project - Group 6A	A portion of an open ditch canal will be enclosed in leak-free piping to permanently conserve water to both Tumalo and Crescant Creeks and address water quantity, water quality, and public safety concerns.	200,000	Deschutes
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				790,717	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4023	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Three Creeks Fish Passage, Fish Screening, and Wet Meadow Restoration	Wet meadow and stream habitat will be restored by installing beaver dam analogs, livestock fencing, and fish passage and screening at two irrigation diversions in the Goose Lake Watershed.	352,524	Lake
221-4018	Klamath Watershed Partnership	Harmony Preserve Landscape Restoration	Priority upland acres will be treated to improve forest health and preserve sage steppe habitat by small tree thinning as well as juniper removal in the North Fork Sprague River in Klamath County	228,370	Klamath
221-4016	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Summer Lake Wildfire Risk Reduction	Upland forest health and wildlife habitat connectivity will be improved by small tree thinning in Summer Lake.	198,864	Lake

Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-4021	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation	Greater Williams Prairie Restoration Project 2021	239,188	Crook	

Region 4 - Central Oregon Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4026	Trout Unlimited Inc	Annie Creek Fish Passage and Screening Design - Phase II	Engineered design plans will be developed for the last four irrigation diversions along Annie Creek to provide fish passage and to install fish screens on ditches.	75,000	Klamath
221-4025	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	South Warner Forest Health Mapping & Inventory	Forest health treatment plans will be developed for private lands in Lake County to initiate a large-scale forest management effort and reverse the current fire trend.	74,998	Lake
221-4028	Trout Unlimited Inc	Sprague River Fish Passage Improvement Project	Engineered plans will be generated to correct fish passage barriers at six road crossings in the Upper Klamath Basin to expand native fish access to stream habitat.	75,000	Lake
221-4027	Klamath Watershed Partnership	Southeastern Cascades Landscape Forest Resiliency Planning	Private forest lands will be surveyed and inventoried to develop forest health treatment plans in Klamath County.	73,686	Klamath
221-4030	Lakeview SWCD	Maxwell Ranch Bauer's Creek Diversion Replacement - Survey and Design	Designs to replace the last remaining fish passage barrier on Bauers Creek will be created to provide fish passage to stream habitat as well as providing surface water across the floodplain for migrating waterfowl.	49,485	Lake
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				348,169	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4031	Deschutes River Conservancy	Upper Deschutes Basin Comprehensive Water Management Plan- Technical Assistance	A comprehensive water management plan will be developed to address streamflow conditions in the Upper Deschutes River.	75,000	Deschutes
221-4029	Crooked River WC	Upper Crooked River Floodplain Restoration	Data will be collected and analyzed to generate conceptual restoration designs that will improve floodplain connectivity on private land and restore a vibrant habitat for thriving wildlife populations along the Crooked River upstream of Bowman dam.	74,896	Crook

Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
None					

Region 4 - Central Oregon Stakeholder Engagement					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4035	Hood River SWCD	Hood River Pesticide Management	Pesticide management trainings will be provided to orchard growers in Hood River County to reduce pesticides entering Hood River and improve water quality.	32,981	Hood River
221-4037	Oregon Agricultural Trust	Outreach & Collaboration to Promote Easements in Southeast Oregon	Agricultural landowners in southeast Oregon will be engaged to generate support for conservation easements that will preserve Oregon's unique mixed agricultural and natural landscapes.	96,485	Harney
221-4036	Deschutes River Conservancy	Upper Deschutes Basin Comprehensive Water Management Plan - Stakeholder Engagement	Local, regional, and statewide stakeholders will be engaged through a facilitated, collaborative process to develop a comprehensive water management plan for the Upper Deschutes Basin.	84,518	Deschutes
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				213,984	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
None					

Region 4 - Central Oregon Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4033	Wasco SWCD	Fifteenmile Creek Steelhead Status and Trend Monitoring	Salmon production and life history will be tracked for a period of four consecutive years in Fifteenmile Creek watershed, which enters the Columbia River just below the Dalles Dam.	209,025	Wasco
221-4034	OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin	Wildlife Crossing Effectiveness Monitoring in Central Oregon	Data will be collected at wildlife crossing structures on Highway 97 to evaluate the effectiveness of these structures in facilitating wildlife passage and preventing wildlife vehicle collisions.	54,831	Deschutes
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				263,856	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-4032	Oregon Glaciers Institute	Oregon Glacier Monitoring Network in the Upper Deschutes and Hood River Basins	170,958	Deschutes	

Region 4 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	1,616,726
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4016-19488

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Summer Lake Wildfire Risk Reduction

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$198,864

Total Cost: \$427,449

Application Description 1) The Summer Lake Wildfire Risk Reduction project area will focus on an approximately 600 acres within an overall 1,800- acre area with multiple ownerships. Three private landowners make up about 1,358 acres with the remaining 475 acres under BLM management. The project area is flanked by three wildfire scars and the US Forest Service has been focused on conducting thinning treatments to the boundaries.

2) This area is the last dense forested stand at risk of wildfire. A stand that would lead wildfire to four permanent residences and one hunting cabin. The area is currently being surveyed for pre-wildfire roads and contingency lines within a grant agreement between the USFS and the High Desert Rangeland Fire Protection Association (HDRFPA).

3) The implementation of a thinning project would successfully complete a wildfire contingency line spanning nearly 10 miles from Paisley to the project area west boundary. Additionally, the treatment would improve watershed function in four sub-watersheds of the region.

4) Partners would include Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, BLM, USFS, ODF, ODFW, HDRFPA and private landowners

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant and partners have experience with implementing forest health projects and are likely to succeed in executing the proposed restoration.
- The cost per acre of forest stand treatment is comparable to other similar type projects.
- During the virtual site visit, the applicant and partners emphasized the wildlife benefits, specifically mentioning goshawk, mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep.

Concerns

- The project is not identified in a watershed plan or assessment.
- There is no discussion in the application on how the treatments will be maintained or managed into the future.
- The application lacks letters of support from landowners where work will occur.
- There are no photos attached to the application to help illustrate the project need.

- The application lacks a discussion explaining the specific ecological impacts or species that could benefit from this project.
- The ecological uplift outcome from brush mastication described in objective 2 in the application is unclear.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal presents forest health treatments on private land that is surrounded by three previous wildfire scars. The application demonstrates a clear need for this project to mitigate future wildfire impacts to private lands, however, fell short on demonstrating the ecological need and benefit.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$198,864

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

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4017-19504

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Camp Creek Riparian Improvement

Applicant: Crook SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$78,500

Total Cost: \$101,950

Application Description The Lower Camp Creek Riparian Planting Project capitalizes on years of investments made by many partners including OWEB, ODA, the landowner, and Crook SWCD. The project is intended to jump start instream and riparian processes by providing the system with the necessary tools to heal itself over time. Plantings will be strategically designed to maximize return on investment by prioritizing plant survival in order to provide the maximum amount of bank stability, instream shade, and fish and wildlife habitat. Species lists will be simple, consisting of only a few species that are the most likely to survive and meet our long term objectives. Planting locations within the project area were chosen based on channel morphology and the resulting soil and water table conditions that will ensure the highest return on investment. Beavers already occupy the site so container stock will be protected while relatively inexpensive, locally sourced willow cuttings will be left uncaged.

Previous OWEB funding was used to construct riparian fences allowing exclusion of grazing along 3.5 miles of Camp Creek and the Crooked River. Legacy management was in place for over 25 years and consisted of season long grazing which resulted in complete loss of woody riparian shrubs and changes to channel structure. Current managers took over 5 years ago and have been actively restoring the property for the benefit of wildlife habitat and watershed function. Restoration actions undertaken by the landowner include over 50% reductions in cattle numbers, rebuilding infrastructure to protect sensitive areas, riparian plantings, western juniper treatment, upland seeding and a rigorous weed treatment program. Current management has seen marked progress in improving watershed conditions and habitat for sensitive species including sage grouse and trumpeter swan.

Restoration actions were partially identified using the recently completed Camp Creek Watershed Restoration Atlas.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The planting locations will be located inside newly placed livestock exclusion fencing.
- The root cause of the watershed problem, overgrazing, is identified clearly in the application and is addressed by low-cost methods that are proven to be effective.

- The maps and associated photos provided in the application were helpful in documenting the project need and evaluating the potential benefit.
- The project was identified in the Camp Creek Watershed Atlas as a priority to address sediment, a key water quality parameter of concern.
- The costs are reasonable and appropriate.
- The applicant and landowner have completed similar type conservation projects together, indicating a high likelihood for success.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the proposed planting plan focusing on woody plant species is appropriate for the site conditions that are dominated by fine soils with high pH levels unsuitable for woody vegetation.
- Photos provided in the application show streamside areas dominant with sedges and rushes, species known to be effective at trapping sediment. It is unclear why these plants are not considered in the planting plan.

Concluding Analysis

The project will restore woody vegetation to highly degraded sections of Camp Creek and the Crooked River, which is a good first step at addressing water quality problems. The project is likely to succeed given the existing fencing network that will protect riparian areas and landowner commitment to the project. This project may also spawn additional restoration actions to aid in sediment retention.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$78,500

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$78,500

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4018-19516

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Harmony Preserve Landscape Restoration

Applicant: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$228,370

Total Cost: \$317,055

Application Description The Harmony Preserve is a 900-acre parcel of private land featuring ponderosa pine, juniper, sagebrush flats, and riparian meadow encompassing both sides of approximately 3/4-mile of the North Fork Sprague River in Klamath County. New, progressive owners have developed a vision for holistic, ridgetop-to-ridgetop restoration, and have sought support for planning and implementation. Through a collaborative effort, Klamath Watershed Partnership, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife are undertaking a phased restoration of the uplands, meadows, and river.

Historically the Harmony Preserve was grazed by cattle and horses, and the river was channelized to facilitate meadow grazing. Decades of these practices saw the removal of riparian vegetation and large wood, resulting in loss of shade and instream complexity. River velocities, erosion, and habitat simplicity continue to diminish the value of this stretch for bull trout (Federally Threatened), redband trout (species of concern), and anticipated anadromous salmonids. Fire suppression and grazing in the uplands with little forest management allowed for overstocking in pine and juniper stands, and juniper encroachment into sagebrush flats. Mule deer, elk, beaver, and numerous sage-dependent species have been observed in the area in the two years since grazing cessation.

This project will facilitate treatment of priority upland acres to address riparian health, overstocking, wildfire risk, and sagebrush restoration. By collaborating with stream and riparian restoration efforts, upland work will expand the benefits to ecologically linked habitats, provide efficiencies in implementation, protect investments, and ultimately set the landscape up for long term, sustainable management by dedicated landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project's intent to provide logs for stream habitat restoration on the property is a smart and useful approach for utilizing cut trees with no or little market value.
- The landowner is very supportive of the project, which is documented by a letter of support, and has implemented similar type conservation work on other properties.

- The YouTube video link and associated documents provided in the application are helpful in understanding the property and project need.
- The proposed forest health treatments, combined with the stream and floodplain restoration that is funded outside of this proposal, provide a ridgetop-to-ridgetop strategy for fish and wildlife habitat restoration.
- The applicant has a proven track record implementing similar type projects.

Concerns

- The application and budget lacks details explaining the stream and floodplain restoration components identified throughout the proposal and its nexus with the forest treatment objectives. Specifically, it is unclear how objective four in the application, which describes the stream and floodplain work, will be implemented and funded.
- The project area falls within the perimeter of the Bootleg fire and it is unclear how the fire may have impacted the viability of the project or the wildlife that could potentially benefit from the proposed restoration.
- The cost per acre of forest health treatment appears high compared to other similar type projects.

Concluding Analysis

The project will implement forest health and sagebrush flat enhancement by small tree thinning and juniper removal. This work will be in conjunction with partners implementing stream and floodplain enhancements, yet the specifics of how this aquatic restoration work will be implemented are unclear.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

7 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$228,370

Review Team Conditions

Check with applicant prior to funding to see if the Bootleg Fire has compromised the project as proposed. Direct staff to investigate and work with the applicant to determine what actions and costs remain viable.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4019-19564

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Ranch Creek Redband Trout
Habitat Enhancement

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$103,476

Total Cost: \$157,056

Application Description

1. This project is located in Klamath County near Ft. Klamath, Oregon. The project will occur on Ranch Creek, which is a small tributary to Crooked Creek. Crooked Creek flows into the Wood River and from there into Upper Klamath Lake.
2. Klamath Basin Redband Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss newberrii*) are endemic to the Upper Klamath Basin and are listed as a State Sensitive Species by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Over the last century, their populations have been affected by land use changes that have disconnected, degraded, and eliminated spawning, rearing, and migratory habitat throughout the basin. In Ranch Creek, Redband Trout spawning has decreased substantially since surveys began in 2003, likely due to inconsistent flows. Biologists assume that much of the spawning habitat used by Redband Trout will also be important for anadromous salmon and steelhead that return to the basin after the four mainstem Klamath River dams are removed, so maintaining existing habitat and creating or enhancing additional habitat is especially important at this time.
3. In order to improve spawning abundance and success in Ranch Creek, and to provide access to additional spawning habitat upstream for Redband Trout and future anadromous populations, we propose to construct 0.15 of new channel, reconnect fish passage to 0.75 miles of upstream habitat, screen one 5-cfs irrigation diversion, and improve diversion management to ensure consistent flows in Ranch Creek. Overall, accessible spawning habitat will almost triple, from 0.5 miles to 1.4 miles.
4. Partners on this project include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Klamath fish biologists as well as fish passage and fish screen programs), U.S. Forest Service (all project work will take place on USFS property, and USFS will complete NEPA process), The Klamath Tribes, and the adjacent private landowner (Root Ranch).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project objectives are clear, and the application demonstrates a strong need for the restoration actions proposed.
- ODFW spawning surveys indicate the project area is a high priority for redband trout and other native fish and there are lots of opportunity to increase spawning habitat.
- The water diverted out of Agency Spring has an instream water right for fish and wildlife that aligns well with the management of Ranch Creek.
- The landowner excluded livestock with fencing, protecting the adjacent riparian and floodplain habitat.
- The applicant has a proven track record in implementing similar type projects.
- The project approach is a relatively low-cost option that will have substantial ecological uplift.

Concerns

- The maps provided in the application would benefit from the addition of arrows indicating flow paths of water bodies.
- The riparian planting buffer is 15 feet, which is narrow compared with ODA water quality standards of 25 feet.
- Diverting high quality cold spring water to a human created creek may degrade stream temperature and overall water quality in Agency Creek.

Concluding Analysis

The project presents a unique approach in creating and enhancing native fish habitat on a human created creek, called Ranch Creek, that flows directly into Agency Creek. The drop culvert that will be removed impedes stream flow and presents a clear problem for fish passage. ODFW will continue to monitor the project area. The solutions proposed have a high likelihood of success in achieving the desired ecological outcomes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$103,476

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$103,476

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4020-19566

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: TID Deschutes Basin Flow
Restoration Project - Group 6A

Applicant: Tumalo Irrigation District

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$200,000

Total Cost: \$6,140,037

Application Description For decades, irrigation districts in the Deschutes Basin have been working toward enclosing porous open canals to return and protect flow to the Deschutes River and their tributaries. The open porous canals, lined with volcanic rock and open to evaporation, cause the loss of approximately 50 percent of the water withdrawn. By enclosing the canals into leak free piping, the district can reduce its consumption by nearly half and return that conserved water into the basin that has resulted in a restoration of 24.2 cfs of instream flow to Tumalo Creek during the period of April – September, and 3,136 acre-feet of stored water to Crescent Lake for the storage season. The water conserved is protected for instream flow through Oregon Water Resources Department’s Conserved Water Program through a transfer of water rights.

The Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration – Group 6A project (project) encloses 2.3 miles (12,300 ft) of open porous irrigation canals into leak-free piping resulting in 1.5 CFS returned and protected in the Deschutes Basin (Crescent Lake and Tumalo Creek.) The project will pipe the Columbia Southern Lateral from approximately Tumalo Reservoir road to the northeast, using 48" diameter, pressure-rated high density polyethylene pipe. Like other TID modernization projects, the pipe will follow the existing canal alignment and will be installed in a compacted trench with a minimum of 3-ft of cover to protect the pipe from freezing and damage. The surface will be restored with topsoil and native seeding, where appropriate.

This project is part of a regional collaboration effort with the Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC) consisting of eight irrigation districts (Arnold, Central Oregon, Lone Pine, North Unit, Ochoco, Swalley, Three Sisters and TID). Members are working toward enclosing open canals to restore flow to the Basin that modernizes irrigation infrastructure while returning the basin to a more natural state.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has a long history of successfully conserving instream water rights for fish and wildlife.
- The applicant will engage ODFW and USFWS to determine how best to split the conserved water realized from this project.
- The applicant has the capacity and experience to implement the proposed project.

- Additional storage in Crescent Lake will allow for increased releases into Crescent Creek, which will benefit the threatened Oregon spotted frog.
- Additional water remaining instream on Tumalo Creek will add value to high quality redband trout habitat as well as increase cold water inputs to the Middle Deschutes River.
- The restoration objective of conserving 1.5 cfs is cost effective.

Concerns

- The proposal includes attachments that are not relevant to the proposed project, including outdated letters of support for different projects.
- Additional details describing match costs is needed to better understand whether match estimates are reasonable and align with the work necessary to accomplish the project objectives.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a continuation of Tumalo Irrigation District's effort to pipe their network of delivery canals that are leaky and inefficient in conveying water. This effort is supported by a watershed plan developed in conjunction with the NRCS.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$200,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$200,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4021-19587

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Greater Williams Prairie Restoration
Project 2021

Applicant: Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$239,188

Total Cost: \$763,851

Application Description The Greater Williams Prairie Restoration Project (GWPRP) is located 25 miles east of Prineville, OR, in the Ochoco Mountains, on the western edge of the Blue Mountain Range. The project area incorporates the North Fork of the Crooked River with drains to the north and east, eventually flowing into the Crooked River near Post, Oregon. GWPRP incorporates whole-watershed restoration of 17,500 acres on the Ochoco National Forest. The primary goals are protection and restoration of whole-watershed processes and increased local landscape resilience to climate change. Projects, from ridge-top to valley-bottom, include work in streams, riparian areas, and uplands. Projects focus on the protection, management and/or restoration of hydrologic function (with water table restoration in prairies and meadows), aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna habitat restoration, travel route improvements including aquatic organism passage restoration, forest health restoration, early detection and rapid response treatments of invasive plants and cattle management. This funding request focuses on stream restoration and conifer reduction. Stream restoration will occur on 1.9 miles of the North Fork Crooked River and .75 of Long Prairie Creek. Conifer thinning across 415 acres will occur adjacent to Williams Prairie. Proposed actions include in-stream placement of wood and/or rock, filling gullies, installing beaver dam analogues, and commercial and non-commercial thinning. This supports direct improvements in habitat conditions for aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna. Through a unique partner initiative referred to as "All Hands, All Brands, For Public Lands" we have secured monetary and in-kind support from the following partners; Western Native Trout Initiative, Blue Mountain Elk Initiative, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, among others.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is part of a landscape scale effort that is a ridgetop-to-ridgetop approach to improve fish and wildlife habitat on the Ochoco National Forest.
- The applicant and USFS partners are experienced and have a proven track record at implementing the restoration actions in this proposal.
- The proposed stage 0 stream and floodplain restoration design will increase the wetland footprint and associated watershed benefits wetlands provide.

- The forest health and invasive species treatment will improve wildlife habitat quality and connectivity throughout the project area.

Concerns

- The proposal lacks designs for the stream and floodplain components needed to understand the methods and strategies that will be employed and whether the expected ecological outcomes can be achieved.
- Maps provided with the application lack sufficient detail to understand the extent of the proposed stream and floodplain work and its context in relation to other work proposed, such as the forest health and invasive weed treatment. Adding road and stream labels along with aerial imagery to the forest health treatment map would provide details needed to understand where proposed treatments are located in the landscape.
- It is unclear from the application how the proposed restoration will provide expected benefits to anadromous salmonids given the project location is 35 river miles upstream from a dam with no fish passage.
- A description of post project maintenance and activities, including future livestock grazing management, is not included in the application.
- It is difficult to determine if project costs are appropriate without designs.
- Evidence of additional local support for the project would strengthen the proposal.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal is a resubmit and the current application addresses some but not all of the previous evaluation concerns, in particular the lack of project designs and detailed maps needed to evaluate project technical soundness. This project presents an incredible opportunity to build resiliency, improve habitat conditions for a wide variety of species, and improve habitat connectivity across a large landscape. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address the concerns identified above.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

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-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4022-19611

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Fish Passage and Screening in the Upper Ochoco Creek Watershed: Implementation Phase 1

Applicant: Crook SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$323,339

Total Cost: \$417,316

Application Description Our project area is anchored by the confluence of Ochoco and Marks Creeks in the Upper Ochoco Watershed. Marks Creek is the largest tributary to Ochoco Creek and is an important source of cold water to the upper watershed, located east of Prineville.

These streams exhibit rich ecological potential but past management and barriers to fish migration and survival have fettered their productivity. With proper fish passage and screening this lush valley can offer important spawning and rearing habitat for resident redband trout (a state and federal sensitive species), while continuing to provide excellent big game habitat and agricultural production. Significant instream and riparian restoration was completed in 2020 to improve habitat and passage in the section above our proposed project reach. Our project will solidify that investment by creating a barrier free system from Ochoco Reservoir to Marks lake, improving the connection to an additional 15 miles of improved habitat.

This application seeks to secure funding to implement the designs produced through an OWEB Technical Assistance Grant. After receiving the TA grant we worked closely with our project partners to identify a unified approach to addressing watershed problems in the upper watershed. Through that process our team evaluated the designs in order to identify which projects were best suited for restoration investment. In this phase of implementation project we will address fish passage at four sites (on 5 PODs); one in Ochoco Creek and three in Marks Creek. The team agreed that screening and passage at this set of diversions is the next logical step in improving conditions for native migratory fish in the Upper Ochoco Watershed.

This proposal is the result of a collaborative partnership between the Lookout Ranger District of the Ochoco National Forest, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Crooked River Watershed Council, Oregon Water Resources Department and Crook SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will implement a subset of fish passage solutions designed by a qualified restoration consultant as a result of a previous OWEB technical assistance grant.

- All the screens proposed occur on one landowner's property who is aware of the maintenance requirements and supportive of the project.
- The approach and strategy of addressing fish passage barriers upstream of Ochoco reservoir is appropriate and supported by ODFW. The proposed work will open stream habitat for fish and prevent fish loss into ditches.
- The addition of headgates associated with the diversions will allow for new efficiencies in water use and measurement.
- The proposed restoration compliments other watershed-related work nearby, including CREP and planting projects.
- The budget provides sufficient detail and breakdown of project costs.
- The project is well supported, evidenced by a variety of support letters.

Concerns

- The roughened riffle component described in the designs attached to the application is not listed or described in the objectives part of the application.

Concluding Analysis

The project is the first implementation phase to address fish barriers at four sites above Ochoco Reservoir, improving habitat connectivity along 15 stream miles. The project is likely to succeed because the approach is strategic and methods are technically sound.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$323,339

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$323,339

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4023-19633

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Three Creeks Fish Passage, Fish Screening, and Wet Meadow Restoration

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$352,524

Total Cost: \$574,803

Application Description The proposed restoration project is located in the Goose Lake Basin, Lake County Oregon. The project involves three major watershed concerns that will be addressed in cooperation with three private landowners, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Swift Water Designs, and River Design Group.

The Goose Lake Basin has several unique features as it lies within the Southern Oregon-Northeastern California (SONEC) region of the Pacific Flyway, standing out as highest priority habitats across the 11-state geography. SONEC sustains more than six million migrating and breeding birds each year. Latest data indicates that wetlands across this landscape are threatened not only by land use changes but also drying as a result of climate change and human water use. Also unique to this watershed are the nine native fish species that complete their life cycles in these streams. Four of which are listed as “species of concern” by the US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) due to vulnerability within this challenging system. These fish are adapted to the alkaline lake waters, the ever-fluctuating seasonal flows, and periods of drought – yet populations, distribution, and abundance are greatly influenced by the environmental and human modified conditions we see today.

Historical channel straightening, irrigation infrastructure, livestock grazing, and resulting channel incisions have greatly impacted the stream corridor and wetland function in and along Cox Creek, Camp Creek, and Thomas Creek. The goal is to restore the degraded stream and meadow system habitat using process-based restoration strategies, improve fish connectivity by constructing a fish bypass channel at an irrigation diversion structure, and installing a panel fish screen to prevent fish from becoming entrapped in a 6-mile irrigation system.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds off a previous OWEB technical assistance grant that provided project designs in partnership with USFWS.

- The project capitalizes on adjacent landowners' willingness to address fish passage and habitat concerns, as well as an opportunistic chance to provide screening at a private diversion on federal land.
- The fencing component will be designed and built following Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) placement to ensure installation is adapted to changes to the floodplain in response to restoration.
- Historically, the streams in the project area were heavily populated with redband trout, as indicated through past reports and PIT tag studies within the Thomas Creek watershed.
- The applicant has a record of implementing similar type large-scaled projects.

Concerns

- A grazing management plan would provide a better understanding of future land use and its compatibility with ecological restoration.
- The design information provided in the application is more conceptual and lacks details to evaluate technical soundness of the design approach.
- The ecological outcomes expected from the process-based restoration utilizing BDAs are unclear. The number of proposed BDAs to be installed will have a significant maintenance burden and the use of sagebrush material for these structures will limit their longevity in the stream. It is unclear from the application how these structures will be monitored and maintained. A monitoring and adaptive management strategy is needed to quantify project impacts and long-term benefits.
- The design approach for the BDA structures do not seem to align with fish passage criteria from ODFW.
- There is a lack in proposal clarity because it is unclear how the objectives at the three project sites correlate with the budget and uploaded documents.

Concluding Analysis

The project is working with three private ranches to address fish passage along with instream and riparian habitat degradation. The project area has suffered from past overuse by livestock. However, new landowners are engaged and interested in supporting conservation. Combining fish screening, riparian fencing, and BDA's has wide reaching capabilities to improve stream conditions; however, the application lacks details needed to evaluate the extent of expected watershed health benefits for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$352,524

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

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4024-19635

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Neal Creek Phase II Instream
Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: Hood River SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Hood River

OWEB Request: \$85,402

Total Cost: \$399,127

Application Description This project will take place on Neal Creek, located within the Hood River Watershed in Hood River County. The project will include nine private properties located up and downstream of Thomsen Road in a reach of Neal Creek that has the highest intrinsic potential for salmon and steelhead due to a relatively low gradient (= 2%) and wide valley bottom.

Neal Creek is one of the few clear water (non-glacial) tributaries of the lower Hood River and contains a viable population of threatened winter steelhead, threatened coho salmon, cutthroat trout, and resident rainbow trout. Based on ODFW sampling and population estimates, Neal Creek is estimated to provide 5-10% of steelhead production in the Hood River Basin. The primary limiting factors that this project will address are habitat diversity and key habitat quantity, particularly spawning and juvenile rearing habitat. On Neal Creek, the combination of channel alterations, fill from private and county roads, and large wood removal has led to entrenched channel segments with limited amounts of large wood.

This project will reconnect 12 acres of floodplain and restore 3/4-mile of spawning and rearing habitat by increasing the number of key pools, spawning gravel patches, and channel complexity through the addition of large wood structures.

Project partners include Hood River Watershed Group (project manager), Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District (applicant/fiscal sponsor), Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (cash match, materials), and project landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds off a previous OWEB technical assistance grant that developed project designs.
- The project designs were reviewed by BPA as part of the project's nexus with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. This ensures project technical soundness and viability.
- A hydraulic analysis was completed to ensure the county no-net rise requirements will be met.
- The project will address limiting factors for ESA listed salmonids, specifically coho and steelhead.

- The expenditures associated with the ecological outcomes are cost effective.
- The project will promote water quality benefits by capturing sediment thus reducing downstream inputs.

Concerns

- The proposal lacks detail on the post construction planting plan.

Concluding Analysis

The project continues momentum that is building along Neal Creek to engage private landowners in the rural-urban interface to support instream and floodplain habitat enhancement opportunities. Utilizing local partners with experience increases the likelihood for the project to succeed in improving stream and floodplain interactions that benefit multiple fish species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$85,402

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$85,402

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4025-19487

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Warner Forest Health
Mapping & Inventory

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed
Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$74,998

Total Cost: \$93,988

Application Description The South Warner Forest Health Project (SWFHP) encompasses 39,037 acres of private, non-industrial forestland in Lake County, east and south of Lakeview. This landscape scale project is tied directly to Fremont-Winema National Forest's South Warner Integrated Landscape Restoration Project, totaling 85,620 acres and is adjacent to the North Warner Forest Health Project where current treatment is underway. Through a century of fire suppression, the forests of this region have increased in density, lost diversity, and altered the structure and hydrologic function of watersheds. This loss from historic conditions has increased the scale and risk of fire severity, and reduced forest resiliency to drought, insects, and disease. High priority resources and habitat such as waterways and associated sensitive species, homes, ranch land, and private/industrial timberland are currently in jeopardy. The goal of the SWFHP is to initiate a landscape-level forest management effort aimed at improving forest health conditions that will reverse the current fire trend and increase ecosystem resiliency.

Based on similar efforts in Lake County, the SWFHP uses an 8 step model founded on personal connections with informed and engaged private landowners. A comprehensive outreach, mapping, and inventory effort will inform and facilitate cross-boundary planning and implementation of forest health practices.

Technical Assistance will be used to conduct targeted outreach to private landowners, including phone calls, mailings, site visits, forest management planning sessions, and educational workshops. Landowner education efforts will include two OSU Extension workshops for forest ecology/management, fire science and prioritization planning. Project partners include the Fremont Winema National Forest, ODF, NRCS, ODFW, and members of the Klamath- Lake Forest Health Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project geography is the Fremont-Winema National Forest's second highest priority area to address forest health.

- The project scope and deliverables generated will aid in prioritizing limited funding for targeting on-the-ground forest health restoration.
- The applicant and partners have a proven track record with similar type projects at landscape scales.
- The methodology proposed has proven to be effective at laying the foundation for implementing successful landscape scale forest health restoration.
- Recent wildfires within and adjacent to the project geography have heightened private landowner awareness, creating a high level of interest in partnering with the applicant to improve forest health.
- The technical assistance effort involves working in the field directly with individual landowners, which has proven to be effective at building relationships and trust for future work.

Concerns

- The approach utilized for field verification and mapping on private land is not consistent with those employed on neighboring federal land. The scale of the public land's effort is, however, vastly different by relying more on remote sensing tools as opposed to a field based "boots on-the-ground" approach.

Concluding Analysis

The project continues the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership restoration efforts to address overstocked forests and habitat degradation in targeted geographies across private and public lands.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,998

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$74,998

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4026-19507

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Annie Creek Fish Passage and Screening Design - Phase II

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$207,449

Application Description

1) The proposed project is located on Annie Creek, a tributary to the Wood River in Klamath County. 2) The lower portion of Annie Creek flows mostly through private property, where numerous ranching-related impacts led to a lack of year-round volitional fish passage, degraded riparian conditions, and a homogenous creek channel. Prior to 2018, there were 8 irrigation diversion structures along the length of this reach that served as barriers to upstream fish passage and posed a significant entrainment threat. With assistance from OWEB and a number of other funders, Trout Unlimited (TU) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will have removed four of these barriers by the fall of 2021. Bull Trout have been expatriated from Annie Creek since the 1980s; however, there is a recovering population in neighboring Sun Creek, and Annie Creek is the top priority for Bull Trout reintroduction. The USFWS Klamath Recovery Unit Implementation Plan for Bull Trout (Recovery Plan), identifies "Connectivity Impairment" as one of the primary threats to Bull Trout recovery in Annie Creek. The Recovery Plan identifies passage improvement and screening to address "Connectivity Impairment" on Annie Creek as critical recovery actions. 3) Trout Unlimited is requesting funding to acquire engineered designs for removal of the four remaining diversion structures along Annie Creek. These projects will provide year round access to 10 miles of additional habitat that is currently blocked by the 4 passage barriers. Trout Unlimited will also work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to install fish screens on the ditches at these points of diversions (57 cfs total) to eliminate entrainment. However, funding is only requested for the passage portions of these projects. 4) Project partners include the USFWS, ODFW, Crater Lake National Park, and U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds off the applicant's previous successful work in providing fish passage at similar type barriers downstream from the project site.
- Utilizing the same experienced consultant team who developed designs for the downstream structures and capitalizing on their site-specific knowledge and existing data sets will provide cost savings for the proposed project.
- The use of roughened riffles has proven to be successful at year-round volitional fish passage.
- The project will address impaired habitat connectivity, the primary threat to Bull trout outlined in the USFWS recovery plan.

- The applicant will engage the ODFW screen shop once designs reach 30%, allowing for adequate time for fish screen design and fabrication.

Concerns

- The application lacks information describing plans for long-term maintenance once the restoration project is completed.
- The application describes potential impacts to wetlands and the use of riprap in the project design; however, it lacks a discussion explaining why the design approach was selected and any considerations made to minimize negative impacts.
- The application lacks information describing how adjacent lands will be managed, such as whether fencing will be incorporated to protect the stream corridor and allow riparian vegetation to establish.
- Brook trout are currently present in Annie Creek, posing potential problems for the reintroduction of Bull trout because brook trout will hybridize with Bull trout populations. However, methodologies and lessons learned from Brook trout removal on Sun Creek will be applied to Annie Creek.

Concluding Analysis

The project will continue efforts on Annie Creek to address the last four instream barriers to fish movement. A recovering population of Bull trout has been documented in neighboring Sun Creek and similar results are expected for Annie Creek as habitat improvements are completed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4027-19508

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Southeastern Cascades Landscape
Forest Resiliency Planning

Applicant: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$73,686

Total Cost: \$100,329

Application Description

The Southeastern Cascades Forest and Fire Project (SCFFP) encompasses nearly 197,000 acres in western Klamath County. This project area has been identified by the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP) as the next priority landscape for cross-boundary work based on opportunities for collaboration with planned and existing projects on Federal land. The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) North Landscape Project and the United States Forest Service's (USFS) Klamath Landscape Restoration Project are included in the SCFFP based on complementary objectives for forest resiliency, wildfire risk reduction, and resource protection. Wildfire does not recognize property boundaries, but there is currently no comprehensive inventory of forest resources for private land in the project area to promote or facilitate management in step with Federal efforts. This project will conduct the necessary outreach and education of landowners across 21,000 acres of non-industrial private land to encourage forest stewardship and engagement in the larger effort. Remote sensing, combined with ground verification and data collection, will be conducted to provide the necessary resolution to understand the scope and scale of restoration needs on private land. Documented techniques for developing treatment recommendations and prioritizations will then be used, setting the private lands up for future forest management plan development and acquisition of implementation funding. Project partners are members of the KLFHP, including the USFS, BLM, Oregon Department of Forestry, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon State University Extension, and Klamath Watershed Partnership. Additional partners to be engaged through this project include local fire districts and private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal provides a clearly describes the project objectives and outcomes.
- The project geography is a priority for adjacent federal land managers, including BLM and USFS.
- The applicant is utilizing lessons learned from a similar project in the Chiloquin Community Forest area. The work will result in relevant field data that is imperative to inform on-the-ground implementation.
- Resulting projects will aid in habitat recovery for the Oregon Spotted Owl.
- The applicant and partners have a proven track record working on projects with a similar scope and scale.
- The methodology is technically sound.

Concerns

- No concerns were raised.

Concluding Analysis

The project will initiate the eight-step methodology developed by the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership to address forest health and habitat degradation in order to facilitate cross boundary landscape level restoration. The private landowner engagement and plan development specific to individual properties has shown to be successful at putting plans into action.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$73,686

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$73,686

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4028-19513

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Sprague River Fish Passage Improvement Project

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$319,458

Application Description

1) The proposed project will improve fish passage and hydrological processes at 6 road/stream crossings in the upper Sprague River watershed, upper Klamath basin. 2) The 6 existing structures block volitional fish passage for Bull Trout and other native fish species. Removing fish passage barriers will assist in Bull Trout recovery by allowing full volitional passage from the Sprague River into tributaries such as Leonard, Brownsworth, Camp, and Corral Creeks from the South Fork Sprague River. Volitional fish passage is important for species recovery and protection from catastrophic events. 3) Trout Unlimited will partner with the U.S. Forest Service Fremont-Winema National Forest to contract an engineering firm to complete 100% designs for replacing the existing 6 culverts with structures that allow for year-round volitional fish passage. 4) Trout Unlimited, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Green Diamond Resource Company, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is cost effective by developing 100% complete designs for fish passage at six different road crossings.
- The project is within USFWS's critical habitat designation for Bull trout.
- The applicant is engaging with the Green Diamond Resource Company, who has partnered on similar type projects with success.
- The project is timely by aligning with the US Forest Service's plan to pave the road with five of the crossings that are fish passage barriers.
- The South Fork Sprague River system is prioritized by the USFS to focus on projects that benefit Bull trout.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether additional barriers exist downstream that could limit the effectiveness of the proposed work.
- Pictures submitted with the application seem to depict adjacent wetlands associated with the road crossings but there is no discussion on how these resources will be protected or enhanced.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant and partners are seeking to expand the spawning and rearing range of an isolated population of Bull trout in the South Fork Sprague River system. Leonard and Brownsworth Creeks are the only two streams to occupy Bull trout in the South Fork Sprague River system, making the population vulnerable to extirpation. This project will open up suitable habitat with the hopes of Bull trout colonization into the future.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4029-19579

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Crooked River Floodplain Restoration

Applicant: Crooked River WC

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$74,896

Total Cost: \$106,605

Application Description

1) The project area is 24.8 linear miles of the Upper Crooked River, known hereafter as (UCR) mainstem and 4.5 sq. miles of historic floodplain between Prineville Reservoir and its confluence with the N. Fork.2) Degradation of the UCR is well-evidenced by multiple 303(d) listings. During late summer, the UCR often flows at <5 cfs and >80°F. Prior work estimated that floodplain reconnection could support late season flows >20 cfs, which is likely to improve water quality. There is widespread interest in restoration of the UCR, but there are not enough data to provide for science-based restoration planning. In other words, there is a diverse coalition of UCR stewards, but no clear roadmap to restoration.3) This project answers the data needs to guide future UCR restoration. First, we will monitor floodplain groundwater levels in four new transects (and continue monitoring four existing transects). These transects represent a range of valley constraint, hydrologic regime, and soil types to characterize the heterogeneity of the study area. Second, we will collect soil data to characterize the floodplain aquifer. Third, we will fly LiDAR to generate a high-resolution topographic model of the study area. These three activities will provide distributed estimates of current and potential floodplain aquifer volume capacity and the baseflow discharges that such volumes support. Fourth, we will model the amount of floodplain reconnected by two different illustrative restoration options, spanning from small-scale projects to holistic restoration. These results will provide a data-based platform for stakeholders to consider what restoration approaches would be optimal and most cost-effective.4) CRWC, OSU-Cascades, and 7 of 9 landowners in the project area: McGrath, Neuharth, Gillen, Dow, Wood, The Nature Conservancy, Fulbright. Letters of support from: Crook County SWCD, Deschutes Land Trust, Deschutes River Conservancy, Central Oregon LandWatch, USFS Ochoco NF.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The development of restoration plans will provide a valuable foundation to engage landowners interest in future enhancement opportunities.
- The project builds off work initiated by Oregon State University (OSU) and expands it into priority areas to maximize floodplain restoration opportunities.
- The LiDAR data capture will serve as an invaluable tool in restoration planning.
- The project's footprint spans a large geography that is privately owned by landowners who have large parcels. Most of these landowners provided letters of support for the proposed project.

Concerns

- Drilling geotechnical holes will trigger a permit process with Oregon Department of Water Resources (OWRD) that will specify this work be completed by a licensed and bonded well driller unless performed by the landowner. Since the application lacks information on how this project component will be completed, it is unclear whether requirements associated with the OWRD permit will be met.
- The application lacks details explaining how the data to be collected is necessary to develop restoration plans for reconnecting the Crooked River to its floodplain.
- It is not clear from the application whether appropriate State natural resource agencies, such as Oregon Departments of Water Resources, Environmental Quality, and Fish and Wildlife, were contacted and engaged as part of the proposed project.
- It is unclear how many conceptual restoration designs will be developed, and the extent to which a qualified engineer will be involved in developing these designs.

Concluding Analysis

The project will address degraded floodplain and riparian habitats along the Upper Crooked River. The resulting technical assistance will provide quantifiable floodplain aquifer capacity and potential summer streamflow estimates that will be valuable for communicating with landowners and engaging them in floodplain restoration design.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,896

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

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4030-19588

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Maxwell Ranch Bauer's Creek
Diversion Replacement - Survey and Design

Applicant: Lakeview SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$49,485

Total Cost: \$63,093

Application Description

The Lakeview SWCD seeks to continue ongoing legacy conservation efforts on the Maxwell Ranch in Lake County, Oregon, a pivotal landscape in the Oregon SONEC. Maxwell Cattle, Inc. has been a long-time Lake County partner where numerous wet meadow and stream restoration and fish passage treatments have been employed. The project addresses a dilapidated instream diversion structure that currently serves as a fish passage obstacle on Bauer's Creek, contains no fish-screening, and no longer effectively diverts surface water across the historical floodplain. The project aims to replace the traditional structure with a rock chute feature and associated lateral ditch infrastructure to restore perennial fish passage, provide fish-screening, and reestablish flood-irrigation capabilities on 80 acres of historical floodplain wet meadows. The feature is the last remaining fish passage obstacle on the Maxwell Ranch. This project is a collaboration with Maxwell Cattle, Inc., Ducks Unlimited, and the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds off previous fish passage projects implemented on Maxwell Ranch and will address the final barrier on Bauer's Creek.
- The design approach utilizing a roughened channel to facilitate fish passage is technically sound.
- The project area is within an existing conservation easement, ensuring long-term habitat protection for fish and wildlife.
- The application provides a reasonable rationale describing the strong correlation for how a well-functioning flood irrigation system can benefit migratory waterfowl and native fish.
- The proposed technical assistance effort will also evaluate habitat enhancement opportunities along Bauer's Creek, specifically considering Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) installation and vegetation improvements.
- The applicant actively engaged landowner to think through the project.

Concerns

- Flood irrigation on land with a grazing livestock contributes to bacteria and nutrient loading that can result in poor water quality conditions.

- The application lacks information about the seasonality of the flyway and whether it coincides with the timing of flood irrigation practices to provide meaningful habitat benefits to migratory birds.
- The application lacks details on specific waterfowl species needs and limiting factors, specifically to provide context for how the project will address those needs.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed technical assistance work will continue engagement in stewardship and conservation efforts with the Maxwell Ranch to address the final fish passage barrier on Bauer's Creek. The project fits well within the context of other on-going fish passage and habitat enhancement efforts occurring on neighboring ranches and waterways, which further leverages the habitat benefits from the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,485

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$49,485

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4031-19627

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Deschutes Basin
Comprehensive Water Management Plan-
Technical Assistance

Applicant: Deschutes River Conservancy

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$125,057

Application Description

The Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC), in partnership with the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC), proposes to develop a comprehensive Upper Deschutes sub-basin water management plan through the Deschutes Basin Watershed Collaborative (DBWC). The Upper Deschutes sub-basin is a HUC-8 watershed and encompasses the Middle and Upper Deschutes River above the Pelton-Round Butte Dam Complex and associated tributaries, including Tumalo Creek, Crescent Creek and the Little Deschutes River. This project addresses low and altered streamflow issues in the upper Deschutes River sub-basin, a major limiting factor for fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and watershed health. The Deschutes River is over-appropriated - more water is authorized to be diverted from the river than actually exists in the river. Inadequate streamflow and unnatural stream flow regimes created by valid irrigation water use have been identified as the primary limiting factor with regard to native fish distribution and productivity. The proposed comprehensive water management plan will be built upon years of collaboration and planning in the Deschutes Basin. The recent completion of the Basin Study and HCP provides a substantial and timely foundation to build on in order to develop a comprehensive and widely supported water management plan that will accelerate the efficiency, pace, and scale of water reallocation in the basin to maintain productive agriculture, achieve flow restoration targets, and ensure water supply reliability for the growing communities in the Deschutes Basin. The comprehensive plan follows the framework agreement being completed under the current OWEB grant to the DRC, which also support COIC to facilitate the DBWC's efforts, which includes participation from many disparate collaborative partners (list uploaded). DRC is concurrently submitting a stakeholder engagement proposal to OWEB to support COIC's continued facilitation and co-leadership of the DBWC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will fill critical data gaps and aid in obtaining instream conservation targets set in the recently approved Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) permit.
- The technical assistance effort will build upon an engaged stakeholder group and previous planning efforts to develop multiple strategies to obtain streamflow restoration objectives. The cohesion demonstrated amongst stakeholders ensures project development and prioritization will be done in a coordinated manner through consensus decision-making.

Concerns

- The application lacks information describing the connection of the proposed project with related work funded by an open OWEB technical assistance grant, number 220-4015, and why additional OWEB funding is necessary.
- There are few agricultural landowners involved in the development of a plan that will directly impact their water use and operations.
- The application lacks information describing what eligible restoration projects will be developed with the comprehensive plan and who will be responsible for implementation.
- The timeline in the proposal is ambitious and may not be realistic given the vast geography and complex nature of the future restoration projects.

Concluding Analysis

The technical assistance project continues an ongoing effort to develop a comprehensive water management plan to target and prioritize projects that improve streamflow in the Deschutes River. The water management plan is a logical step in order to prioritize restoration efforts.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

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

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4032-19552

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Oregon Glacier Monitoring Network
in the Upper Deschutes and Hood River Basins

Applicant: Oregon Glaciers Institute

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$170,958

Total Cost: \$306,480

Application Description Glaciers are the natural reservoirs of Oregon's high Cascade-mountain water towers. Their meltwater supports crucial late-summer streamflow, sustaining streams that would otherwise run dry while keeping instream temperatures below fish-survival thresholds. Irrigation, drinking water and fisheries all depend on glacier meltwater discharge to streams yet the glacial source of the meltwater is not monitored. How are these glaciers responding to climate change? What will be the impacts on streamflow, instream temperatures, and flood and debris-flow risks?

The Oregon Glaciers Institute proposes a monitoring project to document the surface mass balance of glaciers within the Upper Deschutes and Hood River Basins. This project will measure the seasonal input (snow) and outflow (melt) of two benchmark glaciers within these basins (Hayden and Eliot, respectively) in an analogous manner to the balance of a human-made reservoir. These data will relate snowfall and temperature to glacier mass changes and attendant meltwater discharge to streams. Annual snowline and biennial dimensional measurements of all glaciers within the basins will determine glacier health, estimate basin-wide summer meltwater discharge and document changes in the volume of naturally-stored water.

This project follows the USGS Benchmark Glacier Program to quantify changes in glacier mass and their effect on streamflow, define the relationship between glacier cover and climate variations, and document potential hazardous situations. Products comprise seasonal glacier contributions to streamflow, annual glacier health and geohazard documentation, and biennial glacier volume estimates. Partners include the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, Hood River Watershed Group and irrigation districts, LightHawk, the Cities of Sisters and Bend, the Deschutes National Forest, Coalition for the Deschutes, Deschutes River Conservancy, the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters of Deschutes County, and Trout Unlimited.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application described the prior glacial measurements that will be used in the study as well as the data collected by the public. This project will leverage existing mass-balance measurements as well as measurement of glacier area and estimates of volume.

- With one exception, the proposed methods will likely be adequate to address the monitoring questions.
- The applicant will be establishing benchmark monitoring stations using protocols approved by the USGS and UNESCO.
- Data storage, processing, and access will be done in compliance with USGS and UNESCO protocol, sent to an archive in Switzerland, and posted on the applicant's website.
- The study design clearly identifies the study sites selected and why, parameters, and frequency to collect the data to answer the monitoring questions.
- The application clearly links the monitoring questions and thoroughly describes how the data will be managed and analyzed.
- The applicant and staff working on this project have the experience and qualifications necessary to complete the project as proposed.
- The application includes several letters of support that demonstrate the extensive list of stakeholders that have been engaged and are interested in the data.
- The budget seems reasonable given the effort involved and the products to emerge over a three-year period. The budget and narrative adequately describe how the costs were estimated.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The USGS documentation referenced in the application describes that the USGS has established a benchmark glacier for all of the Cascades, but the application did not address the relevance of the existing data from this benchmark.
- The applicant cited the USGS methods for establishing benchmark glacier monitoring. However, while all the benchmark sites also include the operation of streamflow gages, gages were not proposed for this study. The applicants do not explain why they did not include this component of the benchmark study design.
- The application did not describe how the data analysis will assess groundwater losses between the streamflow gage and glacier as a part of the computation of the percent contribution of the glacier to streamflow. The analysis to compare glacial discharge to downstream gages is uncertain to result in an accurate determination of annual glacial contribution to that year's streamflow due to not accounting for groundwater loss or contribution that could occur.
- It is not clear if the geohazard component of the monitoring project is an eligible activity, given potential lack of connection to intended uses of Measure 76 funds.
- Some of the costs detailed in the budget may be better included under the indirect costs category.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

The application mentions that, in subsequent years, the applicant will be contributing to a study that uses the Glacier Evolution Runoff Model. When performing this modeling, consideration should be given to the unique hydrology and hydrogeology of the Deschutes Basin. The hydrologic model coupled with the glacial retreat model may not adequately treat the dominant role of groundwater in the region.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has the appropriate education, expertise, and experience to implement the project.
- Glacial status and trend monitoring data is lacking, this effort would fill in gaps to help characterize conditions and potential impacts to water bodies downstream.
- The relative contribution of glacial melt to streamflow has not been studied in the Deschutes River basin.
- Glacier contribution to streamflow will continue to decline given climate change and quantifying this decline could be useful in water management/resources planning.
- The partnership with Lighthawk to capture high-resolution photographs of glaciers will add significant value to the project.

Concerns

- It is unclear from the application how the study design will answer the monitoring question in objective 3 of the application relating to streamflow because there is not a one-to-one relationship between glacial melt and streamflow. The amount of meltwater at or underneath the glacier itself that infiltrates and bypasses the stream network upgradient of existing stream gages is unknown, but likely significant given the highly permeable nature of the young volcanics in the central Cascades and large amounts of recharge that occur along the eastern flanks of the Cascades. Similarly, channel seepage losses for streamflow between the glacier terminus and stream gages may also be occurring. Thus, it is unknown, but likely, that significant portions of the meltwater bypass the local stream network upstream of existing local gages and recharges the regional groundwater system, which then discharges in lower stream reaches of the confluence area. As a result, the study design may not be sufficient to achieve objective 3 in the application because the gages will not capture all the streamflow resulting from glacial melt.
- The application lacks information describing how the proposed project complements current monitoring efforts; for example, studies in the Hood River basin using a combination of hydrologic modeling and isotope sampling to decipher the contributions of meltwater to streamflow.
- The monitoring period may be too short to determine trends and relationships between glacier mass and their effect on streamflow. This also limits the extent to which project objectives can be realized and for the data to inform future restoration work.
- The extent to which the resulting data can inform future restoration may be limited or even unnecessary to carry out restoration actions.

Concluding Analysis

The monitoring effort will implement status and trend monitoring on glaciated areas in the headwaters of the Deschutes and Hood River watersheds. There is an inherent lack of glacial data that could be beneficial to informing water management. However, it is unclear how the proposed monitoring is necessary for informing future restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

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-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4033-19561

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Fifteenmile Creek Steelhead Status and Trend Monitoring

Applicant: Wasco SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Wasco

OWEB Request: \$209,025

Total Cost: \$325,024

Application Description We propose to provide status and trend monitoring of three anadromous salmonid populations (ESA listed Mid-Columbia steelhead, coho salmon, and coastal cutthroat trout) present in Fifteenmile Creek and associated tributaries located within the Fifteenmile Creek watershed, all within Wasco & Hood River Counties.

Fifteenmile Creek flows into the Columbia River immediately downstream of The Dalles Dam on the Columbia River. Anadromous salmonid productivity and life history data for salmonid fish populations were established through monitoring studies from 2006-2019. However, these studies have since ceased, and status and trend data necessary for adaptive management, including evaluations of riparian and habitat improvements, are now lacking. Status and trend data are fundamental and necessary data used to evaluate habitat, watershed enhancement, or ongoing projects. This in a continued effort to recover ESA listed Mid-Columbia Steelhead, for which Fifteenmile Creek steelhead have been designated as 'must have viable' in the NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion.

We propose to monitor the production and life history of salmonids in Fifteenmile Creek Watershed by providing smolt abundance and escapement estimates to the Fifteenmile Creek Watershed for a period of four consecutive brood years. The baseline status and trend data will include brood years 2022–2026; and were selected to compliment and continue collecting baseline production metrics for Fifteenmile Creek Steelhead. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will provide technical assistance in estimating anadromous fish production during these consecutive brood years. Deliverable metrics will include: annual smolt abundance, age structure, migration timing, smolt-adult return estimates to Bonneville Dam & Fifteenmile Creek, overshoot rates and adult return timing to Bonneville Dam & Fifteenmile Creek. Project partners include Wasco County SWCD, ODFW & Fifteenmile Creek Watershed Council.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application provides a thorough explanation of the fish monitoring data that has been collected in the basin since 2006 that this project will leverage.

- This project will extend the life of the existing PIT array at the confluence of Fifteenmile and Eightmile creeks and incorporates some modifications to collect priority data while minimizing costs.
- The monitoring methods and analyses are well suited to address the questions listed for each monitoring question.
- The PIT detection data will be stored in PTAGIS, which is a publicly accessible repository and is backed-up to ensure data storage longevity. The additional fish data will be made publicly available on NOAA and ODFW's Recovery Tracker.
- The ODFW staff conducting the work have the experience and qualification necessary to collect the data in a successful manner and have a track record of the collecting this data in the past.
- The expenses in the budget are well aligned with the work proposed over five years and are adequate to successfully complete the project.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacks detail about how the monitoring is linked to current or planned habitat restoration efforts to be implemented by the grantee and other restoration practitioners in the basin.
- The application briefly mentions that these data can complement habitat data, but it was not clear to the extent habitat data exists or there are plans to collect these data in the future.
- The project mentions the FAST program but does not mention the data they collect or plan to collect to complement this effort.
- The application does not describe how the data would be analyzed to understand how many of the fish overshoot the Dalles Dam and successfully return to Fifteenmile Creek.
- The application does not describe the implications of not operating the downstream migrating juvenile fish trap Friday morning to Sunday afternoon and how that data gap can be accounted for when estimating the abundance of out-migrating juvenile fish.
- The application does not describe the roles of the specific ODFW staff identified in the application.
- The application does not describe the specific efforts to engage community stakeholders to share this information and to assist with describing trends associated with watershed restoration actions.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

The final report should provide a description about how the grantee and restoration practitioners have used or plan to use the data to evaluate effectiveness of restoration actions across the watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous fish monitoring work that occurred from 2006 to 2019 developed a robust data set essential to management of salmonids in the Fifteenmile Creek watershed. The proposed project will continue status and trend monitoring for salmonids in the Fifteenmile Creek where previous efforts left off in 2019.
- The applicant and partners have implemented similar type monitoring efforts with proven success.

- The monitoring data could be beneficial for informing current fisheries, habitat, and water quantity restoration projects in the Fifteenmile basin.
- The data will help managers better understand whether fish are effectively utilizing the sluiceway at the Dalles dam for adult downstream passage.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether all ODFW staff listed can commit to the time allotted in the application and budget.
- The application lacks specific details on how the data will inform future restoration.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed monitoring effort is led by research staff at ODFW. Data collected will provide status and trend information on ESA listed anadromous fish in the Fifteenmile Creek watershed that is critical to inform future fisheries management and restoration needs.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$209,025

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$209,025

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4034-19625

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Wildlife Crossing Effectiveness
Monitoring in Central Oregon

Applicant: OSU Office of Sponsored Research &
Award Admin

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$54,831

Total Cost: \$77,703

Application Description This project will document effectiveness of five wildlife crossing structures on U.S. Highway 97 between Gilchrist and Lava Butte (mileposts 149-185) designed to restore and enhance habitat connectivity for mule deer and elk between summer and winter ranges. Four of the crossing structures have been completed, while the fifth will be completed in 2021 as the latest component of a regional connectivity initiative. Three of the five crossing structures will also include design elements (deer guards) that were not a component of structures completed in prior phases of the project, and for which no effectiveness monitoring has occurred. A previously awarded proposal for completion of the fifth structure specified use of camera traps (in combination with ODOT deer-vehicle collision data) to document individual structure effectiveness but did not include funding for study design, data processing and analysis, or associated reporting. Further, there is a need to monitor all five crossing structures to evaluate regional effectiveness of the habitat connectivity initiative overall and to provide the necessary information to inform future connectivity restoration efforts statewide. Funds requested here will be applied toward camera trap study design, data collection, image processing and analysis, and associated reporting by the Oregon State University Human and Ecosystem Resilience and Sustainability Lab (HERS). HERS will collaborate with both Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and ODOT regarding study design parameters, agency information priorities and reporting requirements. Funding this request will inform a strategic and evidence-based platform for effective regional wildlife crossing systems in a corridor identified as a high priority in the Oregon Action Plan.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the existing data about wildlife vehicle collisions on this highway that are collected and maintained by ODOT, and the camera trap data for some sections of the highway that have existing wildlife passage structures.
- The project will develop a draft and final study design and protocol, with peer review from ODOT, ODFW, and National Park Service staff.
- The applicant cites methods from Colorado and Nevada and acknowledges that these methods will be refined during this project.

- The application describes the quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) measures that will be taken to review the data at key stages for transcription errors prior to data analysis. QA/QC measures are also described in and taken into consideration during camera deployment, and when using software to review the camera trap imagery to reduce redundant counts or missing ungulate movements.
- The application thoroughly describes how data will be stored in Excel and placed on a cloud-based database to share with partners. A comprehensive report will be completed with the finalized protocol and shared with ODOT, OWEB and ODFW.
- The data will be made publicly available by generating a peer-reviewed journal article and a poster will be presented at the OR Chapter of Wildlife Society conference. A presentation will be delivered to local audiences at either the High Desert Museum or Sunriver Nature Center.
- The staff and consultants working on this project possess the necessary qualifications and experience to complete this project as proposed.
- The applicant is engaging the community stakeholders by working with the Central Oregon Landwatch, which is contributing match, to understand wildlife habitat connectivity issues and monitor the wildlife passage project.
- The costs in the budget include expenses for a Master's student at OSU to assist with data collection and analyses. These costs are appropriate for the work necessary to accomplish the objectives and timeline described in the application.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It was not clear how applicable this data will be to inform similar wildlife passage actions in other geographic areas.
- The application does not describe any other current or planned wildlife monitoring efforts besides ODOT plans to continue to collect vehicle collision data by processing road kills.
- The application does not include monitoring questions, which makes it difficult to review the application relative to specific evaluation criteria.
- It was not clear if one year of collecting camera trap data at the newly installed site is enough data to make conclusions about the effectiveness of the different wildlife passage features.
- The study design does not have pre-project camera trap data to compare post-project data they will be collecting.
- The timeline included in the application was confusing; some of the information was conflicting about timing to complete data collection and reporting tasks. It was not clear if there was enough time to complete a thorough analysis and develop peer reviewed journal articles.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will help document the effectiveness of different strategies to safely allow for wildlife passage under and near highways.

- Many other Western states are further along in developing strategies and solutions for wildlife passage, the applicant and partners will utilize and incorporate lessons learned from these other efforts.
- There is a clear need to identify effective wildlife crossing measures since there is a high correlation between crossings used by animals and where animal mortalities have been recorded.
- ODOT traffic data indicates a continued trend in increased highway traffic, making this project timely to inform future wildlife passage design.
- The applicant and partners have experience in similar work and are well suited to be successful.

Concerns

- The monitoring timeline is only for one year which may not be enough time to meet project goals.
- It is unclear why OWEB is being asked to fund this project instead of ODOT, which has a role as managers of transportation infrastructure.
- It may not be cost effective for Oregon to invest in monitoring the effectiveness of wildlife crossing strategies when other Western states have developed proven measures to safely pass wildlife that could be implemented.

Concluding Analysis

The project will utilize previously installed measures to pass wildlife under Highway 97 to understand the effectiveness of these wildlife crossings. The project will evaluate different types of passage mechanisms and track photo data for all animals, which will inform future wildlife connectivity efforts.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$54,831

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$54,831

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4035-19555 **Project Type:** Stakeholder Engagement
Project Name: Hood River Pesticide Management
Applicant: Hood River SWCD
Region: Central Oregon **County:** Hood River
OWEB Request: \$32,981 **Total Cost:** \$50,319

Application Description

This project will take place in Hood River County, which covers the entire Hood River watershed, and focuses on the agricultural areas of Parkdale, Odell, and Hood River. Approximately 350 cherry, pear, and apple orchards cover 10,800 irrigated acres in the Hood River Valley. Orchards are sprayed with herbicides, fungicides and pesticides, and many border waterways making pesticide run-off and drift into surface waters a major concern. Steelhead and Chinook salmon are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and impaired water quality was identified as contributing to their decline (Hood River Watershed Action Plan, 2014 Update). The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership program began in Hood River to sample for pesticides in local waterways and implement best management practices to try to reduce their occurrence in samples. While sampling has been continuous since 2000, pesticide training efforts have waned and efforts in Spanish are non-existent. We propose to provide three years of pesticide trainings, in Spanish and English, to local orchardists and their employees. Trainings will cover hands-on sprayer calibration and optimization, as well as best management practices to reduce the amount of pesticides over applied and in drift. We will provide quick guides, in Spanish and English, to reference when working with pesticides. We will also generate a list of landowners from these workshops interested in establishing vegetative buffers around waterways to reduce pollution entering rivers and streams. Partners include: Oregon State University Extension, Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Training in pesticide application and associated equipment calibration has been identified as a need by the applicant and partners.
- The access to pesticide credits through non-English speaking trainings is a great incentive for attracting participation.
- The proposed training should lead to a more efficient use of chemicals, promoting an environmental benefit and a reduction in operational costs.
- The applicant and partners are experienced with this type of work.
- The proposed stakeholder engagement builds off established relationships and lessons learned from similar successful efforts.

- The timing of the trainings is thoughtful and designed to align with the seasonality of the work to reach as many people as possible.

Concerns

- The application lacks a description explaining a direct link between the proposed engagement activities and expected water quality improvements.
- It is unclear from the application whether the Pesticide Stewardship Program that has been active in Hood River will be engaged in the proposed project.
- Recruiting landowners to establish streamside buffers may be difficult. Growers prefer no vegetation along the stream because it traps cold air sinks that can be harmful to fruit trees.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal presents a thoughtful approach to engage orchard staff to be more efficient with pesticide applications. This project will utilize the same Spanish speaking workshop presenters that assisted with previous irrigation water management trainings that targeted the same set of stakeholders. The proposed stakeholder engagement is likely to succeed in reducing pesticides entering Hood River.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$32,981

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$32,981

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4036-19621

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Upper Deschutes Basin
Comprehensive Water Management Plan -
Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Deschutes River Conservancy

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$84,518

Total Cost: \$172,165

Application Description

The Deschutes River Conservancy, in partnership with the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, proposes to develop a comprehensive Upper Deschutes sub-basin water management plan through the Deschutes Basin Watershed Collaborative (DBWC). The Upper Deschutes sub-basin is a HUC-8 watershed in Deschutes, Jefferson, Crook and Klamath Counties in Central Oregon. It encompasses the Middle and Upper Deschutes River above the Pelton-Round Butte Dam Complex and associated tributaries, including Tumalo Creek, Crescent Creek and the Little Deschutes River. This project addresses low and altered streamflow issues in the upper Deschutes River sub-basin, a major limiting factor for fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and watershed health. The Deschutes River is over-appropriated - more water is authorized to be diverted from the river than actually exists in the river. Inadequate streamflow and unnatural stream flow regimes created by valid irrigation water use have been identified as the primary limiting factor with regard to native fish distribution and productivity. This project focuses stakeholder engagement around the collaborative process of the DBWC – namely, the committees and processes outlined in the Charter (see Attachment C), including the Planning Team, Working Group, and the Technical, Communications/Outreach, and Groundwater committees. The goal is to support these multi-stakeholder groups with neutral facilitation and coordination services to help them develop a collaborative Comprehensive Upper Deschutes Basin Water Management Plan from October 2021 with a final Plan being produced in August 2022, and adoption by regional boards occurring by November 2022. The remainder of the project time frame – from December 2022 to September 2023 – is focused on convening the group to support and monitor the implementation of the Plan. The project also incorporates outreach to key regional boards, the general public, and local and state decision makers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant will utilize a neutral party facilitator with a proven track record leading the Deschutes Basin Watershed Collaborative stakeholder group.
- The proposed work is timely given the need to build consensus in developing a comprehensive water management plan.
- The applicant is experienced and best suited to lead this stakeholder group.

- The engagement is essential to maintain focus amongst a diverse set of interests in developing solutions to a complex problem.

Concerns

- It is challenging to discern how many meetings are included in the budget, and whether the sub-committee meetings are included as well, because the contracted services line item is a lump sum.
- The timeline for generating consensus and approving a comprehensive plan by August 2022 seems optimistic.

Concluding Analysis

Restoring streamflow in the Upper Deschutes River basin is a complex issue involving many stakeholders with various interests. The Deschutes Basin Watershed Collaborative has been actively leading and engaging the stakeholders to develop solutions, this proposal allows for this process to continue.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$84,518

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$84,518

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4037-19624

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Outreach & Collaboration to Promote Easements in Southeast Oregon

Applicant: Oregon Agricultural Trust

Region: Central Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: \$96,485

Total Cost: \$128,125

Application Description

1) Oregon Agricultural Trust's (OAT's) stakeholder engagement project will partner with farmers and ranchers for conservation on their privately owned agricultural lands in our Southeast Oregon focal area of Lake, Harney, and Malheur counties (see map of our strategic focal area). This area includes all or portions of 11 watersheds.2) This project addresses three issues in the focal area: 1) degradation and fragmentation of rangeland that also serves as Greater Sage Grouse habitat, 2) proliferation of invasive species and woody encroachment of nonnative grasses on these lands, and 3) threatened loss of riparian wet meadow habitat necessary for migratory waterfowl and aquifer replenishment. This project will enable OAT to build existing and new relationships with agricultural landowners interested in permanently protecting their lands with working land easements and participating in conservation activities funded by OWEB and NRCS. Landscape-scale conservation is much more efficient when the land is not fragmented and is stewarded by owner operators who know and invest in their property. Therefore, the use of working land conservation easements to prevent fragmentation and promote ranch and farm business viability will enable effective implementation of regional conservation efforts.3) Outreach activities are: 1) 6 outreach events to a total of 50 agricultural landowners on how they can use conservation tools to meet their goals of business/succession planning; 2) one-on-one meetings with 20 existing and new landowner partners; 3) development of a booklet for land protection staff to use in guiding landowners through their options; 4) meetings with partner organizations to customize our easement template and develop a FIP or RCPP by fall 2022; 5) develop and draft the partnership grant application.4) Project partners include: DU; IWJV; Lake, Harney, and Malheur SWCDs; Harney County Farm Bureau; the High Desert Partnership; and the Burns Paiute Tribe.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A stakeholder engagement effort in the proposed geography will allow for opportunities to communicate and build relationships with landowners who have traditionally been challenging to effectively engage.
- The applicant's staff has a depth of knowledge regarding effective ways to engage agriculturally based landowners, including experience in implementing conservation easements on working landscapes.
- The development of a brochure outlining a guide to conservation easements will be an effective tool to provide landowners.

- The conservation values within the project geography are vast, including sage grouse habitat and wetland ecosystems. The applicant will utilize knowledgeable partners to aid in prioritizing easements with high conservation value.
- The applicant has ample capacity to take on conservation easements, is adept at fundraising, and has experienced staff with diverse capabilities.

Concerns

- The cost for hosting six workshops appears high compared to similar projects; however, it is likely because these workshops will require long travel times and various degrees of landowner recruitment work leading up to the workshops.
- The timeline in the application is aggressive to accomplish the work proposed.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant is seeking opportunities to engage remote parts of Southeastern Oregon to gauge interest in conservation easements. The applicant's recent surveying of agricultural producers emphasizes this geography as a priority for engagement and opportunity to protect high value conservation habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$96,485

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

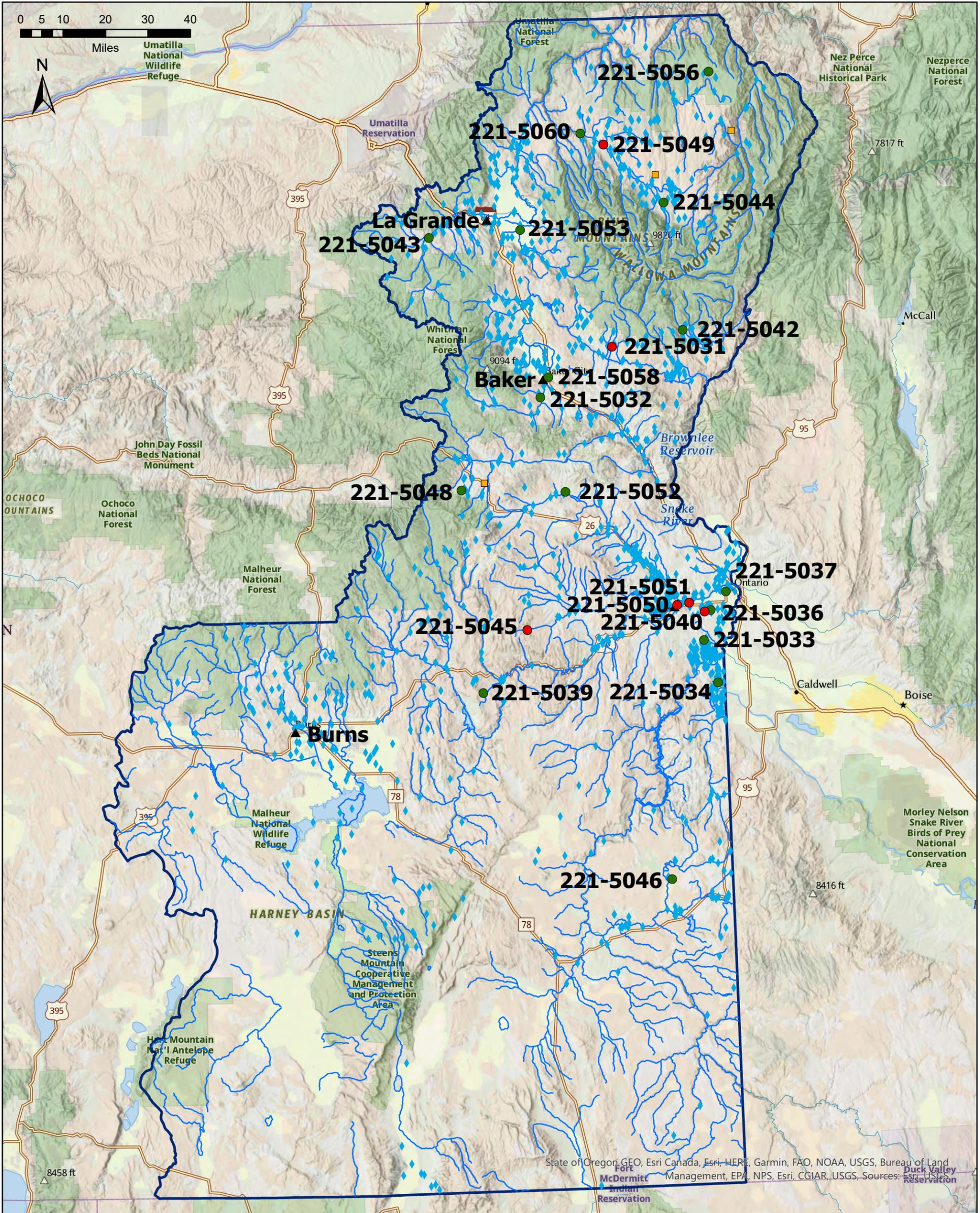
Staff Recommended Amount

\$96,485

Staff Conditions

N/A

Eastern Oregon - Region 5 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2020

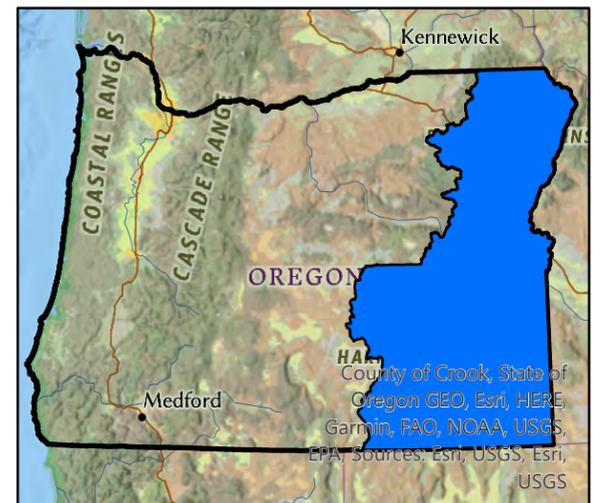
- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 5 Cities
- Region 5 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 5 Boundary



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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
221-5043	Tri-County CWMA	Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase VI	Non-native weed inventory, treatment, and monitoring will occur in the Upper Grande Ronde River watershed to contain and control noxious weeds impacting fish and wildlife habitat.	35,474	Union
221-5034	Owyhee WC	Angus Water Quality Improvement	Forty flood irrigated acres will be converted to sprinkler irrigation in the Big Bend area east of the Snake River near Adrian to eliminate irrigation wastewater and improve water quality in the nearby Snake River.	73,538	Malheur
221-5036	Malheur SWCD	The Right Key	Over thirty-five irrigated acres will be converted to sprinkler irrigation in a water quality improvement focus area near Ontario to eliminate irrigation wastewater and improve water quality in the nearby Malheur River.	46,397	Malheur
221-5039	Malheur WC	Poison Creek Wet Meadow Rehab: Stop the Invasion	Juniper will be removed on a 685-acre privately owned land near Juntura to improve habitat for sage-grouse and water quality in the Upper Malheur River Watershed.	155,265	Malheur
221-5033	Owyhee WC	Birds Eye Water Quality Improvement	Twenty flood irrigated acres near Adrian will be converted to sprinkler irrigation to eliminate irrigation wastewater and improve water quality in Cow Hollow Creek as well as the Lower Owyhee River.	38,371	Malheur
221-5037	Malheur SWCD	Watering Juniper Chapter 2	Juniper will be removed on a 376-acre privately owned land near Brogan to build on prior sage-grouse conservation efforts and improve water quality.	106,861	Malheur
221-5042	Powder Basin WC	Pine Creek Fish Habitat Enhancement Resubmit	Fish habitat and water quality will be improved in Pine Creek near Halfway by improving livestock management, planting streamside vegetation, and constructing instream structures to address eroding streambanks.	69,210	Baker
221-5044	Tri-County CWMA	NE Oregon Yellow Flag Iris Control	Yellow flag iris, a non-native and invasive plant, will be inventoried, treated, and monitored in Baker, Union, and Wallowa Counties to contain and control this noxious plant impacting native plant communities.	22,050	Wallowa
221-5046	Owyhee WC	Blue Bird Water Quality Improvement	Sixty-five flood irrigated acres west of Jordan Valley will be converted to sprinkler irrigation to eliminate irrigation wastewater and improve water quality in Cow and Jordan Creeks as well as the Upper Owyhee River.	54,794	Malheur
221-5032	Baker Valley SWCD	Vaughn Stock Water	Sediment and bacteria delivery into Powder River will be eliminated by piping an irrigation ditch and installing watering troughs to prevent livestock access to surface water on private property near Baker City.	37,567	Baker
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				639,527	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County

Region 5- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Borad: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grancy Cycle July 26, 2021

221-5031	Keating SWCD	Skinner Irrigation and Stock Water	Water quality in Balm Creek and the Lower Powder River in the Keating area of Baker County will be improved by converting 180 flood irrigated acres to sprinkler irrigation to eliminate irrigation wastewater and developing three springs to provide off stream stock water access.	53,654	Baker
221-5040	Malheur SWCD	Arabian Pipeline	An open earthen canal will be converted to a burried pipeline to convert 243 flood irrigated acres to sprinkler irrigation, which will eliminate wastewater and improve water quality in the Malheur River.	128,531	Malheur
221-5045	Malheur WC	Indian Creek Fire Rehab: Kill Medusahead While You Can	Critical sagebrush-steppe habitat for sage-grouse will be restored following the Indian Creek fire near Westfall in Malheur County by treating invasive annual grasses, removing juniper, and rebuilding pasture fence.	75,420	Malheur

Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT						
Project #	Grantee	Project Title			Amount Requested	County
221-5030	Burnt River SWCD	High Line Ditch Repair			19,275	Baker
221-5035	Harney SWCD	Sagebrush Habitat Restoration HC54 and HC78			664,024	Harney
221-5038	Malheur SWCD	Gully Wash			33,720	Malheur
221-5041	Malheur SWCD	Investing in NF Bank Futures			96,648	Malheur
221-5043	Tri-County CWMA	Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase VI			35,474	Union

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-5048	Powder Basin WC	Makin' Clarity on the Run	Designs will be developed for efficient and effective irrigation diversion structures that will eliminate the need to install and maintain push-up dams, which will improve water quality, fish passage, and stream channel stability in the South Fork Burnt River Watershed near Unity.	29,194	Baker
221-5053	Union County Admin Services	Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Feasibility and Stream Flow Study	A large-scale instream study of the Grande Ronde River upstream of La Grande will be conducted to determine instream flow needs and inform future fish habitat, water conservation and storage, and water quality improvement restoration.	75,000	Union
221-5052	Malheur WC	We Ain't Greenhorns but We Need Help Fixin' Willow Creek_CLONE	Restoration plans will be developed to address the lack of streamside vegetation, floodplain function, and fish habitat on Willow Creek upstream of the Malheur Reservoir, which will improve water quality and fish and sage-grouse habitats.	62,701	Malheur
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				166,895	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-5051	Malheur WC	River Mile 15: Technical Assistance_CLONE	Designs will be developed to address eroding streambanks, poor streamside vegetation, deficient water quality, and inadequate wildlife habitat on a private property near Vale in the Malheur River watershed.	38,352	Malheur
221-5049	Wallowa Resources	Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland Upland Restoration	A restoration plan will be developed to convert a three-acre stand of non-native grasses to native plants using non-chemical methods.	8,123	Wallowa
221-5050	Malheur SWCD	More SSP Plans	Habitat conservation plans will be developed for six landowners and progress will be monitored on ten additional properties with existing plans in a priority sage-grouse habitat in Malheur County, which will contribute to proper land stewardship for sage-grouse conservation.	67,705	Malheur

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
None					

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon Stakeholder Engagement

Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
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None

Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff	
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Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
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None

Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
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None

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-5056	Wallowa Resources	Monitoring the Effects of Management on Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation (MIM): Phase 3	Grazing allotments on US Forest Service lands will be monitored to inform pasture management decisions and activities that will lead to improved stream conditions and fish habitat.	21,815	Wallowa
221-5060	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation	Grande Ronde Basin Stream Flow Gauging Stations Operation - Water Years 2022 & 2023	Stream flow data will be collected at twelve stream flow gauging stations located in Union and Wallowa Counties to inform irrigation water management, fisheries research and management, and restoration project development.	101,002	Wallowa
221-5058	Powder Basin WC	Powder Basin Long-Term Water Quality Monitoring - Enhanced	Water quality data will be collected in the Powder River Basin to build on eight years of existing data, better understand long-term water quality trends, and inform land management and restoration.	174,662	Baker
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				297,479	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-5057	Harney SWCD	Harney CCAA Monitoring	147,414	Harney	
221-5059	Malheur SWCD	Down and Dirty	69,827	Malheur	

Region 5 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	1,103,901
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5030-19443

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: High Line Ditch Repair

Applicant: Burnt River SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$19,275

Total Cost: \$24,323

Application Description

This project is located near Hereford, Oregon, about seven miles from Unity Reservoir, in the Burnt River Soil and Water Conservation District and partially within, and surrounded by, the Burnt Fork Focus Area; part of Oregon Department of Agriculture's Ag Water Quality Program. This project consists of the open earthen High Line Ditch that diverts irrigation water from the Burnt River and travels two miles to the property; serving as the only source of irrigation water. A 700-foot section of the High Line Ditch is currently experiencing severe erosion and water loss due to the rocky composition of the soil as well as the steep terrain at the project site. The proximity of the Burnt River (only 215 feet below this eroding section of ditch) makes a potential failure an even greater concern. If erosion continues at the same rate, the ditch will wash out, causing significant damage to the project site while contributing a large bedload of sediment, debris, and matter into the Burnt River. The landowner is partnering with the Burnt River SWCD to implement the High Line Ditch Repair project to mitigate the erosion and water loss at the project site.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The map and photos provided in the application clearly present the water quality problem to be addressed, including the proximity of the ditch to the Burnt River.
- Piping the ditch may be a technically sound alternative given the site conditions, including rocky ground.
- The landowner consulted an irrigation contractor for pipe sizing and design alternatives.
- The applicant has been engaging producers to build support for improved irrigation water management near Unity.

Concerns

- The application does not provide evidence that the design alternatives were considered and that the proposed project is an effective way to improve the irrigation ditch and prevent erosion.
- The proposed solution may address an isolated problem in the immediate project area, but the application does not describe the whole ditch system or provide detail to determine project priority.
- At completion the producer will not change flood irrigation practices on the property. Project benefits are limited to a small improvement to the water delivery system.

- The project implementation strategy in this area is piecemeal and focuses on a landowner-to-landowner approach rather than a larger watershed perspective. A larger discussion with the irrigation district is warranted to improve water delivery and to make significant ecological change.
- Without linkages between water quality data and the proposed action within the larger system of the irrigation ditch and the Burnt River, the watershed context and priority for the proposed action is unclear.
- The Burnt River Irrigation District is not identified as a partner on the project. This is important as the district delivers stored water to patrons demonstrating the need for their participation.

Concluding Analysis

Proposing to mitigate erosion and irrigation water delivery loss in an ODA water quality focus area, the applicant seeks to pipe a small eroding section of the High Line Ditch. Water quality and quantity are high priorities in the watershed, but it is unclear to what extent the proposed actions will improve these parameters. The application lacks significant detail; it is unclear if this problem is isolated or pervasive in the ditch, designs are not included in the application, and the partnership does not include key participants. Likelihood of success is unknown based on the information provided.

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-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5031-19449	Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Skinner Irrigation and Stock Water	
Applicant: Keating SWCD	
Region: Eastern Oregon	County: Baker
OWEB Request: \$53,654	Total Cost: \$191,263

Application Description

This project is located within the Keating SWCD as well as the Lower Powder Strategic Implementation Area (SIA); a focus area that consists of four drainages (including Balm Creek) and multiple tributaries to the Powder River. This area was chosen specifically to help demonstrate the effectiveness of water quality programs, as well as for the watershed's need for continued water quality improvements. The Skinner Irrigation and Stockwater Project will address 180 acres of flood irrigated pasture ground and exposed springs that are currently being trampled and degraded by livestock use. Sourced from Balm Creek, an unnamed irrigation ditch transports water to the project site where it is then diverted into a series of earthen ditches that flood irrigate the property. As flood irrigation water is "pushed" across the field it collects sediment, debris, and material adding it to Balm Creek. In addition, flood irrigation requires more water than what is necessary to refill the soil profile compared to a pivot system, which allows the landowner to apply water only when and where it is needed. Water-saving is a big concern. More water is used through flood irrigation than is necessary and ineffectively covers the ground. Water quality becomes a main concern as well, as sediment and other debris flows down the hillside, emptying back into Balm Creek in the Lower Powder SIA. The landowner will partner with Keating SWCD to convert 180 acres from flood irrigation to sprinkler by installing two center pivots, developing three springs and installing three rubber tire watering troughs to encourage livestock to redistribute across the pasture. With the installation of the pivots, the ditch will be abandoned and the only source of water will come from the water trough.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner is engaged, motivated, and ready to implement the proposed project.
- Photos and maps provided in the application show the terrain in sufficient detail to evaluate the proposed project.
- Converting from flood to pivot irrigation may have a significant water savings benefit, although the benefit is not quantified.
- The project is within the Lower Powder River ODA Strategic Implementation Area, which is a priority for water quality improvement. A water quality monitoring plan is currently in development in this area that encompasses the SIA geography. The monitoring will document landscape changes related to irrigation water and livestock management improvements.
- The application references applicable science from the Klamath Basin describing nutrient reduction to creeks resulting from this project type, providing confidence the project is focused on outcomes.

Concerns

- The application does not have sufficient detail on slopes, how the pivots will negotiate the steep site conditions, and how the terrain will impact equipment longevity and irrigation application.
- Closed trough systems with an automatic shut off or piped water return will result in greater water quality benefit than the proposed open system.
- The wetlands in the project area are not natural systems, making this a challenging place for the SWCD to work from a regulatory perspective. Additionally, the springs are not exempt from permitting and require a stock water development permit from OWRD.
- It is unclear if there will be a quantifiable water quality benefit without fencing the springs.
- The drainage ditches on this property are part of a larger system that flows into adjacent BLM lands with robust vegetation communities, bringing into question the riparian management on this private property.
- Russian Olive, an invasive species, occupies the spring sites, which will obstruct the pivot operation. More detail on how the project will address Russian olive would have strengthened the application.

Concluding Analysis

Seeking to improve water quality in ODA's Lower Powder River SIA, the applicant, in partnership with the landowner, proposes to convert 180-acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation and improve stock watering methods. Both conservation approaches are generally effective methods to improve water quality; however, the application lacks topographic and design detail informing the longevity and effectiveness of the pivots. The proposed stock watering system is not exempt from OWRD permitting, requiring the system be built as an enclosed system.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

11 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$53,654

Review Team Conditions

Construct stock watering troughs as a closed system with no overland return flow and according to OWRD permitting requirements.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5032-19452

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Vaughn Stock Water

Applicant: Baker Valley SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$37,567

Total Cost: \$51,331

Application Description

This project is located just outside of Baker City, Oregon in the Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and within the Powder River Watershed. The Powder River is located approximately one mile from the project area and is connected through several irrigation ditches. Currently, livestock have unrestricted access to water in an irrigation ditch that runs through a five-acre corral at the project site. While there are many factors that contribute to poor water quality, unrestricted livestock use amongst freshwater systems is the most common cause in rural areas, causing erosion and contributing excess sediment, nutrient, and organic matter inputs that flow directly back into the Powder River via the irrigation ditch. With the successful funding of this project the landowner will reroute the irrigation water that currently runs through the corral, thus no longer using the ditch, by establishing a new headgate location on the Stewart ditch and installing 20 feet of 12" and 720 feet of 10" PVC pipe to carry irrigation water around the corral instead of through it. Three new heated frost-free water troughs that will serve eight individual corrals within the five-acre area using steel cross fencing to better manage livestock distribution and watering access. These restoration activities will eliminate livestock pressure on the ditch entirely and will prevent future erosion, sedimentation, and run-off from entering and further degrading water quality in the Powder River. The landowner is partnering with the Baker Valley SWCD to implement the Vaughn Stock Water Project

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed methods are technically sound. Using domestic water to fill the troughs in the winter will benefit the system by reducing maintenance, eliminating the need to source water from an unreliable irrigation ditch, and add to the longevity of the watering system.
- The proposed corral system will provide a long-term solution to help mitigate water quality issues that result from winter feeding.
- Removing ditch water from the corrals provides a significant water quality benefit.
- Water quality monitoring documents elevated E. coli levels in the Powder River and this project will reduce bacteria runoff to the river.
- The proposed project will likely provide significant water savings through improved irrigation water delivery.
- Potential additional costs due to rising material prices, specifically large diameter pipe, will be absorbed by the landowner as match.

Concerns

- The application would benefit from more clarity around the plan to supply the troughs with well water and clear identification of the stock water source.
- The fencing material to construct the pens is appropriate and necessary; however, it is unclear if the amount of fencing proposed is appropriate for the site.
- Obtaining large diameter pipe is currently a challenge due to ongoing supply and materials shortages.

Concluding Analysis

Removing an irrigation ditch from this domestic livestock feeding facility near Baker City will have significant water quality benefit to the Powder River, which has documented sediment, organic material, and E. coli pollution. The irrigation ditch not only provides water for livestock but delivers water to a 58-acre irrigated field adjacent to the facility. Placing this ditch into a pipeline for irrigation purposes and installing a stock watering system will address both water quality and water conservation concerns on this property.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

10 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$37,567

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$37,567

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5033-19490

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Birds Eye Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$38,371

Total Cost: \$55,466

Application Description

The Birds Eye Water Quality Improvement Project is located approximately 5 miles NW of Adrian on East Cow Hollow Creek. The project area consists of 20 pasture and hay acres currently irrigated with flood/gated pipe irrigation. The upper project area sits above East Cow Hollow Creek and has many steep slopes which direct irrigation tailwater containing sediment, nutrients and bacteria directly into East Cow Hollow Creek. Steep slopes combined with current flood/gated pipe irrigation methods are also causing severe erosion in multiple areas of the fields. East Cow Hollow Creek is a tributary to Cow Hollow Creek and the Lower Owyhee River. The proposed work includes converting 20 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 1 wheelline, 7 big gun sprinklers on carts and all required pressurized conveyance infrastructure. Project partners include the landowner, Owyhee Irrigation District, Owyhee Watershed Council, and Romans Precision Irrigation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application addresses comments from a prior review and includes water rights information, a map of other irrigated land nearby, and clarification that a water right transfer is not needed.
- Five alternatives were identified and evaluated prior to selecting the final design.
- Similar projects have resulted in little to no irrigation runoff after implementation.
- Combining two points of diversion into one is efficient, cost-effective, and reduces watershed impacts.
- The soils in this area are highly erodible and eliminating irrigation water runoff will have direct water quality benefit to Cow Hollow Creek and the Owyhee River.
- Monitoring data from Cow Hollow is provided with the application and indicates that the proposed project is likely to address a known water quality problem.
- The proposed project fits within the context of and builds on similar projects that have been implemented in this watershed.
- The project is located near the headwaters of the watershed, which is an ideal location to implement this type of work.
- At completion, the project will have high visibility and will be a catalyst for other water quality improvement work in the area.
- The applicant has a strong track record of implementing similar projects.

Concerns

- No concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 20 steep and highly erodible flood irrigated acres from flood to sprinkler application will eliminate irrigation wastewater from this property. The application is a resubmittal that addresses prior review concerns, proposes fully vetted actions resulting from an analysis of many alternatives, and helps implement ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives for Cow Hollow Creek and the Owyhee River.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$38,371

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$38,371

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5034-19505

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Angus Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$73,538

Total Cost: \$181,160

Application Description

The Angus Water Quality Improvement Project is located across the Snake River just East of Adrian in the Big Bend Area. The project area consists of 39.69 acres of pasture, hay, and row crop land currently irrigated with flood/gated pipe irrigation. Tailwater containing sediment, nutrients and bacteria flow off the project area into the Oakander Drain, Singer Drain, then into the Snake River approximately ½ mile from the project site. The proposed work includes converting 39.69 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 2 pivot systems (35.69 acres), 2 solid set big gun sprinklers (2 acres), handline sprinklers (2 acres), all required pressurized conveyance infrastructure. Project partners include the landowner, Big Bend Irrigation District, Owyhee Watershed Council, and Rain for Rent Irrigation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Maps, photos, and design details within the application are clear and helpful in evaluating the project.
- The proposed work is well thought out and the application contains data supporting the chosen design.
- The site is located close to the Snake River and is an appropriate location to convert from flood to sprinkler irrigation, reducing transport of nutrients, bacteria, and sediment to adjacent water ways.
- There is no water quality monitoring in this area, but the Snake River downstream of this project does have monitoring sites. A decrease in sediment and phosphorous has been documented at those sites, which may be attributed to upstream improved irrigation water management efforts.
- The Big Bend area is a priority for the Owyhee Watershed Council and this project builds on prior installed flood to sprinkler conversion projects.
- The applicant consistently completes projects in a timely manner and as proposed.
- The project area is important and often overlooked by other entities due to its geographic location east of the Snake River and on the Idaho and Oregon border.
- A contingency is provided within the budget to accommodate rising material costs.

Concerns

- Small diameter pipe installation is missing from the budget, but this expense is identified in the application as landowner match.
- Pipe availability is low, and cost is high due to COVID 19 disruptions to pipe manufacturing and supply chains. This could impact the project implementation timeline and budget.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 39.7 irrigated acres from flood to sprinkler application will eliminate irrigation wastewater from this property. Reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria runoff will build upon other work in the Big Bend area implementing ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives for the Snake River. Application clarity, descriptive uploaded documents, and applicant track record indicate a high likelihood of project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$73,538

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$73,538

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5035-19509

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Sagebrush Habitat Restoration
HC54 and HC78

Applicant: Harney SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: \$664,024

Total Cost: \$899,083

Application Description

The majority of the project area is located within the original Harney SWCD sage-grouse FIP boundary (Drewsey PAC), while a small portion is just outside of it in preliminary general habitat (PGH). The Harney SWCD is continuing to restore sage-grouse habitat on private properties enrolled in the Harney Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). Coordination with partnering agencies and neighboring properties is critical in planning and implementation of our projects. The private landowners of Harney county are determined to improve ecosystem health and expand critical sage-grouse habitat. By cutting juniper it will create connectivity of each critical habitat type that the sage-grouse requires, and will provide a safe corridor for migration. Juniper encroachment remains a major threat to sage-grouse habitats. Juniper serve as perches for birds of prey, and sage-grouse instinctively avoid areas with significant juniper cover. In the absence of "pre-settlement" wildfire regimes, juniper out compete shrubs, native grasses and forbs. Without active juniper removal, the sage-brush steppe can transition to a juniper dominated site with less desirable species, such as invasive annual grasses. With annual grasses comes an increased, unnatural, fire interval. These types of fires can destroy thousands of acres of critical, intact, habitat. With this increased threat comes the need for installation of "fuel breaks" to protect critical habitats. Fuel breaks can consist of conifer removal, brush reduction, annual grass treatment and seeding of desirable perennial species. Properties enrolled in the Harney CCAA are required to address threats to the survival of the Greater sage-grouse. The SWCD seeks to use OWEB funds for the implementation of juniper removal and medusahead treatment to minimize wildfire threat and restore sagebrush habitat. Project partners include, NRCS, BLM, HCWMA, USFWS, private landowners and ODFW.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will address recommended conservation measures for sage-grouse conservation on the subject properties.
- The project is adjacent to similar work on both private and public land and builds on past sage-grouse conservation efforts. The proposed work will fill in the gaps where other organizations are unable to work.
- There is a direct link in peer reviewed literature between sage-grouse population growth and juniper removal.

- The properties are within and adjacent to core sage-grouse habitat, the highest priority for sage-grouse conservation.
- Landowners enrolled in a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) have an annual conversation with Harney SWCD about conservation measures implemented and the project areas are monitored on a three-to-seven-year rotation.

Concerns

- The desired perennial cover and the location of invasive annual grass treatments are unclear, making it challenging to determine the technical soundness of the proposed project.
- The application lacks a grazing management plan, which is necessary to determine the likelihood of long-term sustainability of the conservation investment.
- It is unclear whether slash piles will be burned and if so on what timeline. Landowner match for slash pile burning is detailed in the budget but is not described in the narrative.
- It is unclear how juniper density was inventoried and what stages of juniper encroachment exist in the project area.
- The density of medusahead is unclear from the application and additional detail describing how medusahead will impact the proposed conservation measures is needed.
- The application maps lack detail; inclusion of aerial photography would have helped provide clarity on juniper density and potential sage-grouse benefit.
- Landowner privacy concerns notwithstanding, the application lacks specific maintenance and monitoring requirements necessary for understanding the likelihood of long-term success of the project. A detailed description of the CCAA and how it will improve sage-grouse habitat on the properties would have been helpful.
- Letters of support indicating partner roles and responsibilities are needed to evaluate whether appropriate partners are engaged.

Concluding Analysis

Harney SWCD continues to implement sage-grouse conservation efforts with private landowners following the completion of the Harney SWCD sage-grouse FIP. This work in the Drewsey PAC proposes to control encroaching juniper and treat medusahead, both of which are threats to sage-grouse. The application lacks significant detail including inventory methods, description of how these efforts promote sage-grouse conservation, and conditions in the field. Partnerships are not described, and lack of post-treatment maintenance is a concern for project longevity.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5036-19522

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: The Right Key

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$46,397

Total Cost: \$118,787

Application Description

1) Six miles west of Ontario, located in the Morgan Bench Focus Area. This proposed project will connect to the pressurized Morgan Feedlot Pipeline (OWEB #220-5034) that runs east of the proposed project, that will be installed in the fall of 2021.2) Runoff from 36.5 acres of flood irrigation on 65 irrigated acres for this farm is contributing to the sediment loads from the Nevada Ditch, then the Malheur River which is known to be the second dirtiest river in the state, ending up in the Snake River. The landowner uses his fields in the winter months to winter 60 to 70 head of livestock. There is a small hill on the South West corner of the field that is currently difficult to irrigate with gated pipe, requiring extra water to be applied trying to get this area wet.3) Grant 220-5034 Morgan Feedlot Pipeline will be installed by Owyhee Irrigation District (OID) this fall with NRCS funding for pipe cost increase and cultural survey done. The landowner working with NRCS and the SWCD will connect to the new pipeline- Morgan Feedlot Pipeline turn out and • bury 902 feet of 100# PIP Pipe to the center of the pivot pad. • 4 tower Reinke pivot with end gun, • Clemmons in line screen at the pivot pad to irrigate 30 acres. • The 3-phase power is already set up on Morgan Avenue by the landowner, working with Idaho Power and is ready for use. • Cornell 3 phase hp pump and electrical panel next to road. • Bury 3543 feet of 3 phase electrical power from panel box to pivot pad. • Landowner will remove 1480 feet of fence. • install 1250 feet of new fence. 4) Landowner, NRCS, ODA, Idaho Power, BOR, Owyhee Irrigation District and the SWCD

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner is ready to implement the project and power is already on site.
- Soil maps are included with application, which helps determine applicability for the proposed irrigation system.
- Other irrigation methods are present on the site, informing the irrigation design choice. The project team evaluated a range of alternatives and determined that pivots are most appropriate for the site.
- The proposed design will double the efficiency of the current irrigation system.
- Water quality monitoring data is included in the application and is used to identify this project as a priority in the Morgan Bench focus area.
- Elimination of irrigation water tail flow will result in direct water quality benefit to the Malheur River.
- The project will build on other OWEB funded projects located nearby, including a pipeline that will serve this farm.

- Morgan Bench is a water quality improvement focus area for the applicant, NRCS, ODA, and DEQ, and the project area is monitored to document improvements to water quality.
- NRCS will provide final design if the application is funded.
- The partners have a successful track record of promoting and implementing similar projects.

Concerns

- Shortages in supplies and materials may impact project readiness.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 36.5 irrigated acres from flood to sprinkler application will eliminate irrigation wastewater from these acres. Reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria runoff will continue work in the Morgan Bench priority area implementing ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives for the Malheur River. Application clarity, descriptive uploaded documents, and partnership track record indicate a high likelihood of project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$46,397

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$46,397

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5037-19523

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Watering Juniper Chapter 2

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$106,861

Total Cost: \$135,283

Application Description

The project is located approximately 11 miles West of, Brogan OR. within Malheur County . The project is needed to further protect sage grouse while expanding their available habitat within the property. Juniper has vastly taken over southern portions of the property and needs to be addressed before anymore under story is lost. This will be a continuation of a previous cut to further remove 376 acres of encroaching juniper within enrolled lands. Also, by removing juniper we are going to be expanding the landscape and connecting larger corridors of Sage Grouse habitat. This will result in increasing spring flow water entering pole creek which is currently lost through interception and evapo-transpiration. Additionally, as this property is enrolled in the CCAA and has a letter of concurrence the project will allow MC018 to further address Juniper related conservation measures outlined in their plan and remain in compliance while transitioning the landscape from C State to an A state. Project Partners include L/O MC018 and Malheur SWCD

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Many photos are included with the application providing clarity on the landscape perspective of the project.
- Vegetation inventory information is included with the application, which helps to understand the species present and the conservation needs.
- Removing juniper has a direct and proven link to improving sage-grouse use and habitat quality, including reduced fragmentation.
- The project will build on previous work by connecting to prior successful juniper treatment efforts.
- The property is enrolled in a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) and is priority habitat for sage-grouse.
- The project will maintain initial investments because of the CCAA enrollment, where monitoring and maintenance is a long-term requirement of the agreement.
- Due to its context within priority sage-grouse habitat where successful conservation measures have been implemented, the site is strategic and continues to expand on previously established habitat benefits.
- The landowner has a track record of successfully maintaining previous juniper treatments.

Concerns

- Pre- and post-treatment photos from previous projects would have strengthened the application.
- Landowner privacy concerns notwithstanding, a map providing regional conservation information would be helpful to understand landscape context.
- The application indicates that a small dozer will be used for juniper control. While an experienced operator may be successful at reducing the area of impact, lower impact methods may be more suitable.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant proposes to improve sage-grouse habitat by continuing to remove encroaching juniper on 376 acres. Informed by successful prior projects, landowner attention to maintenance, and conditions of the CCAA agreement, there is confidence this work will be maintained post-treatment. The application would benefit from inclusion of past project monitoring results and further description of treatment methods; however, landowner history provides confidence in project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$106,861

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$106,861

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5038-19526

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Gully Wash

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$33,720

Total Cost: \$45,719

Application Description

1) The project is in the NRCS Jacobsen Gulch priority area, approximately 6 miles North of Ontario. Runoff is 1.22 miles before co-mingling the Jacobson Gulch Drain, then .22 miles to the Snake River. SWCD samples Jacobson Gulch Drain 2X a month during irrigation season. 2) The first gully created by over watering from the neighbor's tree farm is in the middle of 11 acre field and the second gully is at the top east corner of the landowner same field, but in a different field for the neighbors runoff. The gullies have cut banks and are very steep. This issue started in the early 2013 and has increased in depth size since. 3) This proposal will Pipe the drain that comes underneath Oak Road alongside the driveway before it crosses into his pasture and stopping in the trees before entering his pond. Up at the top of the East side of the field, collect runoff into a can, then pipe down to the pond. This project would improve water quality by reducing erosion. This project is in a NRCS priority area and has erosion issues. Water quality improvement in the Jacobsen Gulch Priority. Water quality improvement is achieved through on-farm irrigation infrastructure improvements and management. This project is all about irrigation management. • 4 – Control Structures • 1300 ft-10" 80 pip pipe for gully • 1140 ft -12" pip pipe for drain • 300 yards of fill dirt • Pipe the drain 4) Project partners include NRCS, landowner and the SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Water quality monitoring occurring in Jacobsen gulch as part of the SWCDs monitoring program may inform the proposed project.

Concerns

- The application does not indicate that alternative conservation approaches were considered.
- The erosion occurring on the property is a result of irrigation water delivery mismanagement on a neighboring property. The proposed project addresses a symptom rather than the root cause of the watershed problem.
- There is no clear water quality benefit to Jacobsen Gulch and the Snake River given that all sediment and wastewater go to a pond on the property.
- Water delivery and overuse problems must be addressed by Owyhee Irrigation District.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant proposes to collect and pipe mismanaged irrigation water and deliver it to a pond located on the project site. While this action may stop erosion, the methods are not substantiated by a design, and no actions are proposed to improve irrigation water management. It is unlikely that the project as described will measurably improve water quality.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5039-19531

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Poison Creek Wet Meadow Rehab:
Stop the Invasion

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$155,265

Total Cost: \$210,840

Application Description

1) This project is located around Poison Creek about 5 air miles SW of Juntura.2) Juniper is shading out native vegetation around 3 wet meadows and 1.85 miles of the riparian area. Reduction of native vegetation negatively affects sage-grouse habitat and Poison Creek's hydrology. The project area is in core sage-grouse habitat. Juniper out-compete native bunchgrass, forbs and shrub necessary habitats for sage-grouse life cycle. And juniper provide perches for avian species predating on young sage-grouse. Riparian areas and wet meadows are critical for late-season, brood-rearing. Because of less-than-desirable vegetation conditions, Poison Creek is susceptible to erosion during heavy cloudburst storms common in the area. These conditions lead to excessive erosion and sediment movement. Several recent studies have shown that dense stands of juniper negatively affect infiltration of water to the ground, which affects wet-meadow function.3) Remove juniper from 685 acres165 acres are "light" density -Late Stage I240 acres are "medium" density -Early Stage II280 acres are "heavy" density -Late Stage IIChainsaws will be used to cut juniper. Slash will be machine-piled on 360 acres for later cool-season burning. "Light" density and steep areas the slash will be lopped-and-scattered and limbs cut to keep the slash below 4-feet.Post-Project MaintenanceOn a yearly basis, the treated area will be inspected to determine if action needs to be taken. Criteria include counts of juniper trees per-acre. Action will be needed if there are 10 or more trees per acre. These actions could include mechanical treatment of small or large areas with loppers and/or chainsaws. This monitoring will occur for a minimum of 10 years.This project complements nearby juniper removal and riparian restoration projects. Approximately 3,550 acres treated, and successful plantings along Cripple Creek.4) Partners include: MLB Ranch, Department of State Lands, Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project objectives are clearly stated, and a monitoring plan is provided with the application.
- The site description, photos, and overview map provided in the application are clear and demonstrate site conditions in a way that helps in understanding the conservation benefits of the project.
- Examples of similar projects implemented by the applicant are provided in the application.
- The selected methods are appropriate to treat juniper expansion in the project area.
- Careful thought is given to techniques proposed in different habitat types to minimize impacts on sensitive areas.

- Springs in this area are important for wildlife including big game and sage-grouse and are a priority for ODFW.
- The applicant has a successful track record of monitoring their projects.
- The landowner manages grazing on the property appropriately to minimize ecological impacts.
- The budget is realistic based on location, access, and juniper density considerations.

Concerns

- The costs to treat juniper on public versus private lands with similar population densities are different due to the necessity of hand cutting in sensitive areas. This is not detailed in the application and would have helped with budget clarity.

Concluding Analysis

The application proposes to treat 685 acres of stage 1 and stage 2 juniper encroachment in sage-grouse habitat near Juntura. Treatments are site-specific by location and take into consideration upland, mesic, and riparian habitats and impacts from juniper removal activities. The applicant is experienced, the landowner maintains prior projects effectively, and a monitoring plan is included providing confidence the project area will be maintained post treatment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$155,265

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$155,265

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5040-19533

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Arabian Pipeline

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$128,531

Total Cost: \$313,531

Application Description

1) The project is in the Malheur SWCD, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and NRCS designated priority area of Morgan Bench 9 miles west of Ontario with Owyhee Irrigation District and NRCS as major players in this proposal. This lateral spills into Lee Road Drain, Mal 389 where the SWCD has a continuous flow meter and a water quality sample point that the SWCD samples 2X a month in the irrigation season using ODA funds. 2) The proposed pipeline is located 9 miles west of Ontario and services bench ground which has slopes up to 15%. Excessive sediment, nutrients, and bacteria are being delivered to the Malheur River caused by irrigation induced erosion and the lateral itself. This earthen lateral serves about 243 irrigated acres of crop ground that is flood irrigation. We have grants on two landowners with NRCS commitments to replace furrow to sprinkler system on 100 acres and another 21 acres this fall on this lateral. Potentially these fields could deliver 2 to 5 tons of sediment per acre per year to the Malheur River that empties into the Snake River. 3) We are proposing to:-- Replace 7040 feet of Arabian earthen lateral with an enclosed pressurized system. -- Install 8 turnout assemblies with flow meters to feed adjacent fields, one check gate -- Connect pipeline to junction box for the two landowners at the end of the pipeline.-- Install a self-cleaning screen at the headgate on the canal to keep debris and moss out of the pipeline.-- Install various kinds of tees, elbows, air vents, pressure reducers, valves, and gates. 4) Partners are:-- NRCS-- Owyhee Irrigation District-- Malheur SWCD-- Oregon Department of Agriculture

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes helpful maps showing the project area and watershed context.
- Photos show the lateral under different flow conditions, providing a clearer understanding of the watershed problem.
- NRCS is a partner in the project, providing review of the design package prior to implementation, and an engineering inspection to ensure proper installation.
- Morgan Bench is an ODA and NRCS focus area and this project builds on many prior completed and in-progress projects.
- The Owyhee Irrigation District was present at the virtual visit and is an engaged partner.

Concerns

- Monitoring data from the Morgan Bench area exists but is not included in the application. Inclusion of the data would have helped demonstrate potential water quality benefits of the project.
- The application is not proofread, making some sections difficult to understand.
- The application does not describe the overall project benefit in the Morgan Bench area and the number of acres in the queue for irrigation conversion is not articulated.

Concluding Analysis

Converting the Arabian canal to a pipeline will improve irrigation water delivery to 243 acres in the Morgan Bench priority area. This work will further efforts to implement ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives by reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria delivery to the Malheur River. While the application lacks clarity, descriptive uploaded documents and stakeholder participation indicate potential likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$128,531

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5041-19535

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Investing in NF Bank Futures

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$96,648

Total Cost: \$123,488

Application Description

1) The project is on the North Fork of the Malheur River about 9 air miles north and west of Juntura, Oregon. It is part of the Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) designated by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. 2) Need: Riparian vegetation is not in good condition at the site. There is not enough woody species present to modify water temperature and prevent bank erosion. The banks have 4 (four) to 8 (eight) feet unprotected vertical drops and are continually eroding which is contributing to excessive sediment entering the stream. The North Fork is listed by DEQ for not attaining water quality standards for dissolved oxygen and for lacking aquatic habitat. According to ODFW, redband trout, a state designated sensitive species, use the area. 3) Our goal is to improve stream, and riparian function. This will improve water quality, habitat for fish, amphibians, and other aquatic life. To accomplish this we propose to:-- Install 1388 feet of whole tree and rock revetments using 82 large juniper trees with limbs still attached (20 foot long 24 inch dbh), 98 large anchoring rocks (3 foot by 3 foot by 3 foot), 170 willow clumps above and behind juniper trees and 990 cubic yards of mixed native fill. -- This will stabilize eroding streambanks, reduce the channel's width/depth ratio, and reduce bank erosion. 4) Partners include the Landowner, RSI engineering, and the Malheur SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project may build upon other restoration work in the ODA Strategic Implementation Area.
- The applicant is experienced and has implemented similar projects.

Concerns

- A grazing plan is not identified or described in the application and is necessary to assess the sustainability of the restoration project.
- The application lacks an assessment of the compatibility of current land management practices with proposed restoration.
- Further design details including a risk and alternatives analysis are needed to evaluate likelihood of success for this type of work in this location.
- Objectives reference riparian and aquatic habitat improvements but don't align with proposed actions.
- The design is at 60% and appropriate stakeholder review by ODFW, ODA, DEQ, and others has not occurred, demonstrating a lack of due diligence.

- The scope of the project is mostly limited to instream infrastructure and consideration of the riparian area and floodplain including grazing management is not articulated.
- Proposed hardening the outside river bends may not consider fluvial geomorphic attributes of the river or be the best alternative for overall ecological benefit. Channel hardening may preclude attainment of restoration potential as well as transfer erosive flow forces downstream.
- The project treats symptoms rather than the root cause of the problem which includes grazing management and high flow releases from Beulah Reservoir.
- There is no identified plan for fish salvage which is likely to be a requirement of project construction.
- Electric fence is a concern for long-term maintenance and will not preclude browse of planted material by deer and elk, for which there is no plant protection plan.
- There is a lack of understanding of flood events in this watershed. Some erosion control work has been done; however, confidence is low that the proposed project will address erosion.
- Similar nearby projects are still in the beginning stages of implementation and success is unknown.
- The project would benefit from the involvement of stakeholders during the project development and design phase.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant proposes to improve water quality, riparian condition, and fish habitat below Agency Dam on the North Fork Malheur River. The application is informed by an OWEB-funded technical assistance grant and that design effort is at 60%. As proposed, the project lacks important detail and designs at 60% are not sufficient to confidently review a project in this location. Given the location below a dam known for high flow releases, completion of an engineering risk analysis as the design approaches completion and the inclusion of relevant stakeholders is imperative.

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-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5042-19551

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Pine Creek Fish Habitat
Enhancement Resubmit

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$69,210

Total Cost: \$96,615

Application Description This project is located on the Corrigan property within and adjacent to Pine Creek, approximately six miles upstream from the town of Halfway, OR in the eastern portion of Baker County. Pine Creek has been the focus of attention for fish recovery during the past decade due to efforts by ODFW and Idaho Power Co. to re-establish migratory bull trout from the current population that resides high in the headwaters of Pine Creek year-round. In addition, redband trout, which are considered a species of concern in Oregon, reside throughout the Pine Creek system year-round. In 2010, Pine Creek experienced a 30-year flood event, which highlighted to many landowners the poor health that the system is in. Because of this, landowners have been interested in working with us to improve function of the watershed. The goal of this project is to enhance fish habitat, while addressing the concerns of landowners regarding damage from past and future flooding. By using engineered log structures to deflect high flows and stabilize approximately 220 feet of eroding banks, managing livestock grazing through installation of a riparian buffer fence, and planting of native willows, there will be multiple benefits to Pine Creek. These include reduced sediment inputs, increased shade to lower water temperatures, more overhanging vegetation to provide hiding cover for fish and an increase in the diversity of fish habitats through pool formation and establishment of backwater. Partners on this project include the landowner, who is providing logs from her property and the Idaho Power Company. Idaho Power Company will provide \$14,505 cash contribution for rootwad installation and installation of riparian fencing and in-kind donation of boulders and willow whips for the project (\$4,928 value).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A grazing management plan will be prepared prior to project implementation.
- Metrics are provided in the drawings for depth, velocity, and shear stress, which will help determine project success.
- All concerns identified in the previous evaluation are addressed with this application.
- The project approach includes use of cottonwood root wads, which will help initiate riparian vegetation recovery.
- The proposed revetments include logs with boulders used as ballast which is a more natural approach than riprap.

- Bull trout use this reach as a migratory corridor and the proposed restoration will contribute to bull trout recovery in the Pine Creek Basin.
- The project site has minimal fish habitat complexity and proposed actions will help to improve that limiting factor.
- Habitat both up- and downstream of the project site is of high quality adding to the importance of restoration at the project site.
- The applicant's project manager is a fish biologist with over 30 years of experience and has extensive local knowledge and understanding of Pine Creek watershed dynamics.
- Project cost for the expected benefit is favorable.

Concerns

- Application objectives are general and lack success measures.
- Revetments are not currently a preferred method of aquatic habitat restoration and may not be the most appropriate treatment for the site.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmittal and follows an OWEB-funded technical assistance grant for stream restoration in Pine Creek near Halfway. Bull trout and redband trout are a conservation priority focus for Idaho Power, USFWS, and ODFW, and landowners along Pine Creek are seeking ways to protect their properties from frequent area flooding. The partnership proposes to restore aquatic habitats and improve riparian conditions while providing infrastructure protection. The final design package is comprehensive and demonstrates a high likelihood of achieving the objectives.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$69,210

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$69,210

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5043-19582

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase VI

Applicant: Tri-County CWMA

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: \$35,474

Total Cost: \$57,474

Application Description

Located within the Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed, approximately 10 miles west of La Grande, the Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase VI project seeks to contain and control leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and diffuse knapweed. Since 2016, OWEB has continuously supported Tri-County's efforts to inventory, treat, and monitor leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and diffuse knapweed in this watershed. Leafy spurge is the primary target of this project and due to its longevity, consistent herbicide treatments are necessary for effective control. Historic anthropogenic disturbances in this area have negatively impacted many fish and wildlife species, including Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Many of these disturbances have introduced invasive species, such as leafy spurge, and have promoted the spread of these species throughout the watershed. This project began treating high priority areas, such as the Grand Ronde River, in Phase I, and has worked outwards towards the larger infestations by Phase V. The goal of Phase VI is to treat all known leafy spurge sites along the Grande Ronde River and provide follow-up treatments of leafy spurge in the Phase V project area. Tri-County is already contracted with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Oregon Parks Dept. to treat all noxious weeds within their project areas along the Grande Ronde River in 2021 and coordinates treatment efforts with the US Forest Service. Given the aggressive nature of leafy spurge, this project is more important than ever to continue given the recent large-scale efforts to restore native fish habitat in the Upper Grande Ronde Watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is ready to implement, and landowners are motivated to continue weed control in the area.
- The photo points provided are helpful in evaluating the success of past treatments.
- Inventory and monitoring work continue to be implemented, helping to measure project success.
- The selected approach is systematic, with each phase having an inventory component and setting the stage for the next phase of treatments.
- Staff and hired contractors assess adjacent lands as well as the treatment areas, improving the effectiveness of the program.
- The applicant has demonstrated success implementing similar types of projects and the work is organized, clear, and methodical.

- The applicant has successfully built relationships with private landowners through a systematic approach to developing and implementing projects.
- The project is cost-effective and has many components for the price including weed treatment, inventory, monitoring, and educational outreach.

Concerns

- Dates in the proposal schedule are not accurate and this work is scheduled for 2022, not 2021.
- Outreach efforts may not be reaching the target audience including agricultural organizations, river user groups, hunting organizations, and irrigation ditch managers.
- The project approach is sound, but the applicant should consider planning more than one year of work with OWEB funding. A multi-year approach will provide project continuity and security.
- The budget for project management may not be sufficient to cover all necessary project management costs.

Concluding Analysis

Tri-County CWMA proposes to continue treatment of several invasive weeds in the Upper Grande Ronde River Basin near La Grande. This is phase six, and the prior five phases demonstrate effective inventory, treatment, and monitoring techniques, which has led to a successful and high functioning program. There are many relevant project partners working towards the success of the project including the Umatilla Tribe, state and federal agencies, and private landowners.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$35,474

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$34,474

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5044-19589

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: NE Oregon Yellow Flag Iris Control

Applicant: Tri-County CWMA

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$22,050

Total Cost: \$35,290

Application Description

Since 2009, Tri-County has worked with both landowners and agencies to inventory and control yellow flag iris in NE Oregon through funding from the DEQ and BLM. Although yellow flag iris is widely distributed across much of Oregon, in NE Oregon only a handful of populations exist. Starting 2016, Tri-County began working closely with Idaho Power to treat and manage yellow flag iris in the Hells Canyon and Oxbow Reservoirs of the Snake River. This working relationship has effectively reduced the total yellow flag iris population by 80% within the treated areas. The primary goal treatments in this project area is to protect the Wild and Scenic portions of the Snake River from yellow flag iris invasion below the dams. A total of 85 miles of shoreline along with reservoirs has been treated annually by Tri-County staff and proposed to be treated in this project. Outside of the reservoirs, little is known about the distribution of yellow flag iris in Baker County and its potential to re-invade the reservoirs of the Snake River, ultimately making its way to the Wild and Scenic areas of the Snake River. In Union County, yellow flag iris has been found in two sites along the Grande Ronde River but have recently been eradicated. Additional inventories are necessary in Union County to map yellow flag iris in the irrigation ditches that feed into the Grande Ronde River. Tri-County is seeking funding to cover the cost of staff time to inventory, prioritize, treat, and monitor yellow flag iris in Baker, Union, and Wallowa (select populations) counties in 2021. This project will work closely with the weed supervisors from each county, along with the USFS, and Idaho Power to inventory and prioritize treatments of yellow flag iris. A long-term management plan will be developed to ensure that treatment efforts are consistent, effective, and will be maintained beyond the life of the grant period.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides information to demonstrate the success of previous yellow flag iris control projects.
- Identifying yellow flag iris sites in Baker, Union, and Wallowa counties and controlling them before they are large infestations is an effective approach.
- Preventing the spread of yellow flag iris into areas where it would be very difficult to control is an effective watershed strategy.
- The applicant has a strong partnership with Idaho Power that effectively treats yellow flag iris in the Snake River and tributaries.
- Tri-County CWMA is forward thinking in its weed control methods and has a proven track record in implementing successful projects.

- The applicant is organized and diligent in tracking hours and effort spent on each project, resulting in effective budgeting.
- The proposal is cost-effective for the expected benefit and the amount of ground covered.

Concerns

- Dates in the proposal schedule are not accurate and this work is scheduled for 2022, not 2021.
- Outreach efforts may not be reaching the target audience including agricultural organizations, river user groups, hunting organizations, and irrigation ditch managers.
- The project approach is sound, but applicant should consider planning more than one year of work with OWEB funding. A multi-year approach will provide project continuity and security.
- The budget for project management may not be sufficient to cover all necessary project management costs.

Concluding Analysis

Tri-County CWMA proposes the inventory, treatment, and monitoring of yellow flag iris in Baker, Union, and Wallowa Counties. This is phase 1, which is informed from prior treatment efforts in partnership with Idaho Power and the US Forest Service along the Snake River. The applicant runs a successful and high functioning weed control program with many project partners from each county, state and federal agencies, and Idaho Power.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$22,050

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$22,050

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5045-19601

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Indian Creek Fire Rehab: Kill
Medusahead While You Can

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$75,420

Total Cost: \$657,820

Application Description

- 1) The project is located at the Becker Horse Camp on the Indian Creek Ranch, about 14 air miles from Westfall.
- 2) The human-caused Indian Creek fire ignited on August 16, 2020. The wind-driven fire swept through western juniper, Wyoming big sagebrush, antelope bitterbrush, Ribes species, scattered mountain-mahogany, rabbitbrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, Sandberg bluegrass, cheatgrass and medusahead. The fire was contained a month later burning 45,180 acres (36,687 BLM, 6,737 private, and 1,756 State acres). The fire burned fragile sage-grouse habitat on private and public land. The burned area has an increased likelihood of invasive species expanding and dominating the perennial bunchgrass and rangelands critical to sage-grouse habitat.
- 3) We are proposing to spray the 1,520 acres of the Horse Creek area at Indian Creek Ranch (private) adjacent to the BLM. Medusahead and cheatgrass will be treated with Imazapic at a rate of 6 oz/acre. The spray will occur shortly after the BLM sprays over 14,000 acres to ensure that noxious weeds will not reinvade adjacent treated areas. Malheur WSC and Indian Creek Ranch were awarded a Wildfire Response grant earlier this year to rebuild more than 67,000 feet of fence surrounding the Becker Horse Camp area. This spray project complements the BLM's fire rehabilitation activities. The proposed fence will help protect these treated areas from livestock until the vegetation is vigorous to support grazing again. Spraying medusahead and cheatgrass helps ensure that perennial bunchgrass and forbs, dietary requirements for sage-grouse, will remain the major component in the plant community. Reducing the amount of medusahead and cheatgrass present in the stands will help improve the overall stand conditions.
- 4) Partners are the Vale District BLM, Indian Creek Ranch and the Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation Strengths

- This project provides an opportunity to treat medusahead following the Indian Creek fire in 2020, before the species expands significantly within the disturbed areas.
- Medusahead is an invasive annual grass with a high silica content that is unpalatable for livestock and wildlife. One year's growth is manageable, but a quick control response is important to limit its occupation of the site.
- There does not appear to be much medusahead re-growth to date even though earlier treatments were not completed.
- Waiting to see the status of native vegetation response post-fire and prior to seeding is a conservative approach.
- The project builds on work started with OWEBs Wildfire Response grant awarded in 2021.

Concerns

- A post-treatment grazing management plan would have been helpful to understand long-term project viability and is not included in the application.
- The site visit clarified that seeding will be accomplished by helicopter and the seed mix intent is to prevent erosion and the spread of medusahead, but this information is lacking in the application.
- The timeline does not coincide with the availability of OWEB funding in October of 2021. Medusahead control is most effective if implemented during the year of the fire and a winter treatment is less effective than in the fall due to weather conditions.

Concluding Analysis

The partnership of Vale BLM, Malheur WC, and the landowner have been proactive in restoring this landscape following the Indian Creek fire in 2020. The landowner is actively rebuilding fence lost to the fire and BLM is controlling erosion and juniper, as well as mapping and planning the control of medusahead. The timing of medusahead treatment described in the application is a concern and post-treatment grazing management is not included, both of which bring into question the effectiveness of the proposed actions.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

13 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,420

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5046-19620

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Blue Bird Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$54,794

Total Cost: \$158,858

Application Description

The Blue Bird Water Quality Improvement Project is located across approximately 12 miles west of Jordan Valley, and consists of 65 acres of flood irrigated meadow and alfalfa cropland . Tailwater containing sediment, nutrients and bacteria flow off the project area through a series of small drain ditches, into Cow Creek, Jordan Creek and the Upper Owyhee River. The proposed work includes converting 65 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 1 pivot system, 8-inch pipeline, 25 HP pump and required electrical connections. Project partners include the landowner, Owyhee Watershed Council, Aqua Irrigation and Agrilines Irrigation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The maps and photos are clear and helpful in evaluating the proposal.
- There are both surface and ground water rights on the property, providing adequate source water for this and future irrigation water management.
- The project will have water quality benefit as the project site drains into Jordan Creek, a tributary to the Upper Owyhee River, both of which are a DEQ concern for E. coli and phosphorous.
- The proposed work builds on an OWEB Small Grant project that piped source water to the project area.
- The landowner is new to irrigation water management conservation and is inspired by neighbors implementing similar work.
- The project site is adjacent to sage-grouse core habitat. Conversion from flood to sprinkler irrigation will reduce mosquito populations and therefore could reduce sage-grouse mortality due to West Nile Virus transmission.
- The proposed project, along with several prior OWEB-funded projects demonstrates the benefits of watershed restoration in an underserved area.
- Owyhee WC has a track record of successfully implementing similar projects in similar geographies.

Concerns

- A phased approach to conservation is mentioned in the application; however, it is unclear how this phase and the prior OWEB Small Grant pipeline will lead to a possible third irrigation water management project.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 65 flood irrigated acres to sprinkler application will eliminate irrigation wastewater in the project area. Reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria runoff will continue work in the Jordan Valley area implementing ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives for the Upper Owyhee River. Application clarity, descriptive uploaded documents, and applicant track record indicate a high likelihood of project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$54,794

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$54,794

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5047-19640

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Morgan Horse Derby

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$83,451

Total Cost: \$139,853

Application Description

1) 9 miles West of Ontario, located inside the Morgan Bench Focus Area.2) Runoff from 70 acres flood irrigation on a small cow/calf operation, 70 irrigated acres for this farm is contributing to the sediment loads in the Lee Road Drain, that spills into the Nevada Ditch, then the Malheur River which is known to be the second dirtiest river in the state, ending up in the Snake River. The landowner uses 17 acres to grow crops in the summer and in the winter months, uses this field as a pasture, along with his other acres of pasture for 60 to 70 head of livestock. This farm has a major ridge line that runs north to south along his landscape. There is as much as 25 % fall in parts of the farm that is flood irrigation with gated pipe.3) This project aligns well with Arabian Pipeline, Horses in the Corner and Wrangling Horses. • Install new orifice head gate with measuring blade at main canal,. With measuring device being installed at headgate on canal for OID ditch rider to read, no flow meter is required. • Install and Bury 400 ft of 10" pipe from canal to delivery point (OID)• Install and bury 1620ft 8" delivery pipe to pond• Install a VFD, 3 phase converter• Install a large floater pump on holding pond• Install and bury 1200 feet of 6" 100# PIP Pipe to the pivot pad. • Install a 5- tower Zimmatic pivot with end gun for a wipe pattern, • Run 1200 ft of #2 Wire to pivot pad • Cornell 20 hp pump and electrical panel next to road. • Install 2 solid sets groups4) Landowner, NRCS, ODA, OID, and SWCD

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Converting 70 flood irrigated acres to sprinkler application will make progress towards conservation priorities in the Morgan Bench focus area.
- Reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria laden runoff from the property will have significant water quality benefit to the Malheur River.
- Ongoing water quality monitoring will enable the documentation of project impact.
- The landowner is prepared to absorb any increase in the cost of materials.
- Efficiencies will be achieved with the Arabian pipeline project, should both projects be funded.

Concerns

- It is unclear where irrigation wastewater goes when it leaves a pond on the property.

- The pumps needed for the irrigation conversion are not identified clearly on the maps provided and it is not evident why they are not located closer to the source water, bringing into question the soundness of the project design.
- It is unclear why a closed system option is not considered that would place the pump in the delivery pipeline, providing additional pressure and eliminating the need to pump from the lower elevation pond.
- Due to lack of application clarity, it is challenging to determine the watershed benefit.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 70 irrigated acres from flood to sprinkler application will reduce irrigation wastewater. Reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria runoff will continue work in the Morgan Bench priority area implementing ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives for the Malheur River; however, the application lacks clarity and design rationale is not evident. A future application will benefit from a clear description of on-farm wastewater management, an irrigation design alternatives analysis, and quantification of the expected water quality 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-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5048-19501

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Makin' Clarity on the Run

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$29,194

Total Cost: \$37,134

Application Description

This proposed Technical Assistance project will address water quality, fish passage, channel instability and irrigation efficiency issues associated with five irrigation diversions in the South Fork Burnt River watershed. Four diversions are located on Bull Run Creek (tributary to South Fork Burnt River) and one diversion is located on Miners Creek (tributary to Bull Run Creek). The project area is located on private land approximately three miles southwest of Unity, Oregon. These diversions currently do not have permanent diversion structures, requiring the water user to annually install push-up dams to divert water. Installation of push-up dams increases sedimentation, blocks or inhibits passage of native interior redband trout and destabilizes the bed and banks of the stream. In addition, irrigation waters are routed to desired application areas by open ditch, where the water is applied by flooding. This method of delivery/application can lead to significant loss through the ditch and application as well as routing of sediment, nutrients and herbicides/pesticides to the waterway. The water user desires to install permanent diversion structures and ditch piping to accomplish more time-efficient and environmentally sustainable irrigation practices. This project will fund design of permanent diversion structures and irrigation water delivery piping to accomplish this goal. The design process will explore alternatives, and lead to a 90% design of the selected alternative that best meets the needs of the water user and addresses water quality, fish passage and channel instability issues. OWEB funds will be used to hire a qualified engineer to conduct the design work and provide construction cost estimates.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed actions are clear and comprehensively described.
- The actions described are inclusive and forward thinking with regards to the steps needed to achieve project outcomes.
- The capacity of the applicant is improving and moving in a positive direction.
- One of the landowners has been involved with other conservation work and is poised to contribute effective long-term stewardship for the resulting restoration project.
- The budget is reasonable for the work proposed and is a cost-effective method to design for improved irrigation water management in the project area.
- The applicant sought multiple cost estimates to inform budget development.

Concerns

- It is unclear if there is support from all landowners involved in the project.
- The project schedule may be aggressive for the work proposed, specifically completing field investigation, survey, and design work by the end of spring 2022.

Concluding Analysis

Located in the South Fork Burnt River watershed near Unity, Powder Basin WC proposes to deliver a 90% design package that will address irrigation water diversion, delivery, and application with the intent of improving aquatic habitat and water quality. The chosen design will prescribe permanent points of diversion eliminating the need to import material for annual diversion dam maintenance, as well as design a pipeline conveyance system improving delivery efficiency, both of which will be preceded by an alternatives analysis. With improved capacity at the watershed council, this application demonstrates the intent to implement restoration work in an area that is a water quality improvement focus for both ODA and DEQ.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$29,194

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$29,194

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5049-19506

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland
Upland Restoration

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$8,123

Total Cost: \$11,330

Application Description This project will be located on the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland Project site, located in Wallowa, Oregon. The Homeland Project serves as a meeting place for tribes who once lived in and used the Wallowa Valley prior to European settlement. The Homeland Project site includes over 300 acres of Wallowa River frontage, valley bottom pastures, and upland grasslands on Tick Hill. The valley bottom pastures and the transition zone to uplands are largely comprised of non-native grasses. We propose to make a restoration plan for 3 acres of this transition zone and uplands, converting the monoculture of non-native grasses to desirable native plants. Project partners include Wallowa Resources, tribal members, Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland Project (staff and board), and a local botanist.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Technical assistance work is an appropriate pathway to develop a restoration project at this location. There are many unknowns about the project site, as well as the desired species composition, that will be addressed.
- There is a need to know more about the invasive plant species present to design an effective method for site preparation techniques as well as post-construction control.
- The methods developed may be transferrable and scalable to other similar restoration efforts.
- The proposed project site has potential to demonstrate effective restoration of native plant species in an area of high visibility.
- This project phase will provide important momentum to achieving the restoration work.

Concerns

- The application lacks clarity and it is difficult to understand project specifics from information provided in the application. The application does not describe how similar local efforts will inform the work, how and when native plant nurseries will be involved, and how existing irrigation may impact the design as well as restoration results.
- The application lacks clear objectives, and the expected outcome of the resulting restoration project is unclear.
- The site is heavily used by the public and the applicant needs to consider this use when planning the restoration work.

- Given the novel methods of invasive species control, including the use of pigs to control Medusahead and no use of herbicides, a future restoration project may not be cost effective or produce intended results.

Concluding Analysis

The application presents an opportunity to develop, demonstrate, and produce a design to restore 3 acres of transition zone vegetation from existing non-native grasses to desirable native vegetation. Located adjacent to a river restoration project and between riparian and upland vegetation communities, the applicant and partners will develop revegetation methods that will inform a future restoration effort. Methods developed may be non-traditional and may be transferable to other locations. If the project is successful it will offer vegetation control alternatives to common chemical or mechanical means.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$8,123

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5050-19532

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: More SSP Plans

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$67,705

Total Cost: \$94,664

Application Description

1. Four proposed SSP plans are in current FIP area, two are south of Vale, Oregon.2. We are seeking funding for one existing CCAA Coordinator/Rangeland position and one seasonal technician. Staff funding is needed to continue to work with 10 existing landowners that have a SSP on 80,621.15 acres for monitoring, and new SSP plan development on MC004, MC006-B, MC013, MC005, MC023, and MC025 encompassing 49,500 and over 50 miles of stream and will affect 3 Priority Areas for Sage-grouse Conservation (PACs). 3. Baseline monitoring has already taken place on the six proposed plans to be developed; MC004, MC006-B, MC013, MC005, MC023, and MC025. Each of these property owners has a assigned LOI. The rangeland employees will work with the participating landowners to finish developing their individual Site-Specific Plans that are intended to promote good land stewardship and sage grouse survival. Within the grant time frame, employees will work with landowners, US Fish, and other partners to gather data, develop maps, write plans, plan treatments, and manage CCAA's and enter all SSP information in a newly created data management system. The primary sage-steppe ecosystem threats being addressed are juniper encroachment, annual grass invasion and wildfire. 4.) US Fish & Wildlife will be working closely with the SWCD employees on documentation forms, SSP's, and working to help resolve issues or problems that are encountered. And to make sure the information is being entered into the database correctly. Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee -Employees will document work being done in the county to meet the goals set by the Steering Committee and will contribute as applicable to further the achievement of the goals and objectives of the All Counties CCAA work Plan.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowners are engaged and the demand for site specific plans (SSP) in Malheur County is high.
- This technical assistance project is ready to proceed with baseline data already collected on the subject properties.
- Data collection procedures have been modified to eliminate PACE 180 transects and photo point documentation has been simplified. This protocol change requires less time and the data remains comparable.
- The Oregon all Counties CCAA (Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances) database is complete and can be used as new CCAA properties are enrolled, resulting in a more streamlined data collection and storage process.
- The applicant has done this type of work and can implement the work as described in the application.

- Unit costs are low for the work proposed, especially when compared with similar projects in the region.

Concerns

- It is unclear how long the requested funding will support staff to perform the work.
- The application does not describe how interested landowners are prioritized.
- The project timeline and budget do not align. Budgeted staff hours indicate .5 years of employment for 2 employees and the project schedule indicates 4 years of work.
- Some counties are continuing to do the more rigorous PACE 180 monitoring transects as part of the monitoring protocol, which will result in differences in data collection across county lines.
- It is unclear which staff positions will be doing the proposed work and qualifications for the new employee are not detailed in the proposal.
- Budgeting for longer than one year of work would help ensure project continuity and reduce staff turnover.

Concluding Analysis

Malheur SWCD proposes to provide partial funding for the existing CCAA coordinator and hire a seasonal technician to complete six site specific plans on CCAA enrolled properties in Malheur County. While the applicant has experience with this work, there are several concerns including proposal inconsistencies, data collection protocol modification, and landowner prioritization as well as staff longevity, compensation, and qualifications. Baseline data has been collected on each property, data collection protocols are established, and with the CCAA all counties database operational several efficiencies are now in place to promote sage-grouse conservation in southeast Oregon.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$67,705

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5051-19568

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: River Mile 15: Technical Assistance_CLONE

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$38,352

Total Cost: \$50,752

Application Description

1. The project is 3 air miles east of Vale; river mile 15 on the Malheur River. 2. Several 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 damaging. There was a record amount of snow fall in 2016-17, which led to record high levels of run-off. Riparian vegetation is inadequate in places along the project reach and the aquatic habitat is very simple, no pools, hiding cover or woody debris. The river in this reach does not meet water quality standards for temperature, sediment and nutrients. Invasive species such as Russian Olive is encroaching. The owner is interested in controlling weeds and improving wildlife habitat along the 1.3 mile reach. 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. In addition to the stream habitat work, we will develop a plan for controlling weeds, and planting desirable riparian vegetation that will attract all forms of wildlife. And we need to explore the possibility of enhancing 16 acres of riparian wetland. 4. Partners are the landowners, Malheur WSC, RSI engineering, and design reviewers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The video, maps, and photos provided in the application are clear and helpful in understanding the proposal.
- Designing for wetland habitats in the project reach is feasible and appropriate in this watershed context and will add ecological benefit to the resulting restoration phase.
- The project approach considers many ecological benefits including aquatic habitat, riparian condition, invasive species control, and upland habitats demonstrating a holistic perspective to planning the restoration work.
- The focus of the design goes beyond aquatic and riparian restoration and there will be benefits to mule deer, upland bird species, and pollinators from the resulting restoration project.
- The selected contractor and the project team have extensive experience with implementing similar projects located in similar geographies.

Concerns

- The project team has not completed similarly proposed and funded projects on the mainstem Malheur River, which is different from and offers additional challenges when compared to other technical

assistance projects completed on tributary streams to the Malheur River.

- The project lacks a channel migration analysis, which is needed to evaluate potential impacts to neighboring landowners and infrastructure.
- Budget amounts for the hydraulic analysis and the geomorphic survey are both small, and the project may benefit from increased technical effort in those areas.

Concluding Analysis

The project team comprised of Malheur WC, an experienced consultant, and several state and federal natural resource management partners are proposing to complete 60% designs for a project that will improve aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats on the Malheur River near Vale. Following design examples from prior completed projects on tributary streams and in-progress efforts on the Malheur River mainstem, the applicant proposes a holistic approach to restoration design. There is concern with the approach from both the mainstem setting and level of design perspectives; however, the partnership is experienced and capable of completing actions as proposed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$38,352

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5052-19572

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: We Ain't Greenhorns but We Need
Help Fixin' Willow Creek_CLONE

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$62,701

Total Cost: \$78,887

Application Description

1) Willow Creek. 2.2 miles upstream from the Malheur Reservoir. 16 air miles from Brogan, OR) The 2.1 miles of Willow Creek in the project reach is deficient in riparian habitat, flood plain function, and habitat complexity. The project is in core sage-grouse area and is classified as a redband multi use stream reach per ODFW. Wet meadow/riparian habitat for sage grouse is lacking. Willow Creek does not meet standards for nutrients, bacteria and other parameters. This reach lacks habitat complexity for red band trout and other aquatic life. Irrigation return flow, and outdated infrastructure is causing erosion, and contributing bacteria, and nutrients to Willow Creek. Several restoration projects are in different phases of planning and completion directly upstream from the project reach. When all of them and this project are completed we will have restored over 5 contiguous stream miles. 3) A drone will be used for a topographic survey of the entire reach. In addition, riparian analyses, and hydrologic and hydraulic analyses will be conducted. A 60% design will provide alternatives for a future restoration project. Sections of the riparian area requiring future planting will be identified along with a suite of optimal shrub and tree species. We will develop a plan to improve irrigation infrastructure. 4) Partners include the Wilks Ranch, RSI engineering, Malheur WSC and technical reviewers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The video, maps, and photos provided in the application are clear and helpful in understanding the proposal.
- The property owner is the same on both sides of the creek, resulting in continuous management strategies throughout the reach.
- The proposed project builds on previous work in the watershed.
- The applicant has successfully completed similar projects upstream and in other areas of Malheur County, demonstrating a record of success.
- Both the landowner and the land manager are currently working collaboratively with the applicant and positive management change is likely in the future.

Concerns

- This project area needs a grazing management plan which is not mentioned in the application, and this will be an important component following restoration.

- Under objective 1, the application proposes to develop a feasibility analysis based on hydrological models derived from a drone flight. The degree of accuracy of the proposed methodology is unclear.
- Objective 2, which proposes to investigate irrigation infrastructure improvements, needs to be integrated into objective 1 to inform the alternatives analysis. This will identify a more comprehensive approach to improving irrigation water management in the project area.

Concluding Analysis

The project team comprised of Malheur WC, an experienced consultant, and several state and federal natural resource management partners are proposing to complete 60% designs for a project that will improve water quality, riparian condition, and sage-grouse habitats on Willow Creek above the Malheur Reservoir. Following design examples from prior completed projects on tributary streams and in-progress efforts on the Malheur River mainstem, the applicant proposes a holistic approach to restoration design. There is concern with the approach from both the method and irrigation water management perspectives, however the partnership is experienced in this setting and capable of completing actions as proposed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$62,701

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$62,701

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5053-19594

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Feasibility and Stream Flow Study

Applicant: Union County Admin Services

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$139,000

Application Description

1) The Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed (UGRRW) HUC 17060104 is located in Union County, Oregon. 2) The UGRRW Partnership (a Place-Based Collaborative Planning Group composed of stakeholders representing ecological, tribal, municipal, and agricultural interests) has been meeting for over 5 years to evaluate water quality and quantity concerns in the UGRRW and has come to consensus on strategies to address these issues. Results indicate that: a) Many waterways in the UGRRW do not have instream water rights or have them based on dated methodologies. Quantification of instream demand is a significant data gap. b) Water storage is vitally needed to reduce late season surface water deficit (for instream and out-of-stream needs), improve surface water quality, improve groundwater sustainability, and buffer against natural hazards and climate change risks. 3) The Partnership is working on a study to address Item 2 above and is seeking support from OWEB for Item 2a only. This OWEB grant would help evaluate the instream flow needs in reaches identified as a priority for data collection to both fill instream demand data gaps, and provide data to assist in the evaluation of potential storage projects. The goal of the OWEB-funded portion of the study is to conduct large-scale Instream Flow Incremental Methodology/Physical Habitat Simulation System studies to determine instream flow needs to support future restoration. 4) The Partnership includes Trout Unlimited, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Union County Seed Growers, USFWS, Union County Cattleman's Association, M&M Farming, LLC, City of La Grande, DEQ, City of Imbler, City of Union, Union County Farm Bureau, City of Island City, ODFW, OWRD, ODA, OSU Extension Office, Grande Ronde Model Watershed, USFS (Wallowa-Whitman National Forest), Union County Soil Water Conservation District, Union County, L. Larson, T. Wallender, A. Hulden, C. Ricker, and C. Murchison.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed work builds on the place-based planning process, which produced a plan to improve water quality and water quantity in the Upper Grande Ronde River watershed. The team is comprised of diverse partners including local, state, and federal agencies as well as private landowner.
- The approach considers a wide range of options and includes both on and off channel water storage as well as built and natural solutions.
- The partnership is well informed, locally experienced, and diverse in perspective, demonstrating ample capacity to achieve a common vision of improved stream flow and water quality.

- The partnership is experienced and capable of building support for the project demonstrated by their ability to work with landowners in the project area, indicating a high likelihood of success.
- Tribal involvement in the project is significant, including fisheries management and habitat restoration efforts, adding capacity to the effort.
- The budget is reasonable for the type and amount of work proposed.

Concerns

- Permission has not yet been gathered for some of the private land sampling sites and there is some mistrust among landowners which may affect study design.
- The application does not identify what stream flow measurement equipment will be used, and this information would have been helpful to determine data quality and applicability to study design.

Concluding Analysis

The UGRRW Partnership has been guided by their place-based planning efforts for the last 5 years dedicated to improving water quality and quantity in the Upper Grande Ronde River. The partners are now ready to plan identified conservation and restoration actions. This proposed technical assistance complements the planning effort and will identify instream flow needs from a fish habitat perspective and inform water storage solutions that are both built and natural options.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5056-19491

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Monitoring the Effects of Management on Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation (MIM): Phase 3

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$21,815

Total Cost: \$31,815

Application Description This project is located in Wallowa County, Oregon on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF). Within the WWNF there are 182 stream reaches that host Federally Listed Fish species that are also located within 33 grazing allotments. Managing these allotments to reduce negative effects to streams, and ultimately to fish, is a high priority for WWNF and is specifically targeted in the Forest Plan.

In this project- Phase Three of three OWEB grants- we propose to continue establishing Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) plots, which include long term and short term indicators to adaptively manage in-stream and riparian resources. The MIM protocol is designed to be objective, efficient, and effective for monitoring stream banks, stream channels, and stream side riparian vegetation. This protocol is considered to be the best available and is used by the National Marine Fisheries Service when evaluating grazing impacts. 128 pastures across the 33 allotments require MIM plots. Most of these sites are actively grazed, but some are not and serve as reference sites. The interest in riparian status and trend data by range managers and fisheries biologists continues to increase and outpace the ability of the WWNF Range Program to collect the data, especially for new MIM plots.

This OWEB Grant seeks funding for two field seasons (2022-2023) to establish an additional 14 MIM plots. Partners include WWNF and Wallowa Resources (WR), who participate in the larger Eagle Cap Partnership. which also includes Eastern Oregon University.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This project will complement the previously collected MIM data since 2015 and the applicant's future plans to establish and monitor 128 plots in the Wallowa Whitman National Forest.
- The applicant will continue to follow an established protocol that has been used to collect data during the two previous phases.
- The application describes a plan to manage and store the data at both the Wallowa Resources and USFS offices to provide back-up and increase access to the data.
- The data will be reported after the two years of monitoring are completed, and the report will be uploaded to ODFW's NRIMP clearinghouse, shared with stakeholders, and presented at lectures locally to disseminate the information.
- The application describes how this information is used by the USFS to adaptively manage grazing allotments.

- The applicant will continue to work with the same USFS staff and contractor to implement this ongoing monitoring project.
- Phase four of this project will be led by the USFS to maintain the long-term monitoring sites established in cooperation with the applicant.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The monitoring question posed was overly broad, and this question is not likely to be answered across the entire study area based on the information described in the application.
- The application lacks a description of how the data collectively will be analyzed to answer the monitoring question. This is a concern since the information can help refine best management practices for grazing where sensitive fish species exist.
- It was not clear how resource advocates will access the information generated from this project, given that dissemination is focused on providing information to regulatory agencies and permittees.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation:

Work with the USFS to analyze data across all three phases and identify trends to refine management recommendations with an aim of preventing impacts in grazing allotments before they occur.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) information will help natural resource managers advise grazing management practices in Wallowa County on Forest Service lands.
- Baseline and subsequent data will inform US Forest Service management objectives to improve stream corridor areas where domestic livestock grazing occurs. The data will also serve as an effective communication tool with grazing permittees.
- This phase 3 application is the final OWEB funding request to establish monitoring plots and all future data acquisition will be accomplished by the US Forest Service and local partners.
- The monitoring protocol is established, widely used, and developed by a diverse partnership of agencies and stakeholders.
- The US Forest Service and Wallowa Resources have staff trained to implement the MIM protocol ensuring data will be collected to inform grazing management into the future.
- The prior 2 phases of the project provided useful baseline data indicating this phase 3 effort has a high likelihood of success.
- Cost per monitoring site for the work proposed is reasonable to accomplish project objectives, as demonstrated by phase 1 and 2 accomplishments.

Concerns

- The need, relevance, and applicability of the proposed monitoring to inform future projects is not well described in application.

Concluding Analysis

This phase 3 MIM monitoring project will complete the establishment of identified stream corridor data collection plots on US Forest Service lands in Wallowa County, where both domestic livestock grazing and essential fish habitats co-exist. Baseline data augmented by scheduled follow up data collection at each plot will provide natural resource managers and grazing permittees the tools to guide grazing, riparian, and instream management to meet established objectives.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$21,815

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$21,815

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5057-19503	Project Type: Monitoring
Project Name: Harney CCAA Monitoring	
Applicant: Harney SWCD	
Region: Eastern Oregon	County: Harney
OWEB Request: \$147,414	Total Cost: \$215,143

Application Description The monitoring project area is located on private properties enrolled in the Harney Greater Sage Grouse Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). The majority of the work will be done within the original Harney sage-grouse FIP boundaries. CCAA efforts have expanded since the original FIP and properties have also been enrolled that include preliminary general habitat (PGH), for sage grouse. As a result, the SWCD along with partners have been able to expand sage grouse habitat.

The private properties that are enrolled in the Harney Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances or have a letter of intent to enroll, are actively applying conservation measures for the Greater sage-grouse. There are currently 22 properties enrolled with 48 remaining to be completed. As part of the CCAA agreement, the SWCD is required to monitor baseline condition and trend, project effectiveness, and long term habitat conditions for the lifetime of the 30 year agreements.

The monitoring burden will grow exponentially as more CCAA Site Specific Plans are completed. Harney SWCD has only one CCAA planner at this point in time, which is not adequate for the workload. With additional funds allocated to monitoring we plan to hire a qualified individual to help complete these tasks. It is also necessary, due to work load, that Harney SWCD hires 2 field technicians to perform monitoring and data analysis for the field season.

The CCAA monitoring technicians will be required to perform preliminary threats assessments (baseline inventory and habitat state designations), Modified Pased 180 transects (detailed vegetation surveys used to track condition and trend over time), establish permanent photo points along with project effectiveness monitoring for weed treatments, rangeland seeding projects, juniper cutting, off stream watering facilities, and other habitat improvement projects.

Project partners include: NRCS, USFWS, BLM, ODFW, CWMA and private land owners.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application generally describes the data that will complement sage-grouse habitat data gathered on various land ownership types.
- This project will support the CCAA efforts and will be used to evaluate the program's voluntary efforts to improve sage brush/steppe habitat.
- The data are made available to the USFWS and landowners and communicated through regular meetings that many different stakeholders attend.
- The applicant is qualified and knowledgeable of the established monitoring methods.
- This monitoring project is part of a long-term stakeholder and agency effort to protect and restore sage-grouse habitat.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application focused on the funding gap rather than the need for the monitoring data.
- This project focuses on the need to collect data over thirty years and is not clear what the plan is for ensuring funding for monitoring over the long term.
- It is unclear how this project builds off previous funding for these same monitoring efforts.
- The application does not provide specific details on other monitoring efforts that state and federal agencies are performing and how these data will complement that.
- While landowner privacy restrictions are recognized as limiting some detail from being provided in the application, the study design provided does not describe how areas to be monitored are prioritized across the county. More high-level information about land conditions and habitat types considered would have been helpful.
- The application does not include specific monitoring questions, making it difficult to assess the specific evaluation criteria. The schedule is difficult to understand and does not build in time to analyze and report the data.
- The QA/QC measures employed across the monitoring program are not well described, including a lack of information to ensure the data are comparable over many years and sites.
- The status of the database is unclear given that some sections of the application state that the database and electronic field forms are complete, and other sections of the application state that a new database for data storage, entry and reporting purposes is in development.
- The analysis of the data is unclear, and the application lacked detail about how the data will be used to track trends and effects from restoration actions.
- The application includes USFWS as a source of in-kind match but does not describe their role to understand how they are involved in this monitoring project.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation Strengths

- The applicant is working to secure a stable funding source for future monitoring work that spans 30

years on each property.

Concerns

- The application focuses on the funding gap and does not describe the need for the monitoring or how the data is being used to inform future restoration and implementation of conservation measures.
- The monitoring question in the Proposed Solution section of the application is unclear. It is difficult to determine if achievement of project objectives will provide the needed information.
- Project partnerships described in the application are unclear. Services provided by other partners beyond the SWCD, landowner, and US Fish and Wildlife Service are not described.
- The application budget lacks essential line-item detail to justify the costs for each staff position by task.
- The application lacks a description of monitoring data availability and how this data can be used to inform future sage-grouse habitat conservation, scale and scope of conservation efforts, and results of prior implemented conservation measures.

Concluding Analysis

Harney SWCD proposes to hire additional field technicians to implement CCAA monitoring on private lands in Harney County. Each agreement requires 30 years of monitoring to establish baseline conditions and monitor the effects of conservation measure implementation. A clear funding gap is described in the proposal, the need for the work will grow as more landowners enroll, and the applicant is working towards a secure funding source. Nevertheless, the application lacks essential detail articulating the monitoring question, roles of identified project partners, and how staff tasks are allocated in the budget. The application does not describe how accumulated monitoring data will inform sage-grouse conservation measures, where conservation work has been completed, or how the data will be used to coordinate future efforts in Harney County.

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-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5058-19515

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Powder Basin Long-Term Water
Quality Monitoring - Enhanced

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$174,662

Total Cost: \$243,982

Application Description For the past eight years the PBWC has been conducting detailed water quality monitoring at up to 72 sites throughout the Powder Basin to establish baseline conditions related to temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen (DO) and turbidity. Based upon what we have learned, we would like to continue monitoring at 50 of those sites in order to continue monitoring long-term trends and track trajectory at problem locations. In addition, we propose to expand aspects of our monitoring to address specific needs. First, to support development of TMDL's and implementation of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan for the Burnt River Subbasin, we propose to monitor E.coli and Total Phosphorous at five sites. In support of this, we would collect flow measurements at the upstream-most location where flow data is not available. To document DO concentration relevant to the state standard for salmonid spawning, we propose to monitor DO continuously at 22 sites at times and locations within the spawning distribution of redband trout and/or bull trout. Finally, we propose to monitor turbidity throughout the year at a select number of sites within the known spawning distribution of redband trout and/or bull trout to better understand sedimentation impacts on these species. This 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 aspect of the 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. However, we will need to re-engage participants for start-up again in 2022.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the historical data collected over the life of the water quality monitoring program.
- The data will inform the development of new TMDLs in the watershed.
- The application includes clearly articulated monitoring questions, and the sample design includes expanded sites to help answer these questions.
- The applicant has a DEQ approved SAP and will revise it to include new sites and monitoring methods for dissolved oxygen.

- The applicant will submit their data to DEQ and store it locally on their database.
- The applicant will work with a diverse group of stakeholders comprised of irrigation districts, landowner advisory committee (LAC), private and public landowners, and state and federal agencies to review data annually and share results to incorporate a total of 11 years of data. These stakeholders will help review the final report before it is completed.
- The applicant has a long history of successfully completing monitoring projects and providing comprehensive reports to summarize the results collected across many sites.
- Newly hired staff at the applicant organization has worked in the watershed for a long time and is engaging many landowners to expand the monitoring project and fill data gaps to inform fish conditions.
- The budget is broken down into hours needed to complete each task across three years.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application did not mention how this monitoring project can complement the historic water quality data collected by the Burnt River Irrigation District.
- The application does not describe the water quality data that other agencies are collecting, including the 15 water temperature monitoring sites operated by the USFS. The application lacked detail on other current or planned monitoring efforts, especially those focused on redband and bull trout that are driving some of the water quality monitoring efforts.
- The application lacked a description of the OWRD or USGS flow gages, but rather just notes that these are operated in the watershed. It also does not explain how flow conditions will be used to interpret results.
- It is unclear if the 72-hour deployment of the dissolved oxygen (DO) probes will yield valuable information to answer the monitoring question related to redband and bull trout.
- The plan to rotate sites to monitor DO will be challenging logistically, given the QA/QC measures needed to collect high-quality data.
- The application lacked detail on the methods to measure water levels and streamflow, and the approach to use a time lapse camera is not a professionally accepted method.
- The application does not describe the necessary methods and QA/QC measure to install and maintain a gaging station.
- The application lacked detail on the storm sampling for turbidity to explain where this would occur, and the question being answered with this information.
- The budget includes funding for a pressure transducer, but the application narrative was uncertain about if this equipment would be used to measure water level.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

Consult with DEQ volunteer water quality monitoring coordinator to prepare and implement the continuous dissolved oxygen monitoring tasks.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- DEQ is working on TMDLs for dissolve oxygen, nutrients, and bacteria in the Powder River basin. Existing data the watershed council has collected is used to inform landowners about water quality problems and guide TMDL implementation.
- Dissolved oxygen modeling will be conducted over the next few years by DEQ and this data can inform the modeling effort as well as future restoration work.
- The applicant's Monitoring Coordinator position that is currently vacant will be filled soon, indicating capacity to complete the proposed actions.
- Powder Basin Watershed Council has many years of experience collecting similar data and their database serves as a water quality data clearinghouse, both of which indicate a high likelihood of project success.
- Community volunteers, including Baker County schools, are involved and assist with the work, making this an effective way to engage the community.
- The budget breakdown of hours by monitoring type clarifies the amount of work proposed.

Concerns

- The application is unclear regarding how the monitoring information will be used to guide management decisions.
- It is unclear how data collected at the proposed stream reach scale will be tied to specific management activities.
- The application does not reference other water quality monitoring occurring in the region and how this project relates to those efforts.
- The cost of the project is high for the proposed work and dissolved oxygen sampling for 3 months of one persons' time may be excessive.

Concluding Analysis

The Powder Basin Watershed Council will continue water quality monitoring for 3 years at 50 sites in Baker County, building upon monitoring efforts over the past 8 years. The council works closely with relevant stakeholders in the area including landowners, community members, Baker County SWCDs, and State and federal agencies, specifically ODA and DEQ implementing SB 1010 and TMDL development objectives. While there is some concern how the accumulated data informs management decisions at both site and reach scales, the applicant has demonstrated a competent level of data collection, storage, and sharing capabilities indicating a high likelihood of project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$174,662

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$174,662

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5059-19612

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Down and Dirty

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$69,827

Total Cost: \$101,243

Application Description 1) Malheur and Owyhee River Basins in Malheur County.

2) In the past 20 plus years landowners, agencies, and Irrigation Districts have invested millions of dollars with the intent of improving water quality in the Malheur and Owyhee Watersheds. This monitoring program will help determine the success of these efforts, and help direct future actions.

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has placed most of the Malheur River and its tributaries on the 303 (d) list due to violations of state water quality standards. The most common problem is temperature, followed by excessive levels of bacteria, nutrients, Chlorophyll a, and toxins.

The majority of human caused water quality problems in the basin seem to result from the cumulative effects of non-point source pollution caused by landscape-wide activities. Irrigated agriculture dominates the bottomlands in the lower reaches of the Malheur/Owyhee Rivers.

The goals of the Malheur and Owyhee Watershed Action Plans identify the need to quantify environmental conditions in pursuit of correcting watershed problems. The continuation of the established water quality monitoring program will help provide data and analysis needed to evaluate water quality trends in this basin, assess the effectiveness of conservation and restoration efforts, and contribute to the Water Quality Management Plan and the 2010 TMDL assessment and implementations. In addition, we will be able to observe trends in water quality and target areas needing further work.

3) -- Maintain sampling on 14 sites.

- Maintain sampling to support continuous flow gauges on all sites,
- Flow gauges will be placed to monitor key focus areas and major drains,
- Maintain sampling to determine statistically valid trend analysis,
- Maintain sampling to conduct ambient monitoring on the rivers,

4) ODEQ, BOR, Malheur SWCD, Malheur WSC, NRCS, ODA, Vale Irrigation District, Owyhee Irrigation District,

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant will develop a sampling and analysis plan (SAP) and submit it to DEQ for review and approval.
- The applicant will follow professionally accepted methods to collect water samples and send them to the BOR lab for analysis.
- The lab results will be stored locally by the applicant, and the contract lab will upload the data to STORET to make it publicly available.
- The final report will be developed with a Technical Review Committee and shared with state and federal agencies and local partners.
- The creation of the Technical Review Committee and meeting twice a year to review the data and discuss any issues will help apply the data in a meaningful way.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application does not describe how this project was downsized from past monitoring grants now that the watershed council is no longer participating.
- There is a large amount of data that has been collected by the applicant, but the application does not describe how these data had been analyzed to identify why future monitoring and additional data are needed.
- The application does not include specific monitoring questions, making it difficult to assess the application relative to the evaluation criteria.
- The application lacks detail on streamflow monitoring, including the data collection methods and how these data will be analyzed to generate nutrient loads.
- The study design does not describe why this monitoring project is focused on monitoring during the irrigation season.
- The application does not describe the data management plan for streamflow data and if and how the data will be made available to the public.
- The application lacks an adequate description of data gathering and management roles and responsibilities. It is not clear how the University of Idaho is involved and how they will compile the data to assist the applicant.
- The application does not describe how the water quality data would be analyzed and how restoration actions will be tracked to interpret the findings.
- The budget is difficult to understand, including the expenses for the project and the number of sites for streamflow monitoring. This made it challenging to determine if costs are adequate to meet the objectives stated in the application.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The addition of a project technical team as identified in the application will provide additional guidance to inform future monitoring and conservation efforts.
- Project partners, including ODA, DEQ, and BOR, are qualified and have a proven track record on similar projects.
- The applicant has demonstrated the ability to collect water quality data and use that data to guide on-farm conservation, specifically irrigation water management.

Concerns

- There are no monitoring questions in the Proposed Solution section making it impossible to know if achievement of project objectives will answer the monitoring questions.
- It is unclear why the monitoring sites were chosen and where the chosen sites are located.
- A direct linkage describing how the data will be used and how that data will inform on the ground conservation is not described in the proposal.
- The application is missing critical information needed to evaluate likelihood of success, and most of reviewers' understanding of the project is based on assumptions informed by past monitoring efforts and knowledge of the partners.
- It is unclear what the monitoring is intended to achieve; a description of a long-term vision would have clarified the direction of the proposed work.
- The University of Idaho is identified as a partner and included in the budget, but it is not clear how they will participate in the project.
- Flow measurement budget line items are unclear. It is unclear if the applicant is budgeting for flow gauge sites or stream flow measurements, making it difficult to understand if costs are reasonable.

Concluding Analysis

This application proposes to continue water quality monitoring at 14 sampling sites in the Malheur and Owyhee River basins. Sampling over the past 2 decades demonstrates that water in the lower reaches of both rivers does not meet DEQ water quality standards for several parameters including temperature, sediment, and bacteria among others, demonstrating the need for water quality monitoring in the area. While the need for monitoring is understood, it is difficult to determine where the proposed monitoring will occur, the rationale for the proposed monitoring at the selected locations, and whether the proposed costs are reasonable. The overall lack of clarity in the application makes it difficult to determine likelihood of success, data applicability, and linkage to future conservation efforts.

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-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5060-19630

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Grande Ronde Basin Stream Flow Gauging Stations Operation - Water Years 2022 & 2023

Applicant: Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$101,002

Total Cost: \$313,982

Application Description The Grande Ronde Basin (GRB) covers over 5,000 square miles and includes several thousand miles of perennial flowing streams, many being the home to ESA listed Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon, Snake River summer steelhead and bull trout. A network of stream gauges are in place throughout the Grande Ronde and Imnaha River subbasins to inform and provide data for irrigation water management, fisheries management, long term flow and trend analysis, TMDL and SB1010 water quality management plan effectiveness, subbasin plan implementation, restoration project development and provide essential information regarding cumulative effects response to conservation in the Grande Ronde Basin. This project is in place to operate 12 existing stream gauges in combination with US Geological Survey (USGS) (3 gauges, East Fork Wallowa River, Minam River and Grande Ronde River at Troy), Idaho Power (1 gauge, Imnaha River at Imnaha) and Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) who, independent of this project, operate five additional gauges (Lostine River at Caudle Lane, Wallowa River above Wallowa Lake, Wallowa River at Enterprise, Wallowa Lake, Catherine Cr. near Union) to characterize flow in both the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins. Stream flow characteristics including headwater contribution, land management influence, and basin outlet data are all selectively collected in this network of 21 flow gauges. Production partners include Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW) and Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) with funding partners being BPA, OWEB and OWRD.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This project will continue to provide funds for a contractor to maintain a long-term record of streamflow data.
- The application described a number of other monitoring efforts that use the streamflow data that will be collected.
- The application describes how the data are stored and made available in near real-time to be used by a variety of interested stakeholders to manage streamflow for irrigation and conservation needs.
- The contractor is experienced and will use professionally accepted methods to collect and manage the data.

- The budget describes the costs for the different tasks the contractor will complete over the two-year period.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacks monitoring questions. One broad monitoring question is stated in the application in the problem statement, but it is not clear that the application objectives, study design, data collection and analyses will answer that question.
- The objectives described in the application are not directly implemented through this monitoring grant.
- The activities described in the schedule will not achieve the broader objectives stated in the application.
- The application does not describe any of the QA/QC procedures employed by the contractor to collect high quality data other than citing the protocol.
- The application does not describe how the community stakeholders are engaged other than mentioning a place-based water planning team in Union County that OWRD participates in.
- It is not clear how the applicant helps provide access to the data beyond contracting with OWRD to perform the monitoring.
- It is not clear if or how most of the data users are contributing to funding this project, despite their heavy reliance on it.
- The description of how costs were developed is questionable. The budget narrative refers to past negotiation of costs with the contractor that may be out of date. It is not clear if these costs are reflective of current expenses for the contractor to maintain and operate gaging stations.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Data collected from this project is used by many stakeholders and helps inform management actions that include recreation, fisheries, and restoration planning.
- The proposed work complements other monitoring efforts in the Grande Ronde Basin. The Grande Ronde Model Watershed is an organization with an extensive track record for this type of work, therefore the likelihood of project success is high.
- OWRD is a primary project partner and has extensive experience with stream gauging protocols including data collection, record keeping, QAQC methods, data storage, and reporting.

Concerns

- There are no monitoring questions in the Proposed Solution section making it difficult to whether achievement of project objectives will provide the desired information.
- The proposed close clustering of flow measurement sites may be excessive; however, it is understood the proximity of several flow gauges is to document irrigation-influenced stream reaches.

- The project may be more cost-effective without the near real-time data transmission capability. There are more cost-effective ways of collecting the information that would not impact overall utility of data.

Concluding Analysis

Stream flow data collection in the Grande Ronde Basin has been in operation since the mid-1990s with many natural resource management organizations using the data. Flow data is used for many purposes including irrigation water management, fisheries research and management, restoration project development, and aquatic restoration research and monitoring. While the application lacks some detail, the project team of GRMW and OWRD is experienced and capable of implementing the project as proposed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$101,002

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$101,002

Staff Conditions

N/A

Mid-Columbia - Region 6 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2020

- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 6 Cities
- Region 6 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 6 Boundary



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Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin Restoration					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-6021	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Couse Creek at Blue Mountain Station Fish Passage	A two-foot high concrete dam on Couse Creek, a tributary of the Walla Walla River, will be removed and access to eleven miles of cool water habitat restored for steelhead, Chinook and bull trout.	62,774	Umatilla
221-6023	Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation	Walla Walla River Forks Floodplain Reconnection and In-stream Enhancement Implementation	River flow will be restored to, historic floodplain channels along the North and South Forks, and mainstem Walla Walla River, which will improve habitat for steelhead, Chinook and bull trout as they rest, rear, and spawn.	300,000	Umatilla
221-6022	South Fork John Day WC	South Fork Fire Grazing Management	The last seven of 55 miles of fence destroyed in a 2014 wildfire will be built to protect sensitive streamside areas from livestock and feral horses and improve pasture management for grassland health, which will benefit wildlife in the South Fork John Day watershed.	117,860	Grant
221-6029	Wheeler SWCD	Nelson Creek Forest Restoration	Forest habitat in Nelson Creek, a tributary to Bridge Creek, will be restored to a more natural, healthy, and fire resilient state by thinning unhealthy pine, removing encroaching juniper, developing upland springs for livestock and wildlife, and protecting and enhancing streamside habitat for fish and wildlife.	169,835	Wheeler
221-6028	South Fork John Day WC	Hole In The Ground Upland Health	Rangeland conditions and wildlife habitat will be improved by protecting sensitive aspen groves and removing encroaching juniper in the uplands of the South Fork John Day River.	167,960	Grant
221-6026	North Fork John Day WC	Swale Creek Allotment Fencing	Sections of electric fencing will be replaced with permanent fencing to completely protect and exclude sensitive streamside meadow areas from livestock access in the Swale Creek watershed in the Umatilla National Forest.	132,854	Morrow
221-6032	Bridge Creek WC	Middle Alder Creek Watershed Improvement 1	Juniper will be removed on the hillslopes of Alder Creek, a tributary of the John Day River, and upland water sources will be developed for wildlife use and to aid in livestock distribution to improve grassland health.	91,101	Wheeler
221-6030	South Fork John Day WC	Widows Creek Ranch Upland Health	Rangeland health and wildlife habitat will be improved in the Widows Creek watershed, a steelhead tributary of the John Day River, by developing seven upland water sources, treating and protecting struggling aspen communities, and removing juniper.	65,118	Grant
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,107,502	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-6031	Monument SWCD	Camp Creek Targeted Restoration	Juniper will be removed followed by reseeding to bolster grassland species in the Camp Creek watershed, a tributary of Cottonwood Creek.	87,950	Grant

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
221-6024	Monument SWCD	Lost Fawn Meadow and Spring Enhancements	111,627	Grant
221-6025	Wheeler SWCD	Quant Ranch Upland Restoration	149,872	Wheeler
221-6027	Grant SWCD	Zwegart Irrigation Efficiency Project	113,387	Grant
221-6033	Grant SWCD	Seneca 96 Ranch Enhancements Project Phase I	272,595	Grant

Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-6036	Gilliam SWCD	Ferry Canyon/Hay Creek Floodplain Analysis and Prioritization	A planning document will be created that prioritizes potential restoration locations along 51 miles of Hay Creek and Ferry Canyon, steelhead tributaries of the lower John Day River.	49,999	Gilliam
221-6034	South Fork John Day WC	John Day Basin Partnership Upland Prioritization	Upland habitat restoration actions, strategies, and locations will be prioritized for the entire John Day River Basin to maximize benefits for native wildlife.	35,805	Grant
221-6038	Sherman SWCD	Lower Grass Valley Canyon Structural Restoration_CLONE	Designs will be developed for streamside and instream restoration on five miles of Lower Grass Valley Canyon Creek, a historic steelhead tributary to the lower John Day River, to improve habitat for native fish and address water quality concerns.	30,000	Sherman
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				115,804	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-6035	Grant SWCD	Upper John Day River Aquifer Management Feasibility Study	75,000	Grant	
221-6037	Grant SWCD	Upper John Day Valley Private Forest Lands Assessment	75,000	Grant	

Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin Stakeholder Engagement					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-6044	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Walla Walla Basin Stakeholder Engagement	Landowners will be engaged to partner in voluntary projects that will improve fish passage, instream and streamside habitat conditions, groundwater levels, surface water flows, and water management in the Walla Walla Basin.	42,080	Umatilla
221-6045	Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA)	Walla Walla River Irrigation District Modernization Stakeholder Engagement	Landowners and water users will be engaged in developing on-the-ground water conservation and management projects within the Walla Walla River Irrigation District.	31,135	Umatilla
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				73,215	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
None					

Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-6042	Gilliam SWCD	Combining Methods to Monitor John Day Steelhead Migration and Overshoot	Steelhead migratory data will be collected to build on a multi-year dataset in the Lower John Day and Columbia River near the John Day mouth to inform future habitat restoration.	203,161	Gilliam
221-6043	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	North Fork Walla Walla River Effectiveness Monitoring	Data will be collected for water temperature, streamflow, turbidity, and streamside vegetative cover to document current conditions prior to future restoration planned for the North Fork Walla Walla River.	25,287	Umatilla
221-6039	South Fork John Day WC	Murderers Creek Mussel Monitoring	Freshwater mussels will be monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of relocating mussels to mitigate impacts from stream restoration projects and to document the effects from the Murderers Creek habitat restoration project on freshwater mussels, their habitat, and their host fish.	182,154	Grant
221-6040	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Hydrological Trend Monitoring in the Walla Walla Basin	Data will be collected to produce accurate and reliable datasets that describe stream flows and water temperature in the Walla Walla River and groundwater levels in the aquifer to inform planning efforts that address flow and water temperature limitations in the basin.	86,954	Umatilla
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				497,556	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-6041	Wallowa Resources	John Day Watershed Macroinvertebrates	81,232	Gilliam	

Region 6 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	1,794,077
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6021-19606

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Couse Creek at Blue Mountain Station Fish Passage

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$62,774

Total Cost: \$118,171

Application Description

1) Couse Creek is a 14 mile long tributary that enters the main stem Walla Walla River near RM 48.5, south of Milton Freewater, Oregon (see UPLOADS). 2) A two-foot tall concrete irrigation dam located near RM 3 (see UPLOADS) is the last known barrier in the Couse Watershed based on a Watershed Assessment and Aquatic Habitat Inventory conducted for Couse Creek by WWBWC in 2020. The dam creates a half-meter step that greatly exceeds ODFW step height criteria of >6", therefore is out of compliance with established passage criteria. The portion of the creek goes dry below the dam annually and many fish are stranded below the dam and perish under current operational procedures. Removing the impediment will be beneficial allowing fish improved access to 11 miles of suitable habitat in the headwaters and decrease mortality in the lower reaches. The dam removal process is categorized as Medium Risk by project partner BPA 's HIP guidance document and WWBWC requires proof of liability protection insurance (see UPLOAD). Couse Creek is inhabited by steelhead, rainbow/red band trout, and occasionally by bull trout and spring chinook salmon and described in the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan as a Priority Protection Area. The Plan identifies addressing fish passage barriers as a priority action. 3) Dam removal will occur. Grade control measures will be undertaken in the wetted channel via roughened riffle, cross vane strategy. Large boulders will be staggered at strategic areas within the wetted channel profile to provide roughness, complexity and suitable micro pool habitats for migratory salmonids staging in the reach (see UPLOADS). 4) The landowners are supportive of the project, and have signed agreements to allow the removal of the dam (see UPLOADS). WWBWC Project Committee unanimously approved the Couse Creek RM 3 dam removal project. The design process for this project is currently approved and funded by BPA under project #2007-396-00, contract #86499.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Removing this full channel-spanning barrier to fish passage will open access to eleven miles of steelhead habitat, including an upstream critical cold-water refuge, which is a significant ecological benefit.
- The large wood project components designed to stabilize the stream banks will improve water quality by reducing sediment entering the stream and create a few resting pools for fish as they migrate to upstream habitat.
- Couse Creek is a productive stream for summer steelhead spawning and rearing and is also used by bull trout and juvenile Chinook salmon.

- The project is identified in the OWEB-funded Couse Creek Assessment as the last fish barrier left to correct in the Couse Creek system.
- The applicant has a proven track record in successfully implementing complex instream projects.
- BPA, as a major funder, provides a high level of certainty the project is technically sound and will be successfully completed.
- The budget is appropriate and reasonable to remove a two-foot-high concrete barrier to fish passage.

Concerns

- The 30% design provided in the application was revised by BPA engineers after the OWEB application deadline. Removing the concrete structure and associated dam elements is now the main restoration focus, and most of the large wood habitat structures were removed from the project design.
- The submitted budget no longer accurately reflects current project components because of the design changes made by BPA; however, during the virtual site visit, the applicant clarified that BPA agreed to cover any additional costs incurred because of their design revision.
- The application lacks detail about the associated water rights, the location of the POD – both existing and proposed, and how that irrigation right impacts stream flow.

Concluding Analysis

Couse Creek, a tributary to the Walla Walla River, is one of the area's most productive steelhead spawning and rearing streams. The irrigation dam proposed for removal was identified in an OWEB-funded assessment as the last structural barrier to fish moving upstream, especially for juvenile steelhead attempting to reach cooler flows. At the time of OWEB application submittal, 30% designs incorporating both dam removal and habitat features were provided. As part of the phased BPA grant review process, BPA removed most of the habitat features from the project design to encourage fish to move past the project area to the cooler habitat upstream instead of holding in downstream pools that can dry up and cause fish stranding. Ultimately, removing this critical barrier is key to improving steelhead production and reduce mortality and will result in significant ecological benefit.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$62,774

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$62,774

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6022-19562

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: South Fork Fire Grazing Management

Applicant: South Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$117,860

Total Cost: \$499,461

Application Description

This project is located throughout the South Fork John Day River Watershed, replacing allotment pasture fences on the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area (PWSWA) and Prineville BLM, that burned beyond repair during the 2014 South Fork Fire. This fire was over 66,000 acres, and burned in mixed ownership, 8 miles South of Dayville, Oregon. This area is habitat for the Threatened Mid-Columbia Steelhead, including critical habitat for that species and areas where they spawn annually. This area is high value habitat for wildlife as well, including the Murderers Creek Mule Deer Initiative Area, Murderers Creek Wild Horse Territory, Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area, and South Fork John Day Conservation Opportunity Area. 47 miles of the South Fork John Day is designated Wild & Scenic, containing unique wildlife, botanical species, geologic, recreational and scenic values. The South Fork Complex Fire impacted/damaged approximately 55 miles of allotment boundary and pasture fencing. Pastures impacted by the wildfire were rested from livestock grazing for 2-4 years so post fire rehabilitation actions (seeding, spraying weeds and fence repairs) could be completed. The project area includes 4 grazing allotments administered by the Bureau of Land Management and Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area. The burned fences were surveyed to determine exactly how much will need to be repaired. Over the last 6 years, the BLM has accomplished replacing 39 of these 55 miles and permittees have repaired 9 miles. The remaining fence miles are critical to complete because they restrict livestock and wildhorse access to the South Fork John Day, Deer Creek, Cougar Gulch, and Murderers Creek, which are salmon and Steelhead Critical habitat. OWEB funds are being requested to complete construction of the last 7 miles of fence, also removing down fence. Project partners include the ODFW PWSWA, Prineville BLM, and South Fork John Day Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly defines objectives and describes appropriate methods to achieve measurable ecological benefits.
- The project is shovel-ready, with permitting compliance completed for both BLM and ODFW lands.
- The proposed project builds on completed work by installing the remaining seven of 55 miles of pasture fence burned by the South Fork Fire Complex.
- After the South Fork Complex wildfire destroyed fences, livestock and feral horse trespass into riparian areas was evident. Completing this fencing is critical to protect those sensitive areas.

- The fence is designed to use all metal components to withstand future wildfires, increasing the lifespan of the investment.
- Grazing on these units is highly managed and monitored to assure the grasslands are trending upward in both functionality and health.
- The area around Murderers Creek and the South Fork John Day River provides high value habitat for steelhead, Chinook salmon, freshwater mussels, and numerous species of terrestrial wildlife.
- The applicant has high capacity and a proven track record for completing projects, and effectively collaborating with both private and public landowners in the South Fork John Day River Basin.

Concerns

- The budget appears to have standard rates for fencing; however, it is unclear if the estimated rate will cover current costs of fencing in difficult and remote locations or if partners are prepared to cover any shortfall.

Concluding Analysis

In recent years, restoration on both private and public lands in the South Fork John Day Basin has accelerated. The proposed project finishes the last remaining sections of critical livestock fencing in both the ODFW Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area and the neighboring BLM land. The fences will help control the numerous feral horses that roam the area and aid in managing livestock distribution, which increases the control of range utilization and prevents cattle from getting into riparian areas.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$117,860

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$117,860

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6023-19540

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Walla Walla River Forks Floodplain Reconnection and In-stream Enhancement Implementation

Applicant: Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$300,000

Total Cost: \$1,250,382

Application Description

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) is preparing to implement a habitat restoration project on the Walla Walla River at the confluence of the North and South Fork Walla Walla Rivers. The project area is approximately 5 miles SE of Milton-Freewater, OR in Umatilla County, OR. The project site includes approximately 1,600 feet of the mainstem Walla Walla River, downstream of the confluence; 1,600 feet of the North Fork channel upstream of the confluence; and 800 feet of the South Fork channel upstream of the confluence. The project reach lacks important salmonid habitat including large wood, pools, and low velocity environments. Various site constraints exist along the North Fork, South Fork, and mainstem Walla Walla River, which limit floodplain connectivity and contribute to lack of geomorphic complexity. This project will reconnect the relict channels by removing strategic portions of the mainstem levee, add habitat complexity with the addition of large wood structures, and improve two irrigation diversions, one on the North Fork which acts as a fish passage barrier during low flows and one on the mainstem which can cause juvenile fish entrainment due to the fish bypass pipe becoming disconnected from the mainstem post flood. This project incorporates the primary touchstones described in the 2008 Umatilla River Vision (Jones et al. 2008) while addressing limiting factors identified by other regional plans. CTUIR has partnered with the four private landowners and BPA for the design and implementation of this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides clear objectives and detail about project components needed for a comprehensive project review.
- The design submitted with the application is well-thought out and incorporates features to withstand the Walla Walla River's flashy nature and significant bedload movement.
- The locations and number of log structures will provide significant aquatic habitat for steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout.
- Historic habitat in side channels will again be utilized, once opened to stream flow.
- Allowing high flows to access the floodplain helps to reduce water velocity and the erosive nature of this river on the project reach and extending downstream.
- The project addresses limiting factors, including water quality and degraded habitat, identified in numerous assessments and regional plans listed in the application.

- The applicant will continue to monitor the site and adjust restored stream features based on impacts by future flows.
- The budget provides significant detail that aligns with the project components discussed in the narrative.

Concerns

- The application for moving the point of diversion (POD) has been initiated but is not very far along in the process. This may impact the project timeline if the transfer is complicated.
- The diversions, especially the one on the North Fork Walla Walla River, may need continued maintenance resulting from significant bedload movement characteristic of this river.
- The designs for the South Fork diversion do not include a head gate, which is critical for managing water use and preventing bedload from entering the irrigation ditch system.

Concluding Analysis

The Walla Walla River has a history of erosive, flashy flood events. The river has shown its power at the confluence of the North and South Forks by recreating channels, taking out old cottonwood groves and severely eroding banks. The proposed complex restoration design will use that power to reengage historic floodplains, open new fish habitat and disburse energy across a broader surface area. Also, improving two irrigation diversions by moving and enhancing delivery mechanisms assure fish continue to have upstream passage accessing cooler habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$300,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$300,000

Staff Conditions

POD transfer application(s) must be included with the first fund request; final transfer paperwork shall be provided with the final PISR.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6024-19502

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lost Fawn Meadow and Spring Enhancements

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$111,627

Total Cost: \$208,284

Application Description

1) This project is located on the Longview Ranch in the upper Rudio Creek (HUC 12 -170702021005) and Johnny Creek (HUC_12-170702011402) watersheds near the town of Kimberly in Grant County, Oregon. The proposed project area encompasses the upper ~1 mile of Lost Fawn Creek and ~.45 miles of Johnny Creek.2) Lost Fawn Creek is a tributary to Rudio Creek which provides spawning and rearing habitat for both Chinook salmon and ESA listed Mid-Columbia River steelhead. Johnny Creek is a tributary to the John Day River and is listed as a rearing and migration stream. Both streams are hindered by up to 7 limiting factors throughout most of the listed fish bearing habitat (CTWS 2014). Lost Fawn Creek and Johnny Creek contain historic wet meadows and headwater springs that provide critical upland water sources to both watersheds. However, past management activities have resulted in overstocked forest stands, overgrazing, streambank erosion, noxious weed spread and degraded meadow conditions in both upland and riparian areas of these headwater drainages.3) This project aims to improve wet meadow habitat and upland process and function across ~720 acres of the Lost Fawn Creek and Johnny Creek drainages through the following actions:- Noxious weed assessment and herbicide treatments - Broadcast seeding with a native/introduced grass/forb mix.- An Integrated grazing management approach involving a 1 year livestock exclusion period and rotational placement of salt licks.- Exclusion fencing around an existing aspen stand - Seeding/vegetation monitoring.4) Monument SWCD, Longview Ranch, OWEB

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The ranch is contributing to the proposed work, indicating a vested interest in the project being successful.
- The budget provides sufficient detail to review project costs.

Concerns

- The monitoring project component is unclear both in the utilization of game cameras to monitor grass growth, and how monitoring data will inform effectiveness in the long term.
- The application lacks detail on how the wet meadows and riparian areas will be protected from livestock grazing. Without fencing to protect stream banks, it is unclear how stream bank erosion concerns will be addressed.

- The wet meadow treatment is likely to have limited success because the seeding mix does not include appropriate native wet meadow species; however, on the virtual site visit, the applicant stated the seed company recommended including non-native seed to quickly establish plants and outcompete invasive weeds.
- Photos in the application show sites occupied by grass, but the application lacks an explanation describing what grass species exist on the project site. If these are native grass stands, more detail is needed to evaluate the restoration approach. For example, how will the seeding and harrowing component impact the established stand? If there are invasive annuals, how will site prep be handled to maximize a successful seeding?
- The project site, as shown in photos, may be challenging to harrow because of the numerous rock outcroppings and debris that may inhibit successful soil to seed contact and damage equipment. More information is needed to evaluate the likelihood of success for the selected methodology.
- The project addresses symptoms rather than causes of watershed degradation affecting the wet meadows and riparian corridor ecosystems.
- The ecological benefits from the proposed project will be limited due to the lack of riparian fencing or some other recognized method of exclusion and without riparian planting. The application includes an explanation indicating that fencing would not prevent Corriente cattle from accessing the riparian zone. It is unclear if fencing alternatives were considered.
- The application overstates fish use on the streams within the project footprint. More detail is needed to explain how benefits from this project site extend to downstream reaches.
- The buck and pole fencing design does not appear to allow any expansion of the aspen clone.

Concluding Analysis

The application lacks enough detail to evaluate the project and determine the likelihood of success in achieving the identified ecological benefits.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6025-19585

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Quant Ranch Upland Restoration

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$149,872

Total Cost: \$220,482

Application Description

1) This project is located in the Service Creek - John Day River watershed approximately 17 miles North of the town of Mitchell in Wheeler County. 2) Western Juniper encroachment has increased over the years due to historic wildfire suppression creating both a water quality and quantity concern. Between the loss of native vegetation and forage yields this has resulted in degraded wildlife habitat lacking in food and cover. 3) This project seeks to reduce the negative impacts Western Juniper imposes on the watershed functions by mechanically cutting and piling 157 acres, hand cutting 312 acres, enrolling 40.8 acres of a tributary to Girds Creek into CREP, treat 7 acres of invasive weeds, and provide off-site stockwater in 6 locations, including a pumping plant into a well. 4) Project partners include the USDA Farm Service Agency, Wheeler SWCD, and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes detailed maps and photos with descriptive captions, which is useful in reviewing the project objectives.
- Removing encroaching juniper has proven upland benefits, such as improving grassland species, reducing erosion, and increasing infiltration of rainfall.
- The budget provides significant line-item detail.

Concerns

- The project has low ecological return for the requested investment. The extent of ecological benefits resulting from fencing off an ephemeral gully are unclear, and if any benefit will extend downslope to where this gully connects with the creek.
- The objective related to riparian restoration may be overstated since Girds Creek, as the major and perhaps the only perennial stream in the area, is not included in the restoration footprint.
- The application did not reference any change in grazing management nor strategies to address the resource concerns this project proposes to resolve.
- Wildlife is noted as benefitting from the restoration, yet there is no clear link to the objectives. Consulting a wildlife expert as the proposal is developed would provide added detail useful in the review.
- Steelhead use in Girds Creek is questionable because of numerous barriers, including significant jump height barriers and dry reaches disrupting habitat connectivity.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is likely to provide upland ecological benefits by removing juniper and developing springs as upland water sources. The application, however, lacks information needed to evaluate the likelihood of success for the riparian component and to better understand the cost benefit of this work to the watershed.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6026-19580

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Swale Creek Allotment Fencing

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Morrow

OWEB Request: \$132,854

Total Cost: \$167,497

Application Description

1) This project will take place on the Swale Creek Grazing Allotment in the Heppner Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest. The project area encompasses portions of Swale, Alder, Ditch, Bear and Little Bear Creeks within the Potamus and Wall Creek subwatersheds. 2) Electric fencing within the Swale Creek Allotment has been part of the livestock management for the allotment since the late 1990's. Currently, creeks within the allotment are protected by seasonal electric fences. During the grazing period electric fences can occasionally malfunction allowing livestock access to designated critical habitat for ESA listed Mid-Columbia summer steelhead. Permanent fencing will be more effective at keeping cattle out of sensitive areas and protecting the existing, robust riparian vegetation facilitated by over two decades of the electric fence program while reducing the long-term costs. 3) This project seeks to install approximately 6.5 miles of permanent 3 and/or 4 strand barbwire fences along 5 creeks in the Swale Creek Grazing Allotment. Permanent fencing aims to exclude cattle from sensitive riparian areas as well as to completely exclude Swale Meadows, a wet meadow along Swale Creek. The creeks to be protected by fencing are all known steelhead and chinook rearing streams with existing, robust riparian vegetation. 4) This is a cooperative effort between the North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), the Heppner Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest (UNF) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). NFJDWC will provide project coordination, UNF will provide technical assistance and materials, and ODFW will provide technical assistance, project oversight and materials. This project represents an opportunity for strong collaboration between a federal, state, and nonprofit entity .

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Replacing temporary electric fence with permanent fencing provides resiliency and long-term protection of significant natural resources and habitat for multiple species.
- The project is technically sound, and the application included objectives likely to lead to restoration with ecological value.
- The fencing design incorporates consideration of the challenges associated with heavy snow load and safe wildlife passage.
- Swale Creek is an important cold-water tributary for steelhead and provides water quality benefits to other water courses downstream that provide habitat for juvenile chinook salmon.
- Habitat, within the existing exclusion, is on an upward trend and this pro-active project assures that habitat remains on that positive restorative trajectory.

- Exclusion fencing and protecting the entire meadow system provides numerous habitat and water quality benefits, as noted in the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Restoration Strategy Plan.
- Public partnerships in the project are demonstrated in the application by letters of support.
- The permittee has a successful track record of maintaining fence integrity and managing livestock through a restorative lens in this remote location.
- The watershed council has the capacity and proven track record implementing similar restoration projects.

Concerns

- The application lacks significant detail describing other restoration work implemented in the Swale Creek area, such as the work in the meadows to aggrade channel incision.
- The applicant is encouraged to engage in conversations with the USFS about decommissioning the road through the meadow to reduce vector opportunities for weeds, eliminate ruts, mud, and sediment during wet seasons, and prevent the increased potential for trespass livestock with road gates being left open.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is another example of collaboration to expand the restoration footprint in public lands. This project is identified as an USFS priority to continue to protect and enhance sensitive riparian and wet meadow areas, while maintaining adjacent grazing use for the permittee. By working with the local watershed council to oversee the project and pursue funding, the USFS is assured the project will be successfully implemented.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$132,854

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$132,854

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6027-19576

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Zwegart Irrigation Efficiency Project

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$113,387

Total Cost: \$155,134

Application Description

This project seeks funding support to purchase and install a total of 19950 feet of 6" Gated PVC pipe: The project involves two ditches located on the property: Roberts Creek Ditch and Graham Creek Ditch; both divert water from the named creeks and are steelhead bearing tributaries of the John Day River. The Zwegardt family has begun installing and using gated pipes to control irrigation on Graham Creek Ditch along the small irrigation ditches on his property; this proposal seeks cost share funding to continue the effort along the Roberts Creek Ditch. This project will greatly improve efficiency and reduce erosion. Roberts Creek Ditch has been the subject of a project of the district previously to implement proper fish passage and efficiency. The current systems include open delivery and irrigation ditches, these ditches are causing inefficiency from two needs: a) The first major need to control water volume. Without control over how much water and where the water is being placed at any given time, this contributes to increased erosion. b) The second need is to reduce maintenance of the ditches. With the small irrigation ditches, the landowner has to clean out or regrade these ditches which also contributed to erosion and sediment in the lower ditches that then drain into the upper mainstem of the John Day. The proposed work includes: a) Site preparation, which includes regrading the area to allow for the piping to operate properly and stay in place' b) Installation of 6" gated PVC pipe and c) System management to meet program objectives. The project partners include landowner and operator Lance Zwegardt, landowner Tobe Zwegardt, the Grant Soil, and Water Conservation District, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project objectives include reducing erosion and improving irrigation efficiencies.
- The landowner has already installed and is effectively using several sections of gated pipe.

Concerns

- It is unclear what the water right is for the irrigated fields, and how much water will be distributed through the gated pipe. Documentation that these fields are the legal areas for irrigation water use would be beneficial to the review process in determining the likelihood of successful implementation.
- The application lacks an irrigation management plan providing critical detail on irrigation sets, timing of return, crops, and soils needed to evaluate project technical soundness.

- It is unclear how this investment will result in the ecological benefits of reduced erosion and improved water quality due to the distance to the streams from the project site.
- The application lacks designs, which are needed to assess technical aspects or efficiencies that could be realized by the project.
- Extensive use of gated pipe is proposed for a large area; more detail is necessary to determine if this approach is technically feasible based on the water right, distance, and landform. The proposed approach will require substantial management and expense.
- The application lacks detail explaining how gated pipe on the steepest sections will reduce erosion. It is unclear if existing irrigation ditches will be filled in, or if they will still convey the water to the gated pipe sections, and how the water will get from the ditch to the pipe.
- The contributions to improved fish passage are overstated in the application. None of the stated objectives or actions relate to fish passage. Additionally, there is no fish screen on Graham Creek, and it is not clear if there is a headgate or other method of control for measuring the water right.
- The project property is within the NRCS focus area, but it is unclear from the application whether NRCS is engaged as a partner to help offset cost and provide critical technical input on irrigation systems.
- With the recent increase in pipe costs, the budget may not be sufficient to complete the project.
- Alternatives are described in the application; however, cost is the only identified limiting factor in considering other more efficient irrigation delivery systems.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project has unclear ecological benefit due to the lack of designs or detail needed to determine technical feasibility and watershed benefit for the cost.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6028-19494 **Project Type:** Restoration
Project Name: Hole In The Ground Upland Health
Applicant: South Fork John Day WC
Region: Mid Columbia **County:** Grant
OWEB Request: \$167,960 **Total Cost:** \$223,999

Application Description

The area known as Hole in the Ground is located on the Izee Ranch, in Grant County, Oregon. This area has been selected based upon its high wildlife habitat value, and previously funded OWEB Technical Assistance grant for Aspen Inventory, and Juniper Prioritization. The landowner has also enrolled this area in the South Fork John Day Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), based upon its high priority Juniper ranking, and upland water source development. Hole in the Ground ties together 3 different completed upland water, Juniper, and aspen protection projects funded through OWEB, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. The Izee Ranch has also completed a large scale effort to boost the bitterbrush and perennial grass population by reducing the sagebrush through timing herbicide application to target sagebrush and not harm bitterbrush. We are requesting support from OWEB in order to match the Juniper removal and water development under RCPP, removing an additional 400 acres of Juniper, and protect the 3 aspen stands within the project area using Buck and Pole Fencing and conifer removal. Project partners will include; NRCS, Izee Ranch, and SFJDWC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes comprehensive ecological site descriptions that provide a clear assessment of the property conditions, habitat, aspect, and slope.
- Clear objectives are provided with reasonable actions to achieve them.
- This is a technically sound juniper removal and aspen enhancement project with appropriate ecological benefits described.
- Treating the juniper while it is still small is both efficient and protects existing shrub and grass communities from becoming degraded by encroaching juniper competition.
- The project area has a tremendous bitterbrush community, which provides significant feed that mule deer and elk depend on in the winter, but that is not fire resistant. The application proposes an alternative to prescribed fire for removing phase one juniper.
- NRCS RCPP funds will be leveraged to expand the restoration footprint and multiply the benefits of the project.
- A landscape approach will be used to control juniper by working on parcels adjacent to previously cleared lands and lands to be treated using matching RCPP funds.
- The aspen colonies targeted for restoration were identified from an OWEB-funded technical assistance grant for the SFJDB Aspen Inventory.

- The applicant has a proven track record of implementing similar projects and continues to improve their restoration approach by incorporating lessons learned from previous projects.
- The landowner participated on the site visit, providing context, and indicating commitment to long-term success of the project.
- The budget provides sufficient detail, is reasonable and aligns with current costs for juniper removal work.

Concerns

- Plans for long-term stewardship to prevent juniper from re-establishing are unclear and will be challenging due to the large size of the ranch and the large number of acres where juniper has been removed.
- It is unclear from the application whether ODFW wildlife biologists were consulted during proposal development. The project site is located in the ODFW Mule Deer Initiative area and ODFW expertise could be beneficial to the project design.
- No letters of support are provided in the application indicating appropriate partners will be engaged in the project, such as ODFW to integrate potential wildlife benefits.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is a result of two OWEB-funded technical assistance projects. One project identified and prioritized aspen communities and the second project assessed and identified areas for juniper treatment that will provide the highest ecological benefit. The landowner is committed to maintaining restoration investments by annually fixing buck and pole fences around aspen clones, keeping spring developments working as designed, and continually expanding juniper removal efforts. The area provides critical mule deer and elk winter habitat in the Izee area, where winters can prove challenging to wildlife.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$167,960

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$167,960

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6029-19639

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Nelson Creek Forest Restoration

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$169,835

Total Cost: \$268,797

Application Description

1) This project is located in the Bridge Creek Watershed, near where Nelson Creek leaves the Ochoco National Forest and enters privately owned property, approximately 2 miles South of the town of Mitchell Oregon, in Wheeler County. 2) Historic logging practices and increased fire suppression has led to the over-stocking of timber stands and allowed for the expansion of invasive Western Juniper. This has resulted in a forest setting that is highly vulnerable to disease and infestations, with large fuel loads that increase the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Additionally, historic grazing practices have resulted in a nearby riparian area being nearly void of any woody species. 3) This project seeks to thin stands of Ponderosa Pine back to healthy density, eradicate all Western Juniper, restore the riparian area through the USDA/FSA's CREP program, and develop two springs for stockwater use. 4) Project partners include the USDA Farm Service Agency, OWEB, Wheeler SWCD, and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes maps that provide helpful context to the project review.
- From the photos provided, the site clearly needs a reduction in overstocked conifers, and the application is clear in both the stated objectives and the actions to achieve those goals.
- The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) will be used to install the buffer, increasing the ecological benefit of the project to include stream function and riparian improvement.
- The seeding component follows reasonable protocols using a range drill, improving germination success by increasing soil to seed contact.
- Nelson Creek is incised and will benefit from removing livestock from the riparian zone and increasing the numbers and diversity of native riparian vegetation.
- When appropriate, junipers will be felled into the channel to increase complexity and capture sediment to help aggrade the stream channel.
- The project builds on other juniper projects completed on the ranch and the adjacent BLM property.
- Removing juniper will provide water quality benefits downstream once perennial grass stands are established that will reduce erosion and increase the infiltration of rainfall.
- Landowner commitment to the project is demonstrated through match contribution.
- The project costs are reasonable based on the project components listed in the application.

Concerns

- It is unclear from the application whether the spring sources will be protected by fencing.
- Fisheries benefits are overstated in the application. While steelhead may have historically used Nelson Creek, fish access is currently blocked by a head cut barrier downstream.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan is referenced but additional detail on how this project fits in with the plan would be useful to evaluate technical soundness and watershed context.

Concluding Analysis

White Butte Ranch has a history of restoration, and this project expands on those efforts to increase multiple ecological benefits. Pairing with the Farm Bill Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to fence, plant and protect Nelson Creek is a first step in improving ecological function and potentially bringing fish back to the system. The forest thinning and strategic spring developments will aid in improved grassland health and livestock distribution, reduce watershed damage from future wildfires, and potentially increase stream flows.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

4 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$169,835

Review Team Conditions

Spring sources will be required to be protected by fencing.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$169,835

Staff Conditions

Spring sources will be required to be protected by fencing.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6030-19495

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Widows Creek Ranch Upland Health

Applicant: South Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$65,118

Total Cost: \$134,418

Application Description

The Widows Creek Ranch is located halfway between Mt. Vernon, and Dayville on the Upper Mainstem John Day River, in Grant County, Oregon. The Ranch has been very active in restoration efforts, fencing riparian areas, clearing Juniper, developing upland water, working on forest health, and strategically grazing livestock. They are seeking assistance to enhance, protect, and develop upland water, to draw livestock away from sensitive riparian habitats along Widows Creek, Bridge Creek (Steelhead Critical Habitat), Grouse Creek, and Dry Creek (Redband bearing streams). The Ranch has enrolled all of these streams in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), with NRCS. We are requesting funding to protect and develop 7 upland water sources, 1 acre of Aspen, and cut and pile 60 acres of Juniper. Project partners include the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, NRCS/Farm Services Agency, and Widows Creek Ranch.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous application evaluation concerns are addressed.
- Livestock will be dispersed across the ranch by strategically locating water sources, which will take pressure away from sensitive ecosystems.
- Widows Creek is a priority stream for spawning and rearing steelhead, and for juvenile Chinook seeking cooler flows.
- Most of the proposed project work will focus on tributaries of Widows Creek and the ecological benefits of cooler and cleaner flows from those tributaries continuing downstream.
- During the virtual site visit, the landowner clarified the restoration activities he has completed, and his vision for future improvements to fish and wildlife habitat on the ranch.
- The budget is appropriate based on the project elements and provides details and justification necessary for evaluating the project cost effectiveness.
- The cost of the project is reasonable for the resulting ecological benefits.

Concerns

- Maps showing locations of water developments in relation to pasture fences and ranch grazing strategies would help to better understand the potential project benefits.

- The large uploads are confusing and do not add value for understanding the proposed project. To help navigate information in uploads, the applicant is encouraged to include a cover letter as a part of each upload that explains what the uploaded document is and why it is pertinent to the project; then reference specific details by the document name and page number in the application narrative.
- The aspen protection fence focuses on excluding only livestock and is not designed to deter wildlife from browse. It is unclear from the application whether there are plans to address wildlife browse if it becomes a problem to long-term stewardship of this restoration investment.

Concluding Analysis

The Widows Creek Ranch has a history of restoration across a large landscape. All perennial streams on the ranch are now enrolled in CREP, protecting the riparian areas from livestock. This project builds on those efforts by providing upland water developments to benefit both wildlife and livestock, removing priority juniper to help improve the hydrologic function on upslope aspects, and fencing to protect sensitive aspen habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$65,118

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$65,118

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6031-19534

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Camp Creek Targeted Restoration

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$87,950

Total Cost: \$112,003

Application Description

1) This Project is located on the east side of the upper Camp Creek in NW Grant County, approximately 13 miles south of Monument, Oregon. 2) Camp Creek provides rearing and migration habitat for salmonids and flows into the Cottonwood/Fox Creek drainage ~1.5 stream miles below the opening to Fox Valley. Cottonwood Creek is a critical spawning and rearing tributary for ESA listed (Threatened) Middle-Columbia River steelhead that drains into the NF John Day River. Monument SWCD's Cottonwood Creek Focus Area Action Plan has identified the Camp Creek drainage as likely to adversely affect water quality through the Water Quality Land Condition Assessment with western juniper encroachment being a contributing factor. Fire suppression and climate change have resulted in juniper encroachment across much of eastern Oregon. Studies show juniper removal to result in greater water quantity, quality and spring flow while also benefitting wildlife habitat and rangeland health (Ochoa et al 2018). Approximately 1/3 of the proposed project area approaches or exceeds 30% juniper canopy cover and contains at least 4 springs that could benefit water quantity and quality with a targeted juniper removal effort. Furthermore, the juniper removal and associated monitoring in this project would expand the watershed-scale benefits of adjacent projects and inform future restoration related to upland function and catchment flow regimes. 3) This project will see to 5 primary objectives:- hand cut, pile and burn 247 acres of western juniper - Re-seed burn pile areas and spring sites with a native grass and forb mix.- Monitor stream flow and temperature prior to treatment and continuing for two years following juniper removal- Monitor vegetation growth at selected re-seeding areas.- A flow monitoring results comparison of this targeted juniper removal vs. the landscape-scale Boag Creek juniper removal (OWEB 219-6003). 4) Monument SWCD, Vaughn Ranches, CTWS and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes a grazing management strategy plan and a long-term juniper management plan, helping to assure the investment will be sustained into the future.
- The objectives and actions provide sufficient detail to evaluate the project.
- The project is within the SWCD's ODA Focus Area and will address many of the priority concerns identified in the Camp Creek watershed.
- The proposed project builds on other restoration activities done in this watershed and on the landowner's property, expanding on the ecological benefits accrued across the landscape.

- The detailed budget provides a breakdown of specific costs which help to assess whether costs are reasonable and necessary for the proposed work.
- Using a game camera is an innovative way to monitor stream flow in remote locations and may prove useful in monitoring other projects in the future.

Concerns

- More detail on the specific phases of the juniper stands identified for treatment is needed to understand the extent of the ecological benefits and assess reasonable costs for the proposed project. Juniper treatments are identified by percent cover, which does not fully describe the site conditions of the proposed treatment areas.
- Although a grazing management strategy is provided with the application, it lacks details to determine whether the grazing schedule will allow sufficient time for the seeding to establish.
- It is unclear how the target ecosystems will be protected without including in the project design exclusion fencing around the meadow or the riparian zones; without those protections ecological benefit of the investment may be compromised.
- The monitoring component may not answer the project effectiveness question in such a short time frame.

Concluding Analysis

The project, located on land adjacent to a previous restoration project on the same landowners' property, will remove juniper with the goal of improving wet meadow and riparian habitats and potentially increase flows to Camp Creek, a significant tributary to Cottonwood Creek. The ecological benefits from the proposed restoration actions, however, are uncertain if riparian and wet meadow habitats are not protected by fencing or an accepted alternative. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to explain strategies for how livestock management will serve to increase the health of wet meadow and riparian ecosystems.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$87,950

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6032-19581

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Middle Alder Creek Watershed Improvement 1

Applicant: Bridge Creek WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$91,101

Total Cost: \$121,477

Application Description

The Alder Creek watershed is a smaller watershed within the LJD-Kahler Creek HUC in north central 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 339 acres of western juniper, treat 34 acres of weeds, primarily medusahead, reseed 34 acres and develop five springs for off-channel water sources. Partners include OWEB, NRCS, Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council and the two private landowners in the watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes both a grazing management plan and long-term juniper management plan, indicating the investment will likely be maintained into the future on this technically sound project.
- NRCS consulted on the seed mix that will establish a grass base to outcompete any invasive annual grass species onsite and ensure future plant succession that provides native perennials the opportunity to become established.
- ODFW identifies Alder Creek as a productive steelhead stream for spawning and rearing.
- Ecological benefits resulting from the proposed project will be leveraged to a broader, landscape scale because NRCS and the Umatilla National Forest are completing similar restoration projects on both public and private land.
- Photos provided in the application show perennial grass stands present under the existing junipers, indicating the land has not “tipped over” into a degraded condition, making the restoration efforts more likely to be successful.
- The applicant has a proven track record of accomplishing similar types of restoration in the basin.
- The budget uses NRCS rates for treatments, an established method of estimating costs, leverages partner funds, and appears reasonable based on the project objectives and components.

Concerns

- The application has minor inconsistencies in the number of landowners involved. Clarification provided during the virtual site visit indicated that one landowner dropped out of the project just before the application submittal deadline and the narrative was not updated to remove those components. The budget and metrics, however, were corrected and accurately reflect the project.

- It is difficult to determine whether the landowners or restoration stakeholders in the basin support the project without letters of support in the application.

Concluding Analysis

The project goals focus on treating invasive juniper and degraded forest health across the watershed to address altered hydrology, degraded water quality, and imbalanced sediment processes. The project is the fourth proposal resulting from an outreach collaboration with NRCS to solicit restoration in this watershed; the other three OWEB projects are either in implementation or monitoring stages.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$91,101

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$91,101

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6033-19629

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Seneca 96 Ranch Enhancements
Project Phase I

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$272,595

Total Cost: \$680,588

Application Description

The Seneca 96 Ranch Enhancements include multiple existing pastures. The Seneca 96 Ranch is located in Bear Valley, which is north of Seneca Oregon (18 road miles), and west of Highway 395. The project addresses a need to decrease erosion and livestock pressure along Jack Creek, Scotty Creek, and Little Scotty Creek, which are habitats for Interior Redband trout, a sensitive species on the Malheur National Forest and within the Harney Basin Watershed. Jack, Scotty, and Little Scotty creeks run year-round; the others are seasonal. It also addresses a need to improve water quality, absorption, and reduce fire fuels of the ground in timberland which has been recently harvested/thinned. The installation of seven wells, stock water systems, new fencing, and seeding are proposed to better distribute livestock within the pastures of the Seneca 96 Ranch and allow the development of smaller pastures for rotational grazing. The combination of cross fences and upland water will allow the landowner to better manage the number of livestock that will be in the creeks for water by either making smaller pastures, so there are fewer cattle, or by providing additional water sources to create new pastures and direct livestock away from creeks. By reseeding the otherwise bare ground in the recently harvested/thinned forest ground and redeveloping the understory, the water would not erode the soil and would be uptaken by the ground whilst providing higher quality forage for livestock and wildlife. It also provides a healthier and cleaner forest floor that can compete against invasives species especially annual grasses that provide additional fire fuels. All project partners would include Seneca 96 Ranch's owners Layne and Brent Jackson, the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- According to ODFW, the ranch has red-band trout habitat within its borders.
- The landowner is relatively new to ranching in this area and is enthusiastic about improving habitat conditions on the ranch.
- The applicant has a proven track record for successfully implementing similar projects.
- Significant secured match from the landowner indicates they have a vested interest in the project and increases the likelihood the project will successfully be completed.

Concerns

- The ecological value of this restoration investment is unclear because the application lacks detail describing current site conditions, the wildlife and fish species that use the property and future habitat conditions likely to result from the project.
- It is challenging to evaluate technical soundness due to the lack of designs for the wells, solar systems, and other technical components.
- More detail on the aerial seeding approach is needed to assess the likelihood of establishing a successful grass stand. For example, detail describing prior success using this method or an explanation on how seed will penetrate the pine needle duff would be helpful to understand the approach.
- Without fencing off the streams on the ranch, any grazing during the hot season is likely to negatively impact the condition of both the riparian zone and the stream channel itself.
- The photos supplied with the application indicate riparian and stream conditions are in a degraded state; the application lacks proposed strategies to target and restore these sensitive ecosystems.
- Ecological benefits resulting from this project are minimally described and not fully developed in the application.
- There is no back up plan if the wells result in dry holes or do not provide sufficient flow for the numerous troughs.
- Alternatives discussed in the application focus only on seeding or springs and do not include alternatives to the numerous wells proposed, such as, combining some of the wells and using one or fewer pumps and a series of cisterns to minimize overall cost and achieve the same results.
- It is unclear from the application how constructing well houses in pasture settings is necessary in achieving the proposed ecological benefits from this project.

Concluding Analysis

The landowner has demonstrated commitment to pursuing restoration on the ranch property; however, the proposed project may not be ready for implementation. The application lacks details necessary to evaluate the likelihood that the project will produce significant ecological benefits to fish and wildlife habitat, or to water quality improvements. If resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address the concerns noted above.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6034-19591

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: John Day Basin Partnership Upland Prioritization

Applicant: South Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$35,805

Total Cost: \$64,485

Application Description

The 8,100 square mile John Day River Basin is one of the most important undammed river systems in the West and hosts two of the last remaining intact wild anadromous fish populations in the Columbia River System. ESA listed Middle Columbia summer steelhead and spring run Chinook salmon, in the Columbia River System. The John Day Basin Partnership (Partnership or JDBP) currently consists of 30 organizations who are implementing an action plan to increase the pace, scale, and impact of watershed restoration in the John Day Basin. Per the JDBP's Strategic Action Plan (SAP), watershed restoration is viewed as a ridgetop-to-ridgetop effort. Due to the size and variety of landscapes in the John Day, upland habitat restoration is traditionally implemented opportunistically as resource or agricultural needs arise. This project proposes to develop an 'Upland Prioritization Framework' to serve as a road map for organizations & land managers to identify priority restoration actions and project locations to implement conservation practices. This technical assistance project will build off of work completed by the GIS Specialist funded through that grant and shift its focus to the uplands prioritization process. The project partners include all partners within the Partnership. Members of the JDBP Technical Working Group include: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Gilliam SWCD, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Sustainable Northwest (SNW), North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC), and Morrow SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application presents a clear pathway to future restoration with significant ecological benefits resulting from the proposed high-elevation assessment focusing on native terrestrial wildlife and plant communities.
- The application describes a comprehensive effort, addressing priorities in the upland portions of the John Day Basin using a well-developed and proven strategy to evaluate ecological factors.
- The proposal complements the work the John Day Basin Partnership accomplished using the Atlas process to prioritize instream, riparian, and floodplain ecosystems for the entire basin. When completed, a true ridgetop-to-ridgetop restoration tool will be available for use in implementing the John Day Basin Partnership Strategic Action Plan.
- Multiple partners in the project, including tribes, state and federal agencies, SWCDs, watershed councils, and NGOs, indicate the project team has both the technical capability and the expertise necessary to successfully complete the project.

- Considering the size of the John Day Basin, the cost is reasonable to hire a contractor to assist in the process.
- Efficiencies and lessons learned from the previous process for prioritizing aquatic habitat are incorporated into this effort and will feed into the existing John Day Basin GIS Data Directory.
- The information gleaned from the process will be available to the entire John Day Basin Partnership, an organization of over 30 stakeholders, as well as to the public via multiple avenues through the partnership's JDBP Project Tracker website.

Concerns

- The application lacks detail describing the ranking criteria that will be used to prioritize future upland habitat restoration.
- Utilizing the Atlas Prioritization Framework to prioritize upland restoration may be experimental because the Atlas process is designed for streams.

Concluding Analysis

The John Day Basin Partnership is taking next steps to achieve the goals set out in their Strategic Action Plan by completing an initial analysis of restoration potential of upland ecosystems. Using experience gained through the Atlas process to identify aquatic priorities for restoration, the proposal focuses on both native terrestrial wildlife and plant communities from the toe of the floodplain to the ridgeline across the 5.2 million acres of the John Day Basin. This high-elevation process is a critical first step for identifying opportunities based on limiting factors and potential ecological uplift.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$35,805

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$35,805

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6035-19554

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper John Day River Aquifer Management Feasibility Study

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$583,212

Application Description

Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) derives that the stream systems and groundwater aquifers within Grant County, Oregon are primarily charged by winter precipitation in the form of snow. This seasonal fluctuation in precipitation creates an uneven stream flow discharge which peaks in the spring and is lowest during the summer months when irrigation and aquatic species needs are at their highest level. The unique ecological characteristics of the John Day River Basin further limit viable application of surface water storage impoundments to address this water availability imbalance. This proposal seek funds to cost share with an OWRD Feasibility Grant to assess, prioritize, and locate groundwater aquifer recharge and recovery projects within the Upper Mainstem John Day River Basin to benefit summer stream flows. The project will undertake the specific application of an Airborne Electromagnetic Method (AEM) survey to create a 3D hydrogeologic framework for the selected area to supplement and correlate existing hydrogeologic and borehole data resources to forecast aquifer characteristics, groundwater flow paths, potential recharge areas, and calculate water storage capacity. The AEM findings will be incorporated into a weighted suitability analysis with existing applicable data sets and appraised for localized limiting factors to identify most desirable groundwater recharge and recovery projects. Once identified, additional funding and partnership networks will be developed to support the implementation of pilot projects dedicated to addressing critical flows needs. Successful performance of these introductory projects will inform the creation of an ongoing aquifer management program to be managed by the project sponsor, Grant Soil and Water Conservation District (District). Along with the District, project partners include Bureau of Reclamation Technical Services, along with OWRD and pending OWEB grant resources.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides clear objectives laid out in a logical sequence.
- The product will prioritize projects and aid in obtaining implementation funds.
- Airborne Electromagnetic Method (AEM) is a technically sound approach to get data suitable to identify both aquifer recharge (AR) and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) project sites.
- The applicant has a proven track record for successfully leading and completing complex projects and is partnering with Bureau of Reclamation technical staff to assist with the aquifer framework model and analysis.

- The project cost is efficient for the proposed work.

Concerns

- More information on the mechanics of ASR and how it will be used in the upper John Day Basin is needed to clarify the scope and ecological benefits expected from resulting projects.
- Detail on how or if surface flow water rights can be legally protected by utilizing ASR for irrigation demands is missing from the application. That information is critical to evaluate the ecological benefits resulting from the project.
- It is unclear what percentage of water rights in the upper basin are senior, what volume (cfs) those rights entail, and how far downstream flows will potentially be protected before coming to an older water right. Including these details will help determine whether future restoration projects will result in significant ecological benefit.
- It is unclear from the application if this model could also inform whether the possibility of using wells in the upper basin for irrigation could be an alternative to offset surface water use.
- The ranking criteria and analysis for project prioritization is unclear.
- The level of collaboration with basin partners in the prioritization process, such as ODFW, is unclear in the application.
- The application lacked information about outreach with landowners in the upper basin, if any has been initiated about this project or how communication with the public, before and during the flight, will be handled.
- More detail is needed on the different kinds of restoration that will result from this analysis to evaluate technical soundness. The application named AR, ASR, and irrigation efficiency as potential projects but did not provide detail on how those types of projects translate into protected instream flows or significant ecological benefit.

Concluding Analysis

The upper John Day River limiting factors include diminished flows and high stream temperatures. This innovative modeling using Airborne Electromagnetic Method and GIS technologies will incorporate subsurface data overlaid with other data layers to locate priority sites for future restoration, such as aquifer recharge, aquifer storage and recovery and irrigation efficiency projects with the goal of putting and protecting surface water rights back instream. Without knowing more details on the process and feasibility of protecting instream flows gained from AR, ASR and irrigation efficiency projects, it is difficult to evaluate the extent of ecological benefits from future restoration projects.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6036-19596

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Ferry Canyon/Hay Creek Floodplain
Analysis and Prioritization

Applicant: Gilliam SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Gilliam

OWEB Request: \$49,999

Total Cost: \$183,198

Application Description

1) The project is located within the Hay Creek and Ferry Canyon watersheds in Gilliam County, and are tributaries to the lower John Day River 2) The recovery planning process conducted by the John Day Partnership was used to identify restoration opportunities using the John Day Basin Partnership Atlas multi-criteria decision analysis tool. Within these watersheds, finer spatial scale (i.e., 500 m – 1 km) watershed condition assessments capable of prioritizing the distribution of limited restoration funding are currently lacking. Further, current restoration planning within the lower John Day does not currently leverage contemporary spatial analysis tools and frameworks. This mismatch between recovery planning assessments and the scale at which riverscape restoration actions are implemented makes the allocation of restoration resources difficult and potentially inefficient. 3) Funding under this TA grant application would be used to prioritize the location of riverscape restoration actions within the Hay Creek and Ferry Canyon watersheds. The prioritization will be based on quantification of the current vs. potential floodplain (i.e., recovery potential) extent throughout 51 miles of the Hay Creek and Ferry Canyon watersheds networks that are considered essential salmonid habitat. Specifically, the funding will be used to identify locations where channel and floodplain connectivity, the expansion of salmonid habitat, and riparian vegetation distributions can be maximized. 4) Partners include Gilliam-East John Day Watershed Council, ODFW, BLM, USFS, CTWS, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides a technically sound approach to assessing watershed condition at a finer scale that will inform restoration project prioritization and facilitate leveraging funds within a NRCS RCPP work area.
- The data gleaned from this process will update the Atlas aquatic process used by the John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP) Strategic Action Plan.
- The model uses LiDAR to indicate where floodplain expansion and enhancements can provide maximum benefit to stream flows and salmon habitat.
- The process is based on a similar approach being implemented in the Thirtymile basin, under the JDBP FIP.
- The methodology will be available to the JDBP to replicate in other watersheds as a GIS-driven prioritization tool.
- The data will be utilized to narrow specific restoration within two watersheds and provide baseline data to use for effectiveness monitoring on future restoration projects.

- The applicant has a proven track record for implementing successful restoration, and a high degree of GIS analysis expertise, as well as thorough knowledge of the landscape and the landowners.
- The proposed project builds on a recently completed stakeholder engagement grant that engaged and recruited landowners along essential steelhead streams within these two watersheds.
- The proposed project will provide an overview of stream features, such as wide floodplain, elevations, and infrastructure, which will be useful for conceptualizing future restoration projects.

Concerns

- As proposed, there is no plan for ground-truthing once analysis is complete. The model will benefit by including some field work to confirm analysis accuracy.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant proposes to make use of LiDAR flown and funded through the NRCS RCPP award. Modeled after a similar approach in the Thirtymile watershed, the methodology can be replicated throughout the John Day Basin to identify opportunities for floodplain restoration. Gilliam SWCD, as an integral partner in the JDBP, guarantees sharing of the methodology to other partners looking to replicate efforts in other watersheds.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,999

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$49,999

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6037-19626

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper John Day Valley Private Forest Lands Assessment

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$112,064

Application Description

The project area is located in the Upper John Day River Valley and encompasses sixteen, 6th field Hydrologic Units; the District estimates there are approximately 52,000 acres of private forestlands and juniper dominated range-ground. In 2016, Grant SWCD secured Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funding from NRCS to treat private forestlands and juniper within watersheds containing US Forest Service Stewardship Projects, specifically, the Magone, Dad's Creek and Headwater Projects. Demand from private landowners for this program was overwhelming; funds anticipated to support five years worth of projects lasted only three years. During this time, the extent of need became readily apparent; properties with desirable stocking rate of 200 to 300 stems per acre were found to be well over a thousand. Such conditions have a profound, negative impact on watershed health affecting not only the vegetation, but, also the numerous and complex hydrologic processes that transform precipitation into streamflow available for use by at-risk aquatic species. This proposal seeks cost share funding to support an assessment of private forested lands that will be conducted by OSU to 1) prioritize areas for treatment, 2) develop prescriptions for treatment and 3) provide a better understanding of the complex interactions between the treatments and watershed hydrology. This information will form the basis of a Joint Chiefs proposal to treat both private and public forested lands as well as similar future efforts to be conducted by the District and our partners. Partners include landowners, Oregon State University (OSU) Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Fire Program, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Malheur National Forest, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Blue Mountain Forest Partners (BMFP) and Jerome Natural Resource Consultants, Inc.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project will provide information needed to pursue a NRCS/USFS Joint Chiefs grant in the future and inform an existing NRCS RCPP focus on forest health.
- The proposed model is successfully used in the Klamath Basin to identify key areas to restore forest health and to provide compelling data to pursue competitive funding opportunities.
- The forest lands assessment will identify areas in upper John Day Basin where forest treatments may help mitigate critical stream flow limiting factors necessary for steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout habitat.
- Landowners will receive a copy of the assessment done on their lands to use as a tool for identifying improvements to forest health and best management practices.

- A high level of support for the project is documented in the application by a comprehensive set of partners.
- OSU staff with previous experience using the proposed model have the qualifications necessary to accomplish the proposed work.
- The applicant is qualified to manage the project and participate in the analysis and has a proven track record of implementing and completing successful grants.

Concerns

- The need for this information and how it will differ from what landowners already know about their land is unclear. Due to fire, insect damage, and other impacts to the forest, conditions may be changing at a faster pace than the assessment can document for future restoration.
- The application is not clear on where the inventories will be done. More information on the process for determining those locations will be helpful to evaluate technical soundness.
- Without more detail, it is not apparent if post-fire acres will warrant an inventory or treatment.
- The application focuses mainly on GIS modeling, but it does not explain how this modeling will capture diseased trees nor insect infestation that is causing widespread mortality. This appears to be covered by proposed on-the-ground field work, but the application lacks detail on who will do the field work, their qualifications, what funds cover the cost, and when and where such field work will be done.
- The budget category for contracting is a lump sum and does not provide enough detail to determine whether there are enough funds requested for ground-truthing a landscape-scale endeavor, producing the model, data analysis, or production of the final product.
- More detail is needed for objective 7 in the application on the process of linking forest treatments to potential hydrologic benefits.

Concluding Analysis

Grant County, along with the rest of Oregon, is concerned about wildfire. The tremendous impact the 2015 Canyon Creek fire had on the landscape motivated landowners and state and federal agencies to look for solutions to reverse degraded forest health. The proposed technical assistance is one method to prioritize locations for forest treatments. Similar efforts using this model have been successful in the Klamath Basin, both in identifying priority areas for treatment and leveraging multiple sources of funds. Additional detail in the budget and activities is needed to evaluate the project and determine the likelihood of success that the proposed technical assistance will lead to future restoration with meaningful ecological benefits.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6038-19642

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Grass Valley Canyon
Structural Restoration_CLONE

Applicant: Sherman SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Sherman

OWEB Request: \$30,000

Total Cost: \$61,274

Application Description

Lower Grass Valley Canyon (LGVC), the lower 16 miles of Grass Valley Canyon, is a tributary to the Lower John Day River in Sherman County. The stream is historic summer steelhead spawning and rearing habitat and beaver habitat, as well as current habitat for redband trout, redband shiner, dace, sculpin, suckers, and possibly Pacific lamprey. Due to land use changes, historical overgrazing, and catastrophic floods, LGVC has eroded, incised, and straightened, leaving the lower 7 miles ephemeral for much of the year. In part due to the loss of riparian vegetation, Grass Valley Canyon has been on the 303(d) list for temperature since 1998. Compounding these problems, a past landowner realigned the mouth decades ago, and the mouth now impounds with sediment and becomes a fish passage barrier for most of the year. Though, most of the stream and adjoining draws are enrolled in CREP and landowners improved upland conservation practices, the riparian and in-stream conditions have not improved. This project builds off a 2006 watershed assessment and a 2012 restoration action plan to design in-stream restoration. We will design riparian and in-stream restoration projects on 4.99 stream miles. We will develop measurable restoration objectives; craft a multi-phase restoration design and implementation plan; and submit permit applications for restoration implementation. This project will have a large-scale benefit for Mid-Columbia steelhead habitat. Partners in this project are private landowners, Western Rivers Conservancy, Sherman County Area Watershed Council, Sherman County SWCD, Anabran Solutions, ODFW, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Most of the concerns noted in the previous evaluation are addressed.
- The goal of the proposal is to move this stream from being intermittent to perennial, as has been done successfully in adjacent lower basin tributaries to the John Day River.
- The application was developed from an OWEB-funded assessment and restoration priorities identified in an action plan that followed.
- Sherman County has minimal steelhead streams; however, this lower basin tributary historically was a steelhead stream. Improving flow and enhancing riparian vegetation may encourage future fish use.
- CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) has been implemented on upstream reaches. By enhancing connectivity of live stream flow, those protected reaches could be accessed and used by fish.

- Reconnecting the floodplain using low-tech, process-based structures will improve riparian vegetation establishment.
- The project will be a strong catalyst for other instream projects in the basin and offers significant outreach potential because of Western Rivers' involvement as the landowner.
- The requested amount is reasonable for the proposed work.

Concerns

- The application lacks details on how the passage barrier at the mouth will be addressed.
- The application budget appears lean for engineering a complex solution to the passage barrier at the confluence.
- The application lacks specific details on the types of treatments that will be considered.
- ODFW surveys this stream for steelhead use and have not found any recent redds; however, they plan to continue to survey this stream.

Concluding Analysis

Grass Valley Canyon has a history of providing steelhead spawning and rearing habitat. Currently steelhead access depends on connectivity at the mouth impacted by stream flows, which are dependent solely on precipitation in this low-elevation watershed. By implementing low-tech, process-based designs, floodplains will be reconnected, storing high flows, and returning hydrologic function to the upstream sections. Resulting stream connectivity, and increased riparian vegetation will improve water quality, reduce temperatures, encourage beaver to recolonize, and ultimately restore steelhead to this stream. The seasonal barrier at the confluence with the John Day River will be explored but is likely to require a more complex solution in a future application.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$30,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$30,000

Staff Conditions

The completion report will include an alternatives analysis for solutions to the seasonal barrier at the mouth.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6039-19619	Project Type: Monitoring
Project Name: Murderers Creek Mussel Monitoring	
Applicant: South Fork John Day WC	
Region: Mid Columbia	County: Grant
OWEB Request: \$182,154	Total Cost: \$270,353

Application Description

Murderers Creek is an important watershed for wild steelhead populations in the John Day River system. The Murderers Creek Ranch Enrichment (220-6021) project to improve late season flow to support steelhead rearing and juvenile survival has been developed and is scheduled to be implemented by the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, ODFW, and Bureau of Reclamation in 2022. It is located about 3 miles upstream of the confluence with the South Fork John Day River and extends another 2.5 miles along Murderers Creek. In the Summer of 2020, Xerces Society biologists met with South Fork John Day Watershed Council staff, through their OWEB Stakeholder Engagement Grant “Conserving Mussels in Aquatic Restoration,” and to conduct a survey at the Murderers Creek restoration site. This survey, and follow-up surveys within the restoration project reach through their companion OWEB Technical Assistance Grant, revealed the presence of an extremely high abundance of freshwater mussels (an estimated 70,000 within the approximately 2.5-mile stretch of the creek), including both western pearlshell (*Margaritifera falcata*) and floaters (*Anodonta*). We propose to implement a freshwater mussel monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and to document the resulting effects of the Murderers Creek habitat restoration project on freshwater mussels, their habitat, and their host fish. To do so, we will monitor survival of mussels onsite and at relocation sites using mark-recapture methods prior to the habitat restoration project, in months following the project (when survival rates may be the most impacted), and for a period of 5 years. We will also monitor the effects of the project on host fish species by conducting annual monitoring, as well as changes in the habitat onsite by repeating CHaMP protocol data collection. Project partners includes; South Fork John Day Watershed Council, Xerces Society, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the lack of knowledge of stream restoration impacts to freshwater mussels and builds on the previous mussel survey that was completed in this location.
- The proposed project leverages the fish and habitat monitoring that is to be completed by ODFW.
- The study design to use PIT tags to investigate the various relocation strategies provides a non-intrusive approach that will yield valuable information on freshwater mussel survival and displacement.
- The applicant is contracting with qualified consultants to collect the freshwater mussel and fish/habitat data.

- The mussel data will be stored in the Western Freshwater Mussel Database that Xerces maintains and makes available to a wide audience.
- The applicant is working with a diverse group of practitioners active in restoration in the John Day Basin to relocate the mussels prior to restoration and serves as an opportunity to learn how these mitigation efforts affect survival and displacement.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The fish and fish habitat data that are proposed to be analyzed with the freshwater mussel data are not well described or integrated in the application description.
- The application does not describe the fish and habitat monitoring methods and only cites a report that has used modified CHaMP and fish monitoring protocols that was uploaded to the application.
- The application lacked clarity about how the habitat data would be analyzed to interpret the freshwater mussel data. The habitat metrics, specifically the substrate data collected in the CHaMP protocol, may not translate to the level of detail needed for freshwater mussels.
- The application mentions that all the monitoring data will be stored in OWRI, but this is not an appropriate database to store monitoring data (it contains only restoration data).
- The application does not describe if a final report will be written to summarize the interpreted results from the analyses and if or how such a report would be made available to the public.
- The short-term changes in fish hosts may not impact the mussels since they are so long lived.
- The budget included lump sums for the contractors, lacking detail about how the expenses were calculated.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed monitoring will fill an information gap for mussel relocation and salvage in relation to restoration actions. The project is timely to gather pre-implementation baseline data of a large-scale restoration project on Murderers Creek.
- Xerces Society is a partner and has the required expertise and proven track record for collecting data and integrating mussel and mussel habitat considerations into the restoration culture, protocols, and publications.
- ODFW provides an integral part of the monitoring by handling the CHaMP and BACI fish monitoring components.
- The resulting data will provide insights into the correlation between mussel and juvenile steelhead abundance that will improve baseline knowledge of the steelhead life cycle.
- The proposal is technically sound using Xerces Society's proven best management practices and protocols.
- The costs are in-line for a four-year period and are reasonable based on the amount of salvage and monitoring that will occur at a remote location.
- The application is the result of contacts made from Xerces Society's OWEB-funded stakeholder engagement and technical assistance grants.

Concerns

- The scale and feasibility of tagging and relocating thousands of mussels is unclear from the application and more detail on crew numbers, volunteer pool, and timing of each phase of work is needed to better understand how the proposed work will be implemented.
- The budget for contracted services is a lump sum; however, the narrative following the budget provides some detail on how costs were determined.

Concluding Analysis

The South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC) contacted the Xerces Society after hearing about their methods of salvaging mussels during restoration. The council is involved in a large-scale restoration instream and riparian project on Murderers Creek on ODFW Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area. During an initial survey by Xerces Society and the SFJDWC, over 70,000 mussels of two species were located. This opportunity to salvage and gain more data related to mussels and the impacts of restoration will result in replicating best management practices for mussels and salvage techniques into future restoration planning. The SFJDWC is an active participant in the John Day Basin Partnership, so this knowledge will be shared and available across the John Day Basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$182,154

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$182,154

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6040-19541

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Hydrological Trend Monitoring in the Walla Walla Basin

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$86,954

Total Cost: \$125,985

Application Description

This project is located in the Oregon portion of the Walla Walla Basin in Umatilla County near the town of Milton-Freewater. The project will measure water temperature and stream flow in the Walla Walla River, its tributaries and distributaries, and also measure water levels in the underlying shallow alluvial aquifer during a 2 year period. Data are needed to guide current planning efforts aimed to address the Basin's inadequate water supply to meet the needs of aquatic life as well as agricultural and municipal uses. The Walla Walla Watershed is utilized by ESA-listed bull trout, summer steelhead, and reintroduced spring Chinook salmon, which are limited by lack of summertime flow and high water temperatures. Monitoring will document current conditions and describe trends to inform development of projects to restore watershed function and increase in-stream flows. BPA will be the source of match for this project and project partners (non match) include private landowners, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Oregon Water Resources Department, City of Milton-Freewater, Hudson Bay District Improvement Company, Walla Walla River Irrigation District, Fruitvale Water Users Association, and members of the Walla Walla Water 2050 project and Bi-State Flow Enhancement Study.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the historic data collected across the basin by the applicant and partners such as OWRD, USGS and WDOE.
- The application describes how this project complements current and planned efforts as part of the Walla Walla Basin Water Plan 2050 with additional monitoring from those organizations listed above.
- The applicant proposes straight-forward monitoring objectives and questions, which the monitoring methods, data management, and data analysis should be adequate to answer.
- The applicant has a DEQ approved Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and they will update the SAP and submit it to DEQ for approval.
- The applicant has the software necessary to manage the continuous data and plans to submit water temperature data to DEQ and water quantity data to OWRD.
- The applicant developed this application in coordination with its board of directors, which represents a diverse group of local stakeholders and water resources professionals/experts.
- The application describes a number of ways the data and final report will be made publicly available. Related to this, multiple state, tribal and federal partners provided letters of support.

- The application proposes to continue a long-term monitoring project with a previous track record of success.
- The large number of sites proposed in this application requires the applicant to maintain private landowner agreements to provide access, which demonstrates the capacity to engage community stakeholders.
- The proposed costs seem appropriate to accomplish the objectives proposed in the application, given that two years of data collection will occur across many sites for which existing monitoring infrastructure has created cost efficiencies.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacked detail about how the data they have collected to date informs their current monitoring plan. It was not clear what the applicant has found to date from the monitoring and how this informs the need for additional data at the sites proposed in the application.
- The application mentions that data gaps exist, but little detail was provided about what or where they are.
- It was not clear how the trend data will be interpreted to better understand the restoration actions that have occurred and how that can specifically inform applying this information to future restoration or acquisition projects.
- The application did not describe the overall process for reviewing, grading, and publishing the different data sets that are proposed to be collected.
- The study design did not identify the parameters and describe data collection frequency to answer the monitoring questions.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is a continuation of long-term water quality monitoring in the Oregon side of the Walla Walla River Basin.
- The data resulting from this monitoring is used by various stakeholders in the basin and is available on the Watershed Council's website.
- The application clearly outlines objectives and monitoring questions and includes specific actions necessary to answer those questions.
- The applicant has the necessary field equipment and analysis software, the technical expertise and experience to implement the proposed work.
- A significant number of partners and landowners are engaged in this monitoring program, as evidenced by letters of support for the project.
- The applicant maximizes cost effectiveness with existing infrastructure and efficiencies incorporated from past monitoring experiences.
- Monitoring sites were analyzed when preparing the application to ensure sites are not duplicative with other monitoring efforts occurring in the basin.

- This information can feed into multiple Walla Walla Basin water planning processes currently underway.
- The proposed monitoring is critical for learning about the basin “re-set” occurring in response to impacts from the recent 100-year floods in the Walla Walla Basin and continuing assessment of water quality trends.

Concerns

- The application lacked trend analysis from previous monitoring efforts that would provide helpful context for evaluating the proposed monitoring project.

Concluding Analysis

The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council has a long history of collecting water quality monitoring data in the basin and providing access to this data to stakeholders, including ODFW, irrigation districts, agricultural producers, the City of Milton-Freewater, and the Confederated Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). The watershed council also participates in the Bi-state Flow Enhancement Study, the Walla Walla Water 2050 project, and the USGS groundwater study where this information may prove useful.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$86,954

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$86,954

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6041-19560

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: John Day Watershed
Macroinvertebrates

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Gilliam

OWEB Request: \$81,232

Total Cost: \$102,032

Application Description

Macroinvertebrate populations are an important base for the food web in freshwater ecosystems and can be used as indicators of water quality. This project will monitor macroinvertebrate populations at three restoration sites in the John Day watershed. Two of the sites are currently under restoration through a Focused Investment Partnership – Thirtymile Creek and Bull Run Creek. The third site, Hay Creek, is the one we will focus on for this proposal. The Hay Creek restoration project, located on the main stem at the lower end of Cottonwood Canyon State Park, is led by Oregon Natural Desert Association and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. We will sample at ten sites on Hay Creek. The sampling sites are located in relation to currently installed Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs). Nine sites were selected based on where the restoration partners have placed HOBO temperature recorders and one site is upstream from the restoration area. The restoration partners are interested in changes that occur over time in the macroinvertebrate populations in relation to the restoration efforts, particularly the BDAs and vegetation. Sampling will occur three times during the year, in mid-April, mid-June, and mid-September, and will follow the standard protocols for macroinvertebrate sampling adopted by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Sample collection will be led by Eastern Oregon University (EOU) biology faculty, Joe Corsini, PhD who will be working with a college-level student intern and, for one sample set, students in a field studies course. All samples will be sent to a certified lab to identify the organisms that are collected. Data will be uploaded to a public access database and results will be summarized and reported by the student intern with supervision and support from Professor Corsini. The project management will be led by Julie Keniry, Program Manager for the Rural Engagement and Vitality Center, a partnership between EOU and Wallowa Resources.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This proposed project will leverage the continuous water temperature monitoring data that ONDA currently is collecting, with the proposed macroinvertebrate monitoring being paired with those monitoring sites.
- The applicant proposes to follow DEQ sampling methods and send the macroinvertebrate samples to a certified lab for identification and enumeration.
- The applicant is working with a professor at Eastern Oregon University who will lead the sampling effort and has the technical capacity to implement this project as proposed.

- The applicant also is working with the restoration implementer (ONDA), the landowner (OPRD), DEQ, and Mt. Hood Community College to collaborate on this project and leverage existing data.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It was not clear why the proposed data collection is needed. The application does not describe how monitoring data could be used to modify the existing restoration project based on the monitoring results or inform future restoration efforts in Hay Creek.
- The application does not include a map to illustrate where the work is occurring and how the sites are distributed across the restoration project.
- The study design does not have pre-restoration macroinvertebrate data, and it is not clear if the “above” restoration project site’s characteristics represent a “before-restoration” condition to compare with the “below” restoration data.
- The application does not include an objective or monitoring question that addresses the need to collect basic water quality parameters or how these data will be incorporated into the analyses to interpret the macroinvertebrate findings.
- The application does not describe how the data will be analyzed to answer the second question posed at the end of the application regarding correlating changes in macroinvertebrate assemblages to the revegetation and BDA actions.
- The application does not describe why macroinvertebrate samples need to be collected three times in one year to answer the monitoring question, given the proposed project’s intent to track changes related to the restoration project across three separate years.
- The applicant did not elaborate on the quality assurance procedures and references a draft DEQ Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). It was not clear if the applicant incorporated time and expenses to cover development of a site-specific sampling and analysis plan (SAP) for this project, which would need to be developed before data is submitted to DEQ.
- The budget included expenses for water quality probes, yet the application did not describe how the information would be used to answer the monitoring questions.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendations:

- Applicant should contact DEQ early in the project to develop a SAP for review and approval by DEQ.
- Funding of the purchase of water quality probes is not recommended by the OPMT, since it is unclear how the data gathered with these probes would be used.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A partnership with OSU will provide expertise and capacity needed to implement the proposed work.
- The travel budget is reasonable given the remote location.
- Letters of support from partners indicate that information resulting from this effort complements other ongoing monitoring actions on Hay Creek.

- The data collected will fill a data gap in understanding how macroinvertebrate communities react over time at locations where Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs) are installed.
- The schedule provided in the application appears reasonable.

Concerns

- The application lacks comprehensive maps showing the actual location of proposed monitoring in relation to the installed BDAs, where the control sites are located, and the location of existing beaver colonies.
- More detail describing the monitoring protocol as it relates to BDA placement is needed to understand technical soundness of the monitoring approach to answer the monitoring questions.
- A Before After Control Impact (BACI) type protocol may be a more appropriate approach for learning about the impacts of BDAs on macroinvertebrate communities. For instance, incorporating pre-restoration baseline monitoring sites on the lower reaches of Hay Creek prior to installing BDAs will provide detail on the density and diversity of the current macroinvertebrate population.
- It is not clear in the application why macroinvertebrates were selected to gauge the effectiveness of BDA restoration techniques. BDAs encourage formation of pools and the accumulation of sediment, which are not habitat features that normally promote diverse communities of macroinvertebrate taxa.
- More detail describing monitoring site stream features such as presence of pools, riffles, and glides, how monitoring results will be analyzed, and whether more than one control site will be used would be helpful information for understanding the technical soundness of the monitoring approach.

Concluding Analysis

Macroinvertebrates are a critical component to streams as both a food source for fish and wildlife and as a water quality indicator. With the increase in use of low-tech, process-based restoration techniques, monitoring the impacts to the macroinvertebrate communities could provide information important to siting BDA structures and ancillary benefits to the aquatic population. If resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address all the concerns noted.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6042-19590

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Combining Methods to Monitor John Day Steelhead Migration and Overshoot

Applicant: Gilliam SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Gilliam

OWEB Request: \$203,161

Total Cost: \$703,120

Application Description

Approximately 60% of adult steelhead returning to the John Day River "overshoot" the John Day River mouth and are detected 119 km upstream in the Columbia River at McNary Dam. After crossing McNary Dam, John Day adult steelhead must "fallback" in order to return and spawn in the John Day River. Adult overshoot past a hydroelectric dam can directly (via physical injury during fallback) and indirectly (via increased energy expenditure) reduce the survival and reproductive capacity of returning adults. The current proportion of adult steelhead overshooting the John Day River contributes to a 7-year mean Bonneville Dam to South Fork John Day conversion probability of 50%, and is a limiting factor for steelhead population recovery. This means that only half of the adult steelhead arriving at Bonneville Dam survive and return to their natal stream to spawn. Life-cycle models indicate substantial risk of quasi-extinction for a John Day steelhead population if this status quo conversion probability continues. The quasi-extinction risk diminishes to near zero if conversion rate increases to 70%. In order to increase the probability of John Day steelhead returning to their natal stream, we propose a third phase of a three phase monitoring for John Day adult steelhead overshoot. To do this, we leverage existing acoustic data and receivers (ODFW-Sturgeon and OWEB funded Phase One of this study) and new Passive Integrated Transponder antennas (funded by ODFW's R&E Board - Phase Two of this project). This combination of antennas positioned in the Columbia and John Day rivers will detect tagged adults and allow us to map migratory routes and relate adult steelhead migration to environmental parameters that restoration can influence such as stream discharge, velocity and temperature. We will compare fate of steelhead by migratory route to identify relationships between migration route and environmental parameters. Gilliam SWCD and ODFW will be the lead partners.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The proposed project leverages equipment and effort from other tagging projects, such as the sturgeon monitoring project and other existing acoustic and PIT arrays in the Columbia and John Day rivers. It is able to use the existing PIT tagging of outmigrant juveniles to maximize the effort to place acoustic tags in John Day River steelhead.
- The application's monitoring questions are very specific and the study design description accounts for how each question will be answered. Data analysis is well described to understand how data will be processed to answer the different questions posed, and the application includes a few examples to better explain how the questions can be answered.

- The application cites professionally accepted protocols and includes a few reports that describe how the data are collected and analyzed for the different components of the project.
- The applicant is working on developing a sampling and analysis plan for the water temperature monitoring data and they will submit the data to DEQ.
- The acoustic tag data will be stored in various databases and will ultimately be made available in an ArcGIS Online account maintained by the John Day Basin Partnership.
- The PIT detection data will be loaded to the PTAGIS database and the Columbia River DART website, which requires metadata, backed up, and made available to the public.
- The staff and contractors (ODFW) working on this project have extensive experience working in this area and collecting and reporting similar data. The progress to date on Phases 1 and 2 of the project is proceeding as proposed, which likely will result in this project being implemented in a successful manner, if funded.
- The applicant is engaging OSU fisheries professors to recruit a graduate student to work on this project and is collaborating with the EPA cold water refuge experts to leverage existing data to better understand how steelhead are migrating upstream and downstream of the John Day River mouth.
- The data will inform a variety of different efforts to improve watershed conditions and manage the hydroelectric dams that may reduce steelhead overshooting the John Day River.
- The budget is based on the previously funded monitoring grant, allowing the applicant to estimate realistic expenses needed to complete the project as proposed.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The proposed project leverages equipment and effort from other tagging projects, such as the sturgeon monitoring project and other existing acoustic and PIT arrays in the Columbia and John Day rivers. It is able to use the existing PIT tagging of outmigrant juveniles to maximize the effort to place acoustic tags in John Day River steelhead.
- The application's monitoring questions are very specific and the study design description accounts for how each question will be answered. Data analysis is well described to understand how data will be processed to answer the different questions posed, and the application includes a few examples to better explain how the questions can be answered.
- The application cites professionally accepted protocols and includes a few reports that describe how the data are collected and analyzed for the different components of the project.
- The applicant is working on developing a sampling and analysis plan for the water temperature monitoring data and they will submit the data to DEQ.
- The acoustic tag data will be stored in various databases and will ultimately be made available in an ArcGIS Online account maintained by the John Day Basin Partnership.
- The PIT detection data will be loaded to the PTAGIS database and the Columbia River DART website, which requires metadata, backed up, and made available to the public.
- The staff and contractors (ODFW) working on this project have extensive experience working in this area and collecting and reporting similar data. The progress to date on Phases 1 and 2 of the project is proceeding as proposed, which likely will result in this project being implemented in a successful manner, if funded.
- The applicant is engaging OSU fisheries professors to recruit a graduate student to work on this project and is collaborating with the EPA cold water refuge experts to leverage existing data to better understand how steelhead are migrating upstream and downstream of the John Day River mouth.
- The data will inform a variety of different efforts to improve watershed conditions and manage the hydroelectric dams that may reduce steelhead overshooting the John Day River.

- The budget is based on the previously funded monitoring grant, allowing the applicant to estimate realistic expenses needed to complete the project as proposed.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation:

This is a complex project in terms of the phasing and how all of the pieces come together in Phase III to ultimately produce a less expensive means for monitoring in the future. A recommendation for reporting, if this project is funded, is for the applicant to diagram how the various phases come together, clarify how different investments are leveraged, and describe how various funders' expectations are met (e.g., for OWEB, discuss how this work will inform future restoration actions).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes how the proposed monitoring ties into the previous two phases, and incorporates lessons learned to maximize both leverage and efficiencies in equipment and personnel sharing.
- Information gleaned from the proposed monitoring is crucial to improving ESA-listed steelhead numbers returning to their natal streams.
- The methodology and data will be transferable to analyzing overshoot for other species, including Chinook.
- The application includes comprehensive details on how data will be analyzed, stored, and shared.
- The project integrates with restoration work being done in the John Day Basin benefitting aquatic species at risk, specifically ESA-listed steelhead.
- Data relating to temperature and velocity will inform restoration actions in the John Day River, cold-water refuge along the Columbia, and other tributaries to the Columbia River.
- The stakeholders involved in this process have the technical expertise and capacity to achieve the goals and objectives of this proposal, and successfully complete the project.

Concerns

- The deliverable is dependent on the outcomes from the previous two phases to provide sufficient analysis.

Concluding Analysis

Gilliam SWCD and ODFW partner on this innovative and ambitious monitoring project to help determine the nuances of steelhead as they return to their natal rivers. Determining the impacts of temperature, velocity, and other environmental conditions at the confluence of the John Day River with the Columbia River on the movement of steelhead will inform multiple efforts to keep this species from continuing to decline.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$203,161

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$203,161

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6043-19600

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: North Fork Walla Walla River
Effectiveness Monitoring

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed
Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$25,287

Total Cost: \$33,709

Application Description

The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council is seeking funds to conduct project effectiveness monitoring on the North Fork of the Walla Walla River from the confluence with the South Fork to the Little Meadows Canyon, outside the town of Milton-Freewater, Oregon, in Umatilla County. The project includes the collection of water temperature, streamflow, turbidity, and riparian inventory data to document current conditions, flood impacts, and produce a baseline data set for evaluating project outcomes in the future. Data will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed habitat improvements on the private property above the end of the North Fork Walla Walla River Road. Monitoring of water temperature, streamflow, and turbidity will be conducted according to methods described in WWBWC's standard operating procedures. Riparian monitoring will be conducted according to Oregon's Riparian Assessment Framework, which is included in the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. Bonneville Power Administration will be assisting in funding this work. The project is supported by the property owners, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Walla Walla Ranger District.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The proposed monitoring will complement the hydrology and water temperature data collected in the entire Walla Walla Basin as part of the USGS hydrology study and the baseflow assessment and inventory currently underway and planned in the South Fork and North Fork.
- The applicant proposes to follow professionally accepted monitoring protocols and will produce a sampling and analysis plan (SAP) and submit it to DEQ for approval.
- The applicant will store manage and store data using specialized software for time series data and make the data available on web.
- The water temperature will be submitted to DEQ, and the applicant will write a report summarizing results, submit this to OWEB, and make the report available to partners and on their website.
- The applicant is engaging the community and state and federal agencies, and secured access by the private landowners in the area to be monitored. The application includes letters of support that demonstrate the community stakeholder engagement and interest in these data.
- The applicant has the necessary experience in data collection of this nature, and has a good track record completing similar projects and generating reports to summarize findings.
- The proposed costs are appropriate for the monitoring the applicant proposes over one year.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application does not describe other monitoring efforts in the North Fork Walla Walla River that could complement this proposed monitoring project, such as fish, habitat and geomorphology.
- The project proposes to track changes associated with future restoration actions, but the application does not explain the geomorphic context to understand if geomorphology will be monitored. This is an important consideration, given that extensive changes occurred recently due to flooding and conditions are likely to continue to change over the short term.
- One year of pre-restoration data (i.e., vegetation, stream flow and turbidity) will limit the comparison to post-restoration conditions over time.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation:

Follow up with OWRD on a recently established gage in this monitoring reach (OWRD gage #14010800).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project follows two recent 100-year flood events in the Walla Walla Basin and is a well-planned monitoring effort.
- The application clearly describes the goals and objectives and the related actions to achieve them.
- The North Fork of the Walla Walla River is in an important production area for ESA-listed steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout.
- The maps and drone footage provide an understanding of the landscape to be monitored.
- Obtaining pre-restoration baseline information will aid in the restoration design process, as well as provide an opportunity to determine the effectiveness of future restoration on the North Fork Walla Walla River.
- The applicant has a proven track record of successfully implementing monitoring in the basin. Staff have both the capacity and the technical expertise to collect and analyze the data.
- Four of the five landowners along this reach are engaged and approve this monitoring to be done on their land.
- The application has a letter of support from the National Forest, managers of the public land upstream of this monitoring reach.
- The budget is reasonable for actions described in the proposal.
- This effort complements the WWBWC stakeholder engagement proposal, submitted during this application cycle.

Concerns

- There are no significant concerns.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant noted that post-flood water temperatures are higher compared to previous data collected from a monitoring site at the confluence with the main stem Walla Walla River. This information has spurred efforts to restore this reach of the North Fork, which provides habitat and serves as a conduit to critical cold-water refuge in the National Forest for steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$25,287

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$25,287

Staff Conditions

Have grantee follow-up with OWRD on a recently established gage in this monitoring reach (OWRD gage #14010800).

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6044-19615

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Walla Walla Basin Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$42,080

Total Cost: \$60,479

Application Description

The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC) seeks to engage stakeholders in and around Milton-Freewater, Oregon in the Walla Walla River (WWR) Basin, with a focus on the upper WWR, Couse Creek, Little WWR system and connected alluvial aquifer. Engagement activities will support projects aimed at addressing some of the basin's hydrological and ecological issues, including degraded stream flows, floodplain connection, surface-groundwater interaction, water quality, fish passage, riparian conditions, and aquatic habitat complexity. To address fish passage and habitat issues, the WWBWC and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) will engage directly with landowners to identify potential project partners on the upper WWR and Couse Creek. WWBWC will engage with individuals throughout the basin who possess senior water rights in order to develop partners for irrigation efficiency projects directed at protecting water in-stream via Oregon's Allocation of Conserved Water program. Stakeholders will be sought to partner in pursuing the goals of replicating floodplain connection, recharging the shallow aquifer, and improving related ecological and hydrological system functions. Additionally, various stakeholder engagement activities will be carried out to familiarize potential stakeholders with the WWBWC's work, the basin's hydrological and ecological issues and the potential for projects. The aim of these engagement activities is to develop future partners and projects necessary to address the basin's degraded hydrological and ecological systems. In various capacities, the WWBWC will seek to partner with landowners, holders of water rights, CTUIR, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Little WWR Working Group, local irrigation districts and other stakeholders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has a proven record of engaging the community in restoration and watershed health in the Walla Walla River Basin.
- Utilizing multi-directional communication as proposed in the application is likely to be effective.
- The application describes clear objectives and actions to achieve the stated goals.
- The proposed project builds on the applicant's years of serving landowners and highlights the level of trust resulting from these continuing relationships.
- The project costs are appropriate for the stated actions.
- This proposed project complements the other stakeholder engagement application from the Farmers Conservation Alliance for the Little Walla Walla River.

Concerns

- There are no significant concerns.

Concluding Analysis

The application focuses on efforts to develop projects that address hydrological and ecological issues in the Walla Walla Basin. The team at the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council will work with both the community and stakeholders in the area to share knowledge and opportunities about watershed health.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$42,080

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$42,080

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6045-19571

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Walla Walla River Irrigation District
Modernization Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA)

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$31,135

Total Cost: \$45,537

Application Description

The proposed stakeholder engagement project would occur within Walla Walla River Irrigation District (WWRID) and along the waterbodies that are affected by WWRID's operations in Umatilla County. Competing agricultural, environmental and community water demands in the Walla Walla Basin have created challenges for both instream and out-of-stream water uses in the basin. Out-of-stream uses have contributed to decreased streamflows in the Walla Walla River and its tributaries. Correspondingly, increased groundwater demands and reduced recharge have contributed to declines in both the regional aquifer and the shallow aquifer that feeds many springs and creeks in the Walla Walla Basin. Together, these changes have reduced habitat quantity and quality for and limited populations of Endangered Species Act-listed steelhead and bull trout. Limited water supplies in WWRID associated with voluntary streamflow restoration have correspondingly limited agricultural production. The proposed work will focus on developing potential on-the-ground water conservation and management projects in WWRID would meet both agricultural and environmental water needs. Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) and WWRID propose to engage stakeholders through individual and, if appropriate, small group meetings to better understand where their goals, objectives, and priorities align in a manner that would accelerate the development of successful projects. Stakeholders would include local, state, and federal agencies; tribes; nonprofit organizations; and landowners with an interest in WWRID or the resources that would benefit from water management and conservation projects in the district. FCA has partnered with WWRID to complete the proposed work, and this work will both complement and inform a parallel technical assessment of potential projects that will be funded through other sources.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The goal of enhancing and protecting instream flows in the Walla Walla River is a priority for stakeholders concerned about ESA-listed steelhead, bull trout, and reintroduced Chinook.
- The application describes the ecological benefit likely to result from engaging 250 water users, some with the most senior water rights in the Little Walla Walla River system, to protect approximately 25 cfs of instream flow.
- The Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) has a proven track record of working with landowners on water transfers and implementing irrigation efficiencies.

- The application includes letters of support from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, indicating an effective start for collaboration with established watershed health stakeholders in the basin.
- FCA has completed a preliminary assessment of the irrigation district identifying modernization opportunities in the irrigation system. Stakeholder engagement is the next step for contacting both farmers and urban residents who are impacted by the Little Walla Walla River canal system.

Concerns

- The application does not include an upload of the FCA assessment, which may have been useful in reviewing the application by providing a better overall understanding of the long-term plan for developing irrigation efficiency projects.
- Details related to the Walla Walla River Irrigation District's loss decree and how that approach works with the State's Allocation of Conserved Water (AOCW) program is missing. Without that detail, the likelihood of success in obtaining protected flows is unclear.
- It is not clear in the application how or if the approximately 250 water users in the district may be impacted by the resulting water saving efforts.
- The application lacks a detailed map of the Little Walla Walla River irrigation system that would provide landscape context to better understand the proposal.

Concluding Analysis

The Farmers Conservation Alliance will work with the Walla Walla River Irrigation District to develop conservation projects that lead to protected instream flows. At times, the canal system within Milton-Freewater floods urban residents who live next to the canal. These urban residents, as well as farmers using the district's irrigation water, will be engaged through phone calls, mailings and in-person meetings to come to a consensus on conservation and restoration projects within the system.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$31,135

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$31,135

Staff Conditions

N/A



Agenda Item G supports OWEB's Strategic Plan Priorities 3, 4, and 7.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Post-Fire Recovery Funding
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the General Fund appropriations to OWEB during the 2021-2023 biennium in support of post-fire natural resources recovery in 2020 fire impacted areas. Staff request the board approve receipt of these General Funds for the purposes outlined in House Bill (HB) 5006 and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through appropriate agreements.

II. Background

Wildfires of historic proportion ravaged Oregon in 2020, affecting approximately 1.2 million acres. Impacts from these fires continue to pose great risks to natural resources around the state. The Governor's Office and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management activated the state's disaster recovery plan in response to the fires. In September 2020, interagency and intergovernmental coordination on fire recovery began to occur through the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force (NCRRTF), convened by OWEB and the Oregon Departments of Forestry (ODF) and Environmental Quality. The NCRRTF summarized information about fire impacts to natural and cultural resources (NCR) and identified high-priority actions needed in the next two years to help address and mitigate for NCR impacts. This assessment synthesis built upon rapid assessments for federal lands, along with Erosion Threat Assessment/Reduction Team reports and a Water Quality/Drinking Water Supply Resource report, which assessed impacts and needed actions on state and private lands.

The assessment synthesis summarized impacts and high-priority actions related to two critically important risks—human life and safety, and protection of drinking water/source-water supply areas. To reduce risk, several priority actions—such as storm proofing roads, replanting burned areas, and restoring floodplains to reduce post-fire flood risks—were identified. NCRRTF also developed an estimate of state funding needed to address several high-priority NCR actions in a two-year period. This estimate totaled \$86 million.

At the request of the Governor's Office and Chair Brian Clem of the House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery, NCRRTF co-conveners presented the assessment synthesis findings and information about the cost estimate during multiple meetings of the House committee during the 2021 Legislative Session. These discussions resulted in resources being included in HB 5006 that appropriated \$26 million in NCR recovery funding to OWEB, ODF, and Oregon Department of Transportation.

III. Post-Fire Recovery Funding and Grant-Making

The Legislature appropriated a total of \$19.75 million in General Funds to OWEB to administer three categories of grants for 2020 wildfire recovery and restoration:

- \$10.75 million for riparian and upland restoration, focused on replanting and associated activities in locations that will pose risks to water quality and important aquatic habitat due to post-fire erosion if not restored;
- \$5 million for floodplain restoration and reconnection, focused on more complex projects that restore and reconnect rivers to floodplain areas, re-establishing hydrologic and ecological functions in ways that help reduce post-fire impacts; and
- \$4 million for one or more pass-through grants to the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB), focused on work by EWEB, in coordination with its local partners, to restore and/or acquire riparian and floodplain areas to reduce post-fire risks.

The legislative intent for use of these General Funds to support grant-making by OWEB is well articulated in HB 5006 and supporting materials from the Legislative Fiscal Office. These documents noted that OWEB will leverage its granting infrastructure to develop targeted grant offerings for the explicit purposes outlined above. Local partners currently eligible for OWEB's existing programs can access these offerings. Granting process steps will include project solicitation using tailored grant applications; evaluation by an interagency team of experts; grant award and oversight; and project implementation and reporting, including regular updates about progress and, ultimately, outputs and outcomes that address post-fire natural resources concerns and provide community benefits.

Staff are developing the grant applications and guidance for these offerings, in addition to grant agreement templates in coordination with Oregon Department of Justice, designed to specifically address legislative intent of the General Funds for post-fire recovery grants. In addition, the grant offerings will encourage engagement with Tribes and consideration of equity and climate related issues.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve receipt of \$19.75 million in General Funds, as appropriated in OWEB's 2021-2023 biennial budget, to support grants for the purposes of post-fire natural resources recovery as described in House Bill 5006 (2021), and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of August 6, 2021.

Attachment

A. Memo from Matthew Garrett, Governor's Wildfire Recovery Director

Governor Kate Brown



October 27, 2021

Liza Jane McAlister and Barbara Boyer, Co-Chairs
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
775 Summer St NE #360
Salem OR 97301

Subject: Governor's Priorities Funding

Dear Co-Chairs McAlister and Boyer,

Let me begin by sharing Governor Brown's appreciation of OWEB's assistance with recovery from the devastating 2020 wildfire season. The agency played an important role in helping to convene the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force, bringing together state and federal agencies and Tribes to identify fire impacts to natural and cultural resources and articulate the recovery actions and funding needed to address these.

As a result of the Task Force's work, the Oregon Legislature was able to clearly understand these impacts and allocate funding to begin to address them. The allocation of nearly \$20 million in General Funds to OWEB to support natural resources recovery in the fire impacted areas is a testament to the good work of the agency in administering public funds with transparency and accountability.

Now it is time that we repay the confidence shown by the legislature and deliver on these critical wildfire recovery investments. I strongly encourage and support OWEB board actions to advance its approval of the receipt of this funding and the delegation to the Executive Director at the October board meeting. This prompt action will ensure proposals for on-the-ground restoration work can be expeditiously solicited and reviewed, and grants awarded to local partners that are working diligently to protect and restore their fire affected watersheds. These post-fire recovery grants are specifically intended to address concerns around water-quality impacts to drinking water supplies and aquatic habitat, and human life and safety concerns such as post-fire flood risks. The grant program developed by OWEB staff adheres to the legislative intent of these General Funds, and will include regular reporting by grantees that enables periodic updates to the Governor's Office and Legislature regarding on-the-ground progress being accomplished with the investments.

Your actions in post-fire recovery through the recently secured General Funds is key to advancing critically important work that will help communities around the state restore their watersheds and build back better.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to this recovery effort.

Matthew L. Garrett
Director of Wildfire Recovery
Office of Governor Kate Brown
Matt.Garrett@oregon.gov

Cc: Renee Davis



Agenda Item I supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Miriam Forney, Acquisitions Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – April 2021 Land Acquisition Grant Offering Awards
October 26-27, 2021, Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the April 2021 land acquisition grant offering and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards.

II. Land Acquisitions – April 2021 Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The April 2021 grant offering is the first of two land acquisition grant cycles for the 2021-2023 biennium. Due to revenue reductions in 2020, the planned October 2020 land acquisition offering was postponed. With revenues fully restored in the approved 2021-2023 budget, the board asked that delayed offerings be moved earlier in the biennium whenever possible, so the land acquisition solicitation opened in April 2021 instead of October 2021. To evenly space offerings, the second offering of the biennium will occur in October 2022. The land and water acquisition-spending plan includes \$9 million for the biennium. Four land acquisition applications were received in April 2021 requesting \$8,688,167. The applications are summarized in Attachment A. Application evaluations are included as Attachment B.

Following technical reviews, land acquisition applications 221-9900, 221-9901, and 221-9903 are recommended for funding with conditions. Land acquisition application 221-9902 is not recommended for funding.

B.R eview Process

The land acquisition applications were reviewed in accordance with administrative rules for the program, most recently revised in 2019. 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.

Staff and teams of ecological reviewers consisting of subject matter experts selected by the applicant and chosen by staff from the standing regional review teams conducted site visits.

Each ecological reviewer completed a project evaluation form, and staff summarized the input of all ecological reviewers.

A team consisting of staff, the land acquisition program's due-diligence technical assistance contractor, and the Oregon Department of Justice conducted project soundness reviews. 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 Committee met with staff during the evaluation process. The purpose of the meeting was for committee 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 clarifying questions about the applications.

III. Staff Funding Recommendation

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 \$3,079,073.

Attachments

- A. Summary of Land Acquisition Applications and Recommended Awards, April 2021 Grant Offering
- B. Land Acquisition Project Evaluations
- C. Project-specific Funding Conditions (*to be provided to the board in advance of the meeting*)

April 2021 Offering - Land Acquisition Applications and Staff Recommendations

Application #	Application Name	Applicant	\$ Requested	\$ Recommended
221-9900	Oak Creek Preserve	Greenbelt Land Trust	\$1,027,390	\$1,027,390
221-9901	Mt Ashland Forest Climate Resilience Project	Pacific Forest Trust	\$1,128,010	\$1,128,010
221-9903	North Fork Siuslaw	The Nature Conservancy	\$923,673*	\$923,673*
221-9902	Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement	Wild Rivers Land Trust	\$5,212,524	\$0

Total	
Recommended:	\$3,079,073*

* The recommended award for application 221-9903 includes, and is contingent upon receipt of \$490,000 in USFWS Coastal Wetlands funds. If federal funds are not awarded, the OWEB award for 221-9903 will be \$433,673 contingent upon the applicant securing \$490,000 in other match funds.

SPRING 2021 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	221-9900-19489		
Project Name:	Oak Creek Preserve		
Applicant:	Greenbelt Land Trust	Region:	Willamette
Basin:	Willamette	County:	Benton
OWEB Request:	\$1,027,390	Total Cost	\$2,060,130

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

Oak Creek Preserve, a 143-acre site located in NE Benton County, offers unparalleled opportunities for connecting habitat restoration and trails, and preserving waterways in the Oak Creek Watershed. This high-visibility property is essentially the 'missing puzzle piece' to connect over 12,000 acres of protected lands, and has been identified as a site critical for protection for decades.

Greenbelt Land Trust is a trusted conservation partner, with over 30 years of consistent, demonstrated success at navigating complex acquisitions, pioneering large-scale habitat restoration, and building community support for our work. Oak Creek Preserve is a stone's throw from the land trust's Bald Hill Natural Area, Bald Hill Farm, Mulkey Ridge, and Fitton Green Natural Area properties. The addition of Oak Creek Preserve to this expansive portfolio of protected lands will effectively solidify our legacy in this region of connecting lands and resilient habitats for generations to come.

The future vision for Oak Creek Preserve includes a mosaic of wetland, prairie, and oak woodland habitat, and engages the community through recreation and volunteerism. Imagine a dynamic site where endangered grassland birds nesting amid tufted prairie grasses, acorn woodpeckers peeking out from the trunks of legacy oak trees, with riparian swales collecting into a marshy wet prairie that is bursting with camas in the Spring.

Support for Greenbelt's acquisition of Oak Creek Preserve is at a fever-pitch. The attached list of supporters includes federal and state conservation partners, local government, tribes, regional conservation nonprofits, and neighbors. These letters give voice to the countless additional community members who are championing this acquisition - collectively we know that the protection of Oak Creek Preserve is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and that this site will be a keystone property for Greenbelt, for our regional conservation goals, and for Oregon Watershed Enhancement.

REVIEW

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

The Oak Creek Preserve land acquisition project will protect and restore wet prairie, upland prairie-oak savannah and oak woodland habitats, which historically made up the majority of the Willamette Valley. Today these habitats are the top three declining habitats in the Willamette and are now mostly gone from the landscape. The acquisition property also has a small portion of Oak Creek, which is listed on the 303(d)

list of water quality impaired water bodies. With the development that has already occurred in the Oak Creek watershed, much of the original wetlands and floodplain connection have been lost to impervious surfaces, infrastructure, and agricultural land use. Preserving the remaining oak woodland, upland prairie-oak savannah, wetland, and wet prairie habitats is a high priority in the Willamette to rebuild ecological connectivity needed to support species relying on these habitats.

Value of Habitat Connectivity to Species Recovery

The Oak Creek Preserve property provides an unmatched opportunity to connect a corridor of upland prairie and oak habitats in the Corvallis and Philomath area because of its location adjacent to and within proximity of a network of properties protected for ecological values. The large size of the property and connection to other conservation sites significantly increases the ecological benefit gained from protecting this site to prevent permanent alteration and loss of habitats needed for protected species recovery. The value of this habitat connectivity cannot be overstated for the target species that will benefit from protected high value habitats, especially fauna, because maintaining resilient populations for many of them simply requires large, unfragmented areas.

The proposed acquisition site has potential to provide suitable habitat for several rare and declining species, including Federal and State listed species. These species include Fender's blue butterfly, Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, Willamette daisy, Kincaid's lupine, and Nelson's checkermallow. "Corvallis West" is the second-most important Fender's blue butterfly habitat in the Willamette Valley according to USFWS. There are already endangered Fender's blue and Taylor's Checker spot butterflies present in the neighborhood of the property, and so it is reasonable to expect these species to utilize the property once it is restored. The site will also provide habitat for many grassland and oak-dependent species identified by conservation partners, including western meadowlark, chipping sparrow, vesper sparrow, white-breasted nuthatch, western bluebird, and acorn woodpecker. The property provides an opportunity to reintroduce listed plant species and contribute to species recovery goals. The proposed land acquisition project site combined with the adjacent conservation properties is likely to contribute unfragmented habitat needed to establish resilient plant populations and a corridor of uninterrupted habitat connectivity for threatened and endangered bird and butterfly species.

Risk to Habitat Connectivity

The Oak Creek Preserve property is located within the Urban Growth Boundary for the City of Corvallis and is zoned for housing development. Testing has already been completed to determine the suitability of the property for home sites, and the primary home sites would be placed in the oak woodland portion of the property where there are many legacy oak trees. Other nearby properties that once had similar habitats like the Oak Creek Preserve site are now town houses, residential neighborhoods, or student housing blocks for Oregon State University. There is a high likelihood for the project property to be developed if it is not acquired for conservation. The opportunity to restore and preserve high priority habitats and expand habitat connectivity will be lost, and further habitat fragmentation of these habitats will impact landscape efforts to recover listed species. Permanent protection is the only way to restore and manage the priority wet prairie, upland prairie-oak savannah and oak woodland habitats. Unlike stream restoration projects where restoration goals can typically be achieved within a finite period, these habitats require long term investment to maintain restoration gains. The threats posed by development of the site into housing, along with the associated roads and other impervious surfaces, would disrupt habitat and forever block the recovery of natural ecological system processes on the Oak Creek Preserve site.

Opportunity for Habitat Restoration

The oak woodland portion of the Oak Creek Preserve is currently in good condition with the presence of multiple large legacy oak trees and no fir trees creeping into the oak stand and threatening to over top the

oaks. Very little restoration is needed to maintain the ecological values of the oak woodland that already support key target species, such as the acorn woodpecker.

Most of the remainder of the property has no native plant community and a significantly altered hydrology. Restoration work will be necessary to recover natural ecological systems and functions, and to re-introduce native plant species in the abundance and diversity with which they would naturally occur. Due to the project site position on the landscape and recent agricultural management, restoration has a high likelihood for succeeding in recovering target habitats, improve plant biodiversity and structure, and increase wildlife diversity and abundance.

This project reflects a common conservation theme in the Willamette Valley in which land use must be changed completely, often from agriculture, and starting from scratch to restore historic conditions to the maximum extent possible. The property is located in the transition zone from the valley bottom to upland habitats, such as the oak woodland. There is significant opportunity to establish wetland and upland prairie, both of which are habitats listed in the ODFW Conservation Strategy. The site historically contained a large area of wetlands and wet prairie that is currently limited due to alterations made to accommodate agricultural practices. Seasonal tributaries and seeps have been ditched to quickly transport water off the grass fields. Most of the area is in annual ryegrass production. Annual ryegrass fields are easier to restore compared to old pastures. Pastures tend to have a variety of invasives plant species mixed in with native plants, while annual ryegrass acts as a cover crop that breaks the weed cycle. The ryegrass fields provide a blank slate for restoration that is relatively clean of weeds, which is often more cost effective because conversion to habitat can be done at an economy of scale.

Restoration and maintenance plans for the property are well thought out, site-appropriate, and in line with the current knowledge and approach taken by restoration practitioners for restoring the multi-habitat mosaic once common to the Willamette Valley. The wet prairie restoration planned will reverse the current conditions caused by ditched and channelized tributaries that were designed to move water quickly out of the floodplain. This will restore floodplain connection by reconnecting ephemeral tributaries and create vernal pools that will promote groundwater recharge needed to support wet prairie plant and wildlife species, including migratory birds and amphibians. Restoring wetland filtering functions is likely to improve water quality in Oak Creek by providing slow subsurface cold-water releases during warm months and filtering overland runoff.

The applicant has the expertise and capacity to undertake the necessary restoration to achieve the desired ecological outcomes. They have experience specifically in restoring oak habitat and restoring prairie habitats from former agricultural fields. Their restoration work on the adjacent Bald Hill Farm site is a “Gold Standard” for oak restoration in the Willamette Valley.

Opportunity to Increase Community Awareness

With its close proximity to Corvallis, the proposed land acquisition project location provides an opportunity for community outreach that showcases conservation at work. It will be challenging to maintain high ecological values that are not compromised by a likely high demand for public use. The applicant has significant experience in balancing public use and ecological values on the adjacent Bald Hill Farm and has already contracted to develop a conceptual plan for a boardwalk that will restrict access and link with other trails. The accessible and culturally sensitive trail system planned for the site will serve an important role in social connectivity and access for the community to learn about the importance of the diverse habitats and species on Oak Creek Preserve and the need to protect them in the long term.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

The acquisition is a relatively uncomplicated purchase of fee simple title. GLT has completed several significant due diligence items, including obtaining an option and appraisal and analyzing certain title-related matters. One due diligence item in particular, the potential for a major road, as described in the local comprehensive plan, to be built through the property, needs to be thoroughly investigated and the risk determined to be minimal for the project to be consistent with the purpose of OWEB's funds. An existing title encumbrance also appears to include a right to construct roads on the property, which requires a risk analysis. One of the property's boundaries is adjacent to several small-acreage rural ownerships, where boundary encroachments may be an issue. The boundary should be surveyed and any encroachments should be resolved. The property's rental agreement for agricultural use will need to be carefully considered to ensure compliance with relocation-related laws.

Completed and additional due diligence would need to be reviewed and approved by OWEB if the application is awarded funds. GLT is likely to complete the process in an efficient manner because of their experience with OWEB's requirements.

GLT is requesting \$1,000,000 from OWEB for the property purchase price and needs to raise \$500,000 for the remainder of the purchase price. GLT also needs to secure a stewardship fund for the property. GLT estimates it needs to raise \$500,000 for the fund to generate sufficient income for annual stewardship of the property, although additional information is necessary to confirm this. GLT has started a fundraising campaign that it reports has generated significant community interest so far. GLT appears confident that it will raise the necessary stewardship funds and additional purchase funds by OWEB's 18-month due diligence deadline.

Reviewers identified a long-term project soundness concern pertaining to potential extensive public use of the property. The use needs to be managed effectively and in a manner that protects the restored ecosystems and complies with OWEB's conservation easement. Infrastructure related to public use on OWEB-funded properties is typically minimal. Infrastructure and its use must not impede the ability of the property to meet the purpose of OWEB's land acquisition grant program, which is the protection and enhancement of native fish and wildlife habitat.

The application proposes updating the property management plan every 10 years. However, GLT will need to review the management plan every five years and update it if needed in accordance with OWEB's management plan guidance.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states that community benefits include high-value native habitat, clean water for fish and wildlife in the Oak Creek Basin, cleaner drinking water for communities that draw water from the Willamette River (Adair), trails designed to reduce barriers to the outdoors, and opportunity to build partnerships around restoration/management of the land.

These benefits have a high likelihood of being realized if the application is funded. While the drinking water benefit would be challenging to quantify given the scale of the drinking water supply watershed, the Willamette River, the benefit is nevertheless important, particularly given the public visibility of the property and neighboring conservation properties.

A concern regarding public access noted in the soundness review will be important with respect to the trails benefits described in the application. The benefits of public access to restoration of prairie habitat, which is needed in the Willamette Valley, will need to be balanced by managing public access in such a way as to minimize impacts to wildlife habitat.

A public hearing was held July 8 to provide an opportunity for community comments on the application. No members of the public attended; a neighboring landowner submitted an email comment in support of funding the application.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The Greenbelt Land Trust is an accredited Land Trust and is following best management practices in accordance with the accreditation. The organization's portfolio includes nearly 4,000 acres across more than 20 properties, many of which have been acquired with OWEB funds. The proposed property aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy. GLT does have several outstanding reports associated with other OWEB acquisition projects, which would need to be addressed prior to entering into a grant agreement.

The project team has the necessary expertise to complete this transaction and to ensure the long-term stewardship, management and monitoring of the property. GLT has an experienced stewardship team with the knowledge and skills to successfully manage this property; however, the application does not provide sufficient detail on the overall obligations of the team and how staffing and financial resources will be distributed across the many properties to meet the organization's overall stewardship, management, and monitoring obligations.

SUMMARY

The application provides an opportunity to permanently protect a key property connecting to a significant network of protected lands with oak woodland/oak savannah habitat. The property's location near an urbanized area makes it vulnerable to development threats that would eliminate the possibility of habitat restoration and protection. GLT has the depth and breadth of experience in property transactions and habitat restoration on similar properties to make the likelihood of success on this property high. While GLT will need to balance public access with habitat protection and restoration, they have demonstrated ability to do this effectively on similar properties.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the Board award \$1,027,390 for the project in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with GLT to finalize project-specific conditions, which will be provided to the Board at its October 2021 meeting.

SPRING 2021 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	221-9901-19497		
Project Name:	Mt. Ashland Forest Climate Resilience Project		
Applicant:	Pacific Forest Trust	Region:	Southwest Oregon
Basin:	Rogue	County:	Jackson
OWEB Request:	\$1,128,010	Total Cost:	\$2,300,185

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

Pacific Forest Trust (PFT), an Accredited Land Trust, is seeking OWEB funds to acquire 960 acres of forestland (the Property) on the Siskiyou Crest that is part of the 1675-acre Mt. Ashland Forest Climate Resilience Project (the Project), a broad conservation partnership. We are also seeking funds for acquisition costs, baseline information, and planning for ecological management. The Project's Phase 1 was completed in 2020 with the acquisition of 555 acres from Siskiyou Timberlands by Mountcrest Forest, which charitably granted a conservation easement to PFT. OWEB funds will be matched 100% by a combination of cash and in-kind contributions, including the Phase 1 conservation easement value, the fee value of a 160-acre portion of the Project and other expenses being funded by a secured grant from the LTA Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative.

The Property is in the heart of the Siskiyou Crest Conservation Opportunity Area and contains priority habitats for this COA. It is adjacent to Mountcrest Forest and is the largest remaining unprotected private tract in the Neil Creek drainage, comprising many of its headwater springs. The Property provides critical connectivity within a large network of protected lands allowing for wildlife migration across the landscape for species seeking to adapt to climate change. Its habitat types include the notably biodiverse Siskiyou mixed forest, meadows, palustrine forest and wetlands. The Property supports many imperiled species including northern spotted owl, coho and steelhead, fisher and gray wolf.

Conserving the Property will prevent it from being developed for residential/recreational uses as well as intensively logged, degrading ecological functionality. PFT's conservation management will maintain and enhance habitats and improve resiliency to climate change stressors. We intend to use the Property as a hub to engage stakeholders in learning about ecological forest management for climate resiliency.

REVIEW

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

Strengths

The goals listed in the application are consistent with successful protection and preservation outcomes within this type of environment. This acquisition could provide significant benefits for connectivity, climate resiliency, and sensitive species conservation.

The acquisition addresses the board-adopted conservation principles of protecting sites with exceptional biodiversity values, improving connectivity, and complementing existing networks of conserved areas. This property is a vital undeveloped link for connectivity of wildlife. This area has been rated as one of the most important biological corridors in the western United States. Acquisition mitigates for potential risks due to logging, fragmentation, and habitat loss, and provides opportunities for landscape scale, cohesive management of late seral forests for wildlife and other benefits, enhancing connectivity within the project area and protecting significant biodiversity resources.

The property consists of a high-quality mosaic of habitats from early to late seral as well as wetlands and meadow networks. The area is an ecological critical habitat area of concern, surrounded by the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) Late-Successional Reserves, spotted owl critical habitat, and spotted owl and fisher detections. The proposed management of the property is consistent with the USFS NWFP and BLM Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument conservation principles.

This property provides intact natural and undeveloped sections that are important to wildlife movements. The property includes significant and rare habitat types that are in functional condition and provides important habitat features for wildlife including snags, wet meadows, uneven-aged stands, canopy gaps, bare ground, and rock outcrops. Promoting and protecting older forest characteristics will enhance and restore complexity and habitat values for species associated with intact and mature forests, as well as forest-associated resident and neotropical migratory songbirds. Nevertheless, plant communities are poorly characterized in the application, and an inventory would improve the understanding of potential at risk-communities on-site.

Keeping the landownership contiguous provides an opportunity for a more comprehensive and large-scale management approach to address forest resiliency and climate change. Having larger tracts managed with climate change in mind is necessary because of the magnitude of the stressors and megafire possibilities in our forest ecosystems. Having more intact and restored forest ecosystems keeps options open to allow for adaptively managing for increasing threats.

The strategic location and proposed management objectives of the acquisition plus adjacent forest properties under PFT management will enhance the conservation value of this location from the standpoint of maintaining a species-habitat connectivity bridge among multiple physiographic provinces (i.e., Oregon and California Klamath, Oregon and California Cascades). This forest connection will provide for important meta-population dynamics for multiple at-risk and federally listed species. Focusing on forest resiliency and climate change in this location is expected to help keep the forest community and connectivity with similar habitat intact or at least reduce stressors at the regional level.

The property is at the heart of the Cascade-Siskiyou ecoregion, directly linking the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. This habitat-connectivity bridge is beneficial to spotted owls, Pacific fisher, wolves, and Coastal marten. Further, the on-site diversity of springs and wet meadows is essential for pollinators and amphibians. This landscape mosaic for the fisher provides for foraging and dispersal across the larger forested context and serves as important steppingstones for population viability of the northern California and southern Oregon Pacific fisher populations. The subject property has both the strategic location and diversity of habitats to hasten recovery and conservation of the spotted owl, Coastal marten and fisher. Protection of this area (and anticipated future management), coupled with the conservation benefits of the adjacent areas will provide for resilient forests in adapting to climate change across this biologically rich area.

Other species of concern include the western bumblebee and the Franklins bumblebee, a species listed as endangered, and only found in the Mount Ashland area. This property provides potential habitat for both of these species. The meadows also provide habitat for a plethora of early seral species. The wetlands provide for many aquatic species including beaver, pond turtles, western toad and mountain beaver. Ungulates like

deer and elk use this property extensively during the summer. Late successional habitat provides closed canopy habitat for species like the black salamander, hermit warbler, various woodpeckers, bald eagle, as well as various mollusk and other invertebrates of concern.

Aquatic species that may benefit are cold water trout and ESA-listed coho salmon, as Neil Creek is Coho Designated Critical Habitat in the lower reaches. There are other aquatic species of concern, such as red tailed frog and pacific giant salamander.

Concerns

This is an extremely important ecological area with fragile habitats. Too many educational or management activities could disturb this condition. Educational and management activities should be limited as much as possible to avoid disturbing the incredibly diverse and sensitive flora and fauna of the area.

While the applicant organization has a history of successful and engaged conservation action on the Siskiyou Crest, it will be critical that adequate field staff time and availability to implement the proposed restoration and management actions be allocated.

The application indicates a high level of planned timber harvest (25% every 10 years). This level of harvest could be detrimental to the desired habitat outcomes expressed in the application, and a management plan will need to reflect how this level of harvest can be completed while still meeting outcomes.

Strategic active forest management under PFT's management plan of the forested areas, particularly the younger forests, will be necessary to achieve more structurally complex and resilient forests. Ongoing restoration of the open meadows will be needed to address encroachment as will addressing the threat of invasive plant species.

Additional plant and invasive species inventory work and site assessment would inform the refinement of management plan goals and actions.

Concluding Ecological Analysis

The property provides valuable habitat connectivity, high biodiversity, and high ecological function within a large regional area when considering adjacent conservation properties and federal ownership that is managed for conservation. This is an important ecological transition area with different species from high to low elevations mixing at fine scales and at the landscape scale, a transition zone of habitats that come from the great basin, California chaparral, coastal west zone and the northern boreal forest.

The ecological condition and function of the property is excellent currently and rare for this area. There is relatively minimal restoration that needs to be done and the emphasis should be on preservation for the known and unknown rare plant and animal species present and for protection of the multiple micro-habitats found throughout the property.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

If the application is funded there are several title encumbrances that need to be addressed:

- i) a current lack of insurable access;
- ii) a mineral reservation that PFT asserts does not apply to the property but has not been removed from the title;
- iii) rights of the public to use the property's roads; and
- iv) rights of other parties to construct roads on the property.

Another potential complication is the potential for the seller's expectations for the deed to diverge from OWEB's requirements. OWEB will require a deed that cites only specific encumbrances affecting the property, consistent with OWEB's current title guidance. The current appraisal will need to be updated, incorporating OWEB's appraisal requirements.

PFT's intended timing for the transaction is not clear, although the application states that PFT can reobtain previous approval of a bridge loan if its option period terminates before all of OWEB's funding conditions are met. In such case, it will be important for PFT to ensure it has met OWEB's requirements for the initial closing and understand that closing in advance of receiving OWEB's funds does not guarantee OWEB's funds will later be released.

If the application is awarded funds, PFT will need to work with OWEB to ensure that all property it intends to use for match for the OWEB award meets OWEB's requirements for permanent protection.

Reviewers identified long-term soundness concerns related to PFT's plans for a stewardship fund and management of the property, which will be PFT's first fee simple ownership. The proposed annual stewardship budget appears to be a general estimate of costs related to monitoring, as opposed to a calculation of costs based on planned stewardship time and activities. Furthermore, the application states that initial stewardship expenses will be funded through grants and PFT's operational funds until a stewardship fund can be established.

The application states that PFT plans to harvest the property's timber to have an adequate fund for typical stewardship activities such as weed control. PFT intends to remove up to a quarter of the property's timber inventory every ten years. This plan needs to be assessed by an independent subject matter expert familiar with the property to confirm that this level of harvest will be consistent with the purpose of OWEB's funding, which is the protection and enhancement of native fish and wildlife habitat.

The application proposes updating the property management plan every 10 years. However, PFT will need to review the management plan every five years and update it as needed in accordance with OWEB's management plan guidance.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states that as the last privately-owned property in Neil Creek watershed, the project will continue to generate economic, wildlife, watershed, scenic, scientific and educational values for the surrounding communities, the region and the state in perpetuity. Specifically, the application states that these benefits include: cold water fish habitat, fuels reduction that will reduce wildfire threats, and a learning opportunity for climate resilient forest management.

While there are potential climate resilience benefits that could be achieved on a forested property within a diverse ecosystem, the application would have benefited from more specific descriptions of how the applicant intends to achieve climate resilience benefits and how those benefits may be transferable to other properties in the region.

Nevertheless, the applicant is a leader in forest management in the Pacific Northwest and has the capacity to implement harvest strategies that could accrue climate resilience benefits.

A public hearing was held on July 1 to provide an opportunity for public comment on the application. Two members of the public attended and stated their support for the application due to its significant ecological benefits. One written comment was received expressing concern for potential fire risk and other risks associated with public use of the property.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

PFT received its accreditation in 2010 and is following best management practices in accordance with the accreditation. The organization's portfolio includes management responsibility for over 100,000 acres spread across more than 30 project sites in two states. This project would be PFT's first fee simple

ownership. The organization has completed one previous project with OWEB's acquisition program and is currently up to date with OWEB acquisition related reporting requirements. The proposed property aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy.

The project team has the necessary expertise to complete this transaction and to ensure the long-term stewardship, management and monitoring of the property. The stewardship team does seem stretched thin across many projects in multiple states. PFT might be nearing maximum staffing capacity to meet its stewardship needs and might need to consider additional staffing resources in the future to continue meeting its stewardship and management goals.

SUMMARY

The application presents an opportunity to permanently protect a key property within a larger regional context of conservation properties in the Cascade-Siskiyou ecoregion. Since the proposed outcomes are dependent upon the forest management strategy, it will be important to ensure that harvest strategy aligns with the long-term goal of restoration of a forest with late seral characteristics. While the property would be the first fee simple acquisition for PFT, their long-term experience managing forests for conservation purposes indicates a high likelihood of success for perpetual habitat conservation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the Board award \$1,128,010 for the project in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with PFT to finalize project-specific conditions, which will be provided to the Board at its October 2021 meeting.

SPRING 2021 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	221-9902-19498		
Project Name:	Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement		
Applicant:	Wild Rivers Land Trust	Region:	Southwest Oregon
Basin:	South Coast	County:	Curry
OWEB Request:	\$5,212,524	Total Cost:	\$10,488,024

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

The Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement Project is the purchase of a conservation easement on the 783-acre Wahl Ranch which is located on the southern Oregon Coast in the lower Elk River watershed. The Ranch is located about three miles north of Port Orford, about ½ mile west of Hwy 101, and immediately southeast of Cape Blanco. The Project will perpetually protect 783 acres, including ~250 acres of fish and wildlife habitat, ~1.1 miles of the Elk River which includes the Elk River estuary, large portions of two low-gradient streams (tributaries to Elk River), several wildlife ponds, and 0.6 miles of Oregon coastline.

This project presents an opportunity to protect a large family ranch and an ecologically critical piece of this remarkable landscape for generations to come. The need for this project is significant given the development pressures. The Ranch is in a 20 mile stretch of scenic coastline consisting of ten ranches owned by eight families, and public parks or natural areas. It is the longest stretch like it left on the Oregon coast and is known as the “dark coast” by sailors for lack of lights from development. None of the ten ranches has converted out of ranching in four generations, but significant residential and commercial development pressures have now reached Oregon’s south coast. The project will also ensure that the investments that the Ranch has made to restore and protect the ecological areas supporting fish and wildlife into Ranch operations are secured, including major restoration efforts on Cedar and Swamp Creeks, with additional restoration work planned for both.

Partners include the Wahl Ranch, Wild Rivers Land Trust, The Conservation Fund and the Natural Resources Conservation Service through their Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. The project supports the recommendations of the SONCC coho salmon recovery plan and the ODFW Sixes River-Elk River Conservation Opportunity Area to protect wetland and estuarine habitats.

REVIEW

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

Strengths

The project involves many of the South Coast Basin priority ecological systems listed in the 2004 OWEB Ecological Priorities for Land Acquisition by Basin (OEPLAB): CA-Southern OR coastal bluffs and headlands, deciduous swamp, freshwater emergent marsh, lowland riparian woodland and shrubland, Sitka spruce forest, and South Coast grassland. The OEPLAB identifies the Cape Blanco area as a priority place to address biodiversity conservation because of its at-risk species and unique coastal habitats. The project area has

preferred stream conditions for projects intended to benefit native fish: low gradient, unconfined channels, tributary junctions where smaller streams enter a much larger river, and estuarine channels.

The project area is situated at an ecologically diverse zone encompassing several habitat types for fish and wildlife including riparian and stream corridors, estuary, and headlands. Protecting these ecologically sensitive areas that provide critical habitat is vital as ranches consider conversion to more intensive land uses posing risks of habitat fragmentation, water quality impacts, and higher carbon emissions.

Conversion of the Ranch to other uses would reduce the quality of fish and wildlife habitat and the value of the completed restoration work, as well as the management practices implemented to support it. The forest and upland habitat quality could suffer if the Ranch was subdivided, but the restored and enhanced aquatic habitat, aside from perhaps narrower buffers, would likely persist given land use laws.

The property is a large, intact ranch with significant biodiversity. In particular, the ranch includes significant, and functioning, overwintering habitat for coho in Swamp and Cedar Creeks, and summer habitat for Chinook in Elk River estuary. Protecting that habitat with a conservation easement is consistent with state and federal plans for the conservation and recovery of coho and Chinook salmon.

Historical impacts on the property include overgrazing/ground disturbance followed by significant gorse invasion, ditching and simplification of Swamp and Cedar creeks, and loss of floodplain connectivity. Current management of the ranch over the last 20 years has included improved grazing practices, protection and ongoing restoration of riparian areas, completion of fish passage projects, and improved floodplain and wetland connectivity. The landowners clearly understand the long-term benefits that restoration and proper management can provide. They have dedicated a lot of time and funds to improve the ecological condition of this property. While fish habitat has not completely recovered from historical impacts it has recovered to a functioning condition, with potential for additional improvement. The quality and size of riparian buffers is large and as the vegetation matures it will provide excellent habitat for wildlife and shading of Cedar and Swamp Creeks. As temperatures continue to rise due to climate change, cold water refugia maintained through shaded corridors are going to be critical habitat for fish.

Concerns

Ensuring that the management plan strikes the balance of having flexibility for the landowner and achieving and maintaining ecological outcomes is critical to project success. This is especially critical for the areas that will remain in agriculture. The easement will not provide the long-term ecological and carbon sequestration benefits if the agricultural management practices diminish from the current state. Current practices are excellent and yield strong ecological outcomes, thus it is key that the management plan captures the goals and strategies clearly to ensure the integrity of the easement is maintained in perpetuity over the course of land ownership changes.

The gravel operation, while not proposed to be included in the easement, borders it and drains into Cedar Creek. This could have adverse impacts to water quality in Cedar Creek. It is unclear whether there is a current gravel extraction plan that safeguards water quality and ecological function.

Although there are fish passage measures in place at the Swamp Creek dams, ideally if protected in perpetuity the dams would be eliminated to restore Swamp Creek to its natural state. Also, if the dams remain in place it could pose management challenges in the future for the landowner and/or WRLT if the dams impact the desired ecological outcomes. It would be helpful to have more information on the scope of work proposed for the 2021-2022 Swamp Creek project that is referenced in the application. As such, it is difficult to evaluate the extent of remaining restoration needed on Swamp Creek. Based on the information provided it appears that this is the last major area of the property that would need restoration and site stabilization work completed. All other areas of the proposed easement zone appear to have well-functioning restoration projects (based on application information and site visit).

Without seeing the final management plan it is hard to evaluate in detail the extent of ecological benefits achieved; however, the application provides assurance that the WRLT and partners will work intentionally to develop a plan that is achievable, enforceable and aligns with the ecological goals for the property.

Invasive plant species are the primary threats to the composition of the plant communities and will continue to be a management issue.

The inclusion of additional information would make the application stronger. For example, quantify what it means that the area's "rugged beauty attracts new recreation and home site developers annually," and give specifics when mentioning that two of the ten "dark coast" ranches are in the process of converting to other uses. While properties don't need to be named, it would help to understand what specifically is driving these conversions, how many acres are involved, where are these conversions relative to the Project, and how will these conversions affect ecological outcomes?

Other areas where additional detail would be helpful center around Swamp Creek. How does Swamp Creek compare to other winter rearing habitat within the watershed in terms of size and habitat quality? A bit more context, even at the sub-watershed scale, would be helpful. How does Swamp Creek restoration actions align with the long-term ecological goals of the property. Additional information on the dams on the creek and details regarding how they will be addressed would be helpful because although there are fish passage measures in place at the Swamp Creek dams, ideally if protected in perpetuity the dams would be eliminated to restore Swamp Creek to its natural state. If the dams remain in place it could pose management challenges in the future for the landowner and the land trust if it impacts the desired ecological outcomes. It would be helpful to have more information on the scope of work proposed for the 2021-2022 Swamp Creek project that is referenced in the application.

The potential for discovery of cultural resources would have benefitted from a detailed process discussion in the application.

Concluding Ecological Analysis

The Project overlaps many of the South Coast Basin's priority ecological systems in an area that sees a growing threat of development.

The property is situated in an area of coast with several distinct habitat types including coastal headland, estuary, wetland, riparian forest, and tributary streams. Protecting this diversity is a significant need in a region that is facing increased development pressures. The easement would protect these benefits in perpetuity which is a critical need in the face of ESA-listed species declines, climate change, and development pressures in the area.

This property showcases the compatibility of working lands and conservation. The property has had several successful restoration projects and the landowners are committed to sustainable and ecologically sound agricultural practices. Protecting this property with an easement will bring great ecological benefits to this area for high priority species including salmon and lamprey, native birds, mammals such as beaver, and native plant communities. The current management of the property is highly beneficial for water quality, fish and wildlife. This demonstrates that working lands and conservation can be complementary on a ranch property. Moreover, if not protected the potential risk for diminished ecological function is high due to development pressures in the area or a change in agricultural practices when landownership changes.

The current state of the property indicates that conservation is a recognized important aspect of this landscape by the landowners. Prior utilization of conservation programs on the ranch property, as well as their approach to working land and livestock management, show that they are heavily invested in protecting important ecological communities. The projected benefits to both aquatic and terrestrial communities are extremely likely in this scenario, and much needed on the southern coast.

Ensuring that the management plan strikes the balance of having flexibility for the landowner and maintaining all ecological outcomes. This is especially critical for the areas that will remain in agriculture. The easement will not provide the long term ecological and carbon sequestration benefits if the agricultural management practices diminish from the current state. Current practices are excellent and yield strong ecological outcomes, thus it is key that the management plan captures the goals and strategies clearly to ensure the integrity of the easement is maintained in perpetuity over the course of landownership changes. Overall, there are several well implemented and maintained projects on the property that contribute significantly to ecological function. It will be imperative that the WRLT and landowners work collaboratively to adaptively manage the property to sustain these current and future ecological outcomes.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

The application and review process identified significant soundness challenges that would need to be addressed to meet OWEB's due diligence requirements and achieve the long-term outcomes of the proposed project.

The project application's soundness challenges include:

- i) differences in owner information between the application and title materials;
- ii) a lack of an articulated structure and process for inclusive landowner decision-making during due diligence and under the easement;
- iii) a lack of a well-developed easement purchase price estimate;
- iv) a lack of preparedness to mesh NRCS and OWEB requirements such as requirements for a grazing plan and completion of the baseline and management plan before closing;
- v)a relative lack of easement drafting and management planning work specific to the property;
- vi) a lack of clear ecological goals and monitoring plans for the property's agricultural areas;
- vii) uncertainty about the intended easement zones and the amount of the property that will be dedicated to the purpose of OWEB's land acquisition program;
- viii) an inadequate budget for management plan development for a working lands easement, which must include a grazing plan component;
- ix) potentially complex and expensive survey work necessary to create the legal description for the conservation easement;
- x) public rights to portions of the property, including the beach and cemetery and difficulties in achieving easement protections in those areas;
- xi) uncertainty regarding future plans for the property's water rights;
- xii) uncertainties around title encumbrances, which are often incomplete in a status of record title such as the one included in the application;
- xiii) a windfarm lease that, if not able to be removed from title, must be allowed to expire before the conservation easement is granted; and
- xiv) a proposal in the application to establish separate tracts of record for gravel resources and the beach is unclear.

Reviewers identified long-term soundness concerns related to WRLT's plans for a stewardship fund and easement monitoring, with inadequate funds based on standard stewardship fund analytical tools and a frequency of monitoring that is likely too low to ensure high-quality outcomes under a working lands easement.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states the project will help achieve community benefits described in the Elk River Strategic Action Plan for Coho Salmon Recovery, including: self-sustaining habitats and fish and wildlife populations; healthy forests, streams, ranches, farms, and fisheries; a high quality of life for residents, workers, and visitors; a diverse economy anchored in the sustainable use of natural resources, which can adapt to 21st

century needs and opportunities; a community in which families can make a living, children do not have to leave to find jobs, and elders can enjoy a fulfilling life; and a culture that embraces the interdependence of ecology, economy, and community.

While the project is likely to contribute to many of the non-habitat benefits listed above, there is concern among some members of the community, as expressed in written comments from Curry County and the Curry County Farm Bureau, that the project could drive up the cost of farmland, making it more challenging for new farmers or those who would like to expand operations. This perception, however, is based on the estimated cost of the easement included in the application. Since OWEB can only fund an easement that follows strict appraisal guidelines, the purchase price would simply reflect market value. There may be a need for community engagement around succession planning issues faced by agricultural operators in the region and the state.

A public hearing was held July 9 to provide an opportunity for public comment on the application. Seven members of the public attended, with one providing verbal comments/questions that centered on how a conservation easement will impact neighboring properties and whether the conservation organizations planned to acquire additional easements. Representatives of WRLT and The Conservation Fund responded that the current landowners would continue to interact with neighbors as they have in the past and that WRLT would have limited contact with neighbors. The Conservation Fund indicated that the South Coast is a priority area for conservation, and that they only work with willing sellers.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

WRLT received its accreditation in 2019 and is following best management practices in accordance with the accreditation. The organization's portfolio includes 6 easements and two fee properties totaling just under 600 acres. The organization has completed one previous OWEB acquisition and is currently up to date with OWEB acquisition related reporting requirements. The proposed property aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy. The acquisition project team seems sufficient to accomplish the complex transaction. The team includes WRLT staff, Conservation Fund staff and consultants.

WRLT Conservation Director will be the lead on the long-term stewardship and management of the property and will work in partnership with the Curry Watersheds Partnership (CWP). The addition of this property to the organization's portfolio might be challenging given the complexity of this property and the other stewardship and management responsibilities of the organization. However, the proposed partnership with CWP, which has significant restoration and monitoring expertise, would increase the likelihood of the long-term successful stewardship, management and monitoring of the property. The application does not clearly articulate the on-going stewardship costs for this site. Additional information is needed on how WRLT plans on budgeting for annual stewardship and securing the funds to fulfill its responsibilities.

SUMMARY

The Wahl Ranch has demonstrated effective practices to improve long-term soil health on sheep pastures resulting in increased productivity while at the same time reducing or eliminating the need for artificial inputs. The property includes a small portion of the Elk River as well as two tributaries that provide significant coho and Chinook habitat.

Grassland is not a native habitat type for this area, which, while not insurmountable, presents challenges for OWEB to invest in a conservation easement for the purpose of habitat protection and restoration, particularly where the larger portion of the property appears to be pasture rather than proposed conservation zones. This makes the partnership with other, agriculturally focused funders critical. Up front

clarity in roles of all parties (funders, CWP, WRLT, landowners) and funding requirements will be key to making this project a success.

If ownership structure and other soundness issues identified in the evaluation can be addressed, the applicant is encouraged to more fully develop a proposal to mesh funder priorities with proposed easements, providing distinction between agricultural areas subject to a conservation easement to protect and sustain agricultural conservation and areas subject to a conservation easement for habitat purposes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the evaluation above, staff do not recommend the board award funding for the Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement.

SPRING 2021 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	221-9903-19500		
Project Name:	Siuslaw (Large)		
Applicant:	The Nature Conservancy	Region:	North Coast
Basin:	North Coast	County:	Lane
OWEB Request:	\$433,673 Lottery and \$490,000 Coastal Wetlands		
Total Cost:	\$1,320,243		

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

The subject property sits on the North Fork Siuslaw River approximately three to five miles from the confluence with the main Siuslaw. The property is 247 acres in size and is bordered by the North Fork of the Siuslaw River along approximately 2.6 miles of the western edge. It is the second largest unprotected property remaining in the Siuslaw estuary, and the largest remaining diked pasture in the estuary.

The property is disconnected from the river by a series of levees and tide gates and has been maintained for agriculture for most of the last century. Agricultural management, levee maintenance and the resulting land subsidence will continue if no action is taken.

The acquisition represents an opportunity to radically change the ecological trajectory of the property. Once acquired, the McKenzie River Trust, with the assistance of TNC and members of the Siuslaw Coho Partnership, will immediately begin working to realize the vision outlined in the Restoration Feasibility Assessment. This includes re-creating tidal hydrology on a majority of the property and will result in lateral connection of approximately 236 acres. As lateral floodplain connectivity is restored and secondary channels reform, habitat complexity and diversity will increase - creating conditions for diverse estuarine flora and fauna including critical juvenile nursery habitat benefitting multiple anadromous species.

There is broad support for the project among conservation partners in the area. IN addition to TNC, the core partners for the project include those participating in the Siuslaw Coho Partnership:

- Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Siuslaw SWCD
- USFS
- BLM
- Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
- MRT
- ODFW

REVIEW

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

The Siuslaw (Large) project will protect and restore an array of diverse estuarine habitats, including critical habitat for juvenile salmon. Estuaries are one of the most ecologically rich and important habitat types in Oregon and have been significantly impacted through historical land use practices. The Siuslaw estuary has lost nearly 67% of its tidal wetlands over the last century, and this project represents a unique opportunity to return tidal influence and estuarine function to a relatively large area. The property is notable for its size, its location within an existing network of conserved lands, and its restoration potential.

Priority Location and Habitat

The parcel has been identified by numerous local and regional assessments as a high priority for acquisition and restoration. The site is located within a larger complex of conserved properties, and its acquisition will tie together a network of high-quality estuarine habitat that will add to the overall health and resilience of the Siuslaw estuary. The property itself constitutes a significant portion of the estuary on the North Fork Siuslaw and is a collaboration with a willing landowner who recognizes the challenges of continuing agriculture activities in a rapidly subsiding former tidal wetland. Physical processes will be restored in this tidal system among an atmosphere of local cooperation and support.

Restoration of estuarine habitat is an identified priority by restoration practitioners and conservation planners along the coast. There are limited sites of this size available in Oregon estuaries that are suitable for habitat restoration. Restoration of both this specific site and the proposed habitat type is an identified priority by the Siuslaw Coho Partnership. The site was also highlighted as a priority for restoration by recent technical assistance work on landward migration zones that was partly funded by OWEB.

Restoration Opportunity

Restoration of this property will restore tidally influenced habitat managed to preserve and improve natural habitat function. Site conditions at this property were identified by the landowner to be unsuitable for agriculture, presenting an opportunity to restore high priority estuarine habitat with a willing landowner. Dike and tide gate removal are proposed and will be among the most beneficial restoration actions for the site. The applicants are proposing significant increase to tidal exchange in both the northern and southern portions of the property and habitat quality is likely to be immediately improved as a result. The desired marsh surface elevation and channel network formation may take a long time to develop, but the information in the application provides confidence that the project team aims to restore hydrologic processes to the greatest extent possible. Restoration of tidal flows will allow the site to begin accumulating sediment that will help buffer the effects of sea level rise on estuarine habitat.

The preliminary restoration approach is appropriate for the site and is likely to achieve the desired future conditions. The conceptual design is informed by site specific data and hydrologic modeling that was completed as part of a 2018 Restoration Feasibility Study, which was a comprehensive effort that included a study of the trajectory of habitat function in recently restored properties nearby. The study indicates that restoration on the site is feasible given the site constraints and outlines the key habitat types that can be restored.

Some concerns with the proposed restoration were identified during review. The description of expected changes to the existing dike footprint lacked detail, especially how the project partners might address stabilizing the locations where the length of dike will remain after restoration. The proposed timeline in the application also may be overambitious for a complex estuarine restoration project of this nature, given that similar restoration efforts have taken extended periods of time to implement and stabilize. Despite these concerns, the application provided evidence that the project team has conducted appropriate due diligence, understands the complexities involved, and is poised to design and implement a successful restoration project.

Benefits to Fish, Wildlife, and Watershed Function

The ecological benefit possible with this project is contingent on the successful restoration of tidal hydrology. Restoration of the proposed 236 acres of estuarine habitat, once completed, could provide immediate benefits to a large variety of fish and wildlife species, water quality parameters, and native wetland plant communities. The trajectory in the estuary will also be improved for long term ecological benefits such as carbon sequestration, flood storage, and combatting sea level rise. Restoration of tidal connectivity will result in the proliferation of tidal marsh and swamp plant communities, which will contribute to increased biodiversity and foster the growth of native plants with valuable cultural impact.

The habitat improvements that will result from the successful restoration will increase winter rearing habitat within the Siuslaw estuary, which is a primary limiting factor to ESA-listed Oregon Coast coho salmon. The expected ecological benefits will also be significant to a wide variety of other aquatic species, including Chinook salmon and steelhead.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

The acquisition is a complex transaction that involves, among other things, the proposed use of USFWS Coastal Wetlands funds. Coastal Wetlands funds require:

- i) MRT to be added to the OWEB-TNC grant agreement;
- ii) OWEB to obtain USFWS approvals including approval of the appraisal and a notice of federal participation; and
- iii) TNC to comply with USFWS's due diligence timing requirements which are more stringent than OWEB's.

Additional transactional matters that will need to be addressed if the project is funded include:

- i) the transfer of title from TNC to MRT, necessitating a conveyance agreement, an additional deed, and additional title insurance;
- ii) land use approval necessary to separate the property being purchased from land being retained by the seller;
- iii) the need to confirm that existing utility lines and utility easements will be addressed in a manner that allows for the restoration described in the grant application;
- iv) unclear access rights and obligations of the party that owns the property, other parties, and the public;
- v) the need to confirm that all adjacent property owners, including all parties that have rights to use access roads on the property, support the restoration described in the grant application, including road relocation, if any, necessary to accomplish the restoration; and
- vi) intended access rights of the seller to land the seller is retaining.

The application reasonably demonstrates, despite the transaction's complexities, that the acquisition team has the requisite experience to complete the acquisition in a sound and timely manner; however, the application did not provide clear information about team member roles. If the application is awarded funding, an MOU will be necessary to establish roles and responsibilities for the transaction, property transfer, restoration, and long-term management phases of the project. There is also a need to establish an understanding about MRT's intentions to be the long-term owner of the property.

The application states that TNC intends to purchase the property before the end of OWEB's due diligence period. If the application is awarded funds, it will be important to establish an understanding with TNC that if it closes the transaction without OWEB funds, it will:

- i) coordinate with OWEB to ensure approval of certain transaction items in advance; and
- ii) not transfer the property to MRT until TNC and OWEB are ready to proceed with the grant funds as a reimbursement, at which time TNC will grant OWEB the conservation easement, record the notice

of federal participation, and convey the property to MRT. TNC will also need to understand that closing in advance of receiving OWEB's funds does not guarantee OWEB's funds will later be released.

Reviewers identified long-term soundness concerns related to MRT's plans for a stewardship fund. The stewardship fund appears to not be secured and the application does not indicate what amount needs to be secured to return enough income each year to cover the estimated stewardship expenses. If the application is awarded funding, this information should be required, along with evidence that the fund will be in place by closing or a specific timeframe soon after.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states that acquisition and subsequent restoration will provide permanent protection to a critical piece of Siuslaw River estuary ecosystem and will contribute to the recovery of Chinook, Oregon coast Coho and the health of other native salmonid populations. This will benefit recreational and commercial anglers and the local economy as a result. Tidal restoration will help slow velocities and reduce downstream flooding. In addition, MRT has memoranda of agreement with both the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, and protection and restoration of the property will benefit several culturally significant species for the Tribes.

A public hearing was held July 13 to provide an opportunity for public comment on the application. Four members of the public attended, with one, the current landowner, providing comment, stating that when he bought the property 15 years ago, he did not envision restoring wetlands. He found that the property is challenging to work for agricultural purposes and is best suited to being wetlands.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The Nature Conservancy has the necessary expertise to complete this transaction and the staff will work closely with MRT staff throughout the process. After the completion of the purchase the property will be transferred to MRT. MRT, accredited since 2015, is following best management practices in accordance with the accreditation. The proposed property aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy. MRT does have several outstanding reports associated with the Waite Ranch property.

MRT is a member of the Siuslaw Coho Partnership, which has been involved in the development of the project and will be involved in the long-term stewardship of the property. The application indicates the intent to hire a Central Coast Conservation Program Manager; follow-up information indicates this position has been hired. The addition of this position will increase the capacity of MRT and enable the organization to provide for the long-term stewardship and management of this property. The application clearly articulates the proposed stewardship costs and but does not provide information on how the organization will secure and maintain an adequate stewardship fund.

SUMMARY

In a previous application submitted by MRT for this project, the evaluation noted that uncertainty regarding the hydrologic impacts of needed restoration on neighboring properties, and therefore the potential to achieve restoration, rendered the application premature. In this application, TNC has partnered with MRT, who led a comprehensive feasibility study that answers the questions posed in the previous evaluation and determined that restoration of tidal wetlands is feasible at the site. Opportunities for tidal restoration at this scale are rare and worthy of OWEB investment. TNC has been a leader in tidal restoration on the Oregon Coast and MRT has extensive habitat restoration experience. If the project is funded, it will be important for TNC and MRT to clearly delineate the roles of each organization in a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the proposed restoration.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the Board award \$923,673 pending receipt of \$490,000 in Coastal Wetlands funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, or, if the Coastal Wetlands application is unsuccessful, receipt of secured match funds from another eligible source, for the project in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with TNC to finalize project-specific conditions, which will be provided to the Board at its October 2021 meeting.

**221-9900-19489 Oak Creek Preserve
Funding Conditions****Initial Funding Conditions:**

The following Initial Funding Conditions must be satisfied before OWEB will review due diligence items or reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above or the Secondary Funding Conditions below.

- A. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- B. Grantee obtains confirmation from the City of Corvallis that the Transportation System Plan road described in the Property appraisal will not be constructed on the Property. If Grantee determines, and OWEB agrees, that such confirmation cannot be obtained, Grantee demonstrates, to OWEB's satisfaction, that the risk of the road being constructed on the Property is negligible.
- C. Grantee clarifies intentions regarding the Property's agricultural rental agreement dated November 1, 2020 and confirms that: i) the agreement will not be terminated before the end of the term specified in the agreement; and ii) if the term of the agreement is extended, the Owner will subsequently terminate the agreement only in consultation with OWEB and in a manner that does not result in Uniform Relocation Act compliance concerns.
- D. Grantee describes its rationale for the expected rate of return on the Property stewardship fund, including the performance of Grantee's existing stewardship funds.
- E. Grantee completes a staff workload analysis of restoration and long-term stewardship for the Property. The analysis must demonstrate that Grantee has the capacity to add the Project to its operating budget and the existing workload of its staff.

Secondary Funding Conditions:

OWEB will review due diligence items and reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above and the following Secondary Funding Conditions only after Grantee has satisfied the Initial Funding Conditions above.

- A. Grantee obtains OWEB's approval on all significant project documents prior to signature, including, but not limited to the warranty deed.
- B. If Grantee's due diligence will entail any ground disturbing activities, Grantee completes a consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office prior to undertaking the activities.
- C. Grantee maps (where possible) and analyzes the exceptions in the preliminary title report (PTR) for the Property, including Exceptions 8-14 contained in the PTR submitted with the grant application. The analysis must demonstrate, to OWEB's satisfaction, that the encumbrances that are expected to remain in the title insurance policy pertain to the Property and will not materially affect Grantee's ability to restore and protect the Property's Conservation Values.
- D. Grantee works with the title company to prevent Exception 15 of the PTR from being included in the title policy for the Property.

**221-9900-19489 Oak Creek Preserve
Funding Conditions**

- E. Grantee confirms with the Office of the Secretary of State that it does not have any financing statements on file for the Property.
- F. Grantee obtains: i) OWEB's approval on the scope of work for the Property's boundary survey prior to signing a contract with the surveyor; and ii) OWEB's review and approval of the draft survey.
- G. Grantee confirms completion of fundraising for the Property's stewardship fund at or before Closing.
- H. Grantee agrees that the management plan required by OWEB's standard form conservation easement will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - i. Removal of all grazing-related infrastructure and debris from the Property in a manner that minimizes impacts to water courses and other sensitive areas.
 - ii. A detailed plan and schedule for restoration of the Property, including obtaining all permits and consultations required by law.
 - iii. A chemical/pesticide use plan that accounts for the intended public use of the Property.
 - iv. A detailed plan for intended recreational use of the Property, including:
 - a. An infrastructure development plan that minimizes impacts to the Property's Conservation Values, including any revisions of the draft trail plan determined to be necessary to minimize impacts;
 - b. A monitoring plan that includes a minimum of quarterly inspections of the Property, and adequate staffing, funding, and actions to detect and respond to impacts to the Property's Conservation Values, including but not limited to public use impacts;
 - c. An adaptive management plan for responding to impacts to the Property's Conservation Values, including but not limited to restricting recreational access to the Property as necessary to protect the Conservation Values;
 - d. A communications plan for ensuring that the public is aware of recreational use restrictions; and
 - e. Safeguards for protecting minors while interacting with Grantee and while on the Property without Grantee oversight.
 - v. Steps for reviewing, and if necessary updating, the management plan every five years in accordance with OWEB's management plan guidance.
- I. Grantee agrees that the Project Progress Report will include but not be limited to a log of Grantee's quarterly Property inspections and a description of the actions Grantee took to resolve any Property impacts documented in the inspections.

**221-9901-19497 Mt. Ashland
Funding Conditions**

Initial Funding Conditions:

The following Initial Funding Conditions must be satisfied before OWEB will review due diligence items or reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above or the Secondary Funding Conditions below.

- A. Grantee agrees that: (i) the level of timber harvest described in the management plan outline submitted with the Grant Application will not be included in the management plan required by OWEB's standard form conservation easement; and (ii) forest management actions on the Property, including but not limited to the level of timber harvest, will be informed by goals for protecting and enhancing the Property's Conservation Values and not by unrelated considerations such as revenue generation.
- B. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- C. Grantee completes a budgetary and staff workload analysis of stewardship for the Property, including maintenance activities and travel time. The analysis must demonstrate that Grantee has the capacity to add the Project to its operating budget and the existing workload of its staff.
- D. Grantee clarifies its plan for securing an adequate stewardship fund for the Property, including: i) the amount of funds that will be secured; ii) the source of the funds; iii) confirmation that the stewardship fund will generate adequate interest to pay for annual stewardship costs including maintenance activities; iv) the rationale for the expected rate of return on the stewardship fund, including the performance of Grantee's existing stewardship funds; and v) confirmation that the stewardship fund will be secured by the Closing Date or a specific date shortly thereafter.
- E. Grantee provides an explanation for, and receives OWEB approval of, the assignment of easements the grant application indicates will be completed as a work element of the Project.
- F. Grantee confirms with the U.S. Forest Service ("USFS") that it will accept fee title ownership of the Tolman parcel encumbered with the OWEB-required title restriction that ensures the property will be protected and managed for the purpose of maintaining or restoring watersheds and habitat for native fish or wildlife. If USFS will not accept the Tolman parcel encumbered by the title restriction, Grantee retains ownership of the Tolman parcel or does not use the property as Match.
- G. Grantee obtains OWEB and seller approval of the warranty deed.

Secondary Funding Conditions

OWEB will review due diligence items and reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above and the following Secondary Funding Conditions only after Grantee has satisfied the Initial Funding Conditions above.

- A. Grantee obtains OWEB's approval on all significant Project documents prior to signature.

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- B. Grantee obtains an appraisal update that complies with OWEB’s appraisal guidance and establishes discrete values for the Property and for the Tolman parcel if it will be used as Match.
- C. Grantee maps (where possible) and analyzes the exceptions in the preliminary title report (PTR) submitted with the Grant Application, including Exceptions 10, and 14 – 21. The analysis must demonstrate, to OWEB’s satisfaction, that the encumbrances that are expected to remain in the title insurance policy pertain to the Property and will not materially affect Grantee’s ability to protect the Property’s Conservation Values.
- D. Grantee removes title exceptions that do not pertain to the Property including, but not necessarily limited to, Exception 23 in the PTR.
- E. Grantee works with the title company to document and insure legal access to the Property and remove Exceptions 12 and 13 from the PTR.
- F. Grantee works with the title company to prevent an “unrecorded leases” exception from being included in the title policy for the Property, using a seller affidavit, if needed, to satisfy this condition.
- G. Grantee confirms with the Office of the Secretary of State that it does not have any financing statements on file for the Property.
- H. Grantee obtains an updated Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA). The ESA must distinguish the Property from any other property in the report, including but not limited to clearly depicting the Property boundary on maps.
- I. Grantee agrees that the management plan required by OWEB’s standard form conservation easement will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - i. A detailed plan and schedule for forest management actions that protect and enhance the Property’s Conservation Values, including accelerating the restoration of late-seral forest conditions.
 - ii. A written analysis establishing that the forest management actions, including but not limited to the planned level of timber harvest, will protect and enhance the Property’s Conservation Values as required by Secondary Funding Condition I(i).
 - iii. Review and confirmation of the appropriateness of the forest management actions and analysis by a knowledgeable independent party approved by OWEB.
 - iv. Adaptive management actions that will appropriately account for the Property’s changing ecological conditions over time.
 - v. A detailed plan and schedule for routine maintenance of the Property, including but not limited to weed surveys, mapping, and control.
 - vi. A plan to monitor, maintain, and where feasible, decommission, the Property’s roads to prevent erosion and other impacts to the Property’s Conservation Values.
 - vii. A plan for any public use of the Property, including:
 - a. A commitment of staffing and funding necessary to inform and monitor use activities for the purpose of preventing impacts to the Property’s Conservation Values; and
 - b. A chemical/pesticide use plan that accounts for the intended public use of the Property.

**221-9901-19497 Mt. Ashland
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- viii. Plans for construction of any low-impact lodging or other structures on the Property.
- ix. Steps for reviewing and, if necessary, updating the management plan at least once every five years in accordance with OWEB's management plan guidance.
- x. A plan for addressing the legal rights of others to cross the Property (e.g., monitoring and enforcement of easement and maintenance agreement terms and conditions).

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Initial Funding Conditions:

The following Initial Funding Conditions must be satisfied before OWEB will review due diligence items or reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above or the Secondary Funding Conditions below.

- A. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- B. Grantee submits a MRT workload analysis for restoration and stewardship of the Property, including but not limited to travel time and routine maintenance activities. The analysis must demonstrate that MRT's staff have the capacity to add the Project to their existing workload.
- C. Grantee submits a plan from MRT for securing an adequate stewardship fund for the Property, including: i) the amount of funds that will be secured; ii) the source of the funds; iii) confirmation that the stewardship fund will generate adequate interest to pay for the annual stewardship costs described in the Grant Application; iv) the rationale for the expected rate of return on the stewardship fund, including the performance of MRT's existing stewardship funds; and v) confirmation that the stewardship fund will be secured by the Closing Date or a specific date shortly thereafter.
- D. Grantee submits a statement from MRT that clarifies its intention to own the property permanently. The statement must acknowledge in writing that any future transfer of ownership from MRT to another party: i) will be conducted under OAR 695-045-0210 and OWEB's established procedures for property transfers; ii) must be determined by OWEB to be sound; iii) must include a determination by OWEB that the proposed owner has the capacity to own and manage the Property in a manner that is consistent with the Project Purpose; and iv) will include any restrictions or conditions determined by OWEB to be necessary to maintain its interest in the Property if the Property is transferred to a tribe.
- E. Grantee provides written confirmation from the holder(s) of the Property's utility easements that it is willing to cooperate in relocating or burying the utility lines built on the Property or, Grantee demonstrates to OWEB's satisfaction that relocating or burying the utility lines is not necessary to accomplish the restoration described in the Grant Application.
- F. Grantee provides written confirmation from the holder(s) of the Property's utility easements that it does not intend to exercise other rights, if any, to install utilities on the Property. If the holder(s) of the Property's utility easements indicate that certain title or survey work must be completed before they provide such confirmation, this funding condition will become a Secondary Funding Condition and Grantee will prioritize the work necessary to obtain the required confirmation.
- G. Grantee provides written confirmation from all adjacent property owners, including all parties known by Grantee to have rights to use access roads on the Property, that they support the restoration described in the Grant Application, including road relocation, if any, necessary to accomplish the restoration. If title or survey work determines that additional parties have rights to use access roads on the Property, Grantee will, upon

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completion of the title and survey work, provide written confirmation that the additional parties support the restoration described in the Grant Application, including road relocation, if any, necessary to accomplish the restoration.

- H. Grantee clarifies with the seller of the Property that an appraisal will be prepared in compliance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions (UASFLA) and amends the Property purchase agreement to include this information and the precise purchase price when it has been determined.
- I. Grantee describes the process, requirements, and timeline for accomplishing the lot line adjustment or partition that is necessary to separate the Property from property being retained by the seller, and keeps OWEB informed of developments.

Secondary Funding Conditions

OWEB will review due diligence items and reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above and the following Secondary Funding Conditions only after Grantee has satisfied the Initial Funding Conditions above.

- A. Grantee obtains OWEB's approval on all significant project documents prior to signature, including, but not limited to the partnership agreement, survey, warranty deeds, access easement for the parcel retained by the seller, and any road maintenance agreements.
- B. Grantee enters into a binding partnership agreement with MRT that clearly delineates the acquisition, restoration and stewardship roles and responsibilities of the parties.
- C. 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 and its successors to certain Project outcomes required by USFWS in exchange for National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant Program ("Coastal Wetlands") funds.
- D. Grantee signs, and obtains MRT's signature on, an OWEB-prepared conveyance agreement for the purpose of authorizing the transfer of the Property from Grantee to MRT and committing MRT to ongoing obligations under the OWEB Grant Agreement.
- E. Grantee agrees, and obtains MRT's agreement, to meet all Coastal Wetlands funding and reporting requirements.
- F. If Grantee purchases the Property prior to the release of the Grant Funds, Grantee: i) complies with Secondary Funding Condition A; and ii) agrees that it will not transfer the Property to MRT until OWEB is ready to release the Grant Funds, at which point Grantee will grant OWEB a conservation easement prepared by OWEB, record the NOFP, and convey the property to MRT.
- G. Grantee obtains the services of a professional land surveyor to: i) determine whether the survey of the property completed in 1999 aligns with the legal description in the PTR; and ii) prepare a survey necessary for the seller-retained parcel.
- H. Grantee obtains: i) OWEB's approval on the scope of work for the survey prior to signing a contract with the surveyor; and ii) OWEB's review and approval of the draft survey.
- I. Grantee provides OWEB with a copy of the adjoining landowner map referenced in the Grant Application.

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- J. Grantee addresses the following items included in the preliminary title report (PTR) submitted with the Grant Application:
- i. Grantee ensures that taxes (Exceptions 7-13) are paid at Closing;
 - ii. Grantee works with the title company to remove the mobile home exception (Exception 14) from the PTR if a mobile home is not present on the Property;
 - iii. Grantee provides OWEB with MRT's plan for future property tax payments, including how it will not incur tax penalties from changed use of the Property (Exception 15);
 - iv. Grantee analyzes, and maps where possible, the rights of the public and governmental bodies to the Property (Exceptions 16 and 18), including government and public rights to areas of the Property that will be below the highwater mark after completion of the restoration described in the Grant Application;
 - v. Grantee maps (where possible) and analyzes Exceptions 19 – 22. The analysis must demonstrate, to OWEB's satisfaction, that the encumbrances that are expected to remain in the title insurance policy will not materially affect MRT's ability to complete the restoration described in the Grant Application and protect the Property's Conservation Values;
 - vi. Grantee determines which title encumbrance(s) will provide access to Grantee and MRT as owners of the Property and confirms the sufficiency of the access to OWEB's satisfaction.
 - vii. Grantee: i) maps and analyzes all existing rights of other parties to access the Property, including Exceptions 23-26; ii) provides OWEB with a copy of the legal agreement pertaining to the bridge over the North Fork Siuslaw River and any other access documents that may be unrecorded; iii) seeks the termination of any access easements that are no longer needed; and iv) demonstrates to OWEB's satisfaction that the rights of access will not materially affect MRT's ability to complete the restoration described in the Grant Application and protect the Property's Conservation Values;
 - viii. Grantee ensures the deed of trust and its modification are removed from the Property's title at or before Closing (Exception 27);
 - ix. Grantee works with the title company to prevent an unrecorded leases or periodic tenancies exception (Exception 28) from being included in the title policies for the Property, using a seller affidavit, if needed, to satisfy this condition; and
 - x. Grantee confirms with the Office of the Secretary of State that it does not have any financing statements on file for the Property.
- K. Grantee provides OWEB with a PTR that pertains only to the Property after the intended lot line adjustment or partition is complete and addresses any items in the PTR that are of concern to OWEB.
- L. Grantee provides OWEB with a draft of the access document that will benefit the parcel being retained by the seller. The terms and conditions of the access document must be

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Funding Conditions**

clearly consistent with the protection and restoration of the Property's Conservation Values and should address shared maintenance costs.

- M. Grantee obtains proforma title insurance policies that are acceptable to OWEB and obtains insurance for Grantee and MRT consistent with the policies.
- N. Grantee prepares baseline inventory documentation that includes, among other items required by OWEB, a description of future restored conditions on the Property that reflect the restoration described in the Grant Application including high-quality tidal wetlands to the maximum extent feasible ("Description of Restored Conditions").
- O. Grantee agrees that the management plan required by OWEB's standard form conservation easement will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - i. A detailed plan and schedule for restoring the Property to conditions that are consistent with the Description of Restored Conditions.
 - ii. A detailed plan and schedule for routine maintenance of the Property, including but not limited to road maintenance and weed control.
 - iii. A plan for any public use of the Property, including:
 - a. A commitment of staffing and funding necessary to inform and monitor use activities for the purpose of preventing impacts to the Property's Conservation Values; and
 - b. A chemical/pesticide use plan that accounts for use of the Property by the public.
 - iv. A plan for addressing the legal rights of others to use the Property (e.g., monitoring and enforcement of access and maintenance agreement terms and conditions).
 - v. Steps for reviewing and updating the management plan at least every five years in accordance with OWEB's management plan guidance.



Agenda Item J supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 6: Coordinated Monitoring and Shared Learning.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – *Telling the Restoration Story* Grants Update
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Telling the Restoration Story is a targeted grant offering that helps OWEB and grantees better communicate the ecological outcomes of restoration funded by the agency. At the October 2021 board meeting, staff will share information about Horsetail Creek restoration to learn what emerged from the board's investment in that effort. This is an information item.

II. Background

Telling the Restoration Story grants support compilation, analysis, and/or interpretation of existing data from a watershed restoration project or projects, and production of outreach materials that describe outcomes from that work. Outreach products aim to reach a broad audience, including board members and legislators. Grantees also identify specific audiences, so the materials developed can be used to communicate with landowners, restoration practitioners, and natural resource managers working to restore similar landscapes in Oregon.

Nine projects have been completed under this offering so far. An [online map](#) provides short summaries and links to completed products as they become available. Additional information is available on OWEB's [Highlighted Projects webpage](#).

III. *Telling the Restoration Story*: Horsetail Creek Restoration

Horsetail Creek is a small tributary of the lower Columbia River, located eight miles downstream of Bonneville Dam within the U.S. Forest Service's Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area lands. Horsetail, and nearby Oneonta, creek had problems due to the creation of a gravel pit turned pond during the construction of Interstate 84 (I-84). Oneonta Creek's flow was diverted through the pond, raising its water temperature to at/above the temperature of the Columbia mainstem. The culvert connecting Horsetail Creek to the Columbia River under I-84 was impassable to fish at a variety of stream flows. Instream habitat complexity in the creek was low and lacked beneficial riparian vegetation.

The Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration Project Phase 1 was undertaken by Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) in 2013. A second phase of restoration was recently initiated, and a third phase of restoration is now in the planning process. Restoration activities focused on

improving fish access to the site, increasing the quality and quantity of instream habitat, restoring riparian vegetation, and reunifying Oneonta Creek to its natural course along the floodplain. Restoration activities in the Horsetail Creek floodplain are helping to maintain summer site water temperatures below levels that can be dangerous to salmonids, in contrast to the Columbia River mainstem where summer temperatures often exceed these levels.

With *Telling the Restoration Story* funds, LCEP was able to compile, analyze and report the existing water temperature and fish monitoring data to create a technical report that includes conclusions and recommendations for future monitoring efforts. The resulting outreach products were highlighted on the LCEP website and through other community communications.

Telling the Restoration Story products for Horsetail Creek Restoration include 1) a GIS Story Map describing the historic impacts to the creek and the subsequent restoration efforts, including a summary of monitoring results; 2) a technical report including additional detail about methodologies and data collected (see Attachment A); and 3) a short video summarizing the restoration project, monitoring results, and plans for future restoration efforts.

The technical report is available at [OWEB's highlighted projects page](#). GIS story map is available online at [Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration](#) and the short video is available at: [Horsetail Creek Restoration Project](#).

More information about this project and the LCEP is available on the [project website](#).

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachment

A. Executive Summary: Water Temperature and Fish Monitoring Summary Report

Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration: Water Temperature and Fish Monitoring Summary Report



Technical Contact: Sneha Rao
Research Scientist
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Executive Summary

The Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration Project was undertaken by Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership in 2013 in partnership with the US Forest Service Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and Oregon Department of Transportation, and with funding from Bonneville Power Administration, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, US Forest Service, Oregon Community Foundation and East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. The Horsetail Creek floodplain had undergone severe anthropogenic modifications throughout the past century (Figure 3) which had negatively impacted ecological functions at the site. Several studies in the Lower Columbia indicate that this site is frequently used by Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmon, lamprey and other non-salmonid species as migration and rearing habitat. Restoration activities were focused on:

- Improving access to the site for all life stages of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead and lamprey over a wide range of hydrologic conditions by modifying passage through a highway culvert.
- Increasing the diversity, quality, and quantity of instream habitat by adding large wood structures.
- Reducing stream temperatures by restoring riparian habitats and eliminating the diversion of Oneonta Creek through the gravel pond.

The project was the first phase of a multi-phased restoration project. Restoration activities included restoring the historic alignment of Oneonta Creek (Figure 2), converting an existing gravel pond into an emergent wetland with a network of open water channels, and adding native vegetation and large woody debris to improve habitat complexity. The culvert beneath I-84 was also modified to improve fish and lamprey passage (Figure 4). This report presents findings of pre- and post-restoration temperature and fish use monitoring at the site undertaken to determine the effectiveness of the restoration project. The goal of this summary to provide a brief overview of the study and results.

Stream temperature

We collected hourly water temperature data by deploying Hobo dataloggers at seven monitoring stations (Figure 5) at the Horsetail Creek restoration site from 2010 and 2014-2016 and again between 2018 and 2019. Loggers were placed at stream junctions to evaluate the temperature influence of various flow inputs, at the beginning and ends of stream reaches to evaluate heating through these sections, and in the gravel pond/wetland complex. No temperature data was collected in 2017 as the site was inaccessible due to high water levels throughout most of the summer of that year. 7-day average daily maximum (7-DADM) temperatures were calculated for each monitoring station between June to September or over the available time-period. These were summarized as yearly maximum and average 7-DADM temperatures.

Pre-restoration monitoring data are very limited. Due to this and other factors discussed below, the results of our study into whether restoration actions were effective at cooling site temperatures are inconclusive. Pre-restoration monitoring was performed in one year only, 2010, whose summer months were notably cooler and wetter relative to both historical conditions and post-construction monitoring years. Post-restoration 7-DADM summer water temperatures at the site were seen to frequently exceed 16°C, an optimal temperature threshold defined by both Oregon and Washington state water quality

standards (Core Coldwater Habitat: [OR DEG Water Quality Standard Implementation IMD, April 2008, Table 3-2](#); Core Summer Salmonid Habitat: [Washington Administrative Code 173-201A-210, Table 200 \(1\)\(c\)](#)), for all years monitored. We observed the highest post-restoration summer water temperatures in 2015 and 2019, and the lowest in 2016. In 2014, 2015, and 2019, 7-DADM water temperatures throughout the site frequently exceeded the adult migration and juvenile rearing temperature threshold of 18°C (same standards as cited above for OR and WA) throughout the summer. When summer ambient air temperature and precipitation data were compared to site water temperatures, we observed that while the ambient air conditions varied widely on a year-to-year basis, water temperatures at the site remained within a narrower range (12.7°C – 20°C), suggesting that the resiliency of the site may be improving. The native vegetation planting and large wood placements helped encourage beaver activity and improve habitat quality. Post-restoration monitoring indicates that Oneonta Creek was successfully realigned during construction and while average summer water temperatures remain within a constant range (12.7°C – 20°C), it is expected that temperatures throughout the site will decrease as plantings mature. Restoration activities in the Horsetail Creek floodplain may also be helping to maintain summer site water temperatures below levels that can be dangerous to salmonids, in contrast to the Columbia River mainstem where summer temperatures often exceed these levels.

While the study was able to determine the general summer water temperature characteristics of the site after restoration, several questions remain unanswered and certain patterns observed at some of the monitoring stations could not be resolved. To assess the complete temperature evolution of the site since restoration, year-round temperature and flow data are required. However, temperature data is available only for the summer (June–September) for most monitoring years and flow measurements were made only instantaneously between 2010 and 2014–2016. These measurements do not allow us to draw conclusions on the current flow patterns of the site, which are ever changing due to increased beaver activity after restoration. The study also does not consider the effect of several groundwater seeps that were discovered during restoration and year one post-restoration monitoring.

It is recommended that future monitoring efforts include regular flow measurements at the monitoring stations and collection of year-round temperature and water surface elevation data to provide an in-depth analysis of temperature reduction efforts. A comprehensive study will help in understanding other potential areas for future restoration at the site and provide insight into thermal assessments for potential cold water refugia in the area.

Fish Monitoring

We collected fish presence data for five years post-restoration (2014–2019) using a passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag detection system installed at both ends of the culvert that carries Horsetail and Oneonta creeks beneath I-84, installed after construction in 2013 (Figure 8). Each year the array was operational from late March or April to October or November.

Salmon from throughout the Columbia River Basin were detected at the Horsetail PIT array. Chinook salmon were the most numerous species detected of juvenile fish and coho were the most numerous species detected of adult/jacks. The mid-Columbia Basin was the origin of the largest number of PIT tagged salmon detected at Horsetail. Juvenile residence times were relatively short with most lasting

less than one day and in most cases less than one minute. However, steelhead, spring/summer run and fall run Chinook showed greater variability in residence times with several fish residing five or more days. For adult/jack salmon detected at the Horsetail array, residence times did not have the same range as for juveniles. Coho salmon had the longest residence times with a maximum of 18 days followed by steelhead with a maximum of 12 days. Residence times were impacted by whether salmon successfully navigated the culvert. Combining juveniles and adults, the median residence time for salmon that did not pass the culvert was 5 minutes, whereas the median residence time for salmon that did pass the culvert was 33 hours. In summary, juvenile and adult salmon have the potential to access and benefit from the cold water refugia at the Horsetail Creek restoration site. Whether a salmon can access the site depends on the time of year and water levels, as the culvert may block access during times of low water levels.



Kate Brown, Governor



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WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item K supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 1: Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – 2019-2021 Oregon Plan Biennial Report: Update and Approval of Board Recommendations
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update about the agency's development of the 2019-2021 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The board will be asked to approve recommendations to include in the report, which will be submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office by January 15, 2022.

II. Background

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. The report must address each drainage basin in the state and include information about watershed and habitat conditions, voluntary restoration activities, board investments, and recommendations from the board for enhancing effectiveness of the Oregon Plan, among other topics. Attachment A provides the executive summary of the 2017-2019 biennial report, including the board recommendations. Staff are currently working with partner agencies in developing the content to be included in the biennial report.

III. OWEB Board Recommendations

The board has developed a robust committee structure over the past two years. Staff have been working with the board climate, water, focused investments, and monitoring committees to each develop one brief theme to include in the board recommendations piece of the biennial report. The theme on diversity, equity, and inclusion was addressed by the board coordinating committee, which is composed of the co-chairs and the chairs of the other committees. The themes developed by each committee are included in Attachment B for full board consideration at the October meeting.

Upon board approval of theme content, staff will work with the co-chairs on weaving together the themes and the final text for inclusion in the 2019-2021 biennial report.

IV. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the recommendations found in Attachment B for inclusion in the 2019-2021 Biennial Report for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

Attachments

A. 2017-2019 Oregon Plan Biennial Report Executive Summary

B. Proposed Committee Themes for the 2019-2021 Oregon Plan Biennial Report



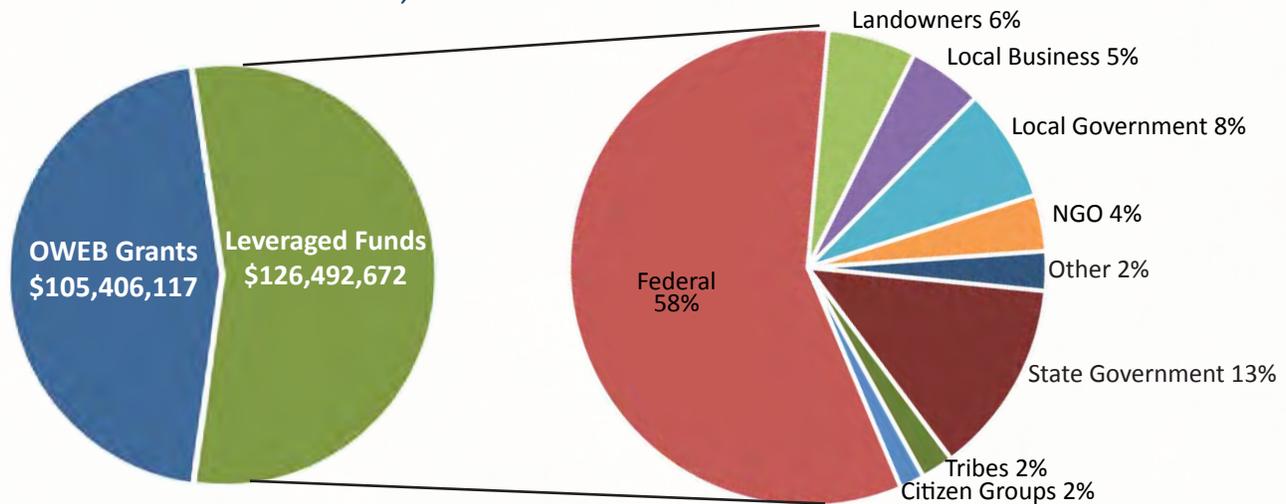
2017-2019 BIENNIAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

Since 1997, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds has provided a framework for grass-roots stewardship enhancing water quality and restoring habitat for the state's native fish and wildlife. The Oregon Plan supports diverse local economies and enriches communities through local, voluntary restoration.

The Oregon Plan Biennial Report describes activities implemented under the plan for the 2017-2019 biennium (per Oregon Revised Statute 541.972). This Executive Summary highlights key investments and accomplishments; coordinated actions among Oregon Plan partners; and recommendations from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). The full report can be found online (<https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Documents/OPSW-BR-2017-19.aspx>) and includes specific information about each of the fifteen Oregon Plan Reporting Basins. Additional examples of quantified restoration success are available through OWEB's new grant offering, Telling the Restoration Story (<https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7bc381f4422944778431a65f2b9b7fd6>).

OWEB Awarded Grants, 2017-2019



Grants awarded by OWEB, the amount of matching funds leveraged by grant participants, and the percentage of leveraged funds contributed by different partners (from 7/1/17 through 6/30/19).

Watershed Metric	OWRI	BLM	USFS	Total
Riparian Miles (e.g., streamside plantings)	291	36	189	517
Instream Habitat Miles (e.g., wood placement)	89	56	114.5	260
Miles of Fish Habitat Made Accessible	86	36	198	320
Stream Crossings Improved for Fish Passage	62	22	62	146
Push-up Dams Retired to Improve Fish Passage	4	-	-	4
Fish Screens Installed on Water Diversions	37	-	-	37
Upland Acres (e.g., juniper thinning, seeding)	71,196	3,049	-	74,245
Wetland Acres (e.g., wetland habitat created)	1,325	-	1,244	2,569
Miles of Road Closures and Decommissionings	11	5	47.2	64
Miles of Road Improvements (e.g., erosion control)	37	8	59.3	134
Miles of Riparian Invasive Treatments	291.2	-	-	291

Watershed restoration activities completed from 1/1/17 to 12/31/18 as reported to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI), maintained by OWEB; U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and U.S. Forest Service (USFS).



2017-2019 Investments and Accomplishments

During the 2017-2019 biennium, OWEB invested over \$105 million for watershed enhancement projects throughout the state. This total includes funding from the Oregon Lottery, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, salmon license plate revenues, and other sources. These dollars leverage significant funding that is provided by other agencies and partner organizations, increasing the impact of OWEB funding. Oregon Plan partners include landowners, non-profit organizations, local businesses, tribes, and all levels of government.

Coordinated Agency Actions

Collaboration is the heart of the Oregon Plan, and coordinated efforts across the state's natural resources agencies continued throughout the 2017-2019 biennium. Highlights include:

- ◆ Launching Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision, an ambitious approach to prepare a secure, safe, and resilient water future for all Oregonians
- ◆ Updating Oregon's climate change adaptation framework
- ◆ Implementing the Greater Sage-Grouse Action Plan
- ◆ Addressing challenges with tide gates along the coast
- ◆ Identifying efficiencies in water monitoring through interagency teams

OWEB Board Recommendations

Oregonians have chosen to permanently invest in healthy watersheds, which allow local partners to test bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds. In 2018, the OWEB Board adopted a strategic plan that celebrates all that OWEB and its partners have accomplished over the past twenty years, and sets a course for the next ten. OWEB's investments support non-profits, tribal nations, local governments, universities, and others to work with farmers, ranchers, forestland owners, and local contractors to provide clean water for Oregonians and healthy habitat for our fish and wildlife and benefits to local economies.

Looking ahead to the next ten years, the board recommends focusing efforts on strategic priorities:

- ◆ Working with partners we will continue to 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 landowner access to funding and technical support for conservation on their lands.
- ◆ 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 grants.



Proposed Committee Themes for the 2019-2021 Oregon Plan Biennial Report

Focused Investments Committee Theme:

Large-scale conservation efforts implemented by high performing partnerships are vital to addressing the various environmental challenges impacting our watersheds. The Focused Investment Partnership program is unique in Oregon, as it funds restoration at a landscape-scale for multiple years. Long-term restoration investments in communities also may have impacts beyond environmental, and further monitoring may explore the socio-economic benefits of landscape restoration.

Monitoring Committee Theme:

Collaborative monitoring and shared learning continue to inform watershed restoration. Climate change and wildfires pose new challenges and opportunities for those that study the science behind these issues, and for the restoration practitioners implementing projects in a changing world. It is critical for experts to share and translate knowledge in a manner that benefits all communities, as they work to address both long-standing restoration needs and emerging issues that face watershed restoration.

Water Committee Theme:

Cool, clean water and healthy forests, wetlands, riparian areas, streams, and estuaries provide essential natural processes that maintain and enhance water quality for fish and wildlife. These systems are fundamental to OWEB's Mission and the wellbeing of Oregonians. Through consultation with traditional and non-traditional partners, OWEB will encourage cross-agency decision-making in funding water projects, consider adopting ecological priorities related to water, identify investment gaps related to water quantity, water quality, and habitat, and promote natural infrastructure and processes as a critical focus of Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision and Oregon's update of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

DEI Theme (by Coordinating Committee):

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will be integrated throughout OWEB's operations and grant programs. Board and staff members will model diversity, equity, and inclusivity while ensuring that stakeholders and all potential partners are heard and engaged. OWEB will reach diverse audiences so that they are aware of the agency's grant programs, how they can participate, and to increase OWEB's understanding of the barriers to their participation. Within OWEB's granting programs, consideration needs to be given to how to incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice into how and where the agency provides grant funding.

Climate Committee Theme:

The impacts of climate change are being felt across Oregon. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is exploring how considerations associated with climate mitigation and climate-smart adaptation can be fully integrated into the agency's operations and grant-making. At the same time, it is vital to continue to provide stakeholders with the technical resources and guidance to view watershed conservation efforts through a climate-lens.



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Agenda Item L supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – Water Committee Objectives
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

As referenced in the water committee report, below are a set of objectives that the water committee has developed for board consideration as areas of focus for the committee moving forward. The committee recommends approval of these objectives, and requests the board designate the water committee as a standing committee to address these objectives.

II. Background

The water committee was established as an ad hoc committee at the October 2019 board meeting. The committee has met on a semi-quarterly basis since that time. The committee has developed a set of objectives for focus, and based on the long-term nature of the objectives, proposes to the board that the committee be moved from an ad hoc committee to a standing board committee.

Since the development of the committee, much of the work outlined in Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision was funded in the 2021 Legislative Session. This reinforces the need to have a standing committee that can engage with staff to ensure that OWEB's resources are appropriately reflected in conversations about Oregon's water future.

III. Objectives

Below are the objectives proposed for the water committee to tackle as a part of their work. These objectives may give rise to other important areas of focus as the state's water future conversations and Integrated Water Resources Strategy move forward.

- a. Providing encouragement to the state agencies to consider cross-agency decision-making structures when funding water projects.
- b. Providing examples of what the agency already does/funds that supports Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision.

- c. Thinking through whether the board might want to consider any ecological priorities related to water for project proposals based on input from the Vision.
- d. Identifying water investment gaps related to water quantity/habitat and water quality and how those gaps could be filled – either through OWEB funding or a different approach.
- e. Supporting the state’s update of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy and ensuring that both nature and natural infrastructure are top priorities for planning, investment, and management of the state’s water resources.

IV. Recommendation

The committee recommends the board approve the water committee as a standing committee and approve the set of objectives developed by the committee for future focus.



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Agenda Item M-1 supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Business Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M-1– DEI Discussion with OWEB Grantees
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

At the October meeting, board members will hear from OWEB grantees on their diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts. This is an informational item.

II. Background

Since the adoption of OWEB's strategic plan in June 2018, staff have been working to implement Priority #2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians. Strategy 2.1 is to listen and learn, which includes hearing from current grantees. At the October meeting, OWEB grantees will participate in a discussion with the board about their organizational DEI efforts and how they are incorporating these principles into their watershed conservation activities.

III. The Panelists

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will facilitate a discussion with Clinton Bagley, Executive Director, Long Tom Watershed Council and Kristen Larson, Executive Director, Luckiamute Watershed Council.

The panelists will provide a summary of the DEI efforts the councils have done with their staff and boards and how they are working to incorporate these practices into the activities they do in their watersheds.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item.



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Agenda Item M-2 supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Business Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M-2– Agency and Board DEI Updates
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the process to hire a consultant for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) work with board and staff and initiates a discussion with the board on the future status of the ad-hoc board DEI committee.

II. DEI Consultant for Board and Staff

In June 2021 staff posted a request for proposals (RFP) for a DEI consultant to work with staff and board. The RFP included the following tasks:

1. Develop and deliver DEI training and coaching for staff and board;
2. Guide board and staff in the development of an OWEB Equity Statement;
3. Develop recommendations for increasing engagement of under-represented communities in OWEB grant programs; and
4. Guide OWEB in development of equity lens for grant making.

Staff received 14 proposals in response to the RFP. Staff will update the board on the selection process at the October board meeting and discuss next steps.

III. Board DEI Committee

In October 2019 the board adopted a new committee structure including the creation of an ad-hoc DEI committee. With recent board member retirements this committee has been reduced to one board member. At the August coordinating committee meeting, members discussed the importance of this committee in relation to future work with the DEI contractor and its role in keeping DEI topics on board meeting and coordinating committee meeting agendas. The coordinating committee decided to recruit for membership of the DEI committee and recommended the board discuss making it a standing committee. Staff will initiate a discussion with the board in October.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item.



Agenda Item N supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan Priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Update about Climate Related Technical Resources
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will update the board about climate-related technical resources that were developed to assist applicants to OWEB grant types. This is an information item only.

II. Background

In response to growing interest in climate resilience, OWEB formed a Climate Committee in 2020. That same year, Governor Brown's Executive Order on Climate Action (20-04) directed state natural resources agencies, including OWEB, to implement climate-friendly practices and to account for the climate benefits resulting more clearly from their work. For example, OWEB funded projects contribute to carbon sequestration and adaptation, but these benefits currently are not quantified or described in detail.

The Climate Committee indicated their intent to help the board understand how effective restoration investments contribute to climate resilience, and potentially to ask the board to define climate goals for OWEB, in alignment with the agency's current Strategic Plan. The committee began by focusing on how to account for climate benefits more directly through OWEB's existing grant-making processes. To inform this work, the committee recommended the addition of several new questions to a subset of OWEB application types in the fall 2021 grant cycle (Attachment A). These questions are informational only and not used in project evaluation.

Staff compiled [Climate-Related Technical Resources](#) as a starting point to help applicants answer these questions. Many online planning tools have been developed by universities, governments, non-profits, and other organizations to bring together data about current and future climate impacts in searchable geographic format. The purpose of the Climate-Related Technical Resources document is to summarize information about climate impacts in Oregon and to provide some selected online climate planning tools.

III. Next steps

Following the fall 2021 Open Solicitation application deadline of November 1, staff will summarize information provided by applicants in their responses and provide this

information for consideration by the board. Information will also be summarized following the Spring 2022 Open Solicitation submissions.

Potential next steps for OWEB may include:

- Assess the climate benefits and begin to qualitatively understand emissions impacts of proposed restoration and conservation projects, as identified in applicants' responses.
- Consider adding new technical resources to an updated version of the document.
- Explore gaps in technical information needed to help applicants plan for climate impacts.
- Share and discuss the results with partners, applicants, and stakeholders.

While the questions added are informational only, the board may consider adding evaluative questions in the future, after necessary rulemaking processes. Ultimately, these steps will help OWEB more clearly demonstrate how its project activities contribute to climate resilience.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachment

A. Climate questions added to Fall 2021 OWEB applications

Climate questions added to Fall 2021 OWEB applications

The following questions were added to OWEB application types including Restoration; Water Acquisitions; Technical Assistance; Partnership Technical Assistance; Monitoring; and ODA Noxious Weed Grants.

Climate Considerations

OWEB is working with state agencies to comply with and implement Governor Brown's 2020 Executive Order on Climate Action (20-04). In addition, the OWEB board has indicated its intent to account for climate adaptation, mitigation, and co-benefits more directly in grant-making. To support these efforts, OWEB is beginning to gather information about climate impacts and proposed projects at the application stage and is providing a new Technical Resources document to assist applicants.

Your responses to these climate questions will be used for informational purposes only, not for project evaluation and ranking. OWEB will use the information to understand how project activities are already contributing to the state's climate goals, and to continue to develop technical resources for applicants. In the future, OWEB may refine and expand climate related questions and, after any necessary administrative rulemaking, use climate information as part of its grant evaluation process.

Briefly describe your understanding of how the characteristics and functions of the watershed where the proposed project will occur are anticipated to change due to climate impacts in the future. In particular, describe how species, habitat, and/or water quality variables relevant to the project site location are expected to be affected. (2000-character limit)

How have you accounted for these climate-impact considerations in your project planning, design, or implementation? Please describe briefly. (1000-character limit)

Are there any constraints on your ability to incorporate climate considerations into project planning? For example: Lack of information about climate impacts at the project planning scale; Gaps in understanding what nursery or seed stock to use given potential climate impacts; Gaps in accessing these stocks; Lack of methods to quantify climate benefits; Uncertainty about how to define a baseline for assessing potential change; Metrics for understanding climate resilience are not well-defined.

Yes

No

If Yes, then please briefly describe the specific constraints relevant to the proposed project activities (native species, habitat, water quality). (1000-character limit)

The State of Oregon is committed to identifying ways it can reduce impacts from harmful emissions. While the overall outcomes of OWEB funded projects may have many climate benefits, some necessary activities that occur during projects will result in increased emissions. To help us understand the current situation, please check all of the following that might apply to your project:

- Driving gas-powered automobiles, including trucks and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

- Operating gas-powered machinery other than automobiles (for example, chainsaws or other hand-held equipment)
- Operating gas-powered machinery larger than automobiles (for example, excavators)

Boats

Other

Please describe: (250-character limit)

Not applicable to project activities

Optional: Please explain (250-character limit)

Are you considering alternative approaches that could reduce emissions (e.g., use of electric chainsaws or motors)?

Yes

No

If Yes, Optional: Please explain (1000-character limit)

The following question was also added to the Restoration and Water Acquisition grant applications:

Climate benefits from OWEB project activities can broadly be categorized into three types: (1) Carbon sequestration benefits (2) Mitigation benefits and (3) Adaptation benefits. Project activities may offer multiple climate benefits. Please review these categories below, select all the apply, and provide specific examples where possible:

Carbon sequestration (Capturing, securing, and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere), including:

Sequestration benefits from habitats: Project activities that avoid natural habitat conversion, or increase plant biomass within the habitat area, may contribute sequestration benefits. Select any that apply:

Upland forest

Riparian

Grassland

Wetland

Estuary

Other habitat

Please describe: (250-character limit)

Sequestration benefit through fire management/fuels reduction. Activities that help manage fire frequency and severity will help provide sequestration benefits, because catastrophic wildfires reduce the sequestration potential of upland habitats.

Other sequestration benefit

Please describe: (500-character limit)

Mitigation through reduced emissions

Yes

No

Please describe climate mitigation benefit: (500-character limit)

Adaptation Benefits. Project activities may offer multiple climate adaptation benefits for species, habitats and communities, and there may be some overlap in the terminology used to describe these benefits. Check all that apply below and provide additional and more specific description if possible.

Fish passage

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Instream flow

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Irrigation efficiency

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Wildfire risk reduction

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Forest-health treatments

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Wildlife habitat connectivity

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Wetland/floodplain reconnection

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Water temperature mitigation through shading, removal of inline ponds or other action

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Protection or creation of cold-water refugia for aquatic species

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Aquifer recharge

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Drinking water security

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Food system resilience, including activities that maintain abundance of tribal first foods

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Other Benefit

Please describe: (25-character limit)



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Ken Fetcho, OWEB Tribal Liaison
Alli Miller, Portland State University, Master's of Public Policy Candidate
SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Results of OWEB's Assessment of Grant Practices' Impacts to Tribes
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the recent assessment that was completed to better understand how OWEB's grant practices impact federally recognized Tribes' ability to apply for and receive agency grants. At the October board meeting, staff, and our partner from Portland State University (PSU) for this project will present the quantitative results from an analysis of information from the OWEB Grant Management System (OGMS) and a qualitative analysis of subsequent interviews with Tribal staff. This presentation will summarize findings from this assessment, describe barriers for Tribes applying for and receiving OWEB funds, and recommendations from PSU about how OWEB may work with Tribes to address these barriers in the future.

II. Background

In July 2020, board members expressed interest in better understanding how OWEB can support federally recognized Tribes' ability to apply for and receive grant funding to meet their watershed enhancement goals and objectives. In response to this interest, staff initiated a partnership with a PSU graduate student to assist OWEB in performing a third-party review of its granting practices. Graduate student Alli Miller, a Master's of Public Policy Candidate from PSU, began work on this project in November 2020. OWEB's Tribal Liaison and former Executive Director assisted with project planning and support.

III. Assessment Process and Findings

The assessment focused on three OWEB grant programs and considered the level of engagement in these offerings by each Tribe. The three grant programs examined are Open Solicitation (also known in OGMS as Regular), Small Grant, and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP). By looking at which Tribes participate in each grant program, we can better understand how they choose to engage in OWEB's different programs. Since each grant program has its own unique features and requirements to access OWEB grant funds,

it was important to consider participation and level of engagement in these three programs by different Tribes.

The first task was to query OGMS to quantify the following components:

- Tribe's success rate when applying for funds, compared to other applicants, such as watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts and universities.
- The number of grant applications that Tribes submitted as the applicant.
- The number of grant applications that Tribes partnered on but were not the applicant.

Following this quantitative analysis, Tribal staff who are familiar with OWEB grant programs were interviewed by the PSU student to ask more detailed questions about OWEB's grant practices. The intent of these interviews was to better understand if aspects of OWEB's grant-making may create a disadvantage for tribes when applying for or receiving OWEB funding.

Results from this assessment are summarized in Attachment A. The findings were developed directly from the quantitative analysis of OGMS and the qualitative assessment of shared themes from interviews conducted with staff from each of the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, as well as the Nez Perce Tribe, which also operates in the state. The report's appendix includes information from the interviews but does not attribute comments to individuals or Tribes to maintain confidentiality. Using these quantitative and qualitative findings, the PSU student developed recommendations that OWEB may use to address barriers identified through the assessment. The recommendations from the PSU student vary from relatively simple and straightforward to those that may include fiscal and/or legal considerations. An overview of the findings and recommendations will be presented at the October 2021 board meeting.

IV. Next Steps

Following presentation of the assessment results at the board meeting, staff will work with the board's coordinating committee to discuss the findings from the assessment and determine options for next steps.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachment

A. Granting Practices Impacts on Tribes Report

2021

Granting Practices Impacts to Tribes

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT
BOARD

ALLI MILLER, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY, MASTERS OF PUBLIC POLICY

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Executive Summary

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands, and natural areas. OWEB's primary focus when administering grants is to fund grant projects that restore, conserve, and sustain healthy watersheds that best serve all Oregonians. Effective and equitable grant-making is difficult to achieve and is an ongoing, ever-adapting process. The watershed ecosystems of the land that is now Oregon has been stewarded and cared for by Native Americans since time immemorial. As a state agency, OWEB is responsible for creating inclusive opportunities for the community to support their watersheds using the best available science supported by local knowledge and involving Tribes and stakeholders broadly and in partnership.

The staff who participated in this assessment and were interviewed from the ten federally recognized Tribes that are eligible for OWEB grants had positive feedback for OWEB's current granting practices. For most, OWEB was consistently meeting and exceeding expectations as a funding agency. Interviewees said, "OWEB's continuous improvement mentality is wonderful and we really appreciate it.", and, "Overall, I have been satisfied with OWEB as an agency, and appreciate their work and hope they continue to be clear and transparent."

While there was positive feedback and insightful data captured from OWEB's internal database in regards to OWEB's granting practices, there are still certain challenges and barriers facing Tribes.

Background

In 2018, OWEB's strategic plan asserted that their mission is "to help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies". One of the agency priorities used to achieve this mission is to have a "broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds". This priority complements one of the many principles that make up traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). TEK is part of the worldview that indigenous people and Native American Tribes have been practicing for millennia. This body of knowledge, practice, spiritual belief system is a way of understanding the environment that is passed down through generations via cultural transmission about the relationships between humans and non-humans within ecosystems.

Partnering with Tribes goes beyond justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives. OWEB's Tribal Policy "recognizes and respects the sovereign status of the Tribes and their respective authorities on reservation, Tribal, ceded lands and established usual and accustomed areas and their co-management authorities over certain resources on non-Tribal lands." Interest in this assessment is motivated by OWEB's ongoing commitment to this policy and the agency's recognition of the importance of equity, inclusion, diversity, and justice in natural resource management.

Legally, OWEB as a state agency is required to work with Tribes. In 1996 Executive Order 96-30, established a process for state agencies to "assist in resolving potential conflicts, maximize key inter-governmental relations, and enhance an exchange of ideas and resources for the greater

good of all of Oregon's citizens.” In 2001, the Oregon Legislature institutionalized this Executive Order by enacting SB 770 (ORS 182.162-168) to formalize the government-to-government relationship that exists between federally recognized Native American Tribes in Oregon and the State of Oregon. This bill mandates that state agencies develop and implement policies on tribal relations.

It is important that OWEB staff and board acknowledge the individual and unique circumstances each Tribe has as a sovereign nation. As sovereign nations, all Tribes’ have a key role in co-managing land and watershed stewardship and conservation with regional partners. Each Tribe that works with OWEB also differ in their internal capacity to oversee or implement grant projects, and these differences between Tribes can help OWEB understand how to improve their granting practices towards each Tribe. Some Tribes have protected Treaty Rights, rights that are guaranteed in the establishment of their reservations, access to resources, protected hunting and fishing rights, religious freedom, and other qualities inherent to a sovereign nation, while other Tribes do not. These differences impact the ways in which Tribes can access, use, develop, steward, and protect their traditional and culturally significant homelands.

Collaboration is a key component of natural resource and watershed management. OWEB recognizes that through harmonious partnerships and cooperation sustaining healthy and resilient watersheds can be possible.

This assessment intends to review the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)’s granting practices to understand if there are existing barriers that impact federally recognized Tribes’ ability to apply for and receive funds that meet their watershed enhancement goals and objectives.

Assessment Process and Findings

To approach this research, a new framework for understanding tribal engagement in OWEB grant programs was developed: The Tiers of Engagement Model. This model challenges the conventional understanding of grantee engagement. In the Tiers of Engagement Model, receiving grants directly is only one type of engagement. Tribes can engage with OWEB in the following ways: as a grant applicant and recipient, a grant partner, as a grant technical review team member, or some combination of these. The assessment focused on three OWEB grant programs and considered the level of engagement in these offerings by each Tribe. The three grant programs examined are Open Solicitation (also known in OGMS as Regular), Small Grant, and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP). Using the OWEB Grant Management System (OGMS) database, every single grant on the systems dating back as far as 1996 through March 2021 was analyzed.

The data showed that Tribes as an aggregate have a success rate greater than the mean success rate between all grantee types for the Open Solicitation grant program. Watershed Councils, Soil and Watershed Conservation Districts, and Tribes all have a 66% success rate. The average success rate for OWEB grant applications across all grantees is 65%. Counties have submitted the same number of applications as Tribes (83) and have a slightly lower success rate (64%),

while Universities have submitted 68 applications and have a 57% success rate when applying for Open Solicitation grants.

When looking at the data in OGMS it became apparent that there are drastic and distinct differences between which grant programs Tribes chose to pursue OWEB funding. It is critical to not consolidate all ten of the Tribes into one entity. Some Tribes have not applied for any OWEB grants directly. There are some Tribes who have only applied for Small Grants, and there are Tribes who have been involved in FIPs and Tribes that have not. By looking at the OGMS data alone, it is difficult to determine if barriers are coming from OWEB grant practices because of the differences between how each Tribe pursues grant funding. Review teams offer another way for Tribes to engage with OWEB grants. All Tribes participate on Small Grant review teams and some Tribes participate in FIP and Open Solicitation technical review teams. Therefore, additional information was needed to better understand the differences between the Tribes to explain why some Tribes engage more frequently with OWEB than other Tribes.

This realization led to the development of a qualitative data collection component. Tribal staff who are familiar with OWEB grant programs were interviewed to ask more detailed questions about OWEB's grant practices. The intent of these interviews was to better understand if aspects of OWEB's grant-making may create a disadvantage for tribes when applying for or receiving OWEB funding and to learn if there are any recommendations to address them.

The report's appendix includes responses from the interviews but does not attribute comments to individuals or Tribes to maintain confidentiality. Interviews with Tribes offered insight into how Tribes manage internal capacity capabilities, strategize about how they pursue grant funding, manage regional partnerships, utilize other funding resources, and the importance of history and geography.

Key themes that emerged from the interviews included the following:

- **Quantity is not an indicator of grant practices quality.** Infrequent engagement as a lead applicant is not indicative of barriers within OWEB's granting practices. Tribes are more selective about the frequency with which they apply for grant funding.
- **Each Tribe is selective about the type of OWEB grant they pursue.** The process to apply for and receive OWEB grants can be rigorous with stringent requirements. For Tribes with a smaller staff, this additional work is challenging to complete, and because the grant process is competitive, there is no guarantee that the time and effort put into the application will deliver a desirable outcome.
- **Each Tribe is selective about the source of funding they pursue.** The overall consensus is that even if they are not utilizing OWEB funds directly, OWEB funding impacts the funding field available for watershed enhancement projects and helps Tribes collaborate on larger projects with more partners. As describe by one of the interviewees, *"OWEB funds work to complement federal or BPA funding and OWEB funding helps to increase the scale and scope of projects."*
- **Strategize first, then find grant funding- it's primarily about location.** Strategy alignment, relationship to existing work, tribal leadership prioritization, and timing are common factors for pursuing a grant program and project. This is usually predetermined

by each Tribe's government or council's strategic direction and priorities. One interviewee responded, *"I would say the majority of project proposals are not opportunistic."*

- **Collaboration rather than competition.** Many interviewees expressed that by limiting their applications for OWEB grants, they create opportunities for their partners and other organizations to pursue a much-needed funding source without creating competition. All Tribes are represented in engaging and accessing OWEB grant funds when taking a closer look at the partners involved in Open Solicitation grant projects. One interviewee stated, *"We feel OWEB is one of the more progressive state agencies. Yes, we feel involved in other organizations' projects funded by OWEB and we think other organizations reach out to work with us. Our region's projects are strong and well-developed because we are selective about which grant applications are submitted to OWEB."*
- **Resilient partnerships develop through reciprocity and early engagement.** There have also been some partnerships that can feel forced or mandated due to the partner's efforts to push for justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI), but the JEDI push has helped keep Tribes involved. Most Tribes said that they do not feel as though they are regarded as a second thought or hindrance to projects, their partners respect and appreciate the knowledge and information they have. Participants in the interviews, felt as though the Tribes have a considerable influence in their region, and the overall consensus is that efforts to improve JEDI have been astoundingly beneficial for each Tribe.
- **Time, effort, and organizational capacity is needed to apply for OWEB grants.** Partners that Tribes collaborate with on OWEB funded projects often have more time and infrastructure devoted to grant-writing than they do. Interviewees believed tribal contribution comes in the form of technical expertise, setting overall strategic goals, writing letters of support, and reviewing and improving existing grant applications.
- **Influence and oversight as powerful ways to shape projects and goals.** Each of the interviewees considers their physical and spiritual connection to a project location, and their Tribes' capability to successfully executive deliverables within a project scope. Interviewees said that there are times where the best organization to carry out the work is not them, and they will work to support another organization's leadership if their strengths are best suited for implementing the project.
- **History and geography matter.** The ceded lands and retained rights from treaties are binding, but often difficult for non-tribal partners to grasp and comprehend the significance of these treaties and the importance of the Tribes' spiritual and moral commitment to care for the water, land, plants, and animals. Tribes have to educate landowners, organizations, state and federal agencies about their historical claims to ceded lands, clarify their reserved and protected rights, and ensure minimum instream flows. It can be difficult to ensure that Tribes are included in areas where they are not always physically present.
- **The impact of termination.** The impacts of The Western Oregon Termination Act are visible in the data. Tribes that went through termination and restoration of federal

recognition faced difficulties that have altered their Tribes' internal capacity to execute natural resource management. Many of these Tribes, in addition to losing federal recognition, lost access and control of their treaty protected lands and access to their ceded lands and reserved treaty rights including where they were allowed to gather foods, hunt, fish, and access water. During the time between losing federal status and regaining it, many Tribes either sold their land to help their economies or their land was once again taken, making their current land base noncontiguous.

- **Geography can lead to differences in available funding opportunities.** Due to various funding opportunities, Tribes with land within the Columbia River Basin have access to additional funding sources helping to enhance their Tribes' influence in their region. Additionally, there are Tribes closer to public lands and are able to co-manage watershed projects with federal agencies and these opportunities lead to consistent partnerships and project continuity. One interviewee commented that, "Along the Columbia River using a combination of OWEB and BPA funding ensures projects can be well managed and well executed. OWEB funds are a significant help. They help to scale and enhance the scope of projects."
- **Resource distribution and regional population impact potential for watershed management.** Tribes within largely populated areas have unique watershed challenges when it comes to finding the space to accomplish project work as well as potential contamination and pollution. While Tribes in more rural parts of the state may have difficulties recruiting or retaining qualified staff, but they also have closer access to public lands managed by Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service or other federal or state agencies.

Challenges and Barriers

The interviews also provided Tribes the opportunity to describe challenges and barriers they face when applying for or pursuing OWEB grants. The following challenges and barriers were collated based on their feedback:

1. Some Tribes are hesitant to pursue land acquisition grants for habitat protection because of language in OWEB conservation easements.
2. Match funding requirements can be challenging and burdensome to meet.
3. There is confusion and uncertainty about applying the federally negotiated indirect rate to estimate grant administration expenses when developing budgets in grant applications.
4. Reporting on projects that are jointly funded by OWEB and Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) can be confusing and cumbersome.
5. There are Measure 76 requirements that have not been well articulated to Tribes, and it can be difficult to get a complete and accurate understanding of the State's constitutional requirements and definitions of what can and cannot be funded regarding natural resource management and cultural preservation.

Recommendations

Recommendations to improve OWEB's granting practices emerged from these interviews and fell into four broad categories:

Administrative

- Clarify eligible expenses included in grant funds and clarify that staff time is allowed to be included in grants.
- Incorporate tribal participation in evaluation and project ranking criteria.
- Include project ranking criteria that is meaningful to the Tribes and honors tribal knowledge and expertise
- Increase the amount of funds that can be requested in the Small Grant Program.

Communication

- Host and fund more opportunities for staff from both Tribes and OWEB at all levels to connect and have discussions together at annual meetings.
- Pursue opportunities to help OWEB staff and review team members be aware there are locations that hold significance to multiple Tribes.
- Reflect upon and recognize the impacts of history and geography on federally recognized Tribes' strategic plans.
- Utilize OWEB's position, influence, and resources to discuss re-occurring natural resources and watershed issues that are important to Tribes with other state agencies.
- Provide regular communication with OWEB staff and Tribes to discuss grant program eligibility and application timelines.
- Look to other states for ideas about innovative ways of offering grants.

Legal

- Make a portion of the grant funds available specifically for Tribes.
- Provide funding opportunities specifically encouraging the use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge to help revive and continue cultural connection to specific locations.
- Include language in the grant agreements that is specific for Tribes to make it easier for Tribal council and leadership to confidently sign the agreement.

Capacity

- Provide grant writing training for the Tribes specifically or pay for staff to attend training sessions on grant writing and using specific systems like OGMS.
- Provide staff from Tribes additional time to work with their leadership to approve grant applications before being submitted.

Opportunities for Future Investigation

Throughout this project additional ideas surfaced that were outside the scope of this project and were not pursued. Below is a list of recommendations for additional opportunities to investigate in the future:

- Develop a place in the grant application to identify a tribal partner on a project so it can be easily queried in the database.
- Examine match, both cash and in-kind, that Tribes contribute to OWEB grants to better understand how Tribes participate as partners on grants that other grantees manage.
- Further explore the discrepancies of tribal participation in OWEB grant programs to understand how they are related to capacity of all partners and how that varies across OWEB's six regions.

Acknowledgments

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I also want to extend my sincerest gratitude to the staff from the federally recognized Tribes who took time from their busy schedules to speak with me at the request of a funding agency. There is already a complicated power dynamic between potential funders and those who receive funding, and this potentially fraught situation does not go unnoticed. The information gained during these interviews is the foundation of the assessment, without which the findings and recommendations could not have been possible.

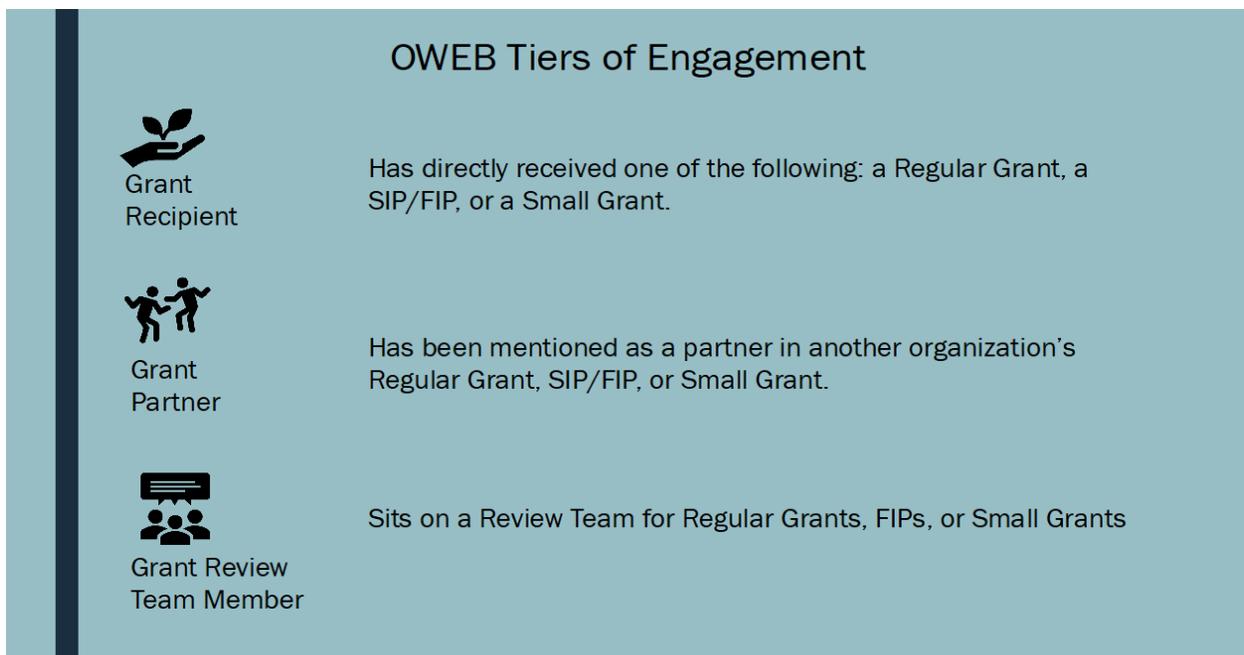
I appreciate everyone who participated in these interviews: Roselynn Lwyena, Brandy Humphreys, Lawrence Schwabe, Lindsay McClary, Stan Van de Wetering, Margaret Corvi, Jason Robison, Kelly Coates, Travis Mackie, Helena Linnell, Darin Jarnaghan, Kathryn Frenyea, Emmitt Taylor, Carter Crouch, Jason Fenton, Amy Charette, Scott Turo, Mike Lambert, Allen Childs, and Mark Buettner. Each of you provided valuable information for this assessment, but I personally learned and grew through my conversations with you all. Thank you. Additionally, several people I interviewed went above and beyond in sending me more detailed insights and additional resources after we spoke. I also want to recognize the folks who provided their edits, comments, and feedback when reviewing the draft report. To these individuals, thank you, I am so grateful for the help you provided.

Introduction

This assessment intends to review the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)'s granting practices to understand if there are existing barriers that impact federally recognized Tribes' ability to apply for and receive funds that meet their watershed enhancement goals and objectives.

To help guide this research, three broad categories of tribal engagement with OWEB grants have been identified:

1. Tribes directly receiving an OWEB grant as the primary applicant.
 - a. OWEB grants are further categorized into Open Solicitation (also known in OGMS as Regular), Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) previously known as Special Investment Partnerships (SIPs), and Small Grants.
2. Tribes specifically mentioned as a contributing partner on another organization's grant project.
3. Tribes participating on a technical review team that reviews and makes recommendations regarding grant applications.



By looking at how Tribes participate in each of the various opportunities OWEB offers, OWEB can identify and learn how each Tribe participates in their program. Additionally, representatives from the Tribes can participate on grant review teams for each grant program, offering the Tribes an opportunity to influence and oversee their region's overall watershed restoration strategy.

Table 1. Tiers of Tribal engagement in OWEB grant programs and processes

Tiers of OWEB Engagement										
Tribes	OWEB Region	Received Open Solicitation Grant	Received FIP Grant	Participate in Partnership Technical Assistance (TA) Grant	Received Small Grant	Partner on Open Solicitation Grants	Partner on FIP Grants	Partner on Small Grants	Small Grant Review Team (currently)	FIP/Open Solicitation Grant Review Team Member (currently)
Burns Paiute Tribe	3, 4, 5, & 6	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, Siuslaw Indians	1 & 2			✓		✓			✓	
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	2,3,& 4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	1, 2, & 3	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	5 & 6	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	3, 4, & 6	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coquille Indian Tribe	2				✓	✓			✓	
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	2	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Nez Perce Tribe	5	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓
The Klamath Tribes	4	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
TOTAL		8	4	7	5	10	5	3	10	6

Purpose

Through this assessment, OWEB will be able to understand where there are leverage points in their grantmaking to be more inclusive of Tribes, how to better support tribal grant applications, and in what ways Tribes want to utilize OWEB funding to meet their overall watershed enhancement needs.

As a result of this assessment, the intentionality and strategy behind how federally recognized Tribes apply for funding are articulated and demonstrated.

Background

Agency Information

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency that provides grants towards the conservation, restoration, protection, and enhancement of Oregon’s natural areas, streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands to support local communities and economies. In 1996 Executive Order EO-96-30, established a process for state agencies to “assist in resolving potential conflicts, maximize key inter-governmental relations, and enhance an exchange of ideas and resources for the greater good of all of Oregon's citizens.” In 2001, the Oregon Legislature institutionalized this Executive Order by enacting SB 770 (ORS 182.162-168) to

formalize the government-to-government relationship that exists between federally recognized Native American Tribes in Oregon and the State of Oregon. This bill mandates that state agencies develop and implement policies on tribal relations. Agency managers and other staff who communicate with the Tribes are to be trained in tribal matters, participate in annual meetings, and prepare annual reports.

OWEB revised their Tribal Relations Policy in 2018 which “recognizes and respects the sovereign status of the Tribes and their respective authorities on reservation, Tribal, ceded lands and established usual and accustomed areas and their co-management authorities over certain resources on non- Tribal lands.” The interest in this assessment is motivated by OWEB’s ongoing commitment to this policy and the agency’s recognition of the importance of equity, inclusion, diversity, and justice in natural resource management.

Tribes Eligible for OWEB Grants

OWEB consults and engages with Oregon State’s nine federally recognized Tribes:

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

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

Assessment Approach

To better understand how to better serve and collaborate with Tribes, OWEB began in late 2020, the recruitment process of a third-party research coordinator to lead this assessment. A number of graduate student candidates from Portland State University were interviewed for this position. A successful candidate was selected to carry out this assessment and who is utilizing this research experience as part of the required capstone project for the Masters of Public Policy program. The qualifications of the selected candidate include: previous experience reviewing and managing philanthropic private foundation grants and other non-profit grants, a strong commitment towards supporting the development of policies that are more inclusive of indigenous voices, particularly in the policy arena of sustainable ecosystems and natural resource management. Also, the candidate is interested in better understanding how groups of people can work in cooperation to reach political compromise, ecosystem protection and conservation, and ensure that there is equity in the distribution of and access to natural resources.

Methods

Beginning in early 2021, Ken Fetcho, OWEB's Tribal Liaison, assisted in the development of a two-part research plan consisting of quantitative and qualitative assessments to gather and analyze granting data.

Quantitative Portion

The first part of the assessment utilized OWEB's Grant Management System (OGMS) to gather grantmaking data that counted the number of grants Tribes have participated in either as a lead applicant or as a partner. The data captured from OGMS spans from 1996 until March 2021.

This data was collected across all grantee types, different grant programs, and grant types. The assessment broadens the definitions of engagement to include the various ways Tribes can indirectly shape the stakeholder network through review team participation. Grant types refer to the specific nature of the proposed grant project and includes:

- Land Acquisition
- Monitoring
- Restoration
- Stakeholder Engagement (formerly known as Outreach)
- Technical Assistance
- Water Acquisition

Data Management and Analysis

The data gathered from OGMS was organized to follow the first two tiers of engagement identified in the introduction: grant recipient and grant partner. The quantitative portion did a deep dive into what grant programs Tribes apply for: Open Solicitation, FIP/SIP grants, or Small Grants.

To sort, organize, and analyze the data, Microsoft Excel was used to create a series of Pivot tables. The total number of grants Tribes submitted as lead for Open Solicitation Grants, FIP/SIP grants, and Small Grants were calculated and compared to the quantity of grants other types of OWEB grantees submitted. Part of the OGMS search involved the number of grants submitted by individual Tribes. To find information about partnerships, an OGMS search was conducted for the word "Tribes" in the summary field as a way to identify Tribes that were mentioned as a partner in another applicant's grant application. This information was tallied, and other Pivot tables analyzed the relationship between Tribes and types of grants.

The success rate for all grant applications was calculated by filtering the grant status across all grantee types. Grants that had a status listed in OGMS as complete, open, and monitoring, are considered to be successful, while grants that have a status of not awarded, withdrawn, cancelled, ineligible were considered to be unsuccessful. For some of the searches there were a small number of grants in the pending status and these were not counted as either successful or unsuccessful.

The number of times Tribes were mentioned in a grant project summary, and which Tribe was mentioned were disaggregated and calculated. It was during this process it became clear that level of Tribal participation and engagement with OWEB grants could not be extracted from just the OGMS database. Through interviews we learned more about how Tribes choose to participate and engage with OWEB funding opportunities. Indirect involvement with OWEB grants is difficult to capture in the current database, applicants and recipients do not have a universally standardized way of describing the work Tribes do before, during, and after a grant project. This was noticeable while reviewing data about contributing or match funds Tribes made towards grant projects. However, due to time limitations, matching funds that were contributed by Tribes was not quantified to describe additional projects where they were a contributing partner on a grant.

In addition to the quantitative data, qualitative data was collected in order to have a better, more accurate sense of how OWEB funding and grant practices impacts Tribes.

Qualitative Portion

In the qualitative component of the assessment, targeted questions were developed to allow OWEB staff and Tribes the opportunity to speak confidentially and openly about their experiences with OWEB grants, articulate the strategies and conditions that impact how they pursue grants, and allow Tribes the opportunity to offer suggestions on how OWEB can make improvements that will better support the Tribes. One-on-one interviews with OWEB staff and tribal staff were performed to better understand the following:

- if there is anything inherent in OWEB's granting practices (applicant eligibility, application review process, grant administration and reporting requirements) that creates a disadvantage for Tribes to receive OWEB funding
- the approach taken to decide if they should pursue OWEB funding
- if they prefer to be the lead applicant or partner with another organization when applying for OWEB funds.
- how the different OWEB grant program influences the decisions to participate based on the role the Tribes want to have (Open Solicitation grant, Small Grant and FIPs)
- additional administrative or technical obstacles that create barriers or challenges to apply for and receive OWEB funds.

Interviews were conducted either by Zoom meeting or phone call and lasted approximately one hour. From the interview notes, a number of themes and findings were developed. Dispersed throughout the report are quotes from the interviews with Tribal staff. The questions and the responses gathered from Tribes are outlined in the appendix. It is important to note that while the report's appendix includes information from the interviews it does not attribute comments to individuals or Tribes to maintain confidentiality.

Interviews with OWEB Staff

The first part of the qualitative portion of the assessment began with OWEB staff interviews. I spoke with OWEB staff who oversee Open Solicitation, FIP, and Small Grant programs.

The answers provided by OWEB staff contained invaluable information, and educated me about the terminology and language used in watershed management, foundational concepts in natural resource management, clarity around state specific and regional watershed concerns and goals, and provided me with an overview of the other types of project funding available for tribal governments, non-profits, local governments, and institutes for higher learning. From OWEB staff, I gained insight into possible and potential regional differences as well as learned how each grant program operates. These interviews served as a means to provide in-depth context around how the grant-making process at OWEB is conducted and gave me the chance to learn who would be the best point of contact from Tribes to speak with regarding OWEB grants.

Once the OWEB staff interviews were completed, I conducted interviews with the recommended contacts of people who work for the Tribes and are familiar with OWEB grants. For some Tribes I was able to speak with multiple staff whereas for others, I was only able to speak with one staff member. Speaking with staff from the Tribes provided a more complete understanding of how Tribes choose to engage with OWEB, rather than the focus of OWEB's granting practices impacting Tribes in a one-way manner, the answers I received from staff clarified how autonomous the Tribes are and how their participation and engagement with OWEB is deliberate and methodical.

Interviews with Staff from the Tribes

After receiving the contact information for various staff from the Tribes familiar with OWEB grants, I had all interviewees interested in participating sign a consent form as part of the Portland State University student research guidelines to ensure their responses would remain confidential and non-attributable. I also received permission from the interviewees to record the conversation before conducting the interview, allowing me the ability to listen to their responses and accurately document and capture their responses.

A PowerPoint displaying the Excel pivot tables and some early observational notes from the quantitative portion of the assessment were shared with Tribes prior to their interviews. This data helped to shape and direct the conversation. This information provided a framework allowing participants to understand the goals of this assessment and allow them the opportunity to share their thoughts and reflections on the data and use their experiences and the data to guide their responses.

To analyze the responses from Tribes, OWEB staff shared the training they received from Steve Patty Ph.D. and his consulting firm, Dialogues in Action, titled "Project Impact", to develop a technique for consolidating, categorizing, and interpreting the qualitative and quantitative data. This training is designed to help execute practical program evaluation strategy and design.



During each interview, all responses were documented. All respondents answered nine interview questions. After conducting the final interview, the responses for each question were organized by common trends, pervasive qualities, patterns, and differences. These answers were coded on a continuum of similarity and the answer themes that were most commonly expressed were considered significant. This data was mapped based on what from the data appeared to be significant, how issues were discussed, and why there are certain elements enhancing or preventing engagement with OWEB grants.

Listed in the Appendix of the report are the nine questions asked during the interviews and the summarized responses from each interviewee. These responses in the appendix have been randomized to ensure integrity and maintain confidentiality.



The response data was synthesized and sorted into technical, descriptive themes that unified respondents' answers for each question. The themes were generated based upon the dominant features, ideas, and patterns that emerged during the interviews. Themes are considered to be pervasive qualities that tend to permeate and unify situations and objects. However, the representatives from the various Tribes articulated and described their own experiences, which varied dramatically based on their Tribe's watershed management priorities, geographic location, and overall organizational capacity to carry out grant projects. It is important that OWEB staff and board acknowledge individual and unique circumstances each Tribes has as a sovereign nation. A range of two to six themes were developed for each of the questions in the qualitative assessment.



Themes were then synthesized into findings, going from a technical scientific description towards more evocative, memorable lessons, that OWEB staff and board will hopefully be able to utilize in their work moving forward.



The last phase involves incorporating the findings from this assessment into recommendations for OWEB to change or alter their granting practices, or hone in on specific findings and continue to investigate if these are leverage points to improve grant practices or what type of accommodations can be made to avoid, or minimize any difficulties that the Tribes described.

Results

The driving question behind this assessment is to see if there are specific challenges and barriers in OWEB's granting practices that disproportionately prevent Tribes from applying for and receiving grant funds. The first step in the evaluation was to see if there are any

discernable patterns, discrepancies, or irregularities with the amount of grants federally recognized Tribes receive through the OGMS grant database.

The findings below were developed directly from the data gathered from the OGMS database and the shared themes found across the interviews conducted with staff from each of the ten Tribes OWEB works with.

It is important to emphasize that each Tribe has their own perspective and their own unique relationship with OWEB. During this assessment, each tribe's unique thoughts were expressed and recorded accurately, and these results are categorized by similar ideas and themes. These similarities are noted within the findings described below, and they are intended to reflect the individual perspectives of the tribal staff interviewed. In the appendix, all interviewee responses have been documented, and are organized by question.

NOTE: All quotes used in this report came directly from the tribal interviewees and are not directly attributed to the individual or Tribe to retain confidentiality. These quotes are shared in this report to reinforce what was learned and can better articulate what was heard rather than summarizing their words.

Quantity is Not Necessarily an Indicator of Granting Practices Quality



Grant
Recipient

As part of OWEB's granting practices, all applications are reviewed in a highly competitive process that include a large field of eligible applicants: local governments, institutions for higher education, non-profit organizations, city, county and tribal governments. Combing through and analyzing the OGMS data did not reveal conclusive information about specific barriers that impacted

Tribes more than other grantee applicants. Instead, data showed that **Tribes as an aggregate entity have a success rate greater than the mean success rate between all grantee types for the Open Solicitation grant program (see table 2 below).**

- Success is defined as the status = complete, awarded, monitoring, open
- Not successful is defined as the status = cancelled, not awarded or withdrawn
- Watershed Councils, Soil and Watershed Conservation Districts, and Tribes all have a **66% success rate**
- The average success rate for OWEB grant applications is **65%**
- Counties have submitted the same number of applications as Tribes (83) and have a slightly lower success rate (64%)

Rather than viewing infrequent or less engagement as a lead applicant for grants to be indicative of barriers within OWEB's granting practices, it appears as though Tribes as grantees are more selective about the frequency with which they apply for grant funding. It is critical to not consolidate all ten of these Tribes into one entity. Each Tribe is a sovereign, indigenous nation with their own government, and their own strategies and plans for natural resource management and protecting and enhancing water ecosystems.

Table 2. Tribes' success rate when lead applicant for Open Solicitation Grants compared to other OWEB grantee types

Grantee	Complete	Funded	Monitoring	Open	Pending	Not Awarded	Withdrawn	Cancelled	Ineligible	Total Grant Applications	Successful Grants	Success Rate
City	45		11	4		39	6	3	1	109	60	55%
Corporation / Partnership	423	1	126	111	4	337	41	16	9	1068	661	62%
County	42		8	3		24	2	4		83	53	64%
Soil & Water Conservation Districts	945		101	119		542	22	44	3	1776	1165	66%
Special District	40		7	4		41	2	1		95	51	54%
Tribes	35		11	9		23	1	4		83	55	66%
University / School District	35		3	1		29				68	39	57%
Watershed Council	1599		159	288		1004	25	30	8	3113	2046	66%
Total	3164	1	426	538	4	2040	99	102	21	6395	4129	65%

From looking at this data alone it is difficult to say if barriers towards grants funds are coming from OWEB procedures and requirements. Therefore, using the information from this table, interviewees were asked to think of reasons why Tribes choose to participate or engage with OWEB with less frequency than other grantee types.

Each Tribe is Selective about the Type of OWEB Grants they Pursue

When considering the Tribes individually, there are very stark contrasts between the ten federally recognized Tribes OWEB works with regarding the number of applications submitted and the types of grant programs of interest to Tribes. Noticeably, there have not been any grants where the ***Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians*** or the ***Coquille Indian Nation*** were the lead applicant for an Open Solicitation grant because they have never applied to be the lead for these types of grants. The process for OWEB grants can be rigorous with stringent guidelines. For Tribes with a smaller staff, this additional work is challenging to complete, and because the grant process is competitive, there is no guarantee that the time and effort put into the application will deliver a desirable outcome and get awarded the grant.

Another pattern revealed while analyzing the OGMS data was that Tribes who have applied as the lead applicant for Small Grants are not applying as frequently for Open Solicitation grants, and the Tribes applying for open solicitation grants are not always the same that are applying for small grants, see tables 3 and 5. For example, the Coquille Indian Tribe did not apply as a lead applicant for Open Solicitation grants, but have applied for Small Grants and received that funding. The Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians have only received funding when applying as the lead applicant for Small Grants across all types of grant opportunities, as they were not successful when they applied once for an Open Solicitation Grant. Interestingly, all the Tribes that applied as the lead applicant for a FIP (formerly SIP) Grant, have also applied as a lead applicant for an Open Solicitation Grant, see tables 3 and 7, which may demonstrate a need for increased capacity to pursue these grants.

Technical assistance, monitoring and restoration are the most pursued grant types in the Open Solicitation Grant Program, see table 3. It is important to note that to date, none of the Tribes have applied for water acquisition or stakeholder engagement (formerly known as outreach) grants. Some interviewees noted that land acquisitions would be more appealing without conservation easements as that would provide Tribes more autonomy and self-determination to have the opportunity to convert this land from “fee” to “trust” status with the federal government.

Table 3. The number of Open Solicitation grant applications that Tribes have submitted as the lead applicant by grant type

Grantee	Type of Grant				Total
	Land Acquisition	Monitoring	Restoration	Technical Assistance	
Burns Paiute Tribe		1	4	2	7
Confederated Tribes Warm Springs		2	27	2	31
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	3		3	2	8
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	1	1	2	2	6
Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation		1	8	4	13
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians				1	1
Nez Perce Tribe		3	4	4	11
The Klamath Tribes	1	4	1		6
Grand Total	5	12	49	17	83

Based on the interviews some Tribes stated that Small Grants may not be worth the administrative requirements for limited funds, but these grants can be useful if there is a very specific project and no other funding available. Small Grants can be easier to handle and implement. A salient proposal from Tribes about the Small Grants program was to increase the amount of funding for this category so that it can be worthwhile for Tribes to apply to Small Grants to implement identified projects or supplement funding from other sources for restoration efforts.

Table 4. Grantee types as the lead applicant for Small Grants

Grantee Type	Cancelled	Complete	Monitoring	Open	Pending	Total
City		2				2
Corporation / Partnership	1	73		1		75
County		6				6
Landowner	6	392				398
Soil and Water Conservation District	160	1232	136	87	1	1617
Special District		10				10
Tribe		12		3		15
University / School District		7				7
Watershed Council	66	927	103	78		1174
Grand Total	234	2661	239	167	1	3304

Table 5. Specific Tribes that have applied for Small Grants as the lead applicant

Tribe	Complete	Open	Total
Burns Paiute Tribe	1		1
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	1	3	4
Coquille Indian Tribe	4		4
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	5		5
The Klamath Tribes	1		1
Grand Total	12	3	15

Conversely, Tribes noted that FIPs are attractive because of the size and scale of the projects and how great the impact can be. FIPs can be difficult to manage and have all the partners cooperate, but if facilitated correctly, they are a great funding opportunity. FIP grants can help to build engagement with stakeholders from the ground up.

Table 6. Grantee Types that have submitted applications as the lead applicant in a FIP/SIP

Grantee Type	Complete	Funded	Monitoring	Open	Not Awarded	Pending	Withdrawn	Cancelled	Total
City Corporation / Partnership	3			5				2	10
County	61	3	33	60		3	2	32	193
Individual Soil and Water Conservation District	1		1					1	3
Special District	13		9	38		1		5	66
Tribe	3			4		1		2	10
University / School District Watershed Council	1							1	2
	104	1	17	73	2	3		43	243
Grand Total	186	4	60	184	2	8	2	89	535

Table 7. Specific Tribes that have applied for a grant as the lead applicant in a FIP/SIP

Tribe	Cancelled	Complete	Open	Pending	Total
Confederated Tribes Warm Springs	1		3	1	5
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	1				1
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation			1		1
The Klamath Tribes		3			3
Grand Total	2	3	4	1	10

Each Tribe is Selective about the Source of Funding they Pursue

In both the quantitative and qualitative portions of the assessment, the emphasis of strategic, thoughtful, and deliberate funding strategies was emphasized. OWEB funding is pursued when it aligns with Tribes' strategic goals, if there are no other funding opportunities available, or if administrative capacities are not well-suited for pursuing OWEB grant funding. Federal funds and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funds that Tribes are eligible to receive are generally thought to be more consistent, less competitive, award larger dollar amounts, be less onerous, and these funds are more readily available for Tribes than OWEB funds.

All interviewees reported that OWEB funding fills a variety of important needs in the watershed restoration funding field, even if they are not directly applying to OWEB for grants.

Interviewees states that OWEB funding helps provide for match funds for larger projects. OWEB funding is critical towards supporting regional partnerships that Tribes enter by directly funding watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and other stakeholders. Interviewees believe OWEB funds supplement niche strategy goals especially when federal funding opportunities are tied to specific species, habitats, or geographic location.

Many interviewees felt that working with OWEB helps to establish relationships with private landowners, and allows for greater collaboration in the field with other watershed partners. OWEB is also one of the few non-federal grant programs available, which is important for ensuring that there are a variety of funding sources available to help with watershed enhancement projects across the state.

"OWEB funds work to complement federal or BPA funding and OWEB funding helps to increase the scale and scope of projects."

Tribes reported they often write letters of support for OWEB grant applications that their partners apply for and these grants allow for partners to be in ongoing communication with Tribes.

The overall consensus is that even if they are not utilizing OWEB funds directly, OWEB funding impacts the funding field available for watershed enhancement projects and helps Tribes collaborate on larger projects with more partners.

Strategize First, then Find Grant Funding - It's Primarily about Location

Between all participating Tribes the desire to be the lead applicant on a grant is dependent on where the project is located- if it is on tribal lands or if the area has a high cultural or historical significance to them, they will try to be the lead applicant. A fundamental factor in determining whether Tribes applied as lead applicant is dependent upon where the project is located. If the project is located on tribal land, ceded lands, or any land that has a particular cultural or spiritual significance to the Tribe, each Tribe will be the lead applicant and take on the administrative and technical work to oversee the project.

Another key factor is if the project has a high likelihood of success. Each Tribe has their own unique watershed enhancement strategic plans, goals, and priorities and if the project is critical to those pre-determined strategies, they will apply for the funding and the grant type that best suits their needs.

Other key factors that determine if a Tribe will be the lead applicant for an OWEB grant include:

- Staff time,
- Organizational capacity,
- Project fit,
- Direction from Tribal leadership,
- Species or groups of species involved,
- Ecosystem or habitat of intended project
- and the ability for smooth coordination between collaborators and partners

Throughout the state, Tribes participate with regional stakeholders to plan and conceptualize watershed enhancement framework, goals, and projects. Some Tribes lead these efforts to convene interested stakeholders and others mention actively being recruited to participate in regional planning efforts. Once this happens, different organizations determine and assign projects leads and supporting roles at this early stage of conception and strategy development.

"I would say the majority of project proposals are not opportunistic."

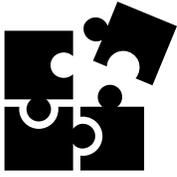
Strategy alignment, relationship to existing work, tribal leadership prioritization, and timing are common factors for pursuing a grant program and project, and this too is usually predetermined by each Tribe's government or council's strategic direction and priorities.

Collaboration Rather than Competition



Grant Partner

As part of the strategic grant-seeking approach, the staff working for the Tribes recognize that there are funding sources from federal agencies that better suit their needs and are less competitive. Interviewees stated that BPA funding, Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery (PCSRF) funds and other Tribe-specific grant opportunities are often more enticing, consistent, and the application process for these funds is not as onerous on Tribes. Therefore, many interviewees expressed that by limiting their applications for OWEB grants, they create opportunities for their partners and other organizations to pursue a much-needed funding source without creating competition. This allows for regional partners to plan out and align which proposed project ideas should seek out a particular funding source, creating a dynamic and interactive network of projects, partners, and funders.



“We feel OWEB is one of the more progressive state agencies. Yes, we feel involved in other organizations’ projects funded by OWEB and we think other organizations reach out to work with us. Our region’s projects are strong and well-developed because we are selective about which grant applications are submitted to OWEB.”

Another tier of engagement is reflected in how Tribes’ partner with other OWEB grantees. **All Tribes are represented in engaging and accessing OWEB grant funds when taking a closer look at the partners involved in grant projects.** Tribes are mentioned as partners on Open Solicitation grants, Small Grants, and FIP grants. There is full representation of all federally recognized Tribes eligible for OWEB grants when looking into the occurrences where Tribes are specifically mentioned in the Project Summary. However, there is a wide range in the number of grants each Tribe is mentioned.

Table 8. Grant applications where Tribes are listed as a partner in the project summary of another organization’s Open Solicitation Grant application

Tribes Mentioned as Partners	Count of Project ID
Burns Paiute Tribe	6
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	106
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians	18
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	16
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	22
Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation	44
Coquille Indian Tribe	4
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	4
Nez Perce Tribe	35
No Specific Tribe Named	14
The Klamath Tribes	11
Grand Total	280

Partnerships are essential in watershed and natural resource management, and strong collaboration and coordination between stakeholder and user groups are necessary for impactful projects. Generally, Tribes will encourage or support other partners to apply for OWEB funds for a variety of reasons. Responses from Tribes described that the applications

deadlines are hard to meet, the grant programs are highly competitive, and this is not guaranteed, and Tribes have limited staff capacity to prepare a competitive grant application. These funds increase engagement, involvement, and collaboration across their regions. OWEB funds encourage other organizations to reach out to Tribes earlier in the project development phase and it serves as an opportunity for Tribes to understand big picture projects happening in their region. OWEB applicants are required in the grant application to indicate when and how they plan to reach out to a partner on a project. This also provides Tribes the opportunity to teach their partners about the importance of cultural resources and culturally significant areas.

“There are very few funding sources outside of federal funds and BPA grants, so OWEB serves as such an asset to provide additional funds for partners like Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Councils. Plus, OWEB offers grants for certain opportunities that we might also be interested in and then we will apply for the grants directly.”

Resilient Partnerships Develop through Reciprocity and Early Engagement

Most Tribes responded they feel involved to some extent in OWEB projects and feel that other organizations reach out to include them. The engagement from partners works best when it occurs at the onset of a project idea, not part-way through implementation. Partnership engagement that is reciprocal works best. Other organizations need to support the Tribes in their region with their endeavors: offer letters of support, staff time, knowledge, and cash and in-kind match. These high-quality partnerships take time to develop. The ability to collaborate, and co-manage projects are related to being influential in the direction of their region’s watershed management plans.

Engagement can be a double-sided sword. Sometimes partners reach out too frequently and do not recognize that many of the Tribes do not have the capacity or ability to be highly involved in every project, but they also still appreciate being informed. Many Tribes that participated in the interviews felt that it could be difficult to convey to partners the spiritual or cultural meaning behind certain motivations or interests.

There have also been some partnerships that can feel forced or mandated due to the push for justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI), but the JEDI push has helped keep Tribes involved. From the responses during the interview process, most Tribes do not feel as though they are regarded as a second thought or hindrance to projects, but feels as though their partners respect and appreciate the knowledge and information they have. Participants in the interviews, felt as though the Tribes have a considerable influence in their region, and the overall consensus is that efforts to improve JEDI have been astoundingly beneficial for each Tribe.

Time, Effort, and Organizational Capacity is Needed to Apply for OWEB Grants

Applying for and managing grants can be time consuming. Many interviewees stated the partners they collaborate with on grant projects often have more time and infrastructure devoted to the act of grant-writing than their Tribe does. Interviewees said that partner

organizations have the resources and have staff dedicated to apply for and secure grant funds. Interviewees also felt that their project partners had the ability to apply and acquire the additional permits needed for large watershed restoration projects.

Interviewees believed their contribution to their partners comes in the form of technical expertise, setting overall strategic goals, writing letters of support, and reviewing and improving existing grant applications.

Influence and Oversight as Powerful Ways to Shape Projects and Goals



Grant Review Team Member

While speaking with staff from the Tribes, they enthusiastically felt their Tribe’s influence in their region came from their leadership and ability to review other grant proposals, applications, and work collaboratively with partners in an advisory role. There is full representation of all ten Tribes as part of the Small Grants Review Teams. This type of leadership allows each Tribe to offer their opinions, share their knowledge and expertise with others, and understand the full scope of their region’s shared water and ecosystem goals without having to be responsible for the day-to-day management.

Tribal participation is strongly promoted in OWEB’s administrative rules. For example, the Small Grant Program Oregon State Administrative Rules, 695-035-0020 (4), states that “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, and the Nez Perce Tribe, with reservation, tribal, ceded lands, or usual and accustom areas located partially or entirely within the Small Grant Area to appoint one representative to a Small Grant Team. Participation on a Team is voluntary.”

This advisory and consulting capability is seen as a more ubiquitous influence, and allows Tribes to engage with OWEB and other stakeholders in a more powerful way.

Many of the interviewees felt that their Tribe’s involvement in shaping ideas, guiding and directing regional goals, and agenda setting helped to off-set some of the limitations their Tribe may have in implementing projects such as limited staff capacity, a lack of financial resources to commit to projects, and other perceived hindrances.

“We are knowledgeable leaders in our region and help design, strategize, and prioritize region-wide projects. We review and oversee projects as well. It feels as though the tribal perspective is embedded across projects throughout the region.”

Building resilient and adaptive networks is tantamount for collective action and cooperation. Engagement with OWEB grants can be viewed in a more holistic manner, rather than solely seeing engagement with OWEB through the lens of applying directly for and receiving grants. Engagement is also linked to how OWEB helps facilitate partnerships and maximize resource distribution and access. After speaking with Tribes, each of the interviewees considers their

Tribes' positionality, meaning their Tribes physical and spiritual connection to the project location, and their Tribes' capability to successfully execute deliverables within a project scope. Interviewees said that there are times where the best organization to carry out the work is not them, and they will work to support another organization's leadership if their strengths are best suited for implementing the project.

By strengthening networks, working in partnerships, and considering their strengths and the strengths of their partners, each Tribe serves as regional leaders and conveners while strategically utilizing their funds and funding sources. There is an incentive towards allowing partners to access OWEB as a funding source and for Tribes to help oversee and contribute towards OWEB projects through writing letters of support and offering match contributions, technical assistance and expertise, and other types work.

This does not, however, eliminate OWEB's responsibility to proactively engage with Tribes and continue to improve internal grant making processes and change practices. There are still leverage points in OWEB's granting practice to be more inclusive of Tribes, and ensure that when Tribes submit grant proposals, they are competitive.

History and Geography Matter

The most predominant and pervasive theme from the interview discussions with Tribal staff was how critical it is that history and geography be considered in watershed and natural resource management work. Environmental justice needs to be at the center of this work. The impact of history and geography is constantly being felt and is always relevant in the context of watershed management. The ceded lands and retained rights from the treaties are binding, but often difficult for non-tribal partners to grasp and comprehend the significance of these treaties and the importance of the Tribes' spiritual and moral commitment to care for the water, land, plants and animals. Treaties are not upheld if Tribes are unable to hunt, gather foods, and fish as specified in the treaties, which includes ensuring the ecosystems are supported and healthy in perpetuity.

The history of genocide and displacement is felt and acknowledged by all of the staff working for the ten Tribes eligible for OWEB grants. Many federally recognized Tribes are composed of different bands of people who were displaced and relocated. The genocide of indigenous people has led to a loss of cultural knowledge and connection to the places from where they originally came from. Place based trauma impacts how traditional ecological knowledge is practiced which directly affects conservation and protection.

Tribes have to educate landowners, organizations, state and federal agencies about their historical claims to ceded lands, clarify their reserved and protected rights, and ensure minimum instream flows. This justification can be an additional hurdle and impede field work and prevent projects being done on time. It can be difficult to ensure that Tribes are included in regions where they are not always physically present. There is a strong desire shared between respondents for their Tribe to have a pulse on key areas outside of reservation on ceded lands or just lands with historical significance.

Interviewees note that there has been improvement over the past several years to be more open-minded and understanding about cultural preservation, but it can still be difficult for

Tribes to convince partners to support land acquisitions or other types of water and land management for primarily cultural reasons rather than straightforward restoration and/or conservation.

Compared to other types of OWEB grantees, Tribes have an additional need for due diligence to inspect properties and land that falls outside of their immediate purview and require additional consultation during the grant proposal process to their Tribal councils and government leaders. While this is not necessarily a limitation for Tribes, many interviewees felt this aspect differentiated them from other grantee types and impacts the speed and manner Tribes implement watershed projects.

Part of the services Tribes offer their members, includes participating in cultural practices and events. People can be affiliated with multiple Tribes and be living all across the state and still need to access critical areas for cultural ceremonies and activities and the Tribes utilize and need resources to provide these members with access to particular places and overcome certain restrictions by federal, state or private owners. Many Tribes' historical and cultural heritage sites might span across jurisdictions adding complexity around the availability and ease of access. These additional responsibilities are not typical of other OWEB grantee types, such as watershed councils, but they are significant land management considerations interviewees stated directly impact their internal land management plans, budgets, and bandwidth to carry out other watershed management work.

The Impact of Termination

The ramifications of the Western Oregon Termination Act are ongoing and directly impact the ability of the Tribes that went through termination the ability to influence, manage, and steward lands. Several participants noted during the interview that the granting data that was shared with them was fascinating but not terribly surprising. When probed as to why this data was not revelatory, respondents noted that the impacts of The Western Oregon Termination Act are visible in the data. Tribes that went through termination and restoration of federal recognition faced difficulties that have altered their Tribes' internal capacity to execute natural resource management. Many of these Tribes, in addition to losing federal recognition, lost access and control of their treaty protected lands and access to their ceded lands and reserved treaty rights including where they were allowed to gather foods, hunt, fish, and access water. During the time between losing federal status and regaining it, many Tribes either sold their land to help their economies or their land was once again taken, making their current land base noncontiguous.

It is difficult to manage noncontiguous lands and have the same impact as watershed projects on contiguous lands. Within divided land parcels there may be upstream issues that can lead to more issues downstream and Tribes on noncontiguous land may be unable to access headwaters for conservation work. Termination of federal recognition left some Tribes without their reservation lands and had to gain them back, leading to burdensome controversies with private landowners or other federal entities when trying to hunt, fish, and gather foods in traditional and accustomed ways.

When working with Tribes, OWEB staff need to be aware that there are places that hold deep, spiritual connections for more than one Tribe. Boundaries regarding notable cultural places are not always clear. There are certain areas that hold significance to multiple Tribes and it is often difficult to agree on who gets to steward and manage watersheds in these regions. This knowledge can help ensure OWEB staff and review team members engage in conversations with Tribes across regions before awarding a grant to fund a project that may impact the management of a culturally significant site.

Geography Can Lead to Differences in Available Funding Opportunities

Due to various funding opportunities, Tribes with land along the Columbia River Basin have access to additional funding sources helping to enhance their Tribes' influence in their region. The Tribes who live in the Columbia River Basin have additional capacity because of BPA funding, in coastal basins, and other locations where there are salmon. Locations further away from the Columbia River Basin and areas without salmon runs are not able to access the same types of federal grants.

"Access to BPA dollars can be tricky, but through tributaries we can make it work, but due to the geographic boundaries it can be tricky to find funders for specific work"

"Along the Columbia River using a combination of OWEB and BPA funding ensures projects can be well managed and well executed. OWEB funds are a significant help. They help to scale and enhance the scope of projects."

Additionally, there are Tribes closer to public lands and are able to co-manage watershed projects with federal agencies and these opportunities lead to consistent partnerships and project continuity.

Resource Distribution and Regional Population Impact Potential for Watershed Management

The intersection of geography and history is felt regularly, but hard to capture through quantitative data. For some tribes their office location and field offices may be very far from area of cultural and historical significance because they are located on ceded lands. The drive time and capacity needed to properly oversee certain properties can be taxing on staff. Even though it is part of their cultural and historical territories, Tribes may not be able to directly manage those lands because of logistics.

Tribes within largely populated areas have unique watershed challenges when it comes to finding the space to accomplish project work as well as potential contamination and pollution, but with more people comes additional opportunities for partnerships, financial resources, and staffing availability. Tribes in more rural parts of the state may have difficulties recruiting or retaining qualified staff, having the financial resources available on hand to address complex issues, and encounter challenges with consumptive water or vegetation issues. Tribes in more rural regions have closer access to public lands managed by BLM, the National Forest Service or other federal or state agencies.

Opportunities for Future Investigation

While conducting the quantitative portion of this research, the tiers of engagement model challenged the conventional approach OWEB had for assessing their granting practices impacts on Tribes. In trying to gather data around ways the Tribes participate as partners, it was difficult to pull reports that showed partnerships; for example, details of the grant summaries were inconsistent. The word “Tribe” was sometimes mentioned in a project summary, but there was no specific Tribe listed as a partner. It was also challenging to query the OGMS database to find information regarding the frequency with which Tribes contribute or serve as a match for project funds.

Capturing this type of data could be useful for future research to see the partnerships formed within OWEB’s grantee network. Tracking the way partners write letters of support or match funds would allow there to be more data on how reciprocal the partnerships between organizations are. Additionally, OWEB could examine match, both cash and in-kind, and have this information documented on grants in OGMS so that the contributions Tribes make towards other grantee projects can be documented and this type of Tribal participation can be added as another tier of engagement.

Another avenue to explore around the discrepancies in tribal participation in OWEB grant programs would be to examine how Tribal capacity and other grantees’ capacity varies across each of the six OWEB regions.

Existing Barriers on Tribes’ Engagement with OWEB Grants

During the interview, when asked about specific barriers or challenges, interviewees expressed several concerns about where there are issues in OWEB’s current granting practices:

1. OWEB’s language used in conservation easements can hinder placing land from “fee” into federal “trust” status. Which would allow greater sovereign management of a parcel of land. This language can signal a lack of confidence towards the Tribes to manage these lands over the long term and can feel paternalistic. Tribes would like to access land acquisition funds for habitat protection without OWEB holding a conservation easement on those lands.
2. Match funding requirements can be challenging and burdensome to meet.
3. There is confusion and uncertainty about applying the federally negotiated indirect rate to estimate grant administration expenses when developing budgets in grant applications. Some Tribes are under the impression that federally negotiated indirect rates for Tribes are above what OWEB allows for grant agreements. OWEB can’t accept outdated indirect rates and it takes time for Tribes to negotiate a new indirect rate with the federal government, so many Tribes have an outdated indirect rate.
4. Reporting on OWEB, PCSRF, and ODFW funds can be confusing and cumbersome.
 - a. When issues have occurred, Tribes impacted by this dilemma felt that OWEB had unduly placed the responsibility onto Tribes to revise the reporting metrics despite Tribes not being aware of the specific reporting issues.

5. There are Measure 76 requirements that have not been well articulated to Tribes, and it can be difficult to get a complete and accurate understanding of the State's constitutional requirements and definitions of what can and cannot be funded regarding natural resource management and cultural preservation.
6. Staff from Tribes need additional time to work with their leadership. Interviewees are uncertain if OWEB staff factor this consideration into their work.

These six areas warrant additional investigation and ongoing conversation between OWEB and Tribal staff and leadership.

Recommendations from the Staff Working at the Tribes Eligible for Funding on Ways to Improve

Below are the most salient recommendations from the qualitative interviews with Tribes:



Administrative

- Clarify eligible expenses included in grant funds and clarify that staff time is allowed to be included in grants.
- Incorporate tribal participation in grant application evaluation and project ranking criteria.
- Include project ranking criteria that is meaningful to the Tribes and honors tribal knowledge and expertise.
- Increase the amount of funds that can be requested in the Small Grant Program.



Communication

- Host and fund more opportunities for staff from both Tribes and OWEB at all levels to connect and have discussions together at annual meetings.
- Pursue opportunities to help OWEB staff and review team members be aware there are locations that hold significance to multiple Tribes.
- Reflect upon and recognize the impacts of history and geography on federally recognized Tribes' strategic plans.
- Utilize OWEB's position, influence, and resources to discuss re-occurring natural resources and watershed issues that are important to Tribes with other state agencies.
- Provide regular communication with OWEB staff and Tribes to discuss grant program eligibility and application timelines.
- Look to other states for ideas about innovative ways of offering grants.



Legal

- Make a portion of the grant funds available specifically for Tribes
- Provide funding opportunities specifically encouraging the use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge to help revive and continue cultural connection to specific locations.
- Include language in the grant agreements that is specific for Tribes to make it easier for Tribal council and leadership to confidently sign the agreement.



Capacity

- Provide grant writing training for the Tribes specifically or pay for staff to attend training sessions on grant writing and using specific systems like OGMS.
- Provide staff from Tribes additional time to work with their leadership to approve grant applications before being submitted.

These recommendations provide ample opportunity for OWEB to consider how they might modify their granting practices to be more inclusive of Tribes. One to consider is the possibility of Tribe-specific grant opportunities. While speaking with staff from Tribes, many interviewees reiterated that the OWEB grant process is highly competitive. Tribes do not want to jeopardize partnerships with other organizations to pursue the same grant funding. Tribes with smaller staff felt pursuing OWEB grants was not the most effective use of their limited resources. As they could directly and indirectly benefit from allocating their time, knowledge, and resources elsewhere and better support their partners.

Interviewees felt that if OWEB were to evaluate and re-examine the laws and policies concerning conservation easements and Measure 76 funding limitations it would help to incentivize more participation from Tribes who are not capable or interested in navigating those legal hurdles. If the practice and implementation of these laws and policies cannot be changed, OWEB could provide at a minimum easy to access information listing how to best support Tribes encountering these challenges and work together closely to find a way to move forward on grants or projects.

Lastly, investigating possible solutions for match funding and federally indirect cost rate requirements could provide an opportunity for OWEB to be a more equitable funder. This is also an opportunity for OWEB to continue to discuss various federal reporting challenges and the best way to work around these reporting requirements.

Final Notes

Throughout the interviews, participants each expressed positive experiences working with OWEB and for staff that have been working in their position for many years. All noted that there have been improvements made over the years. They also noted that OWEB staff is accessible and available for conversations and questions.

“OWEB’s continuous improvement mentality is wonderful and we really appreciate it.”

“Overall, I have been satisfied with OWEB as an agency, and appreciate their work and hope they continue to be clear and transparent.”

Appendix

Below are the questions and responses from the interviews held with staff representatives from the ten Tribes who work with OWEB. All identifiers have been removed to ensure tribal anonymity. All responses will remain anonymous to as part of a confidentiality agreement established with all participants, and any information that would identify either a specific person or Tribe has been redacted. It is important to clarify that each of the ten Tribes interviewed is unique in their watershed restoration management and while similarities have been organized together to develop the themes and guide the results, the goal of this assessment is not to group each Tribe together, this assessment recognizes that no one Tribe can speak for another.

Question 1- How would you characterize your Tribe's and other Tribes' influence in your region?

Tribe	Responses (summarized)
1.	I think our influence is pretty extensive, it is important that you understand the history and there is a significant impact if you are part of a treaty tribe vs an executive order tribe. Treaty Tribes have protected access to ceded lands to practice traditional ceremonies and hunt and gather in usual and accustomed manners. The reservation and the ceded lands offer us to have influence over this region and there is a lot of collaboration between partners in this area. Being along the Columbia River we are eligible to access to BPA which helps us do large scale restoration work with partners. There are lots of partnerships in the region with districts and councils.
2.	I would say we are influential because we focus on land restoration. We have a long history of managing and stewarding these lands, but the loss of federal recognition impacted our ability to manage the land and access parts of the watershed. We have regained the rights from the original treaty, but it can be difficult to ensure it is upheld and honored. We have reservation lands where our influence is the greatest and we are once again present on the ceded lands and with the re-recognition many partners and other leaders are becoming more and more aware of the knowledge we have and our influence has grown.
3.	The Tribes are an influential partner with land and water management in this basin. We co-manage and work closely with the federal government on federal lands, we receive federal grants that allow this work to move forward. The Tribe was terminated but has since been restored and treaty rights are recognized, this has been hard to overcome but overtime we have developed strong partnerships.
4.	Our influence can be seen in the quality of our partnerships and committee involvements. We work closely with the watershed districts. We are knowledgeable leaders in our region and help design, strategize, and prioritize region-wide projects. We review and oversee projects as well. It feels as though the tribal perspective is embedded across projects throughout the region.

5.	I think the Tribe has a huge influence, especially on the reservation and the ceded lands. The Tribe's historical territory is throughout the Columbia Basin. I also feel as though the Tribe is heavily involved in partnership projects, not just collaborating, but helping to shape ideas early on. We are also part of review teams.
6.	The first treaty reduced the land base followed by another treaty that also diminished and reduced the Tribes' land, but now there is a process to submit claims and access exclusive use area and retain the fishing and hunting rights outlined in the original treaty. The Tribe has a strong partnership with the Forest Service and have a strong influence as co-managers with lots of partners and other Tribes.
7.	The Tribes have ancestral territory in a basin that is not near our reservation, where we are allowed to oversee and help with managing the area by sitting on boards and through strong partnerships with others in the field like NGOs, federal and state agencies. We get to do work in two basins that are very important for cultural reasons.
8.	We always have a seat at the table when it is time to plan upcoming projects, but we can't always take advantage of that offer. We rely on our partners to keep us aware of things that are happening when we can't be there, but our influence in the region is really strong, it is just we can't always be the ones doing the work.
9.	When the tribe was terminated, our influence in the was small and so was our department of natural resources. Our ancestral lands overlap with other Tribes and when many bands of other Tribes were being re-located, they became part of our nation so there are many folks who have historical ties to land on the other side of the state. We have strong ties to a basin that is not part of our reservation and we have noncontiguous lands which make our influence dispersed, and we rely on our partners to keep us included in the regions where we are not always physically present for, and the partners do an excellent job. Our treaty rights were not consistently recognized for many years, we were terminated and there were issues with restoration of our rights, but we are working to become more active in the region. We have done incredible work and have a lot of knowledge and people in our region respect what we have to say and the direction we may want certain projects to go in.
10.	We have lots of watershed partners and I would say that we are influential in the region along with other Tribes. Culture is so important to how the land is managed. Water is life and I believe that all of us have the same goals, which is to protect and preserve these important places and resources. Deliberate and inclusive measures and efforts are made by our partners but we are small and can't always participate in all of the watershed councils, but federal and state agencies come to Tribes to seek input in planning, sometimes it may be a little, but as people begin to think more about diversity and inclusion, we become more involved earlier on in the process, which is beneficial to everyone.

Question 2- How do you pursue or utilize OWEB funding to accomplish their long-term watershed restoration strategies?

Tribe	Response
1.	OWEB is a true competitive grant. BPA grants, PCSRF grants are more consistent for us. We are part of a FIP review team and help with strategy development. We need to balance the quantity and the quality of the grant projects we take on. We also want to support other organizations in our region to understand what’s going on in the field. We try to apply for grants that fit with our strategy. BPA funds and Forest Service funds are larger than OWEB funding, but OWEB dollars can be used to tie projects together in the region and spread out the scope of work. Working with partners leads to better projects and OWEB funds help those partners. OWEB could also maybe help work with private landowner cooperation.
2.	Yes, OWEB funding helps with collaboration in the region and can fit into our overall strategy for management plans. We typically support other entities with their OWEB grants. The process can be onerous and if our partners are able to do that work, we can focus on other projects and support their projects as needed and offer counsel. OWEB is an important state agency able to disperse resources, so I would hate to see BPA funding always be used in lieu of BPA funding or something like that.
3.	OWEB is an important source of match funding for other programs like BPA, Fish and Wildlife Services, Bureau of Reclamation. One of the few non-federal grants available. But it’s very competitive with NGOs and other partners.
4.	OWEB funding can help advance goals and help with the goal of having functional floodplains at a technical and program level. The FIP includes monitoring and technical assistance and evaluation work. We fit in OWEB funding based on our need and are not opportunistic when applying for grants.
5.	We use NOAA and PCSRF for the subbasin as a top priority, so OWEB is not our main priority, but being involved at the technical advisory level, the review team, and board levels is more important to us than receiving an OWEB grant directly. We can use the time to write letters of support for partners, contract with the watershed council so they can do the work to get the permits, grants, other logistics and then we can focus on specific projects.
6.	The Tribe has a Department of Natural Resources plan for strategy and implementation funds. OWEB has diverse funding options and a can help with a wide array of projects and very detailed fisheries plan. We use OWEB funds when we need to address all of the fish in the area, right now only some species are tied to funding.
7.	We receive project funding through PCSRF and NOAA. OWEB funds we hope go to our partners and we work with our partners to develop comprehensive strategies early on and try to work together to enhance projects. Tribes in the Western part of the state have a

	smaller land base and so I think we work with more partners and have more partners available. There are differences between treaty and restored Tribes that impacted how we can access important lands. OWEB funds are limited and competitive. PCSRF dollars are easier, so we think it is more strategic and we get a larger return on investment. We are often used as a match for partnership projects with OWEB funding.
8.	OWEB grants help with upland management. BPA funding helps with habitat work, Natural Resources Conservation Service helps to support with properties and we often partner with the National Forest Service for other funds.
9.	More money is available through federal agencies. All grants that we apply for are based on our internal capacity to apply for grants as well as carry the projects. Monitoring money from OWEB is important and we often work with partners to write proposals so they can receive the funds.
10.	We work with watershed councils and help them receive OWEB funds through our letters of support and stay engaged in the FIP. OWEB funds can be utilized for riparian fish restoration and this fulfills an important need.

Question 3- How do OWEB grants impact the funding field available for Tribes? Does it help implement larger projects or help Tribes collaborate with a larger group of partners?

Tribe	Response
1.	Yes, OWEB offers additional funds for partnership projects, but OWEB grant applications are more competitive. Along the Columbia River using a combination of OWEB and BPA funding ensures projects can be well managed and well executed. OWEB funds are a significant help. They help to scale and enhance the scope of projects. Our FIP is a great example of this and it has unified partners in our region. Really great for restoration.
2.	Yes, existing partnerships are enhanced and applications are done together and planned ahead of time. OWEB applications help build Tribes into the planning process. This can sometimes feel like a checkbox that folks must do, but when partners are engaging sincerely it increases how our region improves. If we give a letter of support, we expect to have ongoing communication regarding the project post award, but it has helped with critical cultural area protection, In the past, organizations didn't reach out to us ahead of time and it cost them.
3.	As our capacity for grant writing increases, we hope to use more OWEB funding. projects. OWEB is one of the few non-federal sources available. Right now, OWEB grants are a little too competitive and we would rather our partners work and apply for them and provide support to their grant projects. When we don't apply for OWEB grants, we are not

	competing with our partners for the same grant funds. OWEB funding helps to prioritize basin-wide work.
4.	OWEB funds help leverage large scale restoration work and can work alongside BPA funding to fill in gaps and have flexibility for meeting budget needs on individual Cost share outside of BPA, especially for projects outside of BPA's interests.
5.	Yes, there is an emphasis on partnerships. OWEB assists with getting to work with private land owners involved with monitoring and restoration. Monitoring is an important part of OWEB funds. It adds another funding source to consider. Funding for technical assistance and restoration can be hard to find. We track all funding sources available and match them to our upcoming, potential projects. Uplands restoration money is hard to find
6.	For ambitious plans there needs to be a whole suite of efforts and funding sources available to do that.
7.	Yes, definitely a core funding source that leverages projects for partners and they are critical funds for drawing in other funds into larger projects. It solidifies the base of partners for example we may use federal funds and partners use OWEB funding.
8.	Yes, for watershed restoration work having more funds and more reasons to work collectively has no downsides. We work often with the Bureau of Land Management and on state lands (cattle rights) through ODFW to re-vegetate and these partnerships are possible through funding options.
9.	Yes, OWEB funding helps partnerships because it adds to the pot available. Funding natural resource work is tough and any funds dedicated to this work is needed.
10.	Yes, I think it helps in the field. The Small Grants help with specific, targeted projects but we generally pursue federal funding because it is more cyclical, consistent and less competitive, but OWEB grants can be used to help build up Tribes' internal capacity.

Question 4- How are you involved in other grantee projects funded by OWEB? Do you think other grantee organizations are reaching out to Tribes when developing projects- why or why not?

Tribe	Response
1.	We feel OWEB is one of the more progressive state agencies. Yes, we feel involved in other organizations' projects funded by OWEB and we think other organizations reach out to work with us. Our region's projects are strong and well-developed because we are selective about which grant applications are submitted to OWEB.
2.	Yes, and yes, other organizations reach out to work with us and we reach out to other organizations.

3.	We write letters of support and I feel like we have other organizations reach out to us for good reasons.
4.	OWEB FIPs have helped the sub basin develop strong partnerships. Sometimes lots of partners can be a mixed bag when coming together for a project but generally it provides good structure for long-lasting relationships. We have strict standards for giving out letters of support to ensure the other projects align with spiritual mission of protecting the landscape and the purpose is holistic. Sometimes the spiritual significance can be hard to convey to partners.
5.	Yes, the watersheds in our region engage frequently and meaningfully. We can't always be a partner or involved due to limitations on our side with internal capacity or not enough staff, etc.
6.	Yes, we feel very involved in other grantee's projects. We try not to be in direct competition with our partners which is why we don't always apply for OWEB funds. However, sometimes the engagement from partners can be inauthentic.
7.	Yes, I feel like there is genuine outreach from other OWEB grantee organizations. Sometimes though we wish they would reach out sooner or contact us in the initial stages, but sometimes we are not available to be involved.
8.	Our partners depend on OWEB funds and there is an uphill curve for understanding quality partnerships- they take time. Partners need to reciprocate and allocate their funds and money when we need assistance. However, DEI efforts are working and it is good but sometimes the Tribe's capacity is not always considered.
9.	We have excellent partners and we feel involved them and aware of OWEB projects. We partner primarily with BLM and the Forest Service and they are great about getting us involved early.
10.	We participate and feel involved with OWEB through working with the watershed councils and partners are very eager to work with us. Sometimes the relationship with OWEB feels paternalistic and we feel like there is not always true co-management. There's a power imbalance between partners and it can be frustrating to have them dictate how Tribes manage land and use money. We are less likely to apply and receive OWEB funds directly because they're competitive and our partners will also apply for them.

Question 5- What are the factors you consider when determining if your Tribe should be a lead applicant or a partner on an application to pursue OWEB funds (i.e., Open Solicitation grants, FIPS, Small grants)?

Tribe	Response
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1.	The biggest factor is if it is a project on our lands and we will be the lead then, and if there are projects where we want more control.
2.	Small Grants can support large projects. We will take the lead on a grant application if it is on tribal land or if the area is culturally significant. It can be an administrative burden to be the lead on a grant project if the parcel of land is not culturally significant or if it not on tribal lands.
3.	We are the lead applicant in areas significant to the Tribe and as a partner we look at the letter of support requests. We like to consider if the area is critical and if there is no one else there doing work. Monitoring responsibilities can also influence if we are the lead or not depending on what we have going on. The Tribe has its own priorities and if the project is on reservation land, we would take the lead. Throughout the basin we partner well with other organizations and have close coordination. We also like to consider the likelihood of success and if it looks likely, we will be the lead. The Tribe would like to be more active in land acquisition projects of properties they'd like to own. We also consider the Tribal council's strategic goals and how well a grant project aligns with it or not.
4.	With our core partners and long-term collaborators, we build in who leads a specific effort/project. We choose to be the lead if it is critical to our internal goals otherwise, we leverage partnerships and offer to help others. We try to be judicious about our applications.
5.	Our region plans early on with all of the stakeholders about taking the lead on various efforts. We do it when it is the most logical.
6.	We consider project location, staff time, capacity, project fit, direction from tribal leadership before applying for a grant. Small Grants are easier to handle and implement.
7.	It depends on what tribal leadership would like to see happen, our ability as a limited staff to do the work, other projects we are currently involved with and leading. Tribes are sovereign nations and have their own governments and the priorities for the DNR are high, but everything is taken into consideration.
8.	The size of the grant is not a factor for us we primarily don't want to compete with watershed councils. OWEB seems to offer limited funds outside of monitoring and restoration.
9.	It depends on the scenario what the project involves dictates if we are the lead or not. For example- it is easier to plan for a project where there are annual or consistent things done so we can better predict the cost of the project or what staffing requirements or overhead costs are involved. Time to do the project work as well as the administrative work is another factor. We have limited staff and resources so we try to be selective. If the project is happening on land valuable to the Tribe that would take priority.

10.	We consider where the project will happen then the ecosystem relationship- how does this project impact the ecosystem it is in and how can we understand the impacts of the project down the road or on other habitats? Project coordination capabilities, cost, and capacity are also very important considerations as well as tribal council and the pace the project needs to be.
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Question 6- What are the factors you consider when deciding which OWEB grant programs (i.e., Open Solicitation grants, FIPS, Small grants) to pursue?

Tribe	Response
1.	FIPs are attractive because of the size and scale of projects, as well as the chance to work with so many partners and develop regional clarity and goals. Everyone starts from the ground up and it builds engagement.
2.	When invited, we enjoy being part of FIPs. I also discuss with tribal leadership and my team the Open Solicitation options as a group and see if any of those funds make sense for a project we have in mind, but this is not done too often
3.	Out of the options we focus on the Open Solicitation grants like monitoring and restoration to avoid working with private landowners
4.	We think about our grant writing capacity as the main factor with OWEB grant programs and think if there is a partner who could do the work. Our agency can't do it all.
5.	If the grant program looks like it fits with our current strategy and we have a project in mind that isn't already paired or part of a federally funded project we would consider Open Solicitation or Small Grants. Timing is also a big factor.
6.	(During the interview, this question was combined with question #5 due to meeting time constraints)
7.	(During the interview, this question was combined with question #5 due to meeting time constraints)
8.	Location is a big consideration for us as a factor and the type of project we want to do will impact the size and the type of collaboration needed. Sometimes the feedback on OWEB grant applications can be surprising. The biggest factor for any of the projects we do or grants we apply for come down to the Tribes' interests and moves from there.
9.	For us we develop the project after we think of big picture goals then we think of the grant we need to get it done. We also consider how it relates to existing work.

10.	(During the interview, this question was combined with question #5 due to meeting time constraints)
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Question 7- How does history and/or geography impact your tribe’s capacity to implement watershed restoration? [This question is intentionally open-ended, feel free to describe your Tribe’s capacity and how that may be based on where they are located or what has happened historically.]

Tribe	Response
1.	<p>We are immensely impacted by geography. The Tribe covers important grounds in the state connected to the Cascades and the Columbia River. When there is drought, we are heavily impacted. Our community has aging infrastructure that becomes hard to use and repair which affects fisheries’ success. The reason new infrastructure or better repairs on infrastructure aren’t happening is because of the high costs and also the Tribe has so many priorities- while everyone agrees the fishery is important, so is having clean water and that takes precedence. These conversations are difficult to have and it takes time to build trust. There is a long history of state agency’s ignoring treaties and reserved rights, and the federal gov agencies say we’re equal but there’s a huge power imbalance. We are invited to tables but we don’t get to set them. There is tension over ceded lands in the basin. This area is huge and requires all partners to cooperate and participate. Some counties are harder to work with than others but all users care about these issues- it’s all very personal. Building trust with organizations and private landowners is hard, and their private landowners can have anti-government feelings with other agencies or not want to work with us because of discrimination. The discrimination is part of the history but also still exists.</p>
2.	<p>Geography and history impact everything. A small example is our office location and proximity to projects- it can be tough to do the work we want to see happen on ceded lands that are far from our offices on the reservation because our staff needs the resources to be able to go to these places and do work, and that’s additional money. The cultural and spiritual significance of many places is not just history but something always present and it is difficult to be removed from those places and have to advocate for access or get permits. We have interest in areas that may not be obvious but because of our history there, we are invested in its protection but we don’t have the ability to do the work because of capacity restraints. We want to make sure that even if a property is far away that we will manage it well and not have it wither away. Access to BPA dollars can be tricky but through tributaries we can make it work, but due to the geographic boundaries it can be tricky to find funders for specific work. This area is very populated and this means more organizations and funders available, but also tougher issues.</p>

<p>3.</p>	<p>The Tribes historically had the Reservation in the basin which gave them control over land and water management. That went away when the reservation was lost. However, the Tribes retained their water rights associated with hunting, fishing, and gathering on the historic reservation. The Tribes have a responsibility to protect, restore, and steward tribal treaty resources including plants, wildlife, and fisheries. The Tribes have good working relationships with the state and federal agencies and have input on watershed restoration on state and federal lands and water projects. We do not have good relations with private landowners that have been impacted by the Tribes water calls. Our habitat restoration program is small (one restoration project manager) and only existed for a few years. Now there are several other restoration entities to help coordinate the work and serve as a cooperative type of leadership, but the Tribes have had to handle other government issues before DNR. The Tribes’ attuned to protect and enhance health of watershed. We have influence over the management of restoration, but the history of the region can’t be overlooked or forgotten.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>The Tribes have the ceded areas and the reservation within the Columbia River basin and we have access to BPA dollars which brings flexibility with agreements, salmon policy levels, and this area is protected and co-managed with the federal government. This gives us the capacity from a funding side to hire and have highly technical people hired by tribe so we have the ability to complete solid applications and great work. There’s difficulty in other locations is due to capacity funding. If you can’t support staff hard to get a volunteer to write application to get project on the ground. Our DNR admin ability is strong- The Tribe did not go through termination and the tribal government capacity is somewhat strong and a large governmental staff.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>All of the areas we oversee are equally important. We were displaced in the 1860s through forced removal and onto reservation lands. This greatly shapes where our influence has been over time. In addition to working towards accessing lands and doing grant projects, we also have to educate folks, our own people and others about the history and connection and spiritual essence to these places. It’s extra work. We have multiple offices and it can feel disjointed. Water is huge and there are lots of irrigators that impact fisheries. Using a science-based approach rooted in traditional knowledge is critical, especially during monitoring and the landscape shows that our knowledge has been missing, but it is returning.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Historically the treaty was signed in the 1850s and then about 100 years later the Western Oregon Indian Termination act was signed and federal recognition was lost and even more resources were lost it wasn’t until more recently did the Tribe regain federal recognition. This directly impacted our ability to oversee and manage lands and fundamentally have an identity as a people. The land base in not contiguous, Congress has had to return land that was previously BLM land and logistically difficult to take on big restoration projects without the internal staff and resources. Because</p>

	<p>the land is non-contiguous we are not always at the headwaters and being downstream of structures has downstream impacts. We have an additional level of due diligence when working on certain parcels. Could not do Stage 0 work because there wasn't a large enough parcel and in populated area.</p>
7.	<p>Historically, the Tribe used to own and manager more land than they do now. The landscape would look differently if tribe owned what they once did- extrapolating that out to contracts would be more money coming in to do more work, geography might impact staff ability and cost of gas amount of driving of living in rural area. However, we have access to larger parcels of land and that helps us and most landowners are cooperate and we partner regularly with BLM or the Forest Service. Stage zero work- fewer people may make it easier.</p>
8.	<p>In terms of geography, it can be a challenge having all the members of the Tribe be together and take part in culturally important events like hunting, fishing, gathering foods. The DNR ensures that the culture is preserved through these traditions and practices. Our department needs assistance with cultural preservation and make sure people across the state access these activities and traditional knowledge. The ability to access culturally important resources, specifically accessing natural resources is very important and that importance is difficult to explain because it goes into the realm of spiritual. It is easier to have people come onto properties to gather food and that's less controversial than hunting, and whenever we bring people out and they're excited to step on acquired land. We are interested in acquiring land and restoration for cultural resources that not may be an interest of our partners. Review teams want to know if there are things like Coho there, etc., but that may not always be our top priority. For areas that we are not physically close to but have a historical and cultural legacy in the area we want to keep a pulse on the activities there and usually offer letters of support and speak with other natural resource teams to know what is happening there.</p>
9.	<p>For geography, we manage non-contiguous parcels and it can be difficult to manage and the reason we have non-contiguous land access is because of past policies and history. National forests lands in our region also protect riparian areas but they are able to generate revenue from their services per capita, and for us we have to provide service for the Tribe without the same type of revenue. The impact of genocide and forced removal and combining disparate bands of Tribes from across the state and lots of history has been lost overtime. Place-based trauma has repercussions and the way we move past it is through re-connecting with our history and culture and the way we do that is through activities like gathering basket materials. These events are healing for us and allow us to practice ecological restoration as well. When we gather materials to make baskets it is done in reciprocal, ecologically beneficial ways.</p>

10.	A lot to say- historically this community has had its land taken and was then abandoned when the treaty rights were ignored and because a lot of the land was taken away it caused problems. The tribe had trouble continuing their way of life. This is why environmental justice is so important it is about restoring the ecosystem, including the people who live here. Geographically, there is a lot of land we have ancestral ties to, alongside neighboring Tribes, that we are all interested in using. There are many people in this region affiliated with more than one Tribe and the physical boundaries we have now are not the same as they used to be, but it is hard to go back. Working with agency partners like the Forest Service and BLM to access public lands and we are working with them and other entities to talk about issues like damming and dredging.
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Question 8- Are there are any administrative or technical obstacles that create barriers that prevents you from applying for OWEB grants? If so, do you have any recommended solutions to address these barriers? [Hoping to develop recommendations about where the weight points are in process for grants]

Tribe	Response
1.	An administrative obstacle for us is the rule about the indirect rate- we've had trouble with the federally negotiated indirect rate so we have to handle and incur administrative charge to have additional help with processing and can't get funds from OWEB right now because there is no current indirect rate.
2.	Funds get dispersed widely throughout the Columbia Basin and not targeted to all the habitat components downstream of the dams. Fish passage in our region is still a primary goal and sometimes that is hard to do when piecing together the puzzle piece of grants. If there was a way grants could be less competitive that would help significantly.
3.	I have only applied a couple times- not very experienced for doing OWEB grants, I usually apply for federal grants. Tribal specific programs are easier and more successful to apply for those- less competition. Some people are very savvy and experienced at applying for grants and are more successful at preparing proposals. It takes a lot of time and energy can be put into grant proposal prep work. OWEB does not have any tribe-specific prioritizations. OWEB applications are more onerous in terms of requirements and the review process is more rigorous than other grant programs, which is understandable when so many potential parties are interested in the funds. OWEB's process is transparent and well documented, they give good guidance, I would like to see opportunity for tribal specific grants funds. Sovereign immunity and the state does have tribal trust obligations and make it more unique as a state stakeholder. More state provided training on how to put successful application together. When asked, OWEB always offers help and they are very accessible and provide feedback. OWEB could support through advocacy and political means.

4.	<p>Largest hurdle- meeting the indirect rate for OWEB – right now there’s no solution but we’ve created our own solution. Most Open Solicitation grants are contract related- funding portions/parts of sub contracts to avoid overhead and indirect costs otherwise we couldn’t compete. More clarity around reporting requirements. We use to go after more grants (pre FIP) but got tired of hurdles and the time it took to apply. Still onerous compared for federal programs and the Columbia basin fish program- theirs is automated and easier to prepare and keep track of. The large projects in FIP make administrative hurdles worth it, but it wouldn’t be worth it for smaller grant amounts. It is wonderful that OWEB has specific monitoring grants- not many programs fund monitoring- even BPA has cut back on those funds. So, OWEB grants have been worth the effort. Sometimes it feels like being an employee, when we fill out applications and reports, sometimes the way OWEB asks for things like how to report metrics, can be frustrating. It’s tricky because if we don’t fix things as OWEB wants, there’s the expectation that if you don’t do what they ask you may lose your funding. OWEB could assign line items for billing for records or how to report temperatures in a monitoring project, knowing the formatting requirements ahead of time would be useful and save us time, cost, and aggravation.</p>
5.	<p>OWEB applications can be time consuming. It would be easier if OWEB streamlined the process for Tribes or organizations that have applied for multiple grants, but even though they’re lengthy they’ve improved and changed over time. They’re approaching the balance between thorough and concise. If there could be simpler ways to report for OWEB grants that overlap with PCSRF and NOAA funding that would be wonderful.</p>
6.	<p>It would be nice if there were a pot of money for just Tribes- it is difficult to be competing with partners. Our experience with Small Grants has been positive. An issue has happened regarding the federally negotiated indirect costs rate- max at 10% with OWEB. Grants and finance staff navigated this. Measure 76 requirements and reporting are difficult</p>
7.	<p>OWEB grants are competitive and they take time funding opportunities for the Tribes specifically or region-specific grants could help ease the burden.</p>
8.	<p>More feedback for restoration grants, and specific language in the grant agreements done for Tribes would be helpful.</p>
9.	<p>Match grants are a struggle, staff could charge time and materials w/ other funding, funders have restrictions on funding staff. The Indirect rate requirement is an issue- federally negotiated indirect cost rate- preferred rate rather than 10%</p> <p>Depending on the grant it can be difficult to know what you can apply for or if the only funding source and can’t get another (for land acquisition their own rate could make it difficult and we would need additional funding)</p>
10.	<p>OWEB gives equal opportunities to anyone who qualifies which is good. Some limiting factors- the administrative burden of the grants, difficult to know when or how the grants</p>

	are announced, it is very competitive process so the lengthy applications make me hesitant- what if I do the work and not receive the funding?
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Question 9- What can OWEB do more to help you pursue OWEB funds?

Tribe	Response
1.	OWEB can leverage their position as a state agency and maybe try involving other agencies like ODOT or something into projects and think big picture about climate change. Keep these conversations going and try to help connect Tribes with each other. OWEB could actively seek out grants from Tribes- not sure about Open Solicitation since it is so competitive. Set up regular meetings with tribal leaders, resource staff and OWEB staff.
2.	In our region doing work along one mile is huge and so are the costs for restoration. grants have become less onerous overtime so that's good. (Had to end the meeting, due to time constraints).
3.	Offer training for effective grant proposals. Having a FIP or other funded opportunity for this region. It would be nice if there were funds for Tribes so that we did not have to compete with other groups; OWEB grants are extremely competitive and some groups are much more proficient in preparing successful proposals. The State of Oregon has tribal trust obligations because we are a Sovereign Entity. Make a portion of the funds available specifically for Tribes. Provide additional points in the ranking if the lead agency is a Tribe; provide grant writing training for the Tribes.
4.	OWEB right now I don't have anything negative to say. They've made program changes and do trainings and send emails to improve communications. Good relationship as an agency. OWEB does a good job of trying to help and distribute funds we would love to have another local FIP- we need all the help to keep moving needle. An OWEB pro and con on the Open Solicitation grants is the qualitative way of evaluations- I feel they're not super open- quantifiable in a sense regional directors do a great job of input for groups to be more competitive. But I feel it all depends on review team with lots of biases. In SE WA the Snake River salmon recovery board-- each region has quantifiable way to select proposals different resource needs. This model could be utilized. Thank you, OWEB, for doing this! Trying to get tribal input is great and we really appreciate your sincere efforts.
5.	Stay communicative and fair and transparent!
6.	Develop a specific grant opportunity for the pacific lamprey like PLCI another way to balance BPA funds and fish habitat funding.

	Score higher with Tribes in established partnerships or try to involve the Tribes early in process- weary as a requirement- groups that don't understand the process will take time and then they will check the process and say we are a partner without hearing our concerns about their project. We can't always say yes. OWEB funds use by watershed councils/partners help to keep their doors open.
7.	Pretty satisfied with the work OWEB is doing and I feel comfortable reaching out to their staff.
8.	Continue working to improve relationships and stay flexible and receptive.
9.	Recommended for the watershed councils too, but OWEB should have a meeting where all recent recipients of OWEB funding to have annual meetings with Tribes they serve or are in the same area- gets everyone on board and meeting each other
10.	I would like if there was more coordination from OWEB on training like on how to understand what all of the expectations are clarification about what OWEB asking for in applications or projects to avoid redundancy in the application. Overall OWEB is good funding agencies and they work hard to try to involve everyone in participating in public sessions and with their grant peer review process.



Agenda Item P supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 1: Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item P – Board Meeting Format: In-person and Virtual
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update about in-person and virtual options for future board meetings. The board will be asked to approve a format that includes meeting in-person either two or three times per year once it is safe to do so.

II. Background

The board generally meets quarterly. Prior to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, meetings were all held in-person, and were rotated across the OWEB regions. With the onset of the pandemic, the board transitioned to virtual meetings exclusively. Virtual meetings have been an effective means to conduct board business, and all future meetings will have the option for board members to participate remotely.

The OWEB executive team has determined that in addition to offering a virtual option for board member attendance, that all January board meetings should be held virtually as the weather and travel at that time can be hazardous.

Along with the January virtual meeting, there is also an opportunity to hold another regularly scheduled board meeting as virtual-only. One option for a second virtual-only board meeting is for the meeting typically held in July.

III. Discussion

There are several potential benefits of having the July board meeting as virtual-only, including:

- Reduce climate/environmental impacts of travel. This is also consistent with Executive Order 20-04, which directs agencies to prioritize actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Reduce agency travel/lodging expenses during the peak vacation/travel season.

- Due to board member vacations, meeting quorum has occasionally been an issue for the July meetings. An all-virtual meeting may alleviate that concern; however, the virtual option for each meeting also may address the issue.

There are also potential benefits of having the July board meeting in-person, including:

- Summer is a good time to hold field tours with local partners, which is an opportunity for board/staff members to learn about local conservation efforts and to engage with the community.
- Opportunities to meet in person build board/staff camaraderie, through formal and informal avenues.
- With appropriate van/carpooling to the meeting locations and tours, the carbon footprint associated with meetings may be lowered, which is also consistent with Executive Order 20-04.

IV. Staff Recommendation

Staff feel that the benefits associated with a virtual-only July board meeting outweigh the benefits of holding it in person, and recommend the board approve a meeting format that includes in-person meetings (with a virtual option) in October and April, and virtual-only meetings in January and July.



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Agenda

October 26 & 27, 2021

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the October 26 & 27 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Phone:**
 - **Oct. 26:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 851 5089 1153 and passcode: 145130
 - **Oct 27:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 893 0633 8398 and passcode: 072101
- The board book (eBook) is available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/about-us/Pages/board/meetings.aspx>
- For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

Written and verbal public comment

OWEB encourages public comment on any agenda item.

Written Comments

Written comments should be sent to April Mack at April.mack@oregon.gov. Written comments received by Thursday, Oct 21 at 4:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Items C, F, H, and I). To provide verbal comment, you must contact April Mack at April.mack@oregon.gov, by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, and provide the following information:

- Your first and last name,
- The topic of your comment, and
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

Tuesday, October 26, 2021**A. Board Member Comments (8:30 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 (9:30 a.m.)

The minutes of the July 27-28, 2021 virtual meeting will be presented for board approval. *Action item.*

C. Public Comment (9:35 a.m.)

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

D. Committee Updates (10:00 a.m.)

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

E. Director's Updates (10:45 a.m.)

Executive Director Lisa Charpillioz Hanson and OWEB staff will update the board on agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information item.*

F. Spring Open Solicitation Grant Offering Board Awards (11:05 a.m.)

NOTE: Verbal public comment specific for this agenda item will be heard at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Introduction

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives will provide background information on the Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering and funding recommendations.

Public Comment [approximately 12:45 p.m.]

This time is reserved for public comment on pending 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 applications must be received by OWEB staff by the **October 21, 2021 deadline** to be provided to the board in advance of the meeting. **Verbal comments should be limited to three minutes.**

Board Consideration of Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications

The board will consider grant applications submitted through the Spring 2021 Open Solicitation grant offering. Applications, supporting materials, and funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the board. *Action item.*

G. Post-Fire Recovery Funding (2:00 p.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis will provide an overview of the General Fund appropriations to OWEB during the 2021-2023 biennium in support of post-fire natural resources recovery in 2020 fire impacted areas. The board will be asked to approve receipt of these

General Funds for the purposes outlined in House Bill (5006 and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through appropriate agreements. *Action item.*

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the October 26 & 27 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Phone:**
 - **Oct. 26:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 851 5089 1153 and passcode: 145130
 - **Oct 27:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 893 0633 8398 and passcode: 072101
- The board book (eBook) is available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/about-us/Pages/board/meetings.aspx>
- For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

Written Comments

Written comments should be sent to April Mack at April.mack@oregon.gov Written comments received by Thursday, Oct 21 at 4:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Item C) at approximately 9:35 am. on October 26 and (Agenda item H) at approximately 8:05 a.m. on October 27. To provide verbal comment, you must contact April Mack at April.mack@oregon.gov, by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, and provide the following information:

- Your first and last name,
- The topic of your comment, and
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

Wednesday, October 27, 2021**H. Public Comment (8:05 a.m.)**

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

I. Land Acquisitions Awards (8:20 a.m.)

NOTE: Verbal public comment specific for this agenda item will be heard at approximately 8:40 a.m.

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Acquisitions Coordinator Miriam Forney will provide an overview of the April 2021 land acquisition grant offering and outline staff recommendations for grant awards. *Action item.*

J. Telling the Restoration Story (9:30 a.m.)

Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho will provide an update to the board on the 'Telling the Restoration Story' targeted grant offering and provide an example from restoration efforts at Horsetail Creek. *Information item.*

K. Oregon Plan Biennial Report (9:45 a.m.)

Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide an update about the agency's development of the 2019-2021 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The board will be asked to approve recommendations to include in the report, which will be submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office. *Action item.*

L. Water Committee (10:15 a.m.)

Board and Legislative Coordinator Eric Hartstein will introduce the objectives the water committee has developed for board consideration as areas of focus for the committee moving forward. The board will be asked to approve these objectives. *Action item.*

M. DEI Update (10:55 a.m.)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will facilitate a discussion with OWEB grantees on their diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts and how they are incorporating these principles into watershed conservation activities. Courtney Shaff will then provide an overview of the process to hire a consultant for (DEI) to work with the board and staff and discuss the creation of a permanent board DEI committee. *Information item.*

N. Climate Resources (11:55 a.m.)

Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch will update the board about climate-related technical resources developed to assist OWEB grant applicants. *Information item.*

O. Granting Practices (12:55 p.m.)

Tribal Liaison Ken Fetcho and Portland State University graduate student Alli Miller will summarize findings from a recent assessment conducted to better understand how OWEB's grant practices impact federally recognized Tribes' ability to apply for and receive agency grants. *Information item.*

P. 2022 In-Person and Virtual Board Meeting Dates and Format (1:25 p.m.)

Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide an update about in-person and virtual options for future board meetings. The board will be asked to approve a format that includes meeting in-person either two or three times per year once it is safe to do so. *Action item.*

Q. Other Business (1:40 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 when OWEB meetings convene.

Voting Rules

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

General Business

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

Action on Grant Awards

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

Executive Session

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

session, the presiding board member will make a public announcement and explain necessary procedures.

More Information

If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call April Mack, OWEB Board Assistant, at 971-345-7001 or send an e-mail to april.mack@oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise April Mack as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Barbara Boyer, *Board Co-Chair, Board of Agriculture*
Molly Kile, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Mark Labhart, *Fish and Wildlife Commission*
Brenda McComb, *Board of Forestry*
Meg Reeves, *Water Resources Commission*
Vacant, *Public (Tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Jamie McLeod-Skinner, *Public*
Randy Labbe, *Public*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *Board Co-Chair, Public*

Non-voting Members

Eric Murray, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Vacant, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Cory Owens, *U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service*
Dan Brown, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Paul Henson, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
Dan Shively, *U.S Forest Service*

Contact Information

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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 – Lisa Charpilloz Hanson
lisa.charpilloz-hanson@oregon.gov
OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board – April Mack
april.mack@oregon.gov
971-345-7001

2022 Board Meeting Schedule

Jan 25 & 26, Virtual
April 26 & 27 TBD
July 26 & 27 TBD

October 25 & 26 TBD

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

www.oregon.gov/OWEB.

The Approach We Take

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

Our work is characterized by...

Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership

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

Using best available science supported by local knowledge

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

Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

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

Demonstrating impact through meaningful monitoring and evaluation

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

Reaching and involving underrepresented populations

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



OWEB Staff Culture Statement

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

2021-2023 SPENDING PLAN for M76, GF & PCSRF Funds	2021 Spending Plan	TOTAL Awards To- Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To- Date	Other Funding Received & Delegated
Open Solicitation:				
Restoration	32.000		32.000	0.460
Fire Recovery & Restoration				
Riparian/upland rest. & water quality	10.750		10.750	
Floodplain restoration & reconnection	5.000		5.000	
Technical Assistance				
Restoration TA	3.000	0.000	3.000	
CREP TA	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.400
Stakeholder Engagement	2.250	0.000	2.250	0.000
Monitoring grants	4.250	0.000	4.250	0.000
Land and Water Acquisition				
Acquisition	9.000	0.000	9.000	0.000
Weed Grants	3.250	3.250	0.000	0.000
Small Grants	2.800	2.800	0.000	0.000
Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	1.000	0.150	0.850	0.000
TOTAL	74.500	7.400	67.100	0.860
% of assumed Total Budget				
Focused Investments:				
Deschutes	1.915	1.915	0.000	0.000
Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat	1.400	1.400	0.000	0.000
Harney Basin Wetlands	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000
Upper Grande Ronde	0.466	0.466	0.000	0.000
John Day Partnership	4.000	4.000	0.000	0.000
Baker Sage Grouse	2.435	2.435	0.000	0.000
Warner Aquatic Habitat	2.293	2.293	0.000	0.000
Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp	2.700	2.700	0.000	0.000
Clackamas Partnership	3.082	3.082	0.000	0.000
New FIP Solicitation	10.000	0.000	10.000	0.000
FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.750	0.000	0.750	0.000
TOTAL	29.141	18.391	10.750	0.000
% of assumed Total Budget				
Operating Capacity:				
Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	15.121	15.121	0.000	0.000
Statewide org partnership support	0.225	0.225	0.000	0.000
Organizational Collaboration	0.500	0.130	0.370	0.000
Partnership Technical Assistance	1.500	0.000	1.500	0.000
TOTAL	17.346	15.476	1.870	0.000
% of assumed Total Budget				
Other:				
CREP	0.750	0.750	0.000	0.000
Governor's Priorities	1.000	0.800	0.200	0.000
Strategic Implementation Areas	1.500	1.500	0.000	0.000
Gov. directed - Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000
Gov. directed - Sage Grouse Conservation Partnership	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000
TOTAL	3.930	3.730	0.200	0.000
% of assumed Total Budget				
TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	124.918	44.997	79.921	0.860
Funds transferred from/to other agencies				
Transfer to ODFW - PCSRF	12.884	12.884	0.000	0.000
Transfer to Eugene Water & Electric Board - GF	4.000	0.000	4.000	0.000
Transfer from ODF for Forest Health Collaboratives - OF	0.500	0.000	0.500	0.500
Transfer from PSMFC - IMW - OF	0.600	0.000	0.600	0.600
transfer from NRCS - Farm Bill technical support - FF				
TOTAL	17.984	12.884	5.100	1.100
TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds	142.902	57.881	85.021	1.960

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

July 27 & 28, 2021 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting

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

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT

Alvarado, Ron
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Hatch, Audrey
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHER

Brink, Steve
Creager, Clayton
Creutzburg, Megan
Devos, Al
Jeans, Jason
Lightcap, Scott
Lorion, Chris
Mork, Lauren
Owens, Cory
Placido, Elaine
Weybright, Jared

ABSENT

Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
Shively, Dan

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

Co-Chair Appointment (Audio = 1:30)

Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister announced the need to elect a new co-chair as Jason Robison is stepping down. *Action item.*

Jamie McLeod-Skinner nominated Barbara Boyer. Jason Robison motioned to elect Barbara as co-chair, Randy Labbe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:04:35)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies provided 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 (Audio = 1:05:17)

The minutes of the March 9 & 10, 2021 virtual meetings were presented for board approval. *Action item.*

Liza Jane McAlister made the motion the board approve the minutes from the March 9 & 10, 2021 virtual meeting. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment (Audio = 1:05:58)

Vanessa Green from Network of Oregon Watershed Councils shared ways that the organization networked community-building strategy over the past year has served watershed councils. Vanessa also highlighted the new Affinity Groups, which is an initiative launched this year by the Oregon Conservation Partnership.

Kelley Beamer of Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts shared Information on the organization's new State of the Lands Report. Kelley also discussed the upcoming Oregon Conservation Partnership's summer tours and recent success they've with earned media.

D. Committee Updates (Audio = 1:21:36)

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

E. Director's Updates (Audio = 1:48:44)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and OWEB staff updated the board on agency business and late-breaking issues. These included updates on Wildfire Response Grants, Legislative and Budget, and OWEB's Online Systems. *Information item.*

F. Spending Plan (Audio =2:46:26)

After presentations by Elaine Placido of Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, Megan Creutzburg of Sage-Grouse Conservation Partnership, and Chris Lorion of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided the 2021-23 Spending Plan for board review and approval. *Action item.*

Spending Plan Public Comment (Audio = 4:08:51)

Jan Lee from Oregon Association of Conservation Districts supports the spending plan changes in the climate area under the Governor's Priorities portion of the spending plan.

Kelley Beamer of Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts referenced the importance of land acquisitions in the spending plan.

1. Molly Kile made the motion to approve the request in the 'Other Funding Received and Delegated' and '2021 Spending Plan' columns of Attachment B: Proposed OWEB 2021-2023 Spending Plan. Jason Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Molly Kile made the motion to approve table 1-3 of Attachment D regarding spending plan policy decisions, carry forward, and delegation authorities for the 2021-2023 spending plan. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion with the adjustment to the July date of July 27 to July 1 for Weed grants. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Molly Kile made the motion that all funds recaptured from grants in the weed grant, small grant and FIP initiatives line items remain in those programs for future granting using policies established for the program. Jason Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. OWEB's Role in Managing Funds (Audio =4:56:48)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams facilitated a board discussion with Steve Brink of Idaho Power, Scott Lightcap of Bureau of Land Management, Al Devos of Oregon Department of Forestry, Jason Jeans of Natural Resources Conservation Service and Clayton Creager of California Water Boards, on grant programs OWEB is, or will be, administering on behalf of those organizations. *Information item.*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 by Co-Chair Barbara Boyer.

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

H. Public Comment (Audio =0:1:16)

Jan Lee from Oregon Association of Conservation Districts testified on behalf of Oregon Conservation Partnership on the recent success with earned media on projects. *Information item.*

I. Council Operating Capacity Grant Awards (Audio =0:5:00)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff provided an overview of the 2021-2023 Council Capacity grant cycle process and outlined staff recommended grant awards. *Action item.*

Meg Reeves made the motion the board award the 2021-2023 Council Capacity grants as described in Attachment C with an award date of July 1, 2021. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Organizational Collaborations Grants (Audio =1:06:04)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff provided an overview of the 2021 Organization Collaboration grant offering and staff funding recommendations. *Action item.*

Barbara Boyer made the motion the board award the Organization Collaboration Partnership Technical Assistance Project grants consistent with the staff recommendations in Attachment A. Meg Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

K. Update on Stage 0 Monitoring Investments (Audio =1:55:03)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho, Lauren Mork of Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, and Jared Weybright from the McKenzie Watershed Alliance provided updates on the progress made to date to implement a multi-pronged approach to address monitoring and information needs for Stage 0 restoration. *Information item.*

L. Conveyance of Willamette Confluence Property from The Nature Conservancy to McKenzie River Trust (Audio =1:41:40)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams discussed a request from The Nature Conservancy to convey the OWEB land acquisition project at the Willamette Confluence Preserve to McKenzie River Trust. *Action item.*

Randy Labbe made the motion for the board to approve the conveyance of the Willamette Confluence Preserve (OWEB Grant No. 208-3090-8358) from The Nature Conservancy to McKenzie River Trust, conditioned on staff and Oregon Department of Justice approval of the final form of all conveyance-related circumstances and documents. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

M. Willanch Telling the Restoration Story (Audio =3:20:52)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, and Conservations Outcome Coordinator Audrey Hatch shared information about Willanch Creek Telling the Restoration Story project, and what emerged from the board's investment in that effort. *Information item.*

N. Rogue Forest Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Geography Change Request (Audio =3:30:55)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer discussed the Rogue Forest Partners request to adjust their FIP initiative geography to include the West Bear area and remove the Middle Applegate area. *Action item*

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved the board approve the proposed change for the Rogue Forest Partners to include the West Bear area and remove the Middle Applegate area in their FIP initiative geography. Jason Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

O. Updates on Climate Executive Order Activities (Audio =3:44:25)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch updated the board about implementation activities for Governor Brown's Executive Order (EO) 20-04, issued in March of 2020 and focused on climate. *Information Item*

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 by Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

October 26 & 27 2021 OWEB Board

Meeting Agenda Item C

Written Public Comment



Curry Watersheds Partnership

Post Office Box 666 - Gold Beach, OR 97444 - Phone (541)247-2755 - Fax (541)247-0408 - info@currywatersheds.org

September 22, 2021

Eric Williams
Grant Program Manager
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Dear Mr. Williams:

We are writing to provide clarification for the Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement grant application (#221-9902-19498). While Curry Watersheds Partnership certainly appreciates the value of the project and is interested in partnering with the Wild Rivers Land Trust (WRLT) to assist with the various elements in the application that mention our organization, we want to clarify that we have not at this time entered into any formal agreements with WRLT relating to this project, and we are unable to assume in perpetuity any responsibilities pertaining to this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Liesl Coleman".

Liesl Coleman, Curry SWCD Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelly Timchak".

Kelly Timchak, LRWC Coordinator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Miranda Gray".

Miranda Gray, SCWC Coordinator

Curry Soil & Water Conservation District | South Coast and Lower Rogue Watershed Councils

Supporting our communities to care for our lands and waters, now and into the future.

Committee Members

Stephen Brandt (chair), Dan Brown, Molly Kile, Brenda McComb

Background

The Monitoring Committee met on September 2, 2021 to: welcome new committee member, Dan Brown; discuss the committee's themes for inclusion in the OWEB board recommendations section of the 2019-21 Oregon Plan Biennial Report for Salmon and Watersheds; an update about the coordinating committee process for vetting new ideas from board members and committees; debrief from the Stage 0 monitoring item at the July board meeting; provide feedback regarding metrics for measuring success in stakeholder engagement grants; discuss monitoring related agenda items for the October board meeting; and briefly discuss upcoming committee topics.

Key Points from the Committee's Discussion

The committee welcomed Dan Brown, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Dan shared background about himself and areas of overlapping interest and opportunity with EPA related monitoring and granting initiatives.

The committee then discussed monitoring themes for inclusion in the biennial report. Discussion focused on emphasizing the strong monitoring foundation provided by the strategic plan and ongoing monitoring programs and investments—including use of evidence-based decision-making, shared monitoring learnings, and adaptive management. In addition, the committee expressed interest in highlighting the importance of potential new areas of focus, including post-fire impacts and climate related monitoring.

The committee reviewed the proposed process for 'vetting' new ideas that emerge from board members or committee processes, to ensure consistent and comprehensive consideration of new activities while being mindful of OWEB's statutory structure and staff capacity. Committee members noted that some ideas may be less formal and simpler follow up on, so that a threshold for use of this process would be helpful. There also was discussion about the timeframe for running ideas through such a process, acknowledging the interest in timely consideration of new ideas while ensuring a deliberate process.

Committee members and staff debriefed from the Stage 0 monitoring presentation at the July meeting. Discussion focused on follow-up with grantees about feedback from the board about several questions and areas of interest, with the intent of exploring what work to address these could be folded into Phase 2 funding requests to the board this biennium.

Staff updated the committee about a discussion that occurred at the DEI committee regarding metrics for measuring success in stakeholder engagement grants (see July 2021 DEI committee update for details). Monitoring committee members indicated agreement with the DEI committee's direction, along with raising interesting considerations about how OWEB helps to ensure various communities have equitable access to granting opportunities.

The committee briefly touched on monitoring related agenda items at the October meeting, including a Telling the Restoration Story report. In the interest of time, staff invited committee members to follow up by email or phone with any questions about the written status updates for ongoing projects. Staff noted that in December, the monitoring and focused investment committees will meet jointly to detail out the structure for piloting post-FIP reporting investments beginning this biennium.

To Be Presented at the October 2021 Board Meeting by:

Stephen Brandt

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director
renee.davis@oregon.gov or 971-345-7231

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Water Committee Update

Committee Members

Jamie McLeod Skinner (chair), Barbara Boyer, Molly Kile, Meg Reeves, Gary Marshall, Eric Murray

Background

The Water committee met on September 22, 2021. The committee discussed their biennial report recommendations (see Agenda Item K), received an update on the water and climate policy coordinator position and finalized a suite of objectives for the committee to focus on for board approval at the October meeting (see Agenda Item L).

Water and Climate Policy Coordinator

In addition to a brief discussion of the leadership transition at OWEB, staff updated the committee about the results of the recruitment for the new, limited duration Water and Climate Programs Coordination position at OWEB and discussed some of the initial work involving interagency and legislative coordination that the position will entail.

To Be Presented at the October 2021 Board Meeting by:

Jamie McLeod-Skinner

Staff Contact

Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Coordinator
Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-910-6201

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Acquisitions Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Meg Reeves (Chair), Barbara Boyer, Randy Labbe, Mark Labhart

Background

The Acquisitions Committee was reconstituted by the board in April 2020 to include both review of annual land and water acquisition applications as well as regular policy meetings covering both programs. The committee met September 30, 2021 for a briefing on land acquisition applications that will be addressed at the October board meeting.

2021 Land Acquisition Applications

Staff briefed the committee on the content and draft evaluations for each of the land acquisition applications received in the 2021 solicitation. The following applications were reviewed:

- Oak Creek Preserve – Greenbelt Land Trust
- Mt Ashland Forest Climate Resilience – Pacific Forest Trust
- Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement – Wild Rivers Land Trust
- Siuslaw North Fork – The Nature Conservancy.

Committee members asked clarifying questions on the content of the applications and evaluations in preparation for discussion at the October board meeting.

To Be Presented at the October 2021 Board Meeting by:

Meg Reeves, Committee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
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October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Focused Investment Committee Update

Committee Members

Bruce Buckmaster (chair), Randy Labbe, Mark Labhart, Gary Marshall, Dan Shively

Background

The Focused Investment Committee met on September 8, 2021 to discuss: a Committee theme for the Oregon Plan Biennial Report, post-FIP reporting, the FIP solicitation timeline, and Cohort 1 Progress Tracking Reports.

Oregon Plan Biennial Report Theme

The committee reviewed Strategic Plan Priority 7 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds as a starting point for discussion. The theme could blend all three strategies under this priority: invest in landscape restoration over the long term; develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies; and foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission. The committee recommended blending the three strategies with an emphasis on inclusive partnerships operating at a landscape scale over a long period of time through an adaptive management approach based on monitoring. The committee also emphasized the importance of socio-economic outcomes resulting from FIP implementation. Eric Hartstein will draft a theme paragraph for committee review by the end of September.

Post-FIP Reporting

In preparation for a December 8 joint meeting with the Monitoring Committee, staff will reach out to FIPs who may be ready to pilot post-FIP reporting, including Ashland and Grande Ronde. The Monitoring Committee requested that the pilots include a river FIP in addition to an upland FIP. Staff outreach will ground truth necessary funding for post-FIP reporting.

Regarding format, the committee discussed that Progress Tracking Reports (PTRs) will be used as a starting point, with a shift to outcomes vs outputs. It was also noted that Progress Monitoring Frameworks include mid- and long-term outcomes.

FIP and Partnership TA Solicitation Schedule

Staff briefed the committee on interest to date in consultations, which are required in the solicitation process. Consultations will occur this fall, providing eligibility and application guidance ahead of the January application deadline. Based on available dates, committee interviews with applicant partnerships will be held June 14-15, 2022, with funding recommendations provided to the board for awards at the July 2022 meeting.

Cohort 1 Progress Tracking Reports

The final PTRs from Cohort 1 FIPs will be submitted this fall and shared with the board at the January meeting. Each PTR will be a 2-page report featuring near and mid-term outcomes and a section on climate. The committee discussed formatting and content of a questionnaire that will go to each FIP, the responses to which will inform the adaptive management table.

To Be Presented at the October 2021 Board Meeting by:

Bruce Buckmaster

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
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Committee Members

Bruce Buckmaster (Chair), Stephen Brandt, Paul Henson, Brenda McComb, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Eric Murray

Background

The Climate Committee met on September 16, 2021 to discuss a range of topics, including staffing updates; proposed process for board coordinating committee to vet new ideas; proposal from committee members McComb and McLeod-Skinner and Chair Buckmaster for discussion by the committee; and committee themes for inclusion in the OWEB board recommendations section of the 2019-21 Oregon Plan Biennial Report for Salmon and Watersheds. The committee met again on September 21 to further refine a proposed OWEB statement of purpose about climate.

Staffing Updates

In addition to a brief discussion of the leadership transition at OWEB, staff updated the committee about the results of the recruitment for the new, limited duration Water and Climate Programs Coordination position at OWEB, along with transitions occurring in the Governor's Office.

Coordinating Committee Vetting Process

The committee reviewed the proposed process for 'vetting' new ideas that emerge from board members or committee processes, to ensure consistent and comprehensive consideration of new activities while being mindful of OWEB's statutory structure and staff capacity. Committee members expressed some concerns that the process should not stifle robust conversation and brainstorming. Staff noted the responsibility of the agency is to be transparent and accountable. Committee members expressed general support for this process, underscoring the particular importance of consistency and written documentation as OWEB is going through staffing transitions. They noted that the decision-making process is inherently subjective, and each suggestion or new idea will be open to some level of interpretation. Committee members stressed the importance of continuing to use good judgement and build upon the trust that currently exists among board members and staff.

Climate Purpose Statement Proposal from Subset of Committee Members

A sub-set of committee members introduced a draft proposal to the committee. The proposal recommends a statement of OWEB's purpose regarding climate impacts. They also noted the strong urging of partners and stakeholders including Oregon Association of Conservation Districts' interest in carbon sequestration and the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts' support for climate action. The intention is to recognize the impact of climate change on OWEB's mission, and to outline specific actions towards addressing and accounting for climate impacts. The committee and staff agreed there is value to proposing a short, clear, and definitive OWEB Statement of Purpose on Climate Impacts, and including relevant and measurable goals.

The committee discussed how the specific actions recommended to accomplish the Purpose statement need further development. Specifically, there is strong interest in refining the proposal to better articulate adaptation and resilience goals, along with biodiversity considerations. The committee discussed referencing Executive Order 20-04 and the work of the Oregon Global Warming Commission, along with ensuring efforts build climate-resilient communities. They also discussed the importance of considering different climate related objectives—for example, sequestration through replanting projects vs. resilience through dam

removal projects—and the importance of considering timeframes over which carbon emissions impacts vs. sequestration benefits will occur.

The committee had a robust discussion about the importance of ensuring that all potential grantees have the information and capacity to contribute towards the climate goals. Part of this discussion focused on the role of OWEB as a funder being able to foster capacity and knowledge for grantees to plan projects with measurable climate benefits and being mindful of how to ensure under-represented communities have access to such information and planning resources. Additional capacity and tools may be needed, especially as it relates to highly technical measurement and quantification processes, such as emissions and sequestration estimates. New approaches to capacity, such as providing applicants with access to centralized climate expertise, may need to be considered.

The committee discussed whether the climate impacts criteria are intended to be additive (on top of existing OWEB criteria) or an entirely new framework. The committee may choose to propose a “pilot” effort, investing a specific amount of funding to accomplish climate goals, and measure the outcomes of the investment. While Executive Order (EO) 20-04 clearly directs climate action and integration of climate benefits throughout agency processes, it will be important to consider existing resources, programs, and processes. New or shifting investments in climate benefits would need to be reconciled with the intent of existing fund sources, including Constitutionally dedicated Lottery funds and Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funding. Climate related funding criteria may need to be specified; if so, rulemaking will be needed to incorporate these into OWEB’s grant-making. The ultimate intent is not to use emissions impacts or carbon sequestration as sole criteria, but rather to foster a broad array of climate adaptation and resilience benefits while fulfilling our mandate. Work should proceed at the state enterprise level, in close collaboration with other state agencies and the Governor’s Office to share expertise and capacity among the natural resource agencies and appropriately utilize the roles and responsibilities of different agencies, including regulatory and granting agencies, among others.

The committee agreed to meet again to discuss the development of an OWEB statement of purpose on climate impacts (see ‘Summary of 9/21/21 Committee Meeting’ below and Attachment A to this committee report for the proposed revised OWEB statement of purpose for climate).

Committee Themes for Oregon Plan Biennial Report

Staff discussed the process for each board committee developing themes for inclusion in the biennial report, along with ideas prepared by staff based on EO 20-04. The committee determined that their recommendation could build from the process above regarding a statement of purpose on climate impacts and will be finalized in parallel with that process.

Summary of 9/21/21 Committee Meeting

As follow-up to the discussion at the 9/16 committee meeting regarding the proposal for a climate purpose statement, the committee reconvened on 9/21/21 to discuss and refine the proposal. Attachment A of this committee report outlines discussion and products from the 9/21/21 meeting, including a proposed Statement of Purpose for climate that the committee will share with the OWEB board at its October meeting and request feedback. Following the October 2021 board meeting, the proposed statement, along with feedback from the full board, will be considered by the coordinating committee at their November meeting, anticipating a request for the full Board to vote on approving the final statement at the January 2022 board meeting.

To Be Presented at the October 2021 Board Meeting by:

Bruce Buckmaster

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
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Attachment

- A. Proposed OWEB Climate Statement of Purpose and Climate Lens

Proposed OWEB Climate Statement of Purpose and Climate Lens.

I. Preamble

Oregon State Agencies have been directed by Governor Brown (Executive Order 20-04) to address climate change in a comprehensive and urgent manner. Among many actions required in the order, agency decision-making is specifically cited.

“Agency Decisions. To the full extent allowed by law, agencies shall consider and integrate climate change, climate change impacts, and the state's GHG emissions reduction goals into their planning, budgets, investments, and policy making decisions. While carrying out that directive, agencies are directed to:

- (1) Prioritize actions that reduce GHG emissions in a cost-effective manner.
- (2) Prioritize actions that will help vulnerable populations and impacted communities adapt to climate change impacts; and
- (3) Consult with the Environmental Justice Task Force when evaluating climate change mitigation and adaptation priorities and actions.”

II. Statement of Purpose

Consistent with its Mission and statutory framework, and in response to the ever-increasing impacts of global climate change on Oregon’s watersheds, including wildfire, extreme weather events, and loss of biodiversity, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board will add climate action criteria to its operations and funding decision process. OWEB funded projects will contribute measurably to climate-smart adaptation, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and reducing vulnerability.

Desired outcomes

Near term outcomes (measurable, actionable):

- Reduce emissions
- Increase carbon sequestration
- Protect carbon storage
- Take actions that address climate related proximal risks and consequences to biodiversity
- Reduce vulnerability of plant, human, animal communities to the consequences of climate impacts
- Provide for climate adaptation into the future

Long term outcomes (aspirational, bold):

- Enhance resilience: Capacity to recover in the future
- Reduce climate vulnerability

Actions, “How to get there”:

OWEB will continue to assist all grantees with technical resources and guidance.

Pursue rulemaking processes as necessary.

Develop climate criteria: Begin with review of existing criteria within administrative rules.

Continue to measure/account for climate benefits from project activities.

III. Climate Lens Definition

Climate Lens- a project ranking tool designed to determine the relative value of proposals according to how they meet OWEB’s established standards of climate action. OWEB climate standards generally follow IUCN Global Standards, but these may be modified to incorporate specific criteria determined to best fulfill the OWEB Mission.

The climate committee expects the climate lens to address the following:

- Climate Mitigation GHG reductions through emission reductions & carbon sequestration (NbS/NCS)
- Climate Adaptation & Resilience – through the use of NbS for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of biodiversity & ecosystem services (incl. carbon storage)
- Co-benefits of climate action [ecosystem services, biodiversity, and societal (equity being key)]
- Areas of highest vulnerability to impact (short-, mid- and long-term)
- DEI and environmental justice
- Encouragement and support of best practices by all stakeholders
- Collaboration with climate-focused partners and staff in other agencies to share the load
- Incorporating ecological approaches in fulfillment of project goals
- Consideration of short-term impacts for achievement of long-term net gains to ecosystems & biodiversity
- Establishment and use of quantifiable goals – for example, emissions baselines and reductions, monitoring of sequestration and storage, prioritization of species anticipated for future carbon sequestration, timelines for progress based on accounting

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update E-1 Strategic Plan Update

This report provides the board updates on progress implementation of the 2018 strategic plan.

Background

In June 2018, the board approved a new strategic plan. Beginning with the October 2018 board meeting, staff developed a template to track quarterly progress on strategic plan priorities.

Attached is the latest update of actions related to the strategic plan between August 2021 and October 2021. Other information on the strategic plan is also contained in the committee updates as well as other staff reports.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager, at Eric.Williams@oregon.gov or 971-345-7014.

Attachments

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Progress Report, August 2021—October 2021

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Strategic Plan Progress

QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE: August 2021-October 2021

Priority 1 – Board awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

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

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Presented to the OWEB board about the Willanch 'telling the restoration story' in the Coos Watershed – July 2021
- ✓ Updated OWEB website to add the Horsetail Creek Telling the Restoration Story work products and developed a presentation to report this information to the OWEB Board at the October 2021 meeting

Strategy: Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- Oregon Lottery media campaigns have new stories every year of watershed work and progress.
- 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 Strategy that reach non-traditional audiences.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Successes are celebrated at the local and state level through use of appropriate tools.
- More Oregonians:
 - 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.
- Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches.

Near-Term Measure:

- Fall 2018 Oregon Lottery campaign featured 6 partners from 5 OWEB regions with cumulative reach of 2,347 YouTube views, 30-second feature on watershed restoration has 2,003 YouTube views (accessed 12/10/2019).
- 54 articles featured partners and OWEB in the news (January -November 2019).

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

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

Strategy: Listen, learn, and gather Information about diverse populations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Participated in coordination meetings with federally recognized Tribes in 2020 fire impacted areas regarding use of cultural resources assessment funding through Oregon Department of transportation (ODOT) via House Bill (HB) 5006
- ✓ .

Strategy: Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop funding strategy with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Released a Request for Proposals to hire a contractor to facilitate board and staff diversity, equity, and inclusion training.

So That: (Outputs)

- OWEB board and staff have been trained in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
- OWEB has DEI capacity.
- 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.
- OWEB grantees and partners have access to DEI tools and resources.
- DEI are incorporated into OWEB grant programs, as appropriate.
- Board and staff regularly engage with underrepresented partnerships and stakeholder groups to support DEI work.

To Make This Difference: (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.

Near-Term Measure:

- Staff has participated in 365 hours of training (July 2018-August 2020).

Potential Impact Measure:

- ✓ 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.

Priority 3 – Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

Strategy: Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB’s past capacity funding

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Champion best approaches to build organizational, community and partnership capacity

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- 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.
- Local capacity strengths and gaps are identified to address and implement large-scale conservation solutions.
- 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 implement restoration projects more effectively.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Partner’s access best community capacity and strategic practices and approaches.
- OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds.

- Lessons learned from past capacity investments inform funding decisions.
- Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity.
- Restoration projects involving multiple agencies are implemented more efficiently and effectively.
- State-federal agencies increase participation in strategic partnerships.

Near-Term Measure:

- Under Development.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

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

Strategy: Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Engaged in discussions among agency water infrastructure funding agencies, legislators, and organizations representing community infrastructure providers to determine specific ways to coordinate water infrastructure funding.

Strategy: Align common investment areas with private foundations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Engaged in meetings with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and World Resources Institute about coordinated investment opportunities to address post-fire recovery and watershed health needs.

Strategy: Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Received approval in OWEB's Legislatively Adopted Budget for 2021-23 to administer funding from PacifiCorp and Idaho Power Company for targeted restoration work, should that funding be made available.

Strategy: Partner to design strategy for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Coordinated with DEQ and ODF to lead conversations across state and federal agencies related to post-fire recovery in natural and cultural resources. This work resulted in \$26 million in post-fire recovery investments through OWEB, ODF, and ODOT via HB 5006.
- ✓ Engaged in discussions with Governor's Office and affected groups about potential use of disaster funding in HB 5006 to address needs related to drought and post-fire recovery.

- ✓ Coordinated with ODF about the potential for local partners to strategically utilize both post-fire recovery funding through HB 5006 and funding for fire resilience activities through Senate Bill 762.

- -

So That: (Outputs)

- 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.

To Make This Difference: (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.

Near-Term Measure:

- Increase in the use of new and diverse funding sources by grantees.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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 Strategy.
- 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

Strategy: Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

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

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop engagement Strategy for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- 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.
- Strategy and stories are being utilized to reach owners and managers of working lands who are not currently working with local organizations.
- Landowner engagement Strategy and tools are developed and used by local conservation organizations.
- 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.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Generations of landowners continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability.
- Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands.
- Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future.
- Sustained vitality of Oregon's natural resources industries.

Near-Term Measure:

- Percentage of landowners identified within Strategic Implementation Areas that receive technical assistance.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

Priority 6 – Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategy: Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Updated OWEB website to add the Horsetail Creek Telling the Restoration Story work products and developed a presentation to report this information to the OWEB Board at the October 2021 meeting
- ✓ Began outreach to recruit new Telling the Restoration Story applicants for OWEB's targeted grant program intended to assist restorationists develop outreach materials using monitoring data to communicate restoration outcomes and impacts

Strategy: Invest in monitoring over the long term

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Began outreach with the second cohort of Implementation FIPs to scope monitoring projects to pursue OWEB supplemental funds for restoration effectiveness monitoring that is guided by their theory of change

Strategy: Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Developed a scope of work and grant application process so tide gate practitioners can access OWEB funds to develop a scalable tide gate monitoring protocol
- ✓ Worked with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to complete monitoring plan guidance for FIP restoration initiatives

Strategy: Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Worked with the Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitoring Watershed Working Group to prepare a collective response to the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) survey that summarized their findings and lessons learned to inform future restoration actions across the PNW
- ✓ Developed Climate Related Technical Resources to assist OWEB applicants with integrating scientific information about climate impacts in Oregon for their projects

Strategy: Define monitoring priorities

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop and promote a monitoring framework

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- Additional technical resources—such as guidance and tools—are developed and/or made accessible to monitoring practitioners.
- A network of experts is available to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects.
- A dedicated process exists for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described.
- Strategic monitoring projects receive long-term funding.
- Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level.
- 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.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Partners are using results-based restoration ‘stories’ to share conservation successes and lessons learned.
- Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs.

- Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning.
- Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring.
- 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.
- Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared.
- Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed and regional scales.
- Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results

Near-Term Measure:

- 14 outreach products were developed through staff, grants, or partnerships (January-December 2019)

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

Priority 7 – Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon’s watersheds

Strategy: Invest in landscape restoration over the long term

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB’s mission

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ Incorporated questions in OWEB grant applications to help better understand how grantees are connecting their work to climate adaption and sequestration

So That: (Outputs)

- OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community.
- OWEB’s landscape-scale granting involves effective partnerships around the state.
- OWEB and partners have a better understanding of how restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway.
- 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 in not demonstrated based on demonstrated past performance.
- OWEB encourages a culture of innovation.

- OWEB 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.
- OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk.

Near-Term Measure:

- 16.98% of Oregon is covered by a Strategic Action Plan associated with a FIP or Coho Business Plan.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update E-2: Key Performance Measures Reporting

This update describes this year's Key Performance Measures (KPM) reporting.

Background

As part of the agency's Annual Performance Progress Report (APPR) to the Oregon Legislature, OWEB reports on several KPMs. These metrics are part of an approach to measure performance and outcomes of state government. Measures must: gauge progress toward agency's goals and mission; identify performance targets to be achieved during the two-year budget cycle; use accurate and reliable data sources; and measure customer satisfaction.

Results from 2021 APPR

KPM results submitted in the 2021 APPR are listed below, with comparisons to 2020 shown in parentheses.

Operations – Percentage of total funding used in agency operations, with a target of 11%

- **2021 result = 7.70% (2020 = 8.79%)**

Payments – Percentage of complete grant payment requests paid within 24 days, with a target of 100%

- **2021 result = 100% (2020 = 100%)**

Customer Service – Percent of customers rating their satisfaction with the agency's customer service as "good" or "excellent": overall customer service, timeliness, accuracy (provide information correctly the first time), helpfulness, knowledge and expertise of employees, and availability of information, with a target of 91% for each measure

- **2021 results: Overall = 95.6% (2020 = 91.8%); Timeliness = 90.3% (2020 = 89.0%); Accuracy = 96.7% (2020 = 94.0%); Helpfulness = 96.7% (2020 = 94.5%); Expertise = 95.6% (2020 = 91.8%); Availability of Information = 90.2% (2020 = 81.3%)**

Funding from Other Sources – Percent of funds contributed from other sources on OWEB-funded restoration projects, with a target of 50%

- **2021 result = 59.3% (2020 = 62.74.8%)**

Grant-Making Across Oregon – Percent of Oregon's 76 sub-basins (defined as 8-digit hydrologic unit code areas) within which Oregonians benefit from OWEB's grant programs, with a target of 90%

- **2021 result = 94.7% (2020 = 93.42%)**

Timeliness of Grant-Making – Percent of open solicitation grant agreements executed within one month after board award, with a target of 75%

- **2021 result = 45% (2020 = 16.18%)**

Watershed Council Governance – Percent of OWEB funded watershed councils that demonstrate effective organizational governance and management using OWEB merit criteria, with a target of 100%

- **2021 result = 100% (2020 = not reported due to timing of funding cycle)**

Fish Populations – Percentage of monitored native fish species that exhibit increasing or stable levels of abundance, with a target of 75%

- **2021 result = 71% (2020 = 84%)**

Streamside Habitat – Number of riparian miles restored or enhanced as a result of OWEB-funded grants, with a target of 203.9 miles

- **2021 result = 165.7 miles (2020 = 300.65 miles)**

Native Fish Habitat Quantity – Miles of fish habitat opened as a result of OWEB-funded grants, with a target of 113.9 miles

- **2021 result = 113.12 miles (2020 = 73.17 miles)**

Upland Habitat – Acres of upland habitat restored or enhanced as a result of OWEB-funded grants, with a target of 50,015 acres

- **2021 result = 36,317 acres (2020 = 44,685 acres)**

Native Species Habitat and Water Quality – Percent of restoration, acquisition or technical assistance funding invested to address habitat for threatened, endangered or species of concern, or water-quality concerns identified on 303(d) listed streams, with a target of 90%

- **2021 result = 90.2% (2020 = 92.3%)**

The FY 2020-21 APPR, including full descriptions about this year's results, is available [on OWEB's Performance Measures webpage.](#)

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 971-345-7231.

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-3: 2021 Wildfire Recovery Immediate Response Grants

This report provides the board an update about the 2021 offering for OWEB's Wildfire Recovery Immediate Response Grants.

Background

In October of 2020, the OWEB Board awarded \$1 million in funding to support emergency wildfire response grants, following the devastating 2020 fire season. At the July 2021, the board received a status update about the 2020 wildfire response grants that were awarded. In addition, the board approved an allocation of \$300,000 under the Governor's Priorities line item in the 2021-2023 OWEB spending plan for wildfire recovery immediate response grants this biennium. These grants will use experience gained by OWEB in 2020, to make available a limited grant offering to respond to gaps in wildfire recovery funding in the short term. The funding objectives include:

- Investing in local organizations to respond to short-term fire recovery needs in a way that benefits long-term restoration; and
- Filling priority short-term gaps by supporting early recovery activities for which other funding sources are limited or unavailable.

2021 Wildfire Recovery Immediate Response Grant Offering

The structure of the grant offering was refined to reflect the different nature of the 2021 fire season and the lower funding amount available for the 2021 grants. The 2021 fire season has begun to slow, with ongoing fires mostly holding steady in size. As of 9/13/21 and per data from the Oregon Department of Forestry, over 750,000 acres in Oregon have been impacted by wildfires, with the majority of this footprint being in the Bootleg Fire area. This differs from the 2020 fire season, which saw 1.2 million acres burned across several very large fires (for example, the Holiday Farm and Beachie Creek fires) and a few smaller, but incredibly destructive fires in more developed areas, such as the Alameda Fire.

Being mindful of the differences between the 2020 and 2021 offerings, staff have adhered to parameters from the 2020 fires for minimum total fire size of 2,500 acres and size of non-federal acres impacted of 1,950 acres, when determining which fires were eligible for the 2021 offering. The four fires that met these criteria are:

- Bootleg Fire (Region 4)
- Cougar Peak Fire (Region 4)
- Elbow Creek Fire (Region 5)
- Skyline Ridge Fire Complex (Region 2)

Given the lower funding amount available for 2021 wildfire response grants, staff established a sliding scale for funding, based on the number of non-federal acres impacted by each fire. This approach will ensure that funding is available for high-priority, immediate response activities in areas most impacted areas by the 2021 fires, while reserving some of the \$300,000 for wildfire recovery immediate response grants in the Governor's Priorities line item of the spending plan for use following the 2022 fire season. Funding levels based on non-federal acres impacted are:

- \$25,000 for 1,950-25,000 acres of non-federal lands impacted – Elbow Creek and Skyline Ridge
- \$50,000 for 25,001-100,000 acres of non-federal lands impacted – Cougar Peak
- \$75,000 for over 100,000 acres of non-federal lands impacted – Bootleg

OWEB-funded work will focus on addressing short-term needs through September 2022 on tribal or private lands (not including industrial forestlands) that have been identified as areas of high impact by wildfire in a federally led assessment, such as those through U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management, or other assessments with approval from OWEB. Eligible activities under the OWEB wildfire recovery immediate response grants include:

- A limited suite of conservation practices that Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and/or Farm Services Agency likely will fund in wildfire impacted areas including conservation cover, cover crop, herbaceous weed treatment, mulching, range planting, woody residue treatment and fencing. Applicants will need to confirm in OWEB grant applications that funding requested from OWEB for these practices does not duplicate other funding opportunities (e.g., federal Farm Bill programs). OWEB funding should focus on areas where these on-the-ground activities are not eligible for other funding. Proposed activities must comply with specifications in accepted manuals of practice, such as the NRCS Field Guide.
- Other stabilization practices designed to protect or restore habitat or water quality that are specified in a qualifying assessment and discussed in advance with OWEB.
- Log transport and stockpiling for future restoration.
- Technical assistance to participate on local assessment teams and, to select and plan restoration practices.
- Stakeholder engagement to secure landowner involvement in immediate recovery activities and coordinate post-fire restoration actions.

Applicants will use a streamlined online application to apply for the funding. Organizations in each fire area work together to determine a single lead entity to apply for and administer the OWEB funds. OWEB staff, including the appropriate Region Program Representative, will complete application review.

The grant offering was made available on October 1, 2021 with applications accepted on a rolling basis through January 31, 2022 with funds required to be spent by September 30, 2022.

At the conclusion of the grant, grantees will be asked to report on the following in their project completion reports: How funds were used; Feedback about whether/how funds were beneficial to addressing near-term post-wildfire risk to native fish and wildlife habitat and/or water quality; How work completed supported disproportionately impacted communities; and If/how the project utilized minority and women-owned contractors/businesses.

At future meetings, staff will update the board about awards made under the 2021 Wildfire Recovery Immediate Response Grants offering, which will total an amount of up to \$175,000.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 971-345-7231.



Kate Brown, Governor



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Spring 2021 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 42 restoration grants, 18 technical assistance grants, 18 monitoring grants, and 10 stakeholder engagement grants.

II. Spring 2021 Grant Offering Background and Summary

A total of 144 applications were received requesting nearly \$19 million. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

III. Review Process

Staff continued to use a virtual review process where all eligible grant applications were reviewed by the agency's six Regional Review Teams (RRTs). Staff scheduled virtual site visits for as many proposed projects as possible, with all RRT members invited to the 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, which are provided in Attachment B. After classifying applications as "Fund," "Fund with Conditions," or "Do Not Fund," the RRTs then prioritized the projects recommended for funding by application type.

The RRT evaluations and recommendations, along with staff recommendations, were distributed to all applicants. Attachment C includes the number of applications recommended by RRTs and staff for each region by project type, as well as staff-recommended award totals by application type and region. Prior to the board meeting, staff will forward to the board any written comments received from applicants regarding the RRT and staff recommendations.

IV. 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 that improve greater sage-grouse habitat. The recommended Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant awards include three projects that meet the criteria, shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Sage-grouse Projects

Project Number and Name	Recommended Award
221-5037 “Watering Juniper Chapter 2”	\$106,861
221-5039 “Poison Creek Wet Meadow Rehab: Stop the Invasion”	\$155,265
221-5052 “We Ain’t Greenhorns but We Need Help Fixin’ Willow Creek”	\$62,701
Total	\$324,827

The three sage-grouse projects, if awarded, will bring the total since 2015 to \$10,842,695.

V. Funding Recommendation

Staff considered the RRT recommendations and funding availability in developing the staff funding recommendations provided in Attachment D, which includes the number of applications recommended for funding by RRTs and staff by region and grant type. The funding recommendations for the Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Spending Plan and Funding Recommendations for Spring 2021 Grant Offering

Grant Type	Current Spending Plan Balance	Previous Awards	Staff Recommendation	Remaining Spending Plan Balance
Restoration	\$33,500,000	\$0	\$7,987,705	\$25,512,295
Technical Assistance	\$4,500,000	\$0	\$1,116,398	\$3,383,602
Monitoring	\$4,250,000	\$0	\$1,837,110	\$2,412,990
Stakeholder Engagement	\$2,250,000	\$0	\$556,881	\$1,693,119
TOTAL	\$44,500,000	\$0	\$11,497,994	\$33,002,006

Staff recommend the board award funds for the staff-recommended projects listed in Attachment D.

Attachments

- A. Grant Applications Submitted
- B. Evaluation Criteria
- C. RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations
- D. Regions 1-6 Funding Recommendations

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Offering

Applications Received by Type

	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	4	0	8	7	19
Region 2	6	4	11	11	32
Region 3	6	1	1	9	17
Region 4	3	3	7	9	22
Region 5	5	0	6	18	29
Region 6	5	2	5	13	25
Totals	29	10	38	67	144

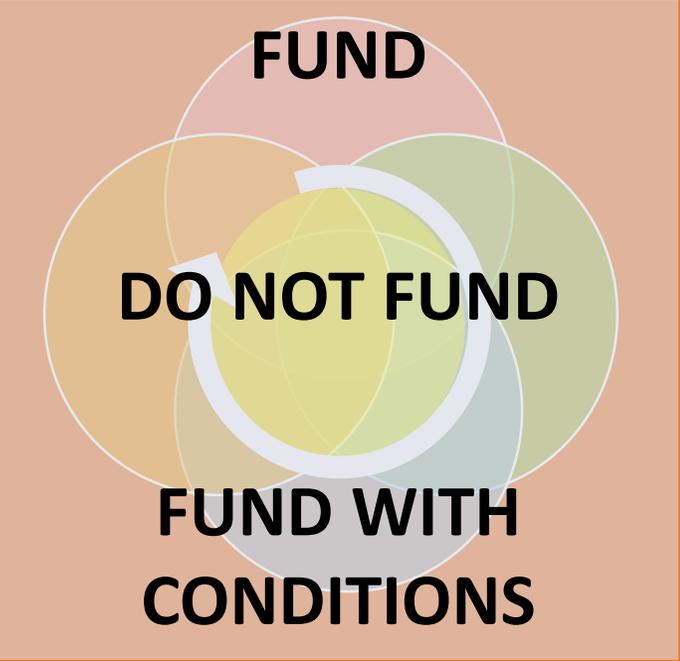
Dollar Amounts by Application Type

	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	214,543	0	478,084	1,636,201	\$2,328,828
Region 2	567,161	242,389	723,077	3,364,036	\$4,896,663
Region 3	828,965	27,293	51,740	2,540,392	\$3,448,390
Region 4	434,814	213,984	498,065	1,809,663	\$2,956,526
Region 5	514,720	0	281,075	1,794,250	\$2,590,045
Region 6	578,788	73,215	265,804	1,842,933	\$2,760,740
Totals	\$3,138,991	\$556,881	\$2,297,845	\$12,987,475	\$18,981,192

Open Solicitation – Restoration Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Recommend



Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize



CRITERIA

How well project meets criteria for project evaluation & preferences, including:

- Causes over symptoms of disturbance
- Whole watershed approach over site-specific
- Collaboration over single-party



CERTAINTY OF SUCCESS

Certainty of success, based on the organizational capacity of the applicant & the likelihood the project will meet its ecological objectives



BENEFIT TO OREGON PLAN

Benefit to the Oregon Plan for Salmon & Watersheds, as evidenced by its expected benefits to watershed functions, fish habitat or water quality



COST BENEFIT

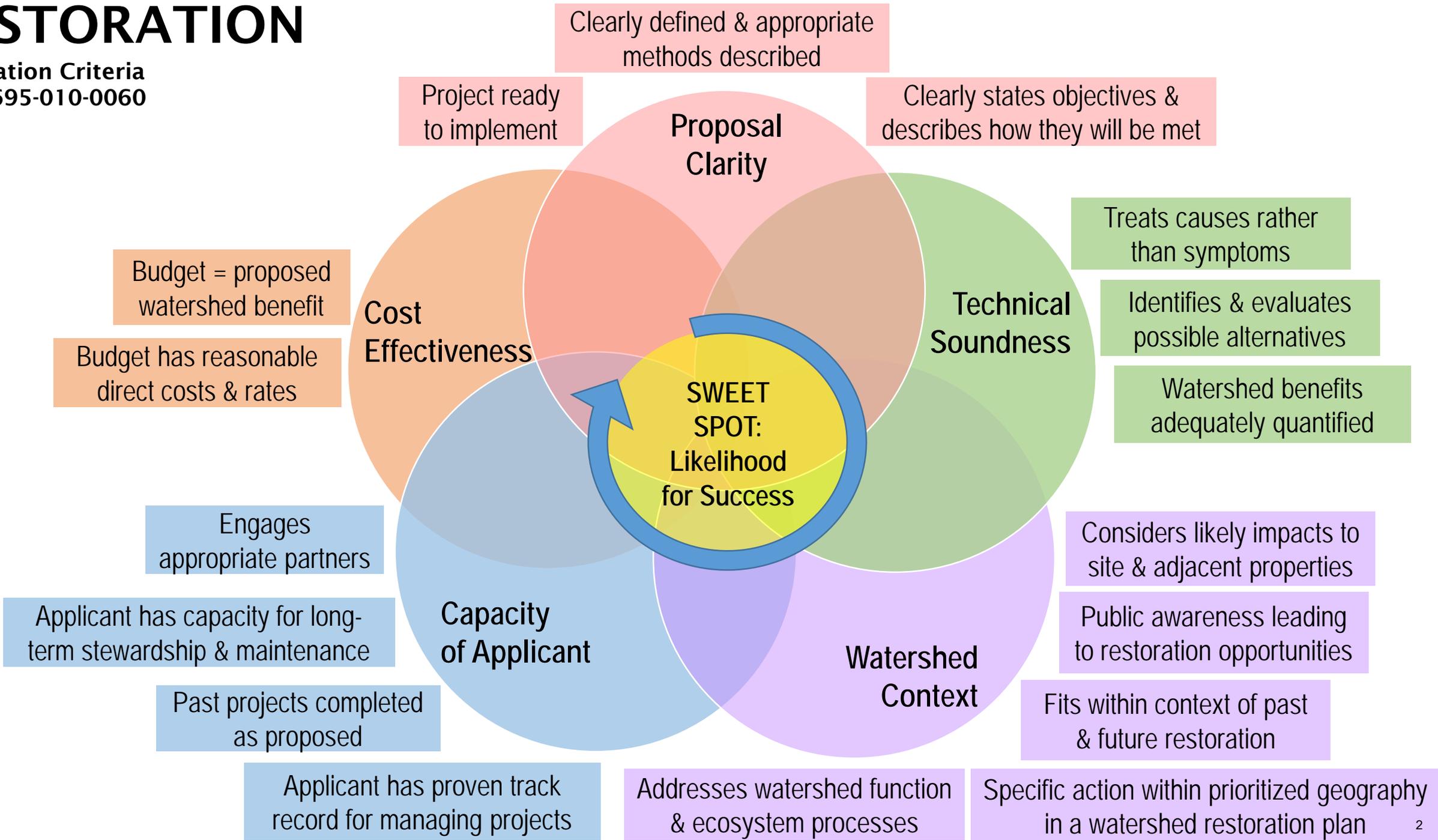
Project costs relative to the anticipated watershed health benefits

Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

RESTORATION

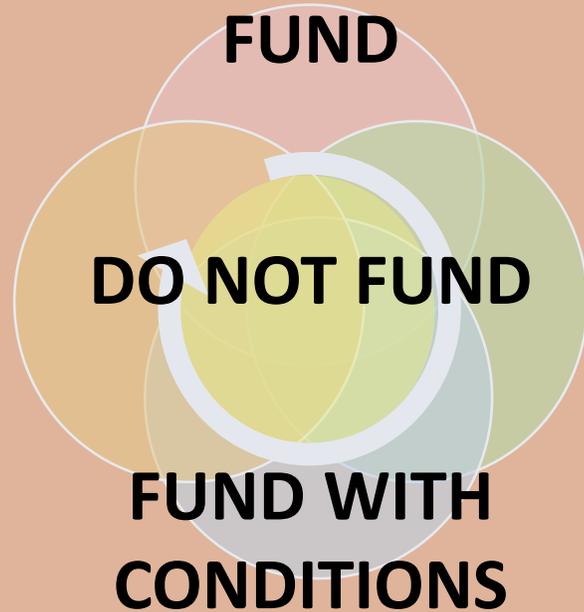
Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-010-0060



Open Solicitation – Technical Assistance Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Recommend



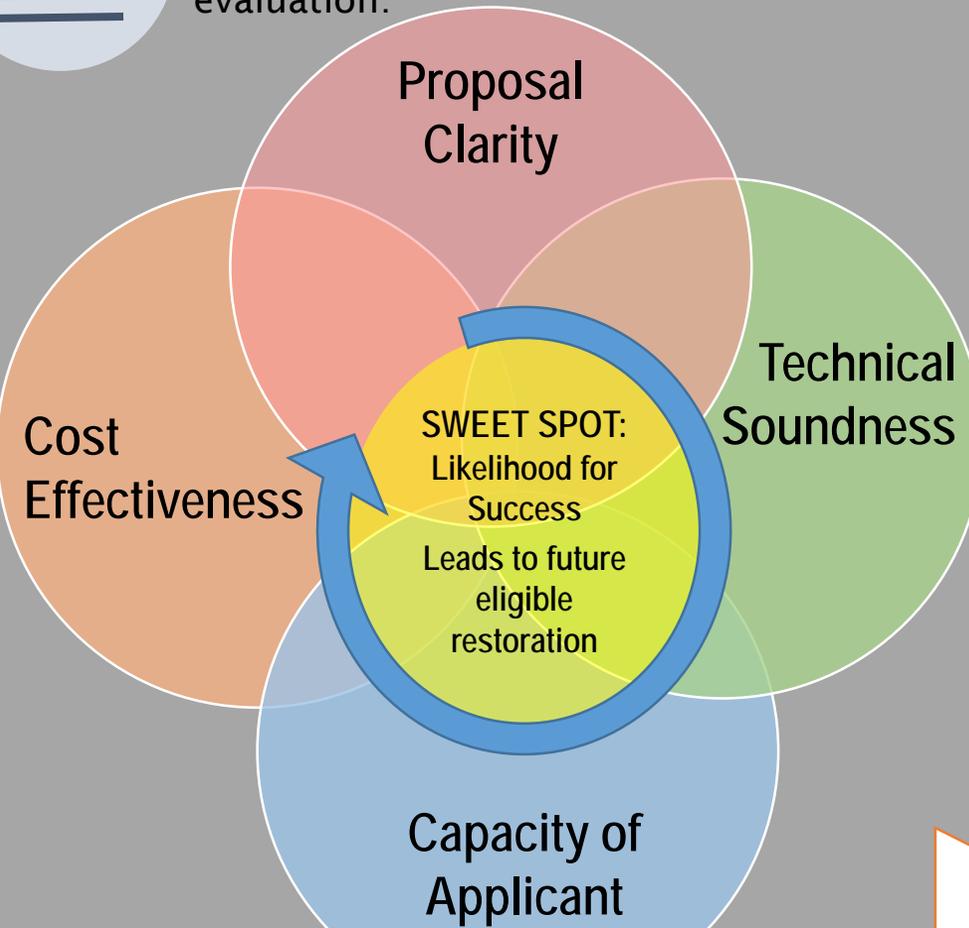
Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize



CRITERIA

How well project meets criteria for project evaluation:



Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-030-0045

Technical Design & Engineering = project feasibility reports, designs, or engineering materials that directly lead to site-specific restoration or acquisition projects within a specified timeframe

Resource Assessment & Planning = 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

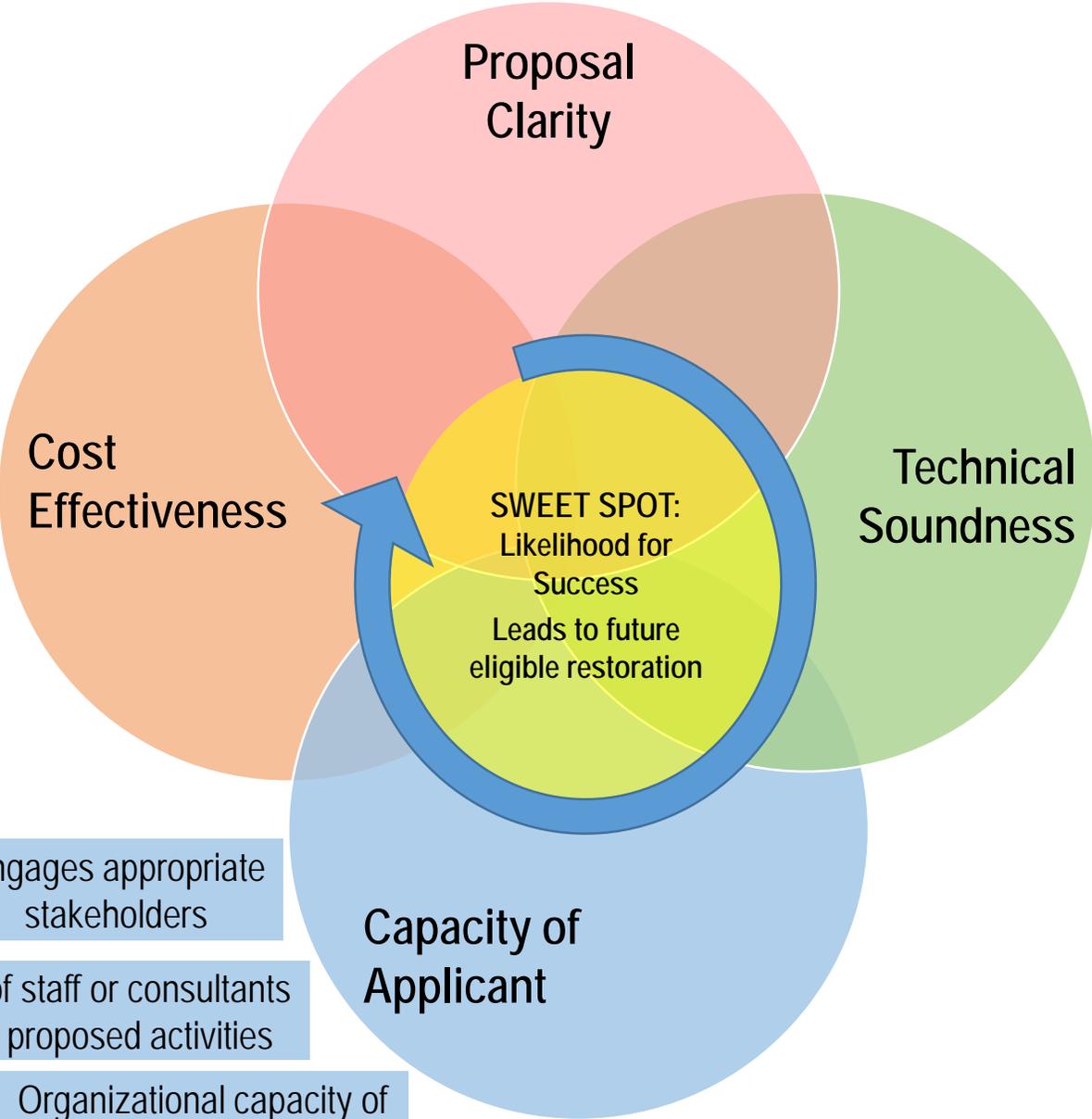
Describes a clear need

Cost aligns with work necessary to accomplish project objectives

Engages appropriate stakeholders

Qualifications of staff or consultants to accomplish proposed activities

Organizational capacity of applicant



Technical Design & Engineering

- Addresses limiting factors in existing conservation or recovery plan
- Describes alternative analysis that demonstrates a range of options were considered
- Appropriate data will be collected to inform designs
- Professionally accepted technical or engineering approaches will be used

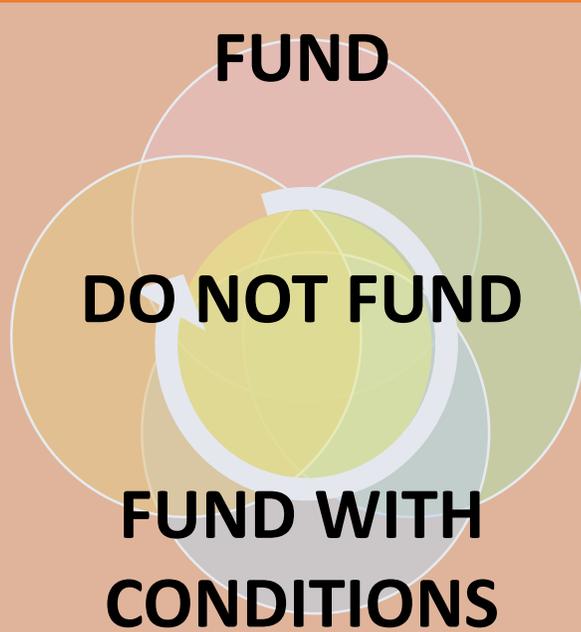
Resource Assessment & Planning

- Scope & scale is feasible, & partners have demonstrated ability in collaborative work at this scale
- Process by which data will be managed & shared with partners
- Professionally accepted methods & parameters will be used

Open Solicitation – Stakeholder Engagement Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Recommend



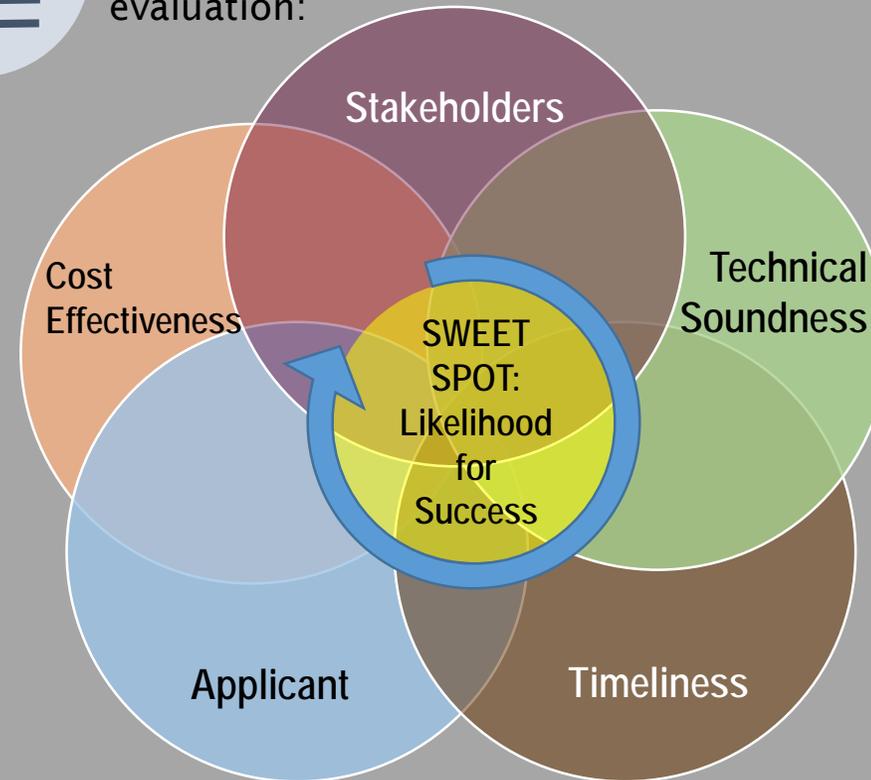
Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize



CRITERIA

How well project meets criteria for project evaluation:



CERTAINTY OF SUCCESS

Based on the organizational capacity of the applicant & likelihood the project will meet its stakeholder engagement objectives

Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

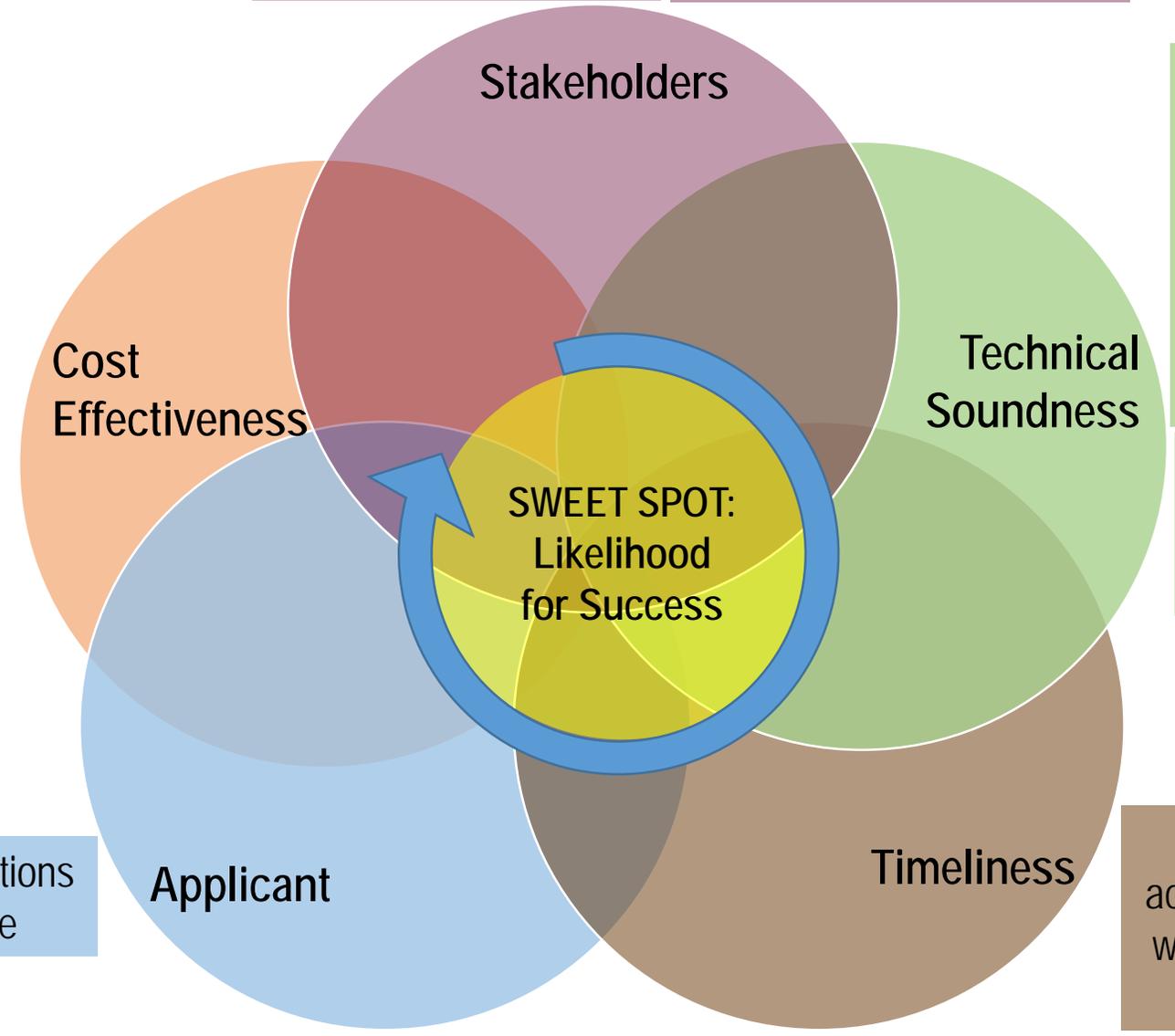
Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-015-0070

“Stakeholder Engagement Project” means a project whose purpose is to communicate and engage with landowners, organizations and the community about the need for, feasibility, and benefit of a specific eligible restoration or acquisitions project or program that leads to development of eligible projects within an identified geography.

Projects whose primary purpose is education are  NOT ELIGIBLE

Applicants engage with appropriate stakeholders in the appropriate geography

Likely effectiveness of multidirectional communication among the applicant & stakeholder



Expected outcomes of resulting restoration or acquisitions include protecting or restoring fish or wildlife habitat, watershed function, and or water quality or quantity

Evidence base linking engagement to eligible project types

Shows qualifications & experience

Resulting restoration or acquisition projects, or program will lead to timely development of eligible projects

RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations for the Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering

Restoration

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	6	6	100%
2	9	5	56%
3	8	8	100%
4	8	5	63%
5	13	10	77%
6	9	8	89%
Total	53	42	79%

Technical Assistance

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	5	2	40%
2	10	4	40%
3	1	1	100%
4	7	5	71%
5	6	3	50%
6	3	3	100%
Total	32	18	56%

Monitoring

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	2	2	100%
2	4	4	100%
3	3	3	100%
4	2	2	100%
5	3	3	100%
6	4	4	100%
Total	18	18	100%

Stakeholder Engagement

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	0	0	n/a
2	4	4	100%
3	1	1	100%
4	3	3	100%
5	0	0	n/a
6	2	2	100%
Total	10	10	100%

Totals by Region

Region	Restoration	Technical Assistance	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement
1	\$1,417,979	\$133,795	\$112,498	\$0
2	\$2,091,461	\$299,995	\$374,643	\$242,389
3	\$1,940,519	\$51,740	\$290,978	\$27,293
4	\$790,717	\$348,169	\$263,856	\$213,984
5	\$639,527	\$166,895	\$297,479	\$0
6	\$1,107,502	\$115,804	\$497,556	\$73,215
Total	\$7,987,705	\$1,116,398	\$1,837,010	\$556,881

Item F Att D
Regions 1-6 Funding
Recommendations

North Coast - Region 1 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2020

- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 1 Cities
- Region 1 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 1 Boundary



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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
221-1029	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	Sand Lake Habitat Enhancement Project: Large Wood Placements	Large wood structures will be placed instream in partnership with private landowners to restore spawning and rearing habitat for native fish, including Oregon coast coho salmon, on three high priority Sand Lake Basin tributaries north of Pacific City.	84,573	Tillamook
221-1031	Trout Unlimited Inc	Green Creek Priority Fish Passage Project	A fish passage barrier will be replaced with a new structure designed to provide full passage for native migratory fish on Green Creek, a tributary of the Trask River. The project is a high priority for the Salmon SuperHwy partnership in Tillamook County.	549,866	Tillamook
221-1032	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	The Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP)- a proposal for sustainable program development	High quality and genetically appropriate plant material will be propagated and distributed to over 30 local partnering organizations for restoration projects in NW Oregon.	204,149	Tillamook
221-1030	Scappoose Bay WC	South Scappoose Reach F Construction	Instream and streamside habitat will be restored and enhanced on South Scappoose Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay. The project is located on a highly visible stream reach within a city-owned park and supports habitat for Lower Columbia salmon.	170,677	Columbia
221-1027	North Coast WS Assn	North North Fork Klaskanine Fish Passage Project	Fish passage will be restored at a hatchery on the North North Fork of the Klaskanine River to improve access to nearly five miles of habitat for native fish, including endangered coho salmon populations.	274,078	Clatsop
221-1033	CREST	West Sand Island Prairie Restoration	Rare coastal dune habitat will be restored on West Sand Island, an island near the mouth of the Columbia River. Several endangered species that frequent coastal prairie will benefit, including streaked horned lark and western snowy plover.	134,636	Clatsop
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,417,979	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-1028	Lower Nehalem WC	Jetty Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project	218,222	Tillamook	

Region 1 - North Coast Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-1036	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	North Coast Watershed Councils Restoration Assistance 2021	A coalition of north coast watershed councils will collaborate to share the resources of a highly qualified consultant to plan and develop watershed restoration that benefit salmon, lamprey, steelhead, and trout.	73,240	Tillamook
221-1037	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	Siletz Tribe's Lower Fivemile Wetlands Restoration Planning CLONE	Stream restoration will be designed by an experienced technical team to restore stream channels and native plant communities on a property in the Tahkenitch Lake watershed in Douglas County.	60,555	Douglas
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				133,795	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-1034	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	Sitka Sedge Tidal Wetland Project (SSTW): Alternatives Evaluation & Preliminary Design	Design alternatives will be evaluated to restore tidal hydrology and estuary habitat at the southern extent of the Sand Lake estuary in Tillamook County.	74,976	Tillamook
221-1041	City of Newport	Big Creek Watershed Forest Resource Assessment	A forest resource assessment will be conducted to inform the development of a land management plan and acquisition strategy for lands in the City of Newport's Big Creek watershed, the primary source of drinking water for the City.	49,445	Lincoln
221-1035	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	Tillamook Bay Watershed Coho Strategic Action Plan	Regional partners will convene to develop a Strategic Action Plan for the Tillamook Bay watershed to coordinate and accelerate habitat protection and restoration for Oregon coast coho salmon.	74,971	Tillamook

Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-1038	CREST	South Tongue Point Restoration Designs	29,387	Clatsop	
221-1039	Columbia SWCD	Clatskanie Floodplain-Confluence Strategy	59,400	Columbia	
221-1040	Columbia SWCD	Page Creek, Fish Passage and Habitat Complexity Design 3	56,100	Columbia	

Region 1 - North Coast Stakeholder Engagement
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Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
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Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
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None					
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Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff					
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Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
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Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
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None					
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Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
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Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
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None				
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Region 1 - North Coast Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-1044	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	2021-2022 Continuing Columbia SWCD Water Quality Monitoring Program	Water quality will be monitored by a group of partners in the lower Columbia watershed to build on an extensive existing dataset and inform future watershed restoration.	25,094	Columbia
221-1043	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	TEP 2021 Bacteria Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program	Citizen scientists will collect water samples at established monitoring locations on a year-round basis to continue a long-term bacteria monitoring effort within Tillamook County watersheds.	87,404	Tillamook
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				112,498	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-1045	Upper Nehalem WC	Coho Response to Beaver Dam Analogues	91,278	Washington	
221-1046	Salmon Drift Cr WC	Echo Mountain Fire and Ocean Tributaries Water Quality Surveillance	37,767	Lincoln	

Region 1 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	1,664,272
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1027-19510

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North North Fork Klaskanine Fish Passage Project

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$274,078

Total Cost: \$508,555

Application Description

The North Fork Klaskanine is a major tributary to Young's Bay and the first major watershed that ocean-returning fish encounter in the Lower Columbia River. It has low gradient habitat, good canopy cover, intermittent sections of wide valley that provide high intrinsic potential habitat for ESA listed coho, and ample beaver activity. The North Fork has received limited attention for habitat restoration due to passage impediments from ODFW's Klaskanine Fish Hatchery. Recently ODFW and USFWS partnered to complete survey and passage assessments on the North Fork Klaskanine and its tributaries to maximize wild fish passage and stream connectivity while maintaining hatchery management. This led to a 2020 removal of one hatchery dam on the North Fork Klaskanine. In this proposal, OWEB funding is requested to restore passage at a second hatchery dam on the North North Fork Klaskanine at Intake 3 to improve access to 4.7 miles of habitat. The project will build a roughened channel to backwater the dam and provide full fish passage through the constructed riffle and over the dam. The roughened channel will extend ~260 feet downstream from the dam-crest at a 3.5% slope. The crest of the constructed riffle will provide fish passage throughout the full range of flows for all native species. The base of the dam will be buried, but not removed. The diversion will continue to meet hatchery needs, the fish screen will meet regulatory requirements, and the associated fish bypass and sediment sluice pipes will be reconfigured to fully function while meeting the new downstream channel alignment. ODFW is coordinating with ODOT on reviewing, approving and funding some structural protection to the Hwy 202 bridge located upstream of the dam. Project partners include ODFW, USFWS, North Coast Watershed Association, Oregon Department of Transportation and Resources Legacy Fund.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal thoroughly describes the complex site conditions associated with the stream dynamics around the hatchery facilities.
- Implementation of the project has a degree of urgency as matching funds have been secured.
- Similar roughened channel designs have been successful in the South Fork Klaskanine and the South Fork Necanicum rivers. There is high confidence that the project team will implement a similar successful project.
- The project will have a near immediate benefit to Pacific lamprey, providing passage and making overwintering habitat available.
- Construction of the roughened channel will improve fish access to 4.7 miles of stream habitat.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1028-19512

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Jetty Creek Fish Passage and
Habitat Enhancement Project

Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$218,222

Total Cost: \$425,591

Application Description

Jetty Creek is located just upstream of the mouth of the Nehalem River, 3 miles north of the City of Rockaway Beach in Tillamook County. The stream supports ESA listed coho salmon, chum salmon and coastal cutthroat trout. Most of the Jetty Creek watershed is managed for private timber and it serves as the primary surface water source for the City of Rockaway Beach. Jetty Creek is currently below the ODFW benchmarks for instream large wood. Juvenile fish also struggle to overwinter in Jetty Creek due to the simplified channel and gradient. Several road-stream crossings in Jetty Creek do not meet the federal fish passage standard of 1.5 times active channel width. This project is partnering with private landowner, GreenWood Resources to improve stream function and enhance salmonid habitat quality by implementing the following: install 7 full channel spanning large wood structures, construct 5 alcoves and upgrade 2 undersized culvert crossings with bridges that meet the federal fish passage standard. The Lower Nehalem Watershed Council will provide project management, coordinate partner communication, contract for the LW placements/alcove implementation oversight and construction, contribute to the cost of bridges, and manage the project grants and schedule. GreenWood Resources will provide all the wood needed for the project, construction contracting for the implementation and engineering review for the culvert upgrades. Forest engineering firm McGee Engineering is providing the culvert replacement designs. Experienced natural resources professional, Steve Trask, will be contracted by LNWC to provide on the ground guidance to the construction contractor installing the large wood structures and alcoves. Because the project is on industrial timber land, the only permits required are the Oregon Department of Forestry Notification of Operations and Tillamook County sign off on the Land Use Compatibility Statement form.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will improve habitat complexity, a known limiting factor for Oregon coast coho salmon, within Jetty Creek. The creek provides important overwintering habitat for juvenile fish.
- The partners involved have a proven track record of success and demonstrated ability to complete these types of projects.
- Costs for materials and supplies, particularly the bridges, are reasonable.

Concerns

- The application lacks detail on the placement and design of the proposed alcoves. Similar alcoves constructed in the past have had limited success. It is unclear how the location for the alcoves was selected and proposed hydrologic information would be particularly useful in evaluating durability of the alcoves by predicting the potential for them to fill in with sediment. Additional information describing the basis of designs for the alcoves is needed to evaluate technical soundness of the approach.
- One of the proposed alcove locations may disrupt a functioning wetland that fringes the stream.
- The culverts slated for replacement are not fish passage barriers at low flows. They are undersized and sediment-filled, but are likely not posing immediate passage issues.
- The proposed excavation work has the potential to negatively impact stream temperature.
- The bridge design is over-spanned for the active channel width. This may be a positive project element, but there is not enough information on the project design in the application to determine the suitability of this approach.
- Jetty Creek is a drinking water source for the community of Rockaway Beach. It is important to carefully consider sedimentation potential of any restoration project that could impact water quality.

Concluding Analysis

Jetty Creek is an important place to work to improve fish habitat and the stream will benefit from the addition of large wood. This project will build on previous restoration work downstream at the City of Rockaway Beach's water facility that improved upstream passage for fish. The plan for the alcoves, however, lacks important details that are needed for determining the 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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1029-19538

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Sand Lake Habitat Enhancement
Project: Large Wood Placements

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds
Council

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$84,573

Total Cost: \$132,037

Application Description

Sand Creek, Jewel Creek and Andy Creek are three high priority Sand Lake Basin tributary streams located on Oregon's coast, 5 miles north of Pacific City in Tillamook County. These streams were selected based on recommendations in the NNSL's 2019 Sand Lake Basin Limiting Factors Analysis (LFA) that identified stream reaches where restoration activities would have the greatest positive impact for coho salmon. The LFA builds on recommended on-the-ground restoration components included in the NOAA Fisheries Final ESA Recovery Plan for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon (2016). Home to ESA listed coho, Chinook, chum, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey, these low-gradient streams with good spawning gravels lack channel complexity, pools and floodplain connectivity due to historic land management practices that have led to the absence of instream large wood. The project proposes to partner with industrial timber landowner Stimson and private landowners to place 47 large wood structures in 2.69 miles (3,876 meters) of stream. Each large wood structure will be comprised of 5-7 logs with a minimum of three of the logs having rootwads attached. ODFW and USFS provided support to NNSL to conduct field visits to each tributary and identify LW placement locations and staging areas. Stimson Lumber will supply the wood for the projects on their ownership. USFS will supply the wood for the private landowner projects via the Siletz Tribe through the USFS Tribal Wood Donation Program. Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watersheds Council will provide project management, secure the wood, manage the contracts, contract with a habitat restoration specialist to provide construction oversight and contract with a contractor for all project implementation. USFS will provide federal permitting support for the LW placements on private lands. OWEB funds will be used to support: project management, habitat specialist for project implementation and construction actions.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides a clear rationale for the importance of working in the proposed location of the Sand Lake watershed.
- The proposed work is the result of a recently completed Limiting Factors Analysis completed by the applicant.
- The project builds on past restoration work, there has been riparian planting and fencing downstream along with numerous fish passage projects completed in the watershed.

- Landowner engagement within the watershed has been positive and there is stakeholder support for the project.
- The design is technically sound, with wood appropriately sized and slated to meet ODFW benchmarks for key pieces per mile.
- Existing monitoring efforts in the basin may complement the restoration work by providing data as to how instream complexity affects water quality parameters.
- The applicant has a proven track record of success implementing similar types of projects.
- There is an effective partnership behind the project that brings technical resources to the work.

Concerns

- No significant concerns are identified.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project will increase habitat complexity at priority locations in the Sand Lake watershed identified during a recent strategic planning process. While the Sand Lake coho populations are considered dependent and a lower priority for restoration actions, the project is targeting key watershed limiting factors and is likely to have a positive benefit on life history diversity of coho. The design is technically sound and the partners are ready to implement a successful project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$84,573

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$84,573

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1030-19574

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: South Scappoose Reach F Construction

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$170,677

Total Cost: \$216,178

Application Description

This project is located in Columbia County in the City of Scappoose on South Scappoose Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay, 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), and the Scappoose Creek Limiting Factor Analysis (SBWC, 2012): 1) lack of physical habitat quality and complexity, including loss of floodplain connectivity and 2) the loss of complex riparian vegetative function and stream shading. Project will complete construction of Phase 3 of the South Scappoose Restoration Project to restore natural habitats on 0.2 miles of South Scappoose Creek. This project supports restoration actions on 0.7 miles directly upstream, where construction in 2019 completed a stream bank layback, floodplain benches and additional side-channel reconnections. Partners include Scappoose Bay Watershed Council, City of Scappoose, Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project expands on previous restoration efforts on South Scappoose Creek.
- Technical assistance work has been completed in the past and the results were utilized to prioritize and plan the proposed restoration.
- The designs are technically sound and rely on data and modeling that has proven effective.
- The project has a strong community nexus with a City of Scappoose partnership and will serve as a positive landowner engagement tool.
- The proposed alcoves are designed with a basis in hydrologic modeling that is technically sound.
- The planting effort is comprehensive and includes appropriate site preparation techniques and planned maintenance.
- The species selected for the riparian planting are appropriate for the site.
- The project location is a priority in which to work for Lower Columbia River fish species.
- The proposed restoration will help to address ongoing temperature issues in the Scappoose watershed.

- The proposed timing of the work at the onset of the City's planning process will result in cost efficiencies.
- The applicant and project partners have a proven track record with this type of project.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the proposed white oak listed in the planting section of the application is applicable to the project site.

Concluding Analysis

The project represents an opportunity to continue highly successful restoration work on South Scappoose Creek within a popular city park. The City has been working with the watershed council and other partners to improve aquatic and riparian habitat along the creek, and Reach F will build on those highly visible successes. The restoration work is likely to achieve the stated objectives.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$170,677

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$170,677

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1031-19586

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Green Creek Priority Fish Passage Project

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$549,866

Total Cost: \$879,376

Application Description

The Green Creek fish passage restoration project is located on Tillamook County owned Trask River Road just east of the town of Tillamook. Green Creek drains a 0.74 square mile watershed, flowing from the headwaters and upper reaches in State Forest, through a rural residential area, entering agricultural land in the lower reaches, to its confluence with the Trask River. Green Creek provides 1.7 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed coho salmon, as well as, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. Resident brook and/or Pacific lamprey likely occur in the watershed but are not well-documented. In April 2020, ODFW determined the active channel width of Green Creek to be 10-ft. The current culvert is a circular, corrugated metal pipe, approximately 50-ft in length and 4-ft 5-in in diameter. Replacing the undersized, deteriorated, and perched culvert with a 25-ft bridge will restore full passage for native migratory fish, improve stream function, and decrease County road maintenance while allowing for large wood and streambed material to move through the system. Project partners include: Tillamook County, Trout Unlimited (TU), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Forest Service (USFS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). Bridge designs, hydraulic analysis, and geotechnical report were provided by a private engineering firm in cooperation and consultation with the County and Trout Unlimited. USFWS is covering federal ESA compliance under PROJECTS and Section 106/ SHPO cultural consultation. NOAA is completing NEPA compliance. Trout Unlimited will submit the ACOE/ DSL Joint Permit application, ODFW fish passage approval, fish salvage permit, and County permits. Tillamook County Public works provided design review and will provide construction oversight and temporary construction easements with affected landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is clear and articulates the need and urgency for the proposed work.
- The crossing is prioritized for replacement within a larger strategic framework.
- Restoring fish passage at the project location builds on previous restoration work in the Tillamook Bay watershed.
- The project is partly the result of an OWEB-funded Technical Assistance grant which produced technically sound designs in a timely manner.

- Site specific constraints necessitating the chosen alternative are well-described within the application narrative.
- Green Creek is a high priority for fish passage restoration due to the need for more temperature refugia in the watershed.
- The project addresses limiting factors in the watershed and will restore access to 1.7 miles of aquatic habitat for ESA listed coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout.
- There is an effective partnership behind the project as the work is part of the Salmon SuperHwy strategic effort to restore fish passage in the Tillamook-Nestucca watersheds.
- The applicant has a proven track record of successfully implementing projects of this scope and scale.
- The site conditions, constraints, and expected ecological benefit all justify the cost of the project.

Concerns

- No significant concerns are identified.

Concluding Analysis

The partnership behind the Salmon Super Hwy continues their systematic work addressing fish passage and watershed connectivity with this project at Green Creek. The application clearly presents technically sound designs to restore passage at a priority location.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$549,866

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$549,866

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1032-19618

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: The Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP)- a proposal for sustainable program development

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$204,149

Total Cost: \$361,759

Application Description

The Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP), a Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) program, is an integral part of the conservation community in Northwest Oregon (NWOR). Locally adapted, genetically appropriate native plant material is critical for ensuring success in watershed scale restoration projects. TEP's Native Plant Nursery (NPN) supports >30 organizations annually by propagating and distributing >50,000 affordable, high quality, ethically sourced plants which would otherwise be unavailable to NORP partners. TEP supplies this essential material at 25% of its current value to NORP partners, thereby allowing partners of varying capacities to utilize the remaining 75% of the plant value as match to leverage additional funds needed for the success of restoration projects. As a result, landscape-scale watershed restoration projects are being implemented by NORP partners on private and public lands in seven counties (Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln, Lane, Columbia, Washington, and Yamhill). Due to this unique partnership, every dollar invested in NORP has an exponential benefit in terms of on-the-ground restoration in the watersheds of the Lower Columbia, Upper Willamette, North, and Mid-Oregon coast. NORP Partners include the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State Parks, the National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Soil & Water Conservation Districts, watershed councils, land trusts, the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), and local youth programs. Discounted plant material is not essential to all of NORP partners, therefore TEP intends to develop and implement a new fiscal model over the next three years. NORP is ongoing and reevaluation of it is critical to ensure its longevity and sustainability as a program. In order to securely move through the fiscal planning and implementation process, the partnership is requesting \$205,149 in program management funds from OWEB to assist with NORP personnel costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application presents a clear approach and timeline to accomplish the work.
- The partnership is looking at the development of a new funding model that will help alleviate the need for a focus on grant opportunities.
- NORP is a critical facet of restoration within the North Coast region. The demand for plants and nursery services continues to grow and NORP has continually stepped up to meet the needs.
- The work that NORP proposes to continue addresses several limiting factors within north coast watersheds, including the lack of native species diversity, temperature issues, and canopy cover.

- Projects that utilize NORP plant stock typically have an improved rate of success over projects that utilize other plant materials with genetics from outside of the coastal region.
- The applicant has a long history of successful project implementation, and this effort will allow an increased focus on improving the capacity of the partnership.
- A long-standing partnership with the Oregon Youth Authority provides ancillary community benefits to the work.
- The applicant has a track record of managing complex budgets and funding portfolios.

Concerns

- The application is unclear as to what specific experience the project manager has in fiscal planning of the nature proposed.

Concluding Analysis

Throughout northwest Oregon, non-profit organizations, agencies, and municipalities have come to rely on NORP to produce high quality, genetically appropriate plant material for restoration projects. This application represents a pivotal step in the development of the partnership. It will continue to support the distribution of plant material to restoration projects throughout the region, but also enable NORP staff to spend much-needed time on the development of a sustainable funding plan for the work. The partnership's track record indicates a likelihood for success in accomplishing the ecological objectives of the work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$204,149

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$204,149

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1033-19643

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: West Sand Island Prairie Restoration

Applicant: CREST

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$134,636

Total Cost: \$212,086

Application Description

The coastal dune prairie restoration will occur on approximately 48 acres of the southern end of West Sand Island, located in Clatsop County, Oregon, within Baker Bay near the mouth of the Columbia River. [Note: OWEB's mapping tool does not allow accurate pin placement - please ignore and see uploaded map]. The island is a former shifting sand shoal that has been expanded by dredge spoil deposits and stabilized by the property owner, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project area is rare coastal dune habitat that has been largely lost in Oregon and Washington. This prairie offers potential habitat to several ESA-listed species, including streaked horned lark and western snowy plover. Recent invasion by nonnative species has severely degraded the habitat quality by changing the vegetation community structure and function. The primary culprit species include gorse, Scotch broom, and European beachgrass. Scattered coniferous trees throughout the site discourage use by larks and plovers, who avoid tall woody vegetation and European beachgrass. Without intensive restoration, the remaining native prairie will be lost. A separate, current restoration project in 2020 masticated mature Scotch broom and gorse on the east shore and southern tip of the project site. Follow-up herbicide treatments and native plantings will occur in 2021-2023. As part of this grant, approximately 40 acres will be burned in 2022 to remove mature European beachgrass, gorse, and Scotch broom through the majority of the site. Foliar treatments of herbicide in subsequent years will prevent recolonization. Native seed and plugs will be used sparingly, to add diversity but maintain desirable bare ground. The project is a partnership between CREST and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with logistical and technical support from the National Parks Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, North Coast Land Conservancy, and Eco Studies Institute.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The restoration proposal is thorough and well-considered. The selected approach to preserve the existing high value plant communities and remove encroaching invasives is appropriate for the site.
- West Sand Island provides a unique opportunity to restore coastal prairie, an imperiled habitat type within the region. The habitat present on the island represents some of the best available remaining examples of these rare plant communities.
- Opportunities to restore coastal prairie habitat are limited and this project could benefit numerous pollinators and streaked horned larks, as well as provide overwintering habitat for western snowy plovers.

- The application builds on a previous OWEB-funded Technical Assistance grant that produced a sound action plan for site restoration.
- The applicant addressed concerns identified in a previous application submission and presented a much clearer path of action.
- There is urgent need for this project as encroachment by invasive species on the rare plant communities continues at a rapid pace.
- The approach incorporates adaptive management to ensure continued success throughout the duration of the site preparation, planting, and maintenance.
- The applicant has developed partnerships with relevant entities interested in restoring the habitat on the island and continues to engage with local stakeholders.
- The approach is cost-effective at the scope and scale of restoration proposed.

Concerns

- Limited information is provided about how the success of the project will be tracked.
- There is limited detail on the plan to conduct burning on the island as a site preparation technique.
- The long-term sustainability of this type of restoration in the absence of natural disturbance regimes is unclear.

Concluding Analysis

Coastal prairie habitat is a priority for restoration and West Sand Island represents a unique opportunity to enhance conditions for several rare and listed plant and wildlife species. This project is a resubmittal, and the applicant clearly addressed the previous concerns around the scope and scale of the work. This approach to coastal prairie restoration is well-balanced and works with the natural systems on the island and aims to achieve realistic ecological objectives that are likely to succeed. Site preparation work on the island has already commenced and the applicant has high capacity to implement the work proposed. A newly formed Friends of West Sand Island group is engaged and committed to supporting the long-term sustainability of the restoration work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$134,636

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$134,636

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1034-19520

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Sitka Sedge Tidal Wetland Project (SSTW): Alternatives Evaluation & Preliminary Design

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$74,976

Total Cost: \$228,816

Application Description

“Sitka Sedge Tidal Wetland” project (SSTW), is a significant opportunity to improve tidal wetland function, habitat complexity, species diversity, and water quality in the Sand Lake estuary. TEP in partnership with OPRD, proposes a \$228,816 project (\$74,976 OWEB request) to evaluate dike breach and setback flood protection alternatives key to restoration of Beltz Marsh. SSTW concludes with preferred preliminary restoration design for Beltz Marsh enabling restoration of 68-acres of tidal habitat. SSTW, is a unincorporated portion of Tillamook County on Oregon’s north coast. SSTW comprises the southern extent of Sand Lake Estuary nested within the 357-acre Sitka Sedge State Natural Area (SSSNA). Tidal wetland access is a critical limiting factor in pursuit of healthy coastal watersheds. Over 70% of Oregon’s estuarine wetlands have been lost to conversion. Sand Lake loss is due to levee construction and draining that altered tidal wetland function and quality resulting in significant impact to sensitive species and habitats. Sand Lake is critical habitat for ESA threatened Oregon Coast Coho salmon (ESU) and NOAA’s recovery plan states the primary limiting factor for recovery is access to intact rearing habitat in tidal wetland. Sand Lake, one of Oregon’s least developed estuaries, is located along the Pacific Flyway, providing indispensable habitat for diverse migratory bird species. The project area supports 17 federal and/or state species of concern, nine of which are OWEB North Coast priority species. Establishing a dike alternative that provides uninhibited tidal connectivity to Beltz Marsh including comprehensive tidal wetland design is the first step in a larger project that includes upstream fish passage improvements on three salmon streams, floodplain wetland restoration, and large wood placement on Beltz and Reneke Creeks. Additionally, SSTW evaluates setback flood protection alternatives for the Tierra Del Mar community to mitigate impacts of Sea Level .

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting restoration project will restore tidal marsh habitat to the Sitka Sedge Natural Area. Estuarine habitat is a priority for restoration along the Oregon coast.
- The proposed 2D modeling will help communicate with stakeholders in the watershed and is a critical step to completing a restoration design.
- An increased understanding of the storm water interactions within the neighboring community of Tierra del Mar will improve project soundness.
- The temporal scale on which the data is proposed for collection is appropriate and relevant.

- The project engages the appropriate partners and the project manager is highly experienced with similar work.
- The design approach aims to restore natural processes by removing a portion of the Beltz dike, which is an ecologically sound and more cost-effective approach than other alternatives considered.

Concerns

- It is unclear from the application what the alternatives analysis process will be moving forward and what other alternatives were considered to the setback levee.
- The application lacks some detail on the selected alternative. More information on the location of the proposed setback levee, the degree to which the existing levee will be removed, expected levee maintenance, and expected public use would have been helpful to understand the design approach.
- The proposed construction of a setback levee has the potential to hold water and may counteract its intended purpose of flood reduction. Hydrologic modeling to date has not shown a strong need for the setback levee and has indicated the community is not at risk of flooding from reconnecting tidal hydrology to the marsh.
- The modeling does not consider potential sediment issues.
- Previous technical and modeling work has been completed for the project but is not well-summarized in the application. Information on how that work will inform this next technical phase would have been helpful in evaluating the proposal.

Concluding Analysis

The technical approach to the design work is sound and builds upon many years of community engagement and previous hydrologic modeling by project partners. The landowner, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, has committed to an ecological outcome that will restore a greater degree of tidal connectivity than other restoration alternatives previously considered. This technical assistance effort proposed is critical for continuing momentum for restoration of this high priority estuarine site.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,976

Review Team Conditions

n/a

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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1035-19537

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Tillamook Bay Watershed Coho Strategic Action Plan

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$74,971

Total Cost: \$129,159

Application Description

Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP), in cooperation with Wild Salmon Center (WSC), proposes to facilitate development of a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for Tillamook Bay Watershed. The SAP will convene regional natural resource professionals and land managers to collaborate on a detailed restoration plan addressing limiting factors related to spawning and rearing habitat for the Tillamook Bay population of Oregon Coast (OC) coho. Oregon Coast coho are a federally-listed species; their recovery is a priority for both federal (NOAA Fisheries) and state (ODFW) agencies. No coho-specific comprehensive plan incorporating both the estuary and contributing watershed exists. Loss and degradation of key habitats and ecological processes have contributed to declines in OC coho (and other salmonids) and the ecologic, economic, and cultural systems that rely upon them. Dedicated to improving and conserving these habitats and processes as a means of restoring salmon populations, TEP seeks to develop a two-phase SAP project to clarify both long-term habitat restoration priorities and to coordinate and accelerate short-term project implementation. Phase 1, presented in this application, encompasses goal setting, habitat assessments, and several data and expert-driven spatial analyses, which result in the “strategic framework”. A future Phase 2 will initiate stakeholder outreach and finalize planning process steps. Partners committed to participating: US Fish & Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, Bureau of Land Management, OR Dept of Forestry, OR Dept of Fish & Wildlife, OR Dept of Environmental Quality, The Nature Conservancy, Tillamook Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Stimson Lumber, Tillamook Creamery, Trout Unlimited and Tillamook Bay Watershed Council. OWEB funds will be used to contract WSC to facilitate SAP development and a graphic artist and document preparation specialist to assist in preparing the SAP report.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The chosen approach to strategic planning is effective and focuses on specific limiting factors to Oregon coast coho recovery.
- The applicant clearly describes the process that will be undertaken, and the proposal indicates that the cost and effort necessary to produce the deliverables is well-understood.
- The products from other similar planning processes along the coast have been high quality and useful for restoration practitioners focused on Oregon coast coho recovery.
- The selected consultant is highly qualified and experienced with similar planning efforts in the Nehalem, Siletz, Siuslaw, Elk, Umpqua, and Rogue rivers.

- Preliminary stakeholder engagement has already occurred, and an appropriate assemblage of partners are interested in participating in the planning process.
- The two-phased approach outlined in the application is appropriate given the expected level of detail to be included in the strategic action plan.

Concerns

- The application is unclear as to whether the proposed phase of the project will result in a Strategic Action Plan.
- The project may result in generating a need for more stakeholder engagement work and not immediately result in restoration.
- The original Coho Business Plan applicant has had challenges meeting deliverables of past grants.
- The cost for the SAP is high given that another phase will be necessary to complete the SAP. Similar single-species strategic planning efforts on the coast have recently been completed for significantly less cost.
- The cost for the graphic designer for the document seems high and it is unclear why a graphic designer is included at this phase of the project given that another phase is necessary to produce the final document.

Concluding Analysis

The Tillamook Bay watershed would greatly benefit from the development of a strategic action plan for Oregon coast coho salmon. The planning process selected will serve as a catalyst for engaging partners in the watershed around coho recovery and is likely to produce a useful document for restoration planning. While the past similar “Coho Business Plan” efforts have been slow to produce deliverables, the partnership approach taken by this application may help to broaden responsibilities around the planning process and lead to a successful outcome.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,971

Review Team Conditions

n/a

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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1036-19539

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: North Coast Watershed Councils
Restoration Assistance 2021

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds
Council

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$73,240

Total Cost: \$91,749

Application Description

Since 2012, a coalition of North Coast watershed councils has collaborated to increase the collective number of grant applications submitted for restoration projects. This coalition encompasses watersheds from Nicolai-Wickiup on the lower Columbia River all the way south to Neskowin Creek, all of which are within Clatsop and Tillamook Counties. This proposal is intended to continue this very successful collaboration. With the assistance of OWEB funding, these councils share the resources of a highly qualified consultant for pre-project field work, project design solicitation, proposal drafting, and contract preparation. Each Council's needs are similar, so sharing the services of a highly qualified contractor effectively leverages each organization's ability to secure funding and move high-priority projects forward. This has resulted in a proven model that takes advantage of economies of scale with only one contract. Partners US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) support this program, seeing the value in hiring a "third arm" for the participating Councils. The partners increase that value by providing additional match. This cooperative effort has demonstrated the efficiencies that can be created by sharing resources among Councils, and it is more important than ever considering the ongoing reductions in ODFW and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) staffing and budgets. The best way to maintain or increase restoration is to find efficiencies through contracting. Participating councils include: North Coast Watershed Association (NCWA), Necanicum Watershed Council (NWC), Lower Nehalem Watershed Council (LNWC) and Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watersheds Council (NNSL). Deliverables include 8 submitted grant applications.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal is clear and identifies watershed limiting factors and solutions.
- The deliverables expected from the technical assistance work are clearly identified and quantified.
- The project has a long track record of success and has shown to be a model of collaboration for the region.
- Resulting restoration projects developed through previous iterations of this project have been technically sound and of high quality.
- Engaging a technical provider long-term who is knowledgeable in the region continues to help provide support and consistency during organizational staff transitions.

- The approach to collaboration around technical assistance is cost-effective.

Concerns

- No significant concerns are identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a continuation of a long-running technical assistance effort that serves multiple watershed councils in the north coast. The quantity and quality of successful projects developed through this effort have been impressive. Resulting restoration projects target limiting factors within the watersheds encompassed by the work and often build on previously implemented work. This project has a high likelihood of success with an engaged technical provider continuing to deliver collaboration and consistency to the partnering organizations.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$73,240

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$73,240

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1037-19603

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Siletz Tribe's Lower Fivemile Wetlands Restoration Planning_CLONE

Applicant: Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Region: North Coast

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$60,555

Total Cost: \$85,035

Application Description

The Lower Fivemile Wetlands property, herein after referred to as the Property, was purchased in 2015 with OWEB funding. OWEB holds a conservation easement on the Property. The occurrence of the property's conservation status has created a unique opportunity to retain (in perpetuity) diverse aquatic habitats that will continue to assist with conservation of one of the most productive salmonid rearing watersheds in the state of Oregon. More broadly, the conservation status of the 125 acre Property will continue to contribute to the basin-wide conservation complex composed of additional Tribal lands (6,500 acres with 17 miles of lake shoreline) and additional USFS Fivemile-Bell Landscape Management Project properties (5,000 acres). The Property is located in Douglas County and is the first private property located upstream of Tahkenitch Lake on Fivemile Creek (43°49'35.17"N 124° 3'48.47"W). The forest properties immediately upland of the Property to the East and West are owned and managed by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI). The Tribe completed a management Plan that was approved by OWEB this past year (see Appendix 2). The main purpose of the project is to carry out an assessment of existing conditions specific to the seasonal hydrology and the marsh surface and channel flow path elevation patterns. This work will then be used to generate a 2D model to allow for consideration of regrading of the marsh's surface, relocation of the channel network, and development of site appropriate plant community restoration objectives. Project tasks include seasonal water table assessment, Geomorphic Grade Line Modeling (Powers et al; River Res. Applic. 2018;1–11; John Wiley and Sons; A process-based approach to restoring depositional river valleys to Stage 0, an anastomosing channel network), and plant community restoration design. Project partners include CTSI, USFS Siuslaw National Forest, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes the need for the technical assistance work.
- The scale of the restoration work will be landscape-level. The project site is adjacent to the Fivemile-Bell restoration project and the proposed work will have outsized ecological benefits because of this connectivity.
- The project builds on previous conservation investments. The lower Fivemile site is in tribal ownership and was purchased in part with an OWEB Acquisition grant. The work proposed is consistent with the draft management plan for the property.
- The landowner is considering levee removal which is likely to have a high benefit to aquatic habitat.

- The partners involved with the project are experienced, highly qualified, and have the capacity to complete the proposed work.

Concerns

- The reed canary grass infestation on the property is significant and it will be challenging to develop effective site preparation techniques. More information on design alternatives in the application related to the reed canary grass would have been beneficial.
- The restoration design will need to consider sediment transport before proceeding along a design pathway, and the application is limited on detail in how this will be assessed.
- The future conditions at the site are challenging to design for, given the expected continued water fluctuations driven by the downstream lake levels affecting site hydrology.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance proposal represents an important opportunity to continue watershed-level work in a priority location that addresses key limiting factors for Oregon coast coho salmon and other fish and wildlife. The plan to pursue a process-based approach is technically sound for the site and the assembled team of partners is among the most highly qualified in the Pacific Northwest to design and implement this type of restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$60,555

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$60,555

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1038-19604

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Tongue Point Restoration Designs

Applicant: CREST

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$29,387

Total Cost: \$41,939

Application Description

The South Tongue Point Restoration project is located on the Columbia River's Cathlamet Bay on the edge of the town of Astoria, Oregon. Located just south of the Tongue Point port, the site is part of a landform that was built up out of the river with dredge spoils in the 1940s-1950s during the ship building boom. That landform buried natural channel and bank habitat, and was constructed with a simplified structure that offers limited aquatic habitat for ESA-listed salmonids and other aquatic species of interest. The project's location - adjacent to the outlets of two salmon-bearing streams (Mill Creek and John Day River) - means that holding sites for spawning salmonids and rearing/feeding sites for juvenile salmonids would be particularly valuable and likely highly utilized. This project will excavate tidal channel complexes into the site's interior from the eastern and southern shores and grade channel banks to maximize aquatic food webs. The project will provide rearing and feeding habitat for ESA-listed salmonid species in addition to numerous other aquatic species, and will provide macrodetritus and food resource inputs to the Columbia River Estuary. Channel formation will include the placement of slash and large woody debris, further enhancing food web productivity. Following excavation, the site will be revegetated with a diverse mix of native species that includes high structural diversity. CREST is working closely with the soon-to-be landowner (Clatsop Community College), who plans to use the site as a living laboratory for their nascent Environmental Studies program. CREST is also working with Columbia Land Trust, which led the acquisition of the site from the Department of State Lands and the transfer to the College with an appropriate easement. The design and engineering consultant for conceptual design and alternative analysis is Stillwater Sciences, and Stillwater will likely conduct the full design process.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The need for the project is clearly articulated within the application.
- The conceptual design is technically sound.
- The partnership surrounding the project is cohesive and the involvement of the Clatsop Community College will generate additional outreach benefits within the community.
- The applicant is highly experienced with this type of project and has a proven track record of success.
- The cost of the technical assistance work is reasonable for the proposed phase of design.
- A successful design and restoration effort at South Tongue Point could inform future work addressing dredge spoil locations.

- The project builds on previous conservation investments with acquisition of the site funded by a USFWS Coastal Wetlands grant.

Concerns

- The application is unclear about the distinct acreage that is involved with this design effort.
- There is potential for contaminants to be present at this site due to the many years of accumulated dredge spoils, and the application does not address this design consideration in a substantive way. No contingencies are provided for the potential discovery of contaminants.
- The resulting restoration project may be prohibitively expensive for the expected ecological benefit.

Concluding Analysis

The project provides opportunity to develop a restoration design that increases ecological benefit on a priority site within the Youngs Bay estuary. The application, however, does not consider potential contaminant concerns for this location. The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment conducted for the purposes of the initial land acquisition identified contaminants as a concern and recommended testing prior to any ground disturbance. Sediment testing is not identified within this application and it is recommended that it be included at this stage of design or addressed with a discussion within the narrative. Contingencies for other design alternatives should be identified if contaminants are discovered during the planning 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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1039-19616

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Clatskanie Floodplain-Confluence Strategy

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$59,400

Total Cost: \$77,400

Application Description

The project area is located along Keystone Creek tributary-confluence area of the lower Clatskanie Floodplain area (approximately RM 5-6). Spanning 2 river miles, these areas represent the intersection of low gradient tributary systems with the broader floodplain of mainstem Clatskanie river. This proposal seeks technical assistance to better understand broader hydro-geomorphic processes supportive of habitat restoration and flood hazard mitigation opportunities identified along this reach. A multi-partner working group will be established to scope and solicit technical services for organizing these opportunities into a coherent strategy for future project design and implementation. Services will include design support for selected projects to be used for initial permitting needs and implementation applications for funding. This effort expands upon geomorphic assessment information being conducted by local partners and completed projects in the area. Resources will be dedicated to collecting additional topographic and hydrologic information to understand range of hydrologic patterns for determining relative benefit and risk of existing opportunities. Project partners include private landowners, Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District, Columbia County Public Works department.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location is identified through the watershed council's strategic action planning process.
- The technical assistance work may help prioritize future restoration work within the Clatskanie floodplain.
- The appropriate partners are engaged with the project.

Concerns

- The deliverables of the technical assistance work are unclear. It is unknown whether the work will result in future technical assistance requests or serve to facilitate restoration projects.
- The stated deliverables and products developed through the technical assistance work do not align with the proposed budget. The budget may not reflect the resources required to complete the work.
- There is no map provided within the application that clearly demonstrates what the geography of the technical assistance work will be.

- The scope of the project described in the application is unclear and provides limited detail. The project aims to complete a body of work at very different scales. It will be challenging to complete both conceptual designs for a specific location but also broader landscape planning for an unidentified geography.

Concluding Analysis

The project will endeavor to continue restoration in the Clatskanie floodplain, a priority location for addressing limiting factors for several listed fish species. Previous work has been done in the area and this work will build on those efforts. The application, however, is lacking key detail around what deliverables can be expected and where the project will take place. From the information provided, it is challenging to understand how the products can be distilled into a manageable scope for a technical assistance provider. The application narrative indicates there are willing landowners already on board to implement restoration on their properties, but those properties are not described clearly in the materials submitted. Separate projects to pursue these specific landowner sites may be more effective than combining them with an overarching technical assistance effort that may detract from accomplishing an effective design for those sites.

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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1040-19617

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Page Creek, Fish Passage and Habitat Complexity Design_3

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$56,100

Total Cost: \$71,100

Application Description

The proposal solicits resources to expound upon the success of previous restoration efforts to maximize the ecological potential of the Page Creek subwatershed in the Clatskanie Basin (RM 8.8). Funds will be used to procure technical services related to removal of the final fish barrier 2 miles from its confluence with the Clatskanie river. This will re-establish access to 1 mile of spawning habitat. Scope of effort also includes design elements that contribute to instream habitat complexity. Pre-design information in the form of topographic and geotechnical surveys will inform existing condition as well and serve as a platform for developing design alternatives. Technical services will also include geomorphic, hydrologic and hydraulic investigation as part of alternative analysis conducted in collaboration with Technical Advisory Committee. Information will be important to determining the type of structure required that is consistent with underlying geology while maximizing needs for migrating fish populations. Design sets for preferred alternative will be developed to level of detail necessary to engaging feedback from regulatory community and along with preliminary cost estimates. This feedback will be important to scoping final design process, regulatory requirements and implementation proposals. Selected firm will work collaboratively with the watershed council and project partners to developing design concepts that will be sustainable in light of elevated coastal storm events from climate change.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Clatskanie basin is identified as a high priority for habitat restoration by ODFW for lower Columbia fish species.
- The proposed technical assistance work will lead to the replacement of the last remaining barrier on Page Creek and complement previous fish passage investments downstream.
- The landowner is highly supportive and engaged in the project.
- Technical assistance work upfront is important for a successful restoration project at this site. The culvert is in a stream reach with a steep gradient and replacement of the structure may be complex. The geotechnical work will be important to ensure the technical soundness of the design approach.

Concerns

- The application provides limited detail on the overall importance of Page Creek relative to fish populations in the watershed.

- There is no clear plan to move this project from technical assistance work to restoration with only 30% designs proposed.
- The cost for technical work may be high for only achieving 30% designs.
- A significant portion of the budget is directed toward assessments. Directing these funds toward design instead may produce a higher level of design.
- The project would benefit from more partnerships, including with ODFW and other organizations conducting strategic fish passage restoration in the Columbia County.

Concluding Analysis

The technical assistance project is a resubmittal and several previous concerns with the project continue to be unresolved. The site is complex and likely to need additional design work beyond what is proposed, but a pathway to bring the designs up to a permitting or implementation level is still not described. There are still questions as to why the project location is a priority for the overall watershed as the application lacks details on fish populations in Page Creek itself. Since other strategic fish passage efforts in the area have not identified this location as a priority, the proposed project may be more of an opportunistic effort that is not likely to produce significant ecological benefit.

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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1041-19638

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Big Creek Watershed Forest Resource Assessment

Applicant: City of Newport

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$49,445

Total Cost: \$66,245

Application Description

The City of Newport owns a substantial amount of property in and around its municipal raw water storage reservoirs in the Big Creek Watershed, which is partially within and just east of the city limits. These lands were purchased to address the City's domestic water supply needs and they have significant habitat value. The Greater Newport Vision 2040 encourages watershed conservation and habitat protection/restoration through strategic partnerships (Strategy B6) and the City's Comprehensive Plan calls for acquisition of land within the watershed when available or necessary to protect water quality (Water Policy 4, Public Facilities Element). While the City controls a significant amount of property within the watershed, it does not have a plan for how those lands should be managed nor has it taken steps to identify how best to prioritize future acquisitions. This forest resource assessment will address both of these needs by (a) assessing the forest resources on public and private lands within the Big Creek Watershed; and (b) identifying management strategies for publicly owned lands that achieve high quality habitat and improve water quality; and (c) developing a strategic action plan to inform implementation of management strategies and future land purchases; and (d) conducting outreach to landowners in the watershed to develop relationships and a mutual understanding of short- and long-term property management goals. A consulting forester will be hired to conduct a timber inventory on public lands and develop a high-level strategic forest management plan within the watershed. Findings and recommendations will be vetted with key stakeholders and agency topic area experts. Information related to the City's plans for rebuilding the reservoir will be factored into the plan as well. Project partners include the Oregon Coast Community Forest Association, Oregon State University Extension Services, Sustainable Northwest, area landowners, and partner agencies.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project approach is proactive and indicates the City is committed to water quality and watershed health in the Big Creek watershed.
- The technical assistance work adopts a whole watershed approach that will provide information to help land managers protect public drinking water as well as fish and wildlife habitat.
- The plan for the survey work is appropriate for the parameters of interest. It looks at other forest attributes beyond solely timber.
- The proposed timber inventories will be helpful to understand future restoration opportunities.

- The project team has an effective partnership with many community stakeholders represented.
- The work is cost-effective for the expected ecological benefit.

Concerns

- Opportunities for fish habitat restoration are limited due to the presence of the Big Creek dam blocking fish access to the project area.
- The application would benefit from more detail on the other types of natural resource assessments that will be accomplished beyond timber inventories.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed technical assistance work will help inform critical land management decisions by the City of Newport. The City emphasizes its commitment to managing the property for watershed health throughout the application narrative and indicates a desire to expand City ownership in the watershed. The assessment work and deliverables completed with this project will allow for an informed process for partners to expand conservation opportunities in the watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,445

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

b/a

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1043-19493

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: TEP 2021 Bacteria Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$87,404

Total Cost: \$127,940

Application Description Bacteria concentrations in many streams, bays, and beaches in Tillamook County are at levels that exceed the State standards for recreational contact and shellfish harvest. These waterbodies usually occur lower in the watersheds and are associated with urban and agricultural landscapes. DEQ developed three Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in the north coast of Oregon to address this problem: the North Coast Subbasins, Tillamook Bay Watershed, and Nestucca Bay Watershed.

Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) monitors E. coli and enterococcus bacteria concentrations in Tillamook County as a part of its Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program (VWQMP). The goal of the VWQMP is to evaluate the status and trends for bacteria levels in the streams, sloughs and bays throughout Tillamook County. The ongoing monitoring effort includes 73 sites throughout Tillamook County.

TEP uses citizen scientist volunteers to collect water sample at established monitoring locations throughout Tillamook County. Approximately eight volunteers collect water samples for TEP twice a month on a year-round basis. VWQMP water samples are brought to the TEP office where they are processed and analyzed for bacteria using IDEXX equipment and methods.

Sample results are recorded by TEP staff and entered into an online database. Recent results are available to the public through an interactive map on TEP's website. Every two years, TEP compiles, formats, and rates all data per DEQ protocols for accuracy. Bacteria data are forwarded to DEQ, which compares the most recent two years' of data to the appropriate State water quality standards to determine the status of the streams, sloughs, and bays. DEQ also performs regression analysis for each site to determine if statistically significant changes (trends) in bacteria concentrations are present. TEP and DEQ use this information to inform partners and the general public about water quality improvements.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This monitoring project will leverage the historic bacteria data the applicant has collected since 1997

to understand bacteria trends.

- The applicant will continue to follow professionally approved sampling methods to collect the water samples.
- The applicant will work with DEQ to perform the trend analysis.
- The applicant will make the data immediately available on their website so that the data are accessible to the public and other interested parties.
- The applicant will submit their data to DEQ to be incorporated into the statewide water quality database.
- The applicant will write a two-year summary report to identify trends at the different sites.
- The applicant performs outreach to communicate the results to local watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts through a variety of venues.
- The applicant is experienced at collecting these data, with an established history of collecting and reporting this information over many years.
- The costs proposed in the application are appropriate for the work necessary over two years and include staff time and supplies and materials needed for sample processing.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The applicant does not describe how this project complements other current or planned water quality monitoring efforts across the watersheds being monitored.
- The application does not include monitoring questions, which makes it difficult to review the application relative to specific evaluation criteria.
- The Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) referenced in the application is outdated from 2002 and does not include the majority of the sites in the application. It also lacks a description of the QA/QC procedures for processing water samples at the applicant organization's office for presence of E. coli and enterococcus.
- While the applicant proposes to use approved methods, the application does not describe the methods, or the QA/QC procedures followed to process water samples for presence of E. coli and enterococcus at their office. The study design generally explains where sites are located within the impaired listing locations but does not explain how the sites are distributed across the watershed and into the estuaries.
- The design also does not describe the sampling frequency or provide a justification about why water samples should be collected twice a month, 12 months a year. This information would justify need for this intensity of sampling, given the extensive data record that already exists.
- The application does not provide a description of QA/QC procedures to train and oversee the volunteers that collect the water samples and transport them to the applicant's office for sample processing.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendations

Require applicant to write a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and have it approved by DEQ to reflect current sampling sites and the lab procedures that will be used to handle and process water samples.

Ensure consistent submittal of data to DEQ every two years.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is a long-term monitoring effort that has amassed a valuable data set that is utilized by restoration practitioners in the Tillamook Bay watershed.
- Monitoring techniques approved by DEQ will be used.
- Data collected from the project is used to validate the success of restoration projects and prioritize locations for additional work.
- The applicant has a long history of success with this type of work.
- The project exhibits a model of collaboration with citizen scientists that continues to be successful.
- The quality of the data is consistent.
- The project thoroughly spans a large geography and is cost-effective for the scope and scale of the project.

Concerns

- The overarching goals of the ongoing monitoring effort are not well-described in the application.
- It is unclear how the work fits in with the current EPA monitoring.
- The applicant organization has experienced a high rate of staff turnover that could impact capacity for the proposed work.

Concluding Analysis

This long-running bacteria monitoring project in the Tillamook watershed has continually produced high quality data used by restoration practitioners and other community stakeholders to track water quality. The application would have benefited from more details on the long-term vision for the work and how the project directly connects to future restoration. The extensive track record of restoration success in the watershed indicates the monitoring work is likely to continue to providing critical data to inform restoration planning.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$87,404

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$87,404

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1044-19511

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: 2021-2022 Continuing Columbia SWCD Water Quality Monitoring Program

Applicant: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$25,094

Total Cost: \$47,594

Application Description The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP), the Columbia SWCD and partners request \$25,094 to continue water quality monitoring in four key subbasins in Columbia County. We have been collecting these data since 2017, and this grant will support the FIFTH AND FINAL YEAR of planned data collection. Monitored watersheds include: Clatskanie River and Beaver Creek, which drain to the lower Columbia River (LCR) and Scappoose and Milton Creeks which drain into the Multnomah Channel and then to the LCR. These important watersheds provide spawning, rearing and refugia habitat for state and federally listed threatened species of salmon and steelhead. The LCR Conservation and Recovery Plan lists degraded water quality- elevated temperatures and excessive fine sediments- as limiting factors to coho, Chinook, steelhead and chum species using these watersheds. This project will collect and analyze comprehensive and scientifically sound water quality data that will be used to fill data gaps, build a dataset that provides an understanding of ambient conditions and potential problems. This understanding will allow us to address limiting factors to improve watershed conditions.

This project will build on existing data from 2008-2010 (Scappoose/Milton) and 2017-2020 (all subbasins) and collect samples in discrete upper and lower watershed locations to measure bacteria, temperature, turbidity, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and pH. Results will be used to analyze watershed status and trends, detect changes, identify water quality issues and potential sources, and determine priority stream reaches for restoration. We will produce a water quality report, and information will be distributed to Columbia SWCD's community members to educate and engage them in conservation, restoration, and best management practices. Project partners include: Columbia SWCD, Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, Scappoose Bay Watershed Council, and Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality.

Monitoring Team Evaluation
Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application references several plans to identify the need for ongoing data collection in water quality impaired waterbodies.
- The application describes the existing water quality data collected with OWEB and DEQ funding, including a single ambient water quality site that DEQ maintains. The study design complements the existing data and monitoring sites.
- The applicant will collect water quality data year-round and the sampling sites are distributed across various land uses in the watersheds.
- The applicant will follow professionally accepted methods and has an updated and approved sampling and analysis plan with DEQ.
- The applicant will submit the water quality data to DEQ and make the data available to the public by producing an annual report and posting it on multiple websites.
- Staff from the applicant organization who are working on this project have technical experience collecting and reporting water quality data and have provided high quality work on past monitoring.
- The applicant has communicated in the past with DEQ to obtain technical assistance for this monitoring project.
- The applicant is working with the local SWCD and watershed councils to communicate the results to community stakeholders and landowners.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- While the application notes the importance of fish habitat in this area, the application does not mention if fish and habitat data are being collected in these watersheds by other partners and if and/or how the proposed water quality data can complement those efforts.
- The trend analysis could benefit from more than 5 years of data being collected.
- The application did not clearly describe the analysis procedures needed to answer the following questions: "Do water quality trends relate to land-use patterns, riparian stream shade, or known watershed issues? What are the mitigation measures that can be recommended?"
- The current SAP does not include the discrete water quality parameters that the application proposes to measure.
- The budget did not include maintenance of monitoring equipment for discrete water quality parameter measurements.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

Coordinate with DEQ to update the SAP to include the discrete water quality parameters.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on previous status and trend monitoring in the lower Columbia River watershed and represents the fifth year of ongoing monitoring work. Previous years of data collection have resulted in a quality dataset.

- The proposed monitoring work fills a known data gap and is one of the only water quality monitoring efforts occurring in the area.
- Summer sampling is proposed to be increased, which is an appropriate change based on the long-term trends identified to date. This will also allow for secondary analysis of the information.
- The partnership around the data collection is cohesive and represents many stakeholders in the county. The involvement of a multi-faceted team in the work has increased the quality and cost-efficiency of the information collected.
- The project team has a long track record of running successful monitoring projects.
- The lab identified for bacteria analysis is experienced and produces high quality work.
- Combining some of the monitoring sites as proposed demonstrates increased efficiency and adaptive management.

Concerns

- Enhanced collaboration with DEQ on data analysis would benefit the project.
- The proposed frequency of the turbidity and dissolved oxygen data collected may not fully characterize the status and trend of these water quality parameters.
- The plan for turbidity monitoring is unclear in the application, with both summer and year-round mentioned as possibilities.

Concluding Analysis

The monitoring effort is backed by an effective partnership in Columbia County and has produced high quality data to date that is utilized by watershed and community stakeholders. The project team continues to be adaptive with the monitoring design, as evidenced by plans to consolidate some of the monitoring sites and increase or decrease sampling as needed to better capture watershed trends. This effort is described in the application as the last and final year of a five-year effort, although the applicant is encouraged to consider continuing the monitoring for an additional three years to meet an eight year long-term dataset threshold important for a status and trends analysis.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$25,094

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$25,094

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1045-19595

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Coho Response to Beaver Dam Analogues

Applicant: Upper Nehalem WC

Region: North Coast

County: Washington

OWEB Request: \$91,278

Total Cost: \$115,678

Application Description 1) The Pilot Beaver Dam Analog Pilot Study project is located in the upper Nehalem watershed on public lands managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry and private lands managed by OSU Blogett Tract and Olympic Resource Management. See attached Maps depicting BDA locations.

2) The project needs to gain funding support to continue long-term landscape scale effectiveness monitoring of the BDA Pilot Study project to determine their effectiveness in creating critical over-winter rearing habitat for ESA-listed OC Coho Salmon on the Oregon Coast. The BDAs have been implemented and 3 years of monitoring have been completed, funding is needed for 7 additional years to complete the study.

3) The field work includes biological survey by RBA summer / winter snorkel surveys for juvenile presence to compare changes in over winter retention rates at each site (27) and physical attribute survey to measure effects of BDA design on beaver response and channel form at each site (57).

4) Project partners WSC, NOAA, ODF, ODFW, UNWC, Olympic Resource Management, OSU Blodgett Tract, and Trask Consulting

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application will build on initial monitoring efforts and would provide longer term data important to understanding the physical and biological outcomes of BDAs and the strengths and weaknesses of various designs and sites for placement.
- The restoration project being monitored and the data collected will inform a key limiting factor for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon, as previously specified in existing data and assessments.
- Monitoring overwinter Coho abundance and distribution is a reasonable approach to address the variability in adult returns from year to year.
- The consultants collecting the fish abundance and distribution data will be consistent throughout the project and have extensive experience doing this work.

- The applicant worked with NOAA and state resource agencies to develop the restoration and effectiveness monitoring study design.
- The applicant will share the project reports on their website and provide it to the partners involved, including state and federal agencies, timber companies, and other watershed councils and SWCDs in the area.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application proposes to produce exportable BDA designs to other coastal watersheds, but it was not clear if the characteristics of this watershed--where these designs are being piloted--can be applied to the diverse hydrologic and sediment conditions seen across the coast.
- The application did not provide a clear path to answer all of the monitoring questions or describe how the specified objectives link to each monitoring question listed in the study design section of the application.
- The application did not describe the data collection methods and analysis for all the parameters and objectives. It was not clear how “successful” BDAs would be determined.
- The application did not describe how fish passage will be monitored, yet this was described as a “success metric” in the study design.
- The description of quality assurance and quality control was somewhat limited and did not go into detail about what quality control measures were in place. This information is important to ensure repeatability, given the surveying needed to understand changes over time with sediment aggradation and other surface area and elevation related data.
- The applicant’s approach may over-estimate juvenile rearing capacity by simply applying a constant multiplier to the measured surface water area.
- It was not clear how NOAA and other technical staff with expertise about beaver are involved in the analysis of the data to inform future project development.
- The application lacks detail about how outreach will occur more broadly to reach restoration practitioners across the coastal watersheds. There is a brief mention of a BDA workshop in the project schedule table to occur in 2024 and in the budget narrative. The application, however, does not describe additional details that explain how this workshop will be planned and if adequate resources are budgeted for the event relative to its scope.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Monitoring beaver dam analogues (BDAs) will provide valuable information to assist with planning restoration projects that implement this technique.
- The applicant has a proven track record of implementing and managing projects in the Nehalem watershed.

Concerns

- The application lacks details needed to understand and evaluate the project.
- It may not be feasible to extrapolate results to other areas of the state with the selected monitoring design.
- A link to the limiting factors density model described in objective 4 in the application would have been helpful to understand the approach.
- It is unclear if the selected approach will effectively assess the efficacy of BDAs.
- There is a lack of detail in the proposal on metrics to be monitored, raising questions about the usefulness of the products that will be developed to measure success.
- The data collected and monitoring results have a high potential to be subjective with the monitoring techniques employed.
- There is an unclear connection between the objectives and monitoring questions described in the application.
- The applicant may have limited capacity for the proposed monitoring.
- The timeline stated in the application is confusing and there are inconsistencies between the timeline table and the narrative.

Concluding Analysis

Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs) are growing in popularity as a restoration technique throughout the state and monitoring their efficacy in a watershed where they are commonly utilized could provide helpful information. However, the application is limited in detail regarding data collection methods and analysis of the parameters. There is no description related to how success would be determined for BDAs nor how some of the chosen metrics would be monitored. There is a partnership with engaged stakeholders interested in this type of monitoring effort, but limited information as to how the technical experts would be engaged in the eventual data analysis or how the data would be used to inform future project development. The information contained in the application is not sufficient to evaluate likelihood of project 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-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1046-19613

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Echo Mountain Fire and Ocean
Tributaries Water Quality Surveillance

Applicant: Salmon Drift Cr WC

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$37,767

Total Cost: \$81,130

Application Description Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council (SDCWC) proposes collecting continuous dissolved oxygen and temperature data in a paired watershed.

Panther Creek was heavily impacted by the Echo Mountain Fire Complex in September 2020. Bear Creek also a tributary of the Salmon River was unaffected and is of similar size and landuse and will serve as a comparison.

In addition, we propose an extension of a baseline data collection of understudied ocean tributaries. Project will focus on Agnes, Baldy, and Logan Creeks in Lincoln City. Project addresses the need to better understand current water quality of these systems as they relate to federal and state water quality standards, including those directly related to salmonid life cycles.

Notably, our work has a statewide and international interest. Streams monitored discharge directly into the Cascade Head Marine Reserve and/or Protected Areas. These state designations are similarly also within the recently reauthorized UNESCO Cascade Head Biosphere Reserve.

Water quality data to be collected will include physical parameters of flow, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, temperature, and turbidity along with biological parameter of bacteria as indicator of fecal contamination. Data acquisition will include both routine and storm sampling to best characterize these lesser understood and potentially ecologically under-valued watersheds.

Data will be used to determine impairments, prioritize future restorations for anadromous fish migration, and be of value to recreational users of area beaches and harvesters of shellfish. In addition, the program addresses the need of additional outreach as we partner with a wider demographic of society, specifically local youth, to achieve our water quality monitoring objectives. Project partners include Oregon DEQ, Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, Career Tech, Robertson Environmental, and the City of Lincoln City.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the previous monitoring efforts in the streams where monitoring is proposed.

- The applicant has a DEQ approved sampling and analysis plan (SAP) and will update this document to include new project elements proposed in this application.
- The applicant will utilize Swim Guide to make the bacteria data available to the public in a timely manner.
- The applicant plans to submit the water quality data for upload to the DEQ database, and a final report will be written and made available to the public by posting this online.
- The applicant has experience collecting and reporting similar data and the capacity to implement this project as proposed.
- The applicant will work with community members and the local high school to recruit volunteers to participate in collecting and analyzing this water quality data.
- The costs are appropriate to support the proposed monitoring project and the applicant is leveraging several sources of funding to analyze the water samples for presence of bacteria and provide a variety of monitoring equipment.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application is difficult to follow, given that the applicant is combining two different monitoring efforts into one application.
- The application does not pose the monitoring questions in the objectives. Rather, it describes two broad monitoring questions in the problem statement, which makes it difficult to understand how monitoring questions pertain to objectives and apply the evaluation criteria.
- The study design also is difficult to follow. For example, the application includes an objective to measure streamflow, but it is not clear why these data are being collected and how they will be used to interpret the water quality data.
- The proposed parameters to be monitored to understand the fire's effects on water quality are not well described. For example, there is not a clear explanation about why turbidity is not proposed to be monitored.
- There is no monitoring question stated regarding storm sampling, and the application does not clarify if storm sampling will be done to measure fire effects in Bear and Panther Creeks.
- The application does not describe the methods or the QA/QC procedures they plan to follow to process water samples for presence of bacteria. The DEQ approved SAP states that these samples will be processed by the Surfrider and Blue Water Task Force lab.
- The application did not include a description about how the data will be analyzed to answer the two broad questions stated in the problem statement.
- The study design does not describe how the sampling frequency will address the project's monitoring questions.
- The application does not describe how the data will be interpreted and applied to inform future restoration projects.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation Strengths

- The monitoring effort fills a data gap by collecting data on smaller tributaries directly connected to the ocean.
- There is an opportunity to collect dissolved oxygen and other data from fire-impacted areas.
- The staff is very experienced with this type of monitoring and brings a track record of success.
- The in-house analysis provides an element of cost-effectiveness to the proposed project.

Concerns

- The proposal lacks clarity and details needed to understand and evaluate the project.
- Monitoring questions are not paired with the objectives.
- A more defined plan for bacteria monitoring would be helpful, including how the data will be utilized and communicated out to stakeholders.
- Details are lacking on some of the proposed methods and quality assurance and control procedures that will be followed.
- Targeted post-storm monitoring is not planned, which may be helpful in meeting the monitoring objectives of the proposal.
- There is no information on why flow data will be gathered.
- A larger group of partners with research experience may be needed to help with the data analysis.

Concluding Analysis

The project will benefit the community by addressing water quality in both direct ocean tributaries and fire-impacted areas and builds on partnerships cultivated by the applicant over many years of successful monitoring work. This monitoring application combines two different monitoring efforts with separate objectives and questions into one proposal without an explanation on how these efforts are related and will effectively be paired to inform future restoration projects.

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

- Partnerships are strong and ODFW has committed to both supporting this project and addressing the downstream barrier.
- The applicant has a proven track record implementing similar projects.
- The project is cost-effective for the expected ecological benefit.

Concerns

- The application would have benefited from a more thorough discussion of alternatives that were considered.
- The ecological benefit of this project is dependent on addressing the downstream fish passage barrier.
- According to the lower Columbia River Recovery Plan, the proposed restoration location may not be a high priority for contributing to recovery goals.
- There may be permitting costs that are not accounted for in the budget and project management time.

Concluding Analysis

The project is part of a multi-phased effort to improve fish passage at an ODFW hatchery. Restoring passage at this location with the construction of the proposed roughened channel will provide immediate benefits to wild fish and lamprey and eliminate the need to extensively transport wild fish past the hatchery facilities. The overall ecological benefit of this project is closely tied to the future replacement of another barrier associated with the hatchery downstream and the application includes evidence from ODFW indicating a commitment to address this downstream barrier. The partnership behind the project has strong technical and permitting expertise which leads to a high likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$274,078

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$274,078

Staff Conditions

N/A

South Coast - Region 2 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2021

- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 2 Cities
- Region 2 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 2 Boundary



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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
221-2038	Coos Watershed Association	Kentuck Creek Habitat Complexity and Stream Remeander Project	Stream channel re-meandering combined with streamside fencing and planting will help improve water quality and instream rearing habitat for salmon on Kentuck Creek, a tributary that drains to the Coos Estuary.	539,627	Coos
221-2030	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	West Fork Evans Creek Tributaries Enhancement Project	Large wood structures will be placed in Rock, Battle, and Salt Creeks, tributaries of the West Fork of Evans Creek, to improve spawning and rearing habitat for adult and juvenile salmon.	262,611	Jackson
221-2029	Coos SWCD	North Bank Working Landscape & Tidal Channel Restoration	A failing tide gate in the lower mainstem Coquille River will be replaced to restore fish passage and improve water quality and tidal floodplain habitat for over-wintering juvenile salmon.	372,664	Coos
221-2034	Elk Creek WC	Parker Creek Instream Restoration	Large wood structures will be placed over a two mile section of Parker Creek, a tributary to Elk Creek near Elkton, to improve instream habitat conditions for salmon spawning and rearing.	155,341	Douglas
221-2036	Coquille Watershed Association	Whole Watershed Restoration for the Dement Creek Subbasin	Stream conditions will be improved throughout the Dement Creek basin by implementing prioritized restoration actions, including constructing instream large wood structures, installing fence, and planting streamside areas to improve habitat conditions and water quality for salmon.	761,218	Coos
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				2,091,461	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-2035	Curry SWCD	Crook Creek Restoration Enhancement	Stream conditions will be improved on Crook Creek, a tributary to the Pistol River estuary, by widening the existing streamside plant buffers, replacing an existing undersized road crossing, and placing large wood structures instream to add habitat complexity for native fish.	93,389	Curry
221-2028	Elk Creek WC	Ellenburg Creek Instream Restoration (2021)	Natural stream functions will be restored on Ellenburg Creek, located in the Elk Creek watershed, by placing large wood structures instream to capture sediment and create pools that will improve spawning and rearing habitat for coho salmon and steelhead.	170,708	Douglas
221-2033	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Olalla Creek and Tributaries Fish Passage and Enhancement Project	Two culverts will be replaced to open fish access to two miles of stream habitat and large wood structures will be placed instream to improve habitat conditions for coho salmon.	204,535	Douglas

Region 2 - Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Cycle July 26, 2021

221-2037	Coos Watershed Association	Seelander Creek Habitat Restoration Project	Rearing and spawning habitat and water quality will be improved for salmon through streamside planting and fencing and fixing multiple road crossings impeding fish passage to provide fish access to additional miles of stream habitat on Seelander Creek, a tributary that flows into Catching Slough near Coos Bay.	449,139	Coos
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Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount Requested	County
221-2032	Coquille Watershed Association	Twelvemile Creek Basin Road Improvements for Fish Passage and Water Quality		300,190	Douglas
221-2039	Curry SWCD	Donaldson Ranch Gully Stabilization		54,614	Curry

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-2046	Coquille Watershed Association	Leslie Wetland Reserve Restoration Project: Phase 1 Alternatives Analysis	Design alternatives will be developed and assessed to determine the most effective and feasible restoration actions necessary to restore tidally influenced wetland habitat on a property near Bandon that will be protected for fish and wildlife in perpetuity.	74,997	Coos
221-2044	Coos Watershed Association	Palouse Tide Gate Upgrade Development: Final Design	Designs that address fish passage, water quality, and safety concerns for a failing tide gate structure will be created to increase coho productivity in Palouse Slough, which drains into Haynes Inlet in the Coos basin.	75,000	Coos
221-2040	Coos SWCD	Noble Creek Tidal Lands Restoration Phase I Technical Assistance	Designs will be developed to restore fish passage and access to tidal wetland habitats, implement agricultural Best Management Practices that improve water quality concerns, and address drainage and flood control concerns of a failing tide gate on Noble Creek, a tributary to the Coos River estuary.	75,000	Coos
221-2041	Coquille Watershed Association	The Coquille River Strategic Action Plan for Coho Salmon Recovery - Phase 1	A strategic action plan will be created to guide and prioritize coho salmon restoration efforts that will have the greatest impact on coho recovery and resilience in the Coquille River basin.	74,998	Coos
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				299,995	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-2045	Coos Watershed Association	Palouse Creek Restoration Project Development	Restoration actions will be designed to improve stream channel conditions, water quality, streamside habitat, flood conveyance, fish access to instream habitat, and pasture management along the mainstem and tributary streams in the Palouse subbasin.	74,995	Coos
221-2047	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Watts Toppin Dam Fish Passage Project	Fish passage design alternatives will be developed for the Watts Toppin Irrigation Dam located on Williams Creek, a tributary to the Applegate River near Provolt, along with an evaluation of opportunities to improve irrigation efficiency that will increase instream flows.	67,175	Josephine
221-2042	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Yellow Creek Instream Technical Assistance	A comprehensive plan will be developed for the Yellow Creek drainage, located near Elkton, to address watershed concerns impacting coho and enhance instream fish habitat, water quality, and streamside conditions.	42,875	Douglas
221-2049	Coos SWCD	Winter Lake Phase 3: Hydrologic Enhancement Design	Engineering and designs will be developed to replace undersized culverts and install grassed waterways on sections of the Beaver Slough Drainage District floodplain, which will improve pasture conditions and overwinter habitat for juvenile coho salmon.	56,523	Coos

Region 2 - Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Cycle July 26, 2021

221-2050	Curry SWCD	Indian Creek Sediment Reduction	Sediment impacts in Indian Creek, a tributary to the Rogue River near Gold Beach, will be addressed by designing two bridge crossings that will reduce sediment inputs that affect water quality and fish habitat.	34,986	Curry
221-2043	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Upper Umpqua Fish Passage Design	Fish passage designs will be developed at seven culverts in Upper Umpqua River tributaries to improve access to 37 miles of stream habitat.	71,898	Douglas

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT						
Project #	Grantee	Project Title			Amount Requested	County
221-2048	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Kennedy Slough Tidegate and Channel Design			74,630	Douglas

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon Stakeholder Engagement					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-2059	South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership	Highland Ditch Stakeholder Association	Landowners will be engaged to form an organization that will equitably and safely distribute irrigation water, eliminate fish kills, manage irrigation system maintenance, and remove fish barriers from Cow Creek, a major tributary of the South Umpqua River near Azalea.	10,417	Douglas
221-2060	Rogue River WC	Stakeholder Engagement along the Bear Creek Corridor	Stakeholders from law enforcement, public safety, fire prevention, advocates for the unhoused, government decision-makers, and the public will be engaged to collaboratively solve environmental, social, and health concerns impacting stream conditions in the Bear Creek watershed, a mostly urbanized watershed in southern Oregon that was recently affected by the 2020 Almeda Fire.	64,691	Jackson
221-2057	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Umpqua Oaks Partnership Landowner Outreach	Landowners in targeted areas of Douglas County will be engaged through surveys, workshops, and other outreach materials to identify opportunities to restore historic oak habitat and inform next steps for developing projects.	40,172	Douglas
221-2058	Illinois Valley SWCD	Illinois Valley Collective Mobilization for Fire and Fish	Stakeholders in the Illinois River valley will be convened to develop restoration projects with cooperative landowners to address stream habitat concerns and dangerous forest conditions on their properties that increase risk for catastrophic wildfire.	127,109	Josephine
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				242,389	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
None					

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-2054	Rogue Valley COG	Almeda Post Fire Monitoring	The magnitude and persistence of water quality impacts from the Almeda urban wildfire will be assessed to help allocate limited resources for the protection of aquatic life and inform response strategies in the event of future fires.	170,783	Jackson
221-2056	Curry SWCD	Temperature Monitoring of 3 High Priority Watersheds in the Sixes Subbasin	Summer water temperature will be monitored in the Elk and Sixes watersheds to better understand the status and trends of water temperature and inform restoration and conservation efforts by multiple local and state partners.	45,865	Curry
221-2053	Coos Watershed Association	Coos Watershed Real-time Hydrological and Meteorological Monitoring 2021-2023	Continued year-round hydrological and meteorological data will be collected at six stream gaging stations in the Coos River watershed to establish a long-term data set needed to understand water quality status and trends.	102,772	Coos
221-2052	The Understory Initiative	Baseline Vegetation and Surface Water Monitoring after Restoration Activities at Latgawa Creek	Stream and wet meadow restoration completed on Latgawa Creek, located in the Cascade Mountains of Jackson County, will be monitored to determine the effectiveness of these actions in restoring native vegetation and reversing stream down cutting and lowered water table.	55,223	Jackson
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				374,643	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-2051	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Archie Fire Post Restoration Project Effectiveness Monitoring	138,655	Douglas	
221-2055	Curry SWCD	Storm Chasers: Volunteer Storm Sampling on the South Coast	53,863	Curry	

Region 2 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	3,008,488
Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	11,497,994

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2028-19492

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Ellenburg Creek Instream
Restoration (2021)

Applicant: Elk Creek WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$170,708

Total Cost: \$228,708

Application Description

Ellenburg Creek is a tributary to Sand Creek in the Lower Pass Creek sixth-field subwatershed. There are nearly three miles of high intrinsic potential coho spawning and rearing habitat in Ellenburg Creek. [ODFW maps] The lower part of the creek (0.4 miles) is managed for agriculture (grazing); the upper reaches are private and industrial forest land.

Past land management practices, such as stream cleaning, removed most of the large wood from the channel, increased water velocities, and eroded much of the streambed to bedrock. Though there is ample gravel, there are few pieces of large wood to retain gravel, aggrade the channel, or create deep pools, all essential for juvenile coho survival. [Ellenburg Creek Restoration Action Plan, Cascade Environmental Group/Elk Creek Watershed Council, 2016]

The Ellenburg Creek Instream Restoration project will place 213 key logs (all conforming to Guide to Placing Large Wood in Streams, ODFW, 1995) at 28 sites in 1.5 miles of Ellenburg Creek. LWD structures will slow water, capture bedload, and create complex pools that will improve both winter and summer rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids. In addition, approximately 100 whole trees with root wads will be used to augment these structures to create added complexity and trap sediment. 5,000 willow stakes will secure accumulated sediment and stabilize streambanks. Three cross sections will be established monitor project effectiveness.

Increased bedload retention will enhance hyporheic flows and improve both water quality (reducing summer water temperatures) and water quantity (increasing water storage and release into the summer).

Project partners include Eric Himmelreich, ODFW Habitat Biologist (project design), Jim Muck, NOAA Fisheries (design review), Aaron Beavers, Hydrologist, NOAA Fisheries (fish passage design), Seneca Jones Timber Company (whole tree donation), Roseburg BLM (funding for bioassessment and action planning), and two private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous project evaluation concerns related to project design and longevity of winter downed trees in the stream are addressed.
- The project approach is technically sound and will benefit habitat for ESA-listed coho.
- The Ellenburg Creek area is a restoration priority for BLM. The Elk Creek Watershed Council's Ellenburg Creek Assessment (2016) also indicates focus on upstream reaches, like the project area, is a priority.
- StreamNet data indicates fish spawning and rearing occurs in the project area.
- The applicant involved relevant agencies during the design process, including early coordination with NOAA for the boulder structures and ODFW for oversight of project installation.
- The project team has relevant experience implementing similar projects.

Concerns

- Additional information characterizing stream habitat and passage conditions below the project reach would provide helpful context to better understand current conditions in the project area.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a resubmit and previously fell below the staff recommended funding line. Ellenburg Creek contains ESA-listed coho habitat with a high intrinsic potential. This creek currently lacks large wood important for fish habitat, and stream reaches below the project site have water temperatures that exceed standards for salmonids. Large wood will be placed between stream miles 0.4 to 1.9 with the last structure designed to facilitate fish passage over a bedrock falls that is a barrier to salmonids.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$170,708

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2029-19496

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Bank Working Landscape &
Tidal Channel Restoration

Applicant: Coos SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$372,664

Total Cost: \$647,494

Application Description

The North Bank Working Landscapes (NBWL) project area consists of 30.0 acres of pasture located upstream from Randolph Island, River Mile (RM) 7.5 on the Coquille River, near Bandon, Coos County. The site was historically tidal saltmarsh prairie (Benner, 1992). Diking and draining to convert the site for agricultural use occurred in the early 1900s. This was facilitated by construction of a 0.5mi berm along the river, and installation of linear drainage channel network with 1ft diameter culvert and tide gate. Tidal influence on these channels is currently near zero as the single tide gate servicing the property is a top-hinged “flapper” gate which does not allow for tidal inflow. Flooding still occurs on the project area during winter or whenever the main Coquille River reaches flood stage. The dike has suffered from erosion in multiple locations. Site conditions currently result in poor water quality, little or no fish access to channels, and both ecological and agricultural productivity has been reduced.

Previously awarded OWEB technical assistance funds have been used to develop and refine a restoration proposal for this site. Restoration project actions include installation of a new culvert and Muted Tidal Regulator (MTR) tide gate to restore and maximize fish passage; reconstruction of 4,466 ft of sinuous, on-grade, tidal channel network to provide greatly improved tidal floodplain habitat and hay production; riparian fencing along both sides of the primary reconstructed channel; re-establishment of native riparian vegetation along the banks of the primary channel for direct improvements to water quality over current conditions; installation of large woody debris to increase hiding cover and complexity; and repair to damaged segments of the dike. This project is led by Coos SWCD in partnership with the Stalley/Young families and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and has received invaluable technical contributions from the Coquille Indian Tribe.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns are addressed regarding designs and providing a water management plan.
- The project is technically sound and ready for implementation with NOAA consultation already completed.

- The project compliments other working land projects occurring in the project area.
- The water management plan addresses previous concerns related to mosquitos.
- Springs located upland of the project site have cold water temperatures, so the project has potential to provide cold water refuge areas for fish.
- The landowner will be enrolling in CREP.
- The applicant has put in a lot of time in project development through an OWEB technical assistance grant and has been responsive to technical input from agencies and stakeholders. They have developed effective partnerships that will enhance their ability to carry out the project.

Concerns

- Currently the land is managed for hay but if livestock are allowed to graze, there will need to be measures developed and implemented to protect secondary stream channels.
- The application narrative lacks information describing the source of the large wood and it is unclear whether costs for the large wood is included in the application budget.
- The design approach seems to prioritize agricultural land uses over habitat enhancement. The project cost to benefit ratio could be improved with emphasis and focus on habitat enhancements over agricultural land uses.

Concluding Analysis

The lower Coquille River is listed for bacteria to meet shellfish criteria, developing larger buffers and plenty of channel sinuosity will be an important approach in this system to address bacteria concerns. The project will help restore fish access and habitat opportunities in a tidally influenced off channel area of salt marsh prairie that is critical to the recovery of ESA-listed coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$372,664

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$372,664

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2030-19499

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: West Fork Evans Creek Tributaries Enhancement Project

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$262,611

Total Cost: \$420,751

Application Description The West Fork Evans Watershed Tributary Enhancement Project seeks to expand the geographic scope of the West Fork Evans and Sand Creek LWD Project (OWEB grant #219-2032-16692) through additional LWD placements in tributaries to the West Fork Evans Creek sub-basin of the upper Rogue River. Specifically, we aim to improve spawning and rearing habitat for adult and juvenile salmonids along approximately 2.0 miles of Rock, Battle, and Salt Creeks. This project is proposed for lands owned and managed by Lone Rock Resources and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). West Fork Evans Creek and its tributaries are a component of the Upper Rogue SONCC population within the Interior Rogue stratum and are identified as high priority for restoration under NOAA's Final Recovery Plan for SONCC Coho Salmon. In addition to ESA-listed Coho Salmon, the project will benefit Summer and Winter Steelhead and Cutthroat Trout.

Historic land management practices in the watershed have led to simplified instream habitat. Biologists concur that a reduction in habitat quantity and quality across a variety of habitat types necessary to support salmonid life histories has limited recruitment and recruitment potential into the spawning population. To ameliorate this problem, APWC proposes to enhance instream habitat complexity through installation of approximately 40 large wood structures (reduced from original submission of 52 per RRT comments). Desired project outcomes include: 1) enhanced winter-rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids via improved floodplain connection and off-channel habitat development; 2) enhanced summer-rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids via increased pool development and hiding cover, and; 3) accrual of suitable substrate for adult salmonid spawning. These outcomes will increase spawning success and juvenile survival rates and contribute to long term viability of native fish populations. Project Partners include Lone Rock Resources, BLM, and Valleys of the Rogue WC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns regarding stream access and project design are addressed.
- The project will achieve ecological uplift by increasing spawning and rearing habitat opportunities.
- The applicant will be using equipment and placement techniques developed to minimize impacts to the resource.

- West Fork Evans Creek is a federally designated key watershed to recover ESA-listed coho and an important area to target restoration actions identified in the draft Upper Rogue Coho Strategic Action Plan. Both adult and juvenile coho use the area consistently and there is an increased frequency of fall chinook following removal of dams below the project area.
- West Fork Evans Creek is a major tributary for the Middle Rogue and is an important area for restoration working towards the recovery of Southern Oregon Northern California Evolutionarily Significant Unit coho.
- The project provides an opportunity to create habitat in a cold water refugia. It is critical to get streambed material aggrading to increase spawning habitat in the project reach, which is currently dominated by bedrock.
- The scope of work complements previous instream habitat work above and below the project sites.
- The BLM is an active project partner, which is demonstrated by a large wood contribution for the instream structures.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified in the review.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant is seeing positive results from earlier work to reduce ATV access and impacts to streams. The project builds on previous restoration efforts within the West Fork Evans Creek watershed and has a high likelihood to improve habitat for ESA-listed coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$262,611

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$262,611

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2032-19544

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Twelvemile Creek Basin Road
Improvements for Fish Passage and Water Quality

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$300,190

Total Cost: \$457,491

Application Description This project will address water quality and fish passage issues caused by poor road conditions in the Twelvemile Creek Basin, a 24,000-acre drainage to the Middle Fork Coquille River (MFCR) near Camas Valley, Douglas County. The MFCR has the potential to provide year-round rearing habitat for native salmonids and Pacific lamprey but lack of spawning habitat in tributaries continues to be a watershed issue. Primary limiting factors affecting spawning habitat in Twelvemile Creek include a lack of stream complexity and poor water quality. To address these limiting factors, CoqWA, Roseburg BLM, ODFW and Roseburg Resources Co. (RRC) are working towards a shared goal of improving habitat for native fish in the basin through instream restoration and sediment abatement. After completing a full watershed assessment using OWEB TA and BLM funds, restoration prioritization was developed for both instream habitat (Phase 1) and road improvements (Phase 2). Instream habitat restoration, was recently funded through OWEB and will be completed in 2021.

This grant application is for Phase 2 and will address the top priority candidates for road improvements that were identified during the assessment. Specifically, improvements will address fish barriers, maximize sediment abatement, and enhance natural flow regimes. If poor road conditions are left unaddressed, the unnatural transport of nonnative, fine sediment has the potential to impair water quality, decrease food sources, and fill interstitial spaces within gravel beds. Together with project partners, CoqWA will build on instream restoration work by improving water quality and fish passage by replacing 2 fish barriers (including the installation of a 45' bridge), replacing 3 non-fish bearing culverts, installing 30 drainage culverts, regrading 2.3 miles and decommissioning 0.5 miles of road. Both Roseburg BLM and RRC have provided engineering designs, cost estimates, and will be sharing implementation responsibilities.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous project evaluation concerns related to costs and culvert designs are addressed.
- The project will implement specific actions within a geography that is prioritized in a watershed restoration action plan.
- The project compliments recently completed instream work in the Twelvemile Creek system. The application provides a sound rationale for the need to address fish passage impediments at the stream crossings.

- The project is likely to provide water quality benefits by reducing sediment impacts to downstream locations where coho and other fish species are more abundant.
- The fish passage work will open access to a significant amount of quality habitat.

Concerns

- The bridge replacement designs are not included in the application and are not yet complete; however, there are funds in the budget to finish them. Bridge designs are needed to better understand the design solution and evaluate technical soundness.
- The project will not realize full fish passage benefits at this time because there is a barrier affecting passage for coho located on the mainstem Middle Fork Coquille just downstream of its junction with Twelvemile Creek.
- The application mistakenly identified a DEQ listing for sediment. Twelvemile Creek is only listed for temperature on the 303(d) list of water quality impaired waterbodies.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed restoration project resulted from an assessment and prioritization process that was funded by an OWEB Technical Assistance grant (#219-2013) to create a targeted approach for addressing instream, riparian, and sedimentation issues impacting Twelvemile Creek. The barrier below the confluence of Twelvemile Creek and the Middle Fork Coquille River prevents coho from accessing the habitat in Twelvemile Creek. ODFW plans to address this barrier in the future but has not determined an approach or timetable. Until there is a better understanding about how this downstream barrier will be addressed, it is difficult to determine the extent to which the proposed project will benefit fish.

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2033-19545

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Olalla Creek and Tributaries Fish Passage and Enhancement Project

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$204,535

Total Cost: \$334,635

Application Description Olalla Creek and three of its tributaries, located in the southern portion of the 103,000-acre Olalla-Lookingglass Creek Watershed, are identified as needing improved fish passage and fish habitat enhancement. According to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) High Intrinsic Potential (HIP) maps, Olalla Creek, Byron Creek and Bushnell Creek have high potential to provide quality spawning and rearing habitat for Coho salmon and steelhead. Old Lane Creek was not surveyed for HIP. It has spawning surveys that ODFW conducts. The ODFW Habitat Restoration Biologist confirmed that Old Lane Creek is suitable for Coho salmon. Gordon Hanek, Byron Creek Estates Road Master, identified two deteriorating culverts maintained by his rural homeowner's association. PUR and ODFW staff designed instream habitat enhancement and riparian enhancement on Gordon's property, while BLM staff designed enhancement work on Byron Creek. We have completed a Technical Assistance grant for the design of two culvert replacements and instream restoration. We are seeking a restoration grant to replace these culverts and implement the instream restoration on Olalla and Byron Creeks. Our project partners include Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Byron Creek Estates. This project is of high priority for PUR because of the fisheries value it offers and positive impact it will have on local businesses impacted by COVID. We were successful with Title II funds in acquiring \$97,642.00 in matching funds. However, these funds only have a 2-year lifespan and OWEB funds are needed to fill in the funding gaps. OWEB funds will be used to 1) replace two failing culverts (one on Old Lane Creek and one on Bushnell Creek) to re-open two miles of fish habitat, 2) place 36 logs and 25 trees into 0.5 miles of Byron Creek on private and BLM land, 3) plant wattles of willows along Olalla Creek on private property.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The work has potential to improve stream function and provide spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-listed coho. The fish passage work will provide access to two miles of cool water refugia in Byron Creek.
- The project addresses limiting factors identified in a watershed assessment.
- The restoration approach is built upon an OWEB technical assistance project.
- A qualified engineer designed the stream crossings that will replace the failing culverts.

- The applicant has relevant experience working with landowners and successfully developing and implementing similar type projects.

Concerns

- The use of alder trees for instream structures may have limited longevity because they will break down more quickly compared to other tree species.
- The design approach for a couple of the project sites with vertical streambanks may not be effective. Placing large wood into streambanks of incised channels and then planting willows is not likely to address the causes impacting stream conditions. Re-shaping streambanks of incised channels before planting is typically more effective. Additional design detail and examples demonstrating previous success with the proposed approach would be helpful in determining the likelihood the project will achieve restoration goals. More information illustrating streambank and site conditions throughout the project reaches where large wood will be placed would also be helpful to understand the design approach and evaluate technical soundness.
- The applicant provided active channel width information in response to previous evaluation concerns regarding the project design potentially not meeting NOAA fish passage criteria. However, there may be additional design considerations that need to be incorporated to meet NOAA fish passage requirements. The applicant is encouraged to engage with NOAA directly to ensure the project design meets their requirements.
- Match is limited to two years so there is time sensitivity to getting the project implemented.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a resubmit and the applicant provided additional information to clarify project elements. The proposed restoration activities are likely to improve water quality conditions and salmonid access to cool water refugia located upstream of the project site. The project demonstrates the applicant's thoughtful approach to achieve and maintain effective working relationships with landowners. The expected resulting ecological uplift from the project work is likely higher than the application narrative describes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$204,535

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2034-19548

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Parker Creek Instream Restoration

Applicant: Elk Creek WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$155,341

Total Cost: \$222,643

Application Description

Parker Creek is a tributary to Elk Creek in the Middle Elk Creek sixth-field subwatershed. There are nearly four miles of high intrinsic potential coho spawning and rearing habitat in Parker Creek and its two main tributaries. [ODFW maps] The lower part of the creek is managed for agriculture (grazing); the upper reaches are private and industrial forest and BLM land.

Past land management practices, such as stream cleaning, removed most of the large wood from the channel, increased water velocities, and eroded much of the streambed to bedrock. Though there is ample gravel, there are few pieces of large wood to retain gravel, aggrade the channel, or create deep pools, all essential for juvenile coho survival.

The Parker Creek Instream Restoration project will place 288 key logs (all conforming to Guide to Placing Large Wood in Streams, ODFW, 1995) at 29 sites in 2.0 miles of Parker Creek. LWD structures will slow water, capture and retain bedload, and create complex pools that will improve both winter and summer rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids. In addition, approximately 50 whole trees with root wads will be used to augment these structures to create added complexity and trap sediment. 5,000 willow stakes will secure accumulated sediment and stabilize streambanks.

Increased bedload retention will enhance hyporheic flows and improve both water quality (reducing summer water temperatures) and water quantity (increasing riparian water storage and release into the summer).

Project partners include Eric Himmelreich, ODFW Habitat Biologist (project design), Sunnydale Land Company (industrial timber landowner), and Roseburg BLM (funding for action planning and permitting).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A straightforward and technically sound approach to addressing resource concerns on Parker Creek is presented in the application.

- Four stream miles with high intrinsic potential for ESA-listed coho habitat will be restored.
- Parker Creek has been simplified, lacks large wood, and is scoured to bedrock. Adding large wood and planting willows will increase watershed function and improve fish habitat.
- Project is in priority restoration area for the applicant.
- ODFW will help oversee project implementation.

Concerns

- Project costs for project management, mileage, and willow planting are inconsistent with costs in similar project applications submitted by the same applicant. Additional information on how costs were calculated and why costs may be higher due to unique project conditions is needed to evaluate whether these costs are reasonable.
- It is difficult to understand the extent to which the project will improve water quality because current water quality conditions of the stream are unknown.
- A letter of support from the landowner would strengthen the application.

Concluding Analysis

The project involves a landowner who has partnered successfully on previous restoration work. The project location is well-suited for the proposed restoration approach because Parker Creek is a low gradient stream in a shaded valley bottom. The creek is likely to be responsive to large wood placement that will capture materials and form stream habitat features needed by coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$155,341

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$155,341

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2035-19553

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Crook Creek Restoration
Enhancement

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$93,389

Total Cost: \$139,654

Application Description Located near the central Curry County coast, Crook Creek is a tributary to the Pistol River estuary. In the proposed project reach, past land use activities resulted in channel incision, the simplification of instream habitat, and elevated stream temperatures. Restoration efforts were undertaken in the late 1990s and early 2000s in response to conditions at the time. Present conditions in the project reach reflect the impacts of past land use and subsequent efforts to restore stream function and habitats: the channel remains incised, but has developed some degree of sinuosity and a small floodplain inset within the high terraces that represent the historic floodplain; a narrow buffer of trees is established on the high terraces, providing shade to the stream and roughness to the channel through erosion of the terrace.

Although the early restoration efforts have had positive impacts (e.g., habitat is gaining complexity and stream temperatures were recently documented as cooling through the project reach), as Crook Creek has continued to evolve, it has exposed the frailties of those early restoration efforts. Most notable is the narrowness of the riparian buffer and the failure to address an access bridge that is confining the channel. The proposed project would expand the existing riparian buffer, replace the existing bridge with one appropriately sized to accommodate Crook Creek, and place large wood structures in the channel to add complex habitat in the near-term. These activities would promote the continued development of high-quality, self-sustaining habitat conditions in Crook Creek and its adjacent riparian area.

The proposed project was developed through activities associated with the Pistol River Strategic Implementation Area, an effort by ODA, ODFW, OWEB, DEQ, and Curry SWCD to generate ecologic uplift in the watershed. This project offers an opportunity to preserve the gains of past restoration while building on the successes of those efforts.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will build on past successful restoration on the property and presents a new opportunity to double the width of existing riparian buffers to allow for more natural stream process.
- The proposed work was developed as part of an ODA Strategic Implementation Area.

- Crook Creek is listed on the 303(d) list of water quality impaired waterbodies for temperature year-round, and the proposed restoration will contribute to addressing this issue.
- The stream has populations of chinook that will benefit from the project as well as lamprey. The work will address key threats to coho.
- The applicant has the capacity and experience to implement the project.

Concerns

- The application lacks information describing considerations incorporated into the project to address potential impacts to adjacent properties.
- The application includes a conceptual bridge design but lacks site specific bridge plans. The budget also has specific line items for the bridge; however, it is difficult to evaluate whether these costs are reasonable and necessary with only a conceptual design that is 30% complete. The application indicates an engineer will be hired to complete the design, but there is no clear timeline for this in the project schedule.
- Crook Creek goes sub-surface at the mouth with Pistol River, understanding the extent to which this may impact, and limit potential benefits of upstream restoration actions would be helpful to better understand the cost benefit of the proposed project.
- If the applicant intends to use the project to recruit additional restoration opportunities in the community, it would be helpful to learn how it will be incorporated into the applicant's outreach efforts.
- The current restoration approach is designed around an agricultural operation that currently does not employ livestock. It is uncertain if the property will be grazed in the future; therefore, establishing a contingency plan for grazing ahead of time with the landowner will be important to protecting restoration investments.

Concluding Analysis

The project provides an opportunity to expand the restoration footprint of earlier restoration work, which will have positive benefits to habitats important to ESA-listed coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$93,389

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering **Southwest Oregon (Region 2)**

Application Number: 221-2036-19584

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Whole Watershed Restoration for the Dement Creek Subbasin

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$761,218

Total Cost: \$951,615

Application Description Dement Creek is a 9,700-acre tributary to the South Fork Coquille River (SFCR) located near Broadbent, OR in Coos County. As one of the major tributaries to the SFCR, Dement Creek has been prioritized for restoration because it has reaches with high intrinsic potential for coho and provides spawning and rearing habitat for coho, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey. Currently, Dement Creek is impacted from the legacy of past land use practices such as splash dams, stream cleaning, timber harvesting in the riparian area, clear cutting, extensive road building, and conversion of the lower watershed to pastures for livestock grazing. These actions have exacerbated limiting factors including high levels of sediment loading, high summer water temperatures, and lack of habitat complexity for native fish. A watershed assessment was completed in 2020 and has allowed CoqWA to prioritize stream reaches, riparian reaches, road sections and failing infrastructure for effective habitat and sediment abatement restoration actions. Together with the BLM, ODFW, Coos Curry CREP technician, and private landowners, CoqWA will address all prioritized actions identified in the watershed assessment. Specifically, we will improve instream habitat by constructing 16 large woody debris (LWD) structures, 17 LWD and boulder structures, increase riparian buffers on pastures through planting 9.5 acres and fence setbacks (70 ft. average), and decrease sediment loading by installing over 50 cross drains with rock outfalls, cleaning ditches, installing a sediment trap, creating a stormwater swale, and creating berm notches and lead off ditches into the forest floor on 4.2 miles of roads in the basin. These whole watershed restoration actions will optimally address the site specific limiting factors identified in the basin, providing improved habitat complexity and water quality for anadromous fish in Dement Creek through a win-win approach.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns related to plant stewardship and watering are addressed.
- The South Fork Coquille Sediment Study indicated the most effective locations to address sediment issues is in main tributaries, like Dement Creek, to stop sediment inputs and channel degradation below on the mainstem.
- Dement Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-listed coho, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey.

- The road improvement actions will help reduce sediment inputs and address priority water quality concerns.
- The project is based on restoration priorities identified in a recently completed watershed assessment.
- Multiple state and federal agencies, Coos County, industrial timber, and the participating agricultural landowners were involved in developing the project.
- Water quality monitoring data is collected for turbidity and water temperature, and continued monitoring is likely to document sediment reduction after project implementation.
- The project will help the applicant to continue building relationships with agricultural producers, which could lead to additional restoration opportunities
- The applicant has experience implementing similar projects.

Concerns

- Understanding the extent of the watershed benefits from projects with multiple restoration components is challenging. Additional details in the application narrative describing the different approaches at each project site would be helpful to better understand the collective habitat benefit for the cost.
- The conceptual design schematic and project photos included in the application indicate some root wads may be pushed into incised streambanks. Normally root wads are placed facing out from the streambank with the trunk buried into the bank and the root wad extending into the stream channel. This protects the streambank and traps sediment. More detail on the design approach would be helpful to better understand proposed treatments across the range of site conditions.
- The archeologist cost is a lump sum in the budget, additional explanation in the budget narrative explaining how this line item was estimated would help in evaluating whether the cost is reasonable.

Concluding Analysis

Dement Creek has a history of splash dams, stream cleaning, and road building and the lower portion of the stream is significantly impacted by livestock grazing. The project will take a phased approach to address poor instream habitat conditions and impaired water quality. The applicant has developed a sound approach for conducting watershed assessments while working with landowners and stakeholders to implement prioritized on-the-ground projects. Project activities will address top watershed limiting factors in Dement Creek and improve water quality and habitat complexity for ESA-listed coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$761,218

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$761,218

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2037-19634

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Seelander Creek Habitat
Restoration Project

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$449,139

Total Cost: \$668,388

Application Description This project proposes to restore watershed function through riparian planting/fencing, improving fish passage, access to off-channel habitat and by addressing 10 fish passage crossings. Seelander Creek is a DEQ 303(d) listed stream that drains into Catching Slough near Coos Bay, and is situated along a narrow agricultural valley that's been heavily impacted by past land management practices, resulting in stream channelization, channel simplification, and removal of riparian trees and shrubs.

The project proposes to install 13,250' of livestock exclusion fencing along 1.9 miles of stream and wetland habitat and provide riparian setbacks ranging between 20' and 40'. These setbacks will create 10.3 acres of riparian buffers where we will plant native tree, shrub, and wetland species according to our planting plan. CoosWA will perform annual plant establishment activities for 5 years to insure a goal of 80% plant survival.

To address 10 failing and undersized (24-72") crossings we will partner with the Coos County Road Dept. to replace 2 crossings, work with lowland landowners to upgrade an Ag bridge and 2 culverts, fully decommission 2 Ag crossings and replace 3 outdated and failing culvert/tidegate structures with 2 fish friendly mitigator style gates. All crossings have been sized to meet NOAA fish passage criteria (1.5xACW and >20% embeddedness). These structures will improve access to key salmonid habitats and provide access to nearly 7 miles of critical spawning and rearing habitat (key limiting factors). Additionally, this section of Catching Slough ranked very high in our recent coho SAP.

OWEB funds will be used for project management, contracted services, designs, archeology, plant establishment, travel, project materials, and indirect costs. The landowners, County Road Department, CREP, Local Tribes, BLM, RMEF, OYC and ODFW will provide match contributions in the form of contracted services/labor, project supplies/materials, and technical assistance.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner has some portions of the property enrolled in CREP.

- Seelander Creek supports ESA-listed coho and is a lowland tributary to the Coos River estuary.
- The project work will address issues with stream channelization, loss in stream function, and simplified riparian areas.
- The project will improve rearing habitats for ESA-listed coho and help address water quality concerns. Catching Slough, located downstream of Seelander Creek, is listed on the 303(d) list of water quality impaired waterbodies for temperature and fecal coliform, which impacts shellfish in the estuary.
- There is a diverse array of partners supporting the project.
- New stream crossings will be sized to meet NMFS fish passage criteria.
- The project team has extensive experience engaging landowners and working on similar projects in the project area.

Concerns

- Designs included in the application are only examples from other restoration work because project designs are still in progress through an OWEB technical assistance project. This may indicate the restoration project is not ready for implementation.
- The project approach reestablishes buffers and protects mainstream areas but does not reintroduce more natural stream function like meandering that would increase habitat benefits. This approach emphasizes actions that address symptoms of watershed degradation over the cause, which is the historic practice of pushing streams against hillslopes and out of the valley. Adding channel re-meanders would restore historic stream features lost from this practice; however, the narrow valley may limit options to add meanders without compromising working lands.
- Additional information describing the proposed tide gates, including their placement, size, and purpose, would be helpful to better understand the project and determine whether management and maintenance plans for their operations are adequate to ensure ecological benefits from the investment.
- Additional site photos in the application would have provided helpful context to understand existing site conditions.
- The project schedule seems ambitious given the project is still in design phase and there may not leave enough time for regulatory review and permit acquisitions.
- It is unclear from the application if the small channels located in the fields will be protected from livestock using fencing.
- It is not clear if there is a grazing or water quality management plan associated with the application.
- It is uncertain whether there are coho in Seelander Creek according to the StreamNet database, which may indicate there is a downstream barrier.

Concluding Analysis

The project is in a lowland area that functions as a wetland supporting overwinter transitional habitat for juvenile ESA-listed coho. The importance of these areas has been highlighted in the draft Coos River Coho Strategic Action Plan.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$449,139

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2038-19636

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Kentuck Creek Habitat Complexity and Stream Remeander Project

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$539,627

Total Cost: \$1,127,078

Application Description This project will restore watershed function through riparian planting/fencing, improving fish passage, development of off-channel habitat, and address 4 fish passage crossings. The Kentuck Creek sub-basin is a DEQ 303(d) listed tributary that drains to the Coos Estuary, situated along a narrow agricultural valley that's been heavily impacted by past land management practices, resulting in stream channelization and removal of riparian trees and shrubs.

The project proposes to install 9,000' of livestock exclusion fencing along more than 1.6 miles of stream and provide riparian setbacks ranging between 35 and 180 feet. Buffers will be planted with a variety of native tree and shrub species according to existing planting plans. Prior to planting, small patches of invasive blackberry will be addressed throughout the project area. Plant establishment activities will occur for 5 years to ensure a goal of 80% plant survival.

We propose to remeander ~6,100 feet of stream in addition to addressing 4 failing and drastically undersized stream crossings (installing 1 railcar bridge & 3 culverts). These actions will improve hydrologic connectivity between mainstem and tributary habitats and provide access to ~6.5 miles of critical spawning and rearing habitat (key limiting factors) in Kentuck Creek. All crossings will meet NOAA fish passage criteria (1.5xACW and >20% embeddedness).

OWEB funds will be used for project management, contracted services, plant establishment, travel, project materials, and indirect costs. The USFWS and Wild Salmon Center (WSC) have contributed 100% of the funds required to complete designs, archeology assessments and full permitting. The Landowners, County Road Department, CREP, WSC and ODFW will also provide match contributions in the form of contracted services/labor, project supplies/materials, and technical expertise during the duration of the project. OYC match will fund an 8-member youth crew for plant stewardship activities.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is ready for implementation as indicated by the completed designs and permitting

underway.

- The project activities are high priorities in the draft Coos River Coho Strategic Action Plan.
- The proposed riparian buffer is very large and will provide significant space for potential stream re-meanders and expanded wetland areas.
- Two landowners are already enrolling in CREP.
- The work builds off momentum of previous projects in the Kentuck Creek area. For example, an upstream gravel pit related project created a settling pond that has contributed to significant improvements to water quality by capturing sediment and decreasing turbidity downstream.
- The project has a potential for outreach to neighboring landowners that could lead to future restoration projects.
- The stream has high intrinsic potential for ESA-listed coho habitat.
- Kentuck Creek is listed on the 303(d) list of water quality impaired waterbodies for temperature and fecal coliform.
- There is a diversity of partners involved in the project.
- The tide gate at the mouth of the stream has been recently replaced.

Concerns

- The budget includes only two culverts, but the application narrative identifies three to be replaced. Since the county is addressing one of the three culverts, it may be included as match in the budget.

Concluding Analysis

The project will restore watershed function through riparian planting and fencing, improving fish passage, developing off-channel habitat, and addressing multiple fish passage crossings. Landowner support and ownership in the project's outcomes is demonstrated by their willingness to set aside significant portions of pasture for wetland creation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$539,627

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$539,627

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2039-19637

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Donaldson Ranch Gully Stabilization

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$54,614

Total Cost: \$119,760

Application Description This project is located on the Donaldson's 582-acre ranch in the Floras Creek watershed, within the town of Langlois' municipal Source Water Protection Area (SWPA). Pasture gullies on the Donaldson Ranch deliver extremely turbid water and coarse sediment directly to Floras Creek, within a mile of Langlois' water intake. They are one of the largest sources of sediment within the SWPA, and they are increasing in size and severity. Sediment from these gullies impacts spawning and rearing habitat in Floras Creek; degrades the quality and subsequently increases the cost of Langlois' drinking water; and contributes to channel instability in lower Floras Creek and eutrophication in New River. This project will stabilize ~4,800 feet of gully channel and 21 isolated headcuts that were inventoried in 2020, using rock grade control structures and riparian fencing and planting. This work is part of an ongoing initiative to improve water quality and instream habitat within the SWPA, which began in 2010 with the completion of Langlois' Drinking Water Protection Plan. Project partners include the landowner, CREP, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Oregon-Washington Drinking Water Providers Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will improve rearing and spawning habitat conditions for ESA-listed coho.
- The proposed restoration work will help protect and improve water quality in the Floras Creek watershed, which is a drinking water source.
- The project area historically supported Fall chinook.
- The applicant has successfully completed gully restoration projects on the proposed project property and neighboring properties. The project will build upon these past efforts.

Concerns

- The project may be treating symptoms rather than causes of watershed degradation. If grazing practices remain unchanged, the proposed techniques are unlikely to achieve the stated restoration goals. Livestock are likely to return to restored areas because fencing will not be used to manage grazing, which will result in gullies reforming and loss of any long-term resource protection benefits expected from the investment.
- It is unclear how the proposed restoration actions will be protected without a grazing management plan included in the application that provides this information.

Concluding Analysis

Pasture gully erosion contributes significant sediment into Floras Creek, impacting fish habitat and drinking water for the community of Langlois. The project is built on previous successful actions to stop active gully erosion in the area. This is an ongoing problem and focusing only on arresting the impacts from gullies may not achieve long-term solutions that a more a holistic approach could provide by incorporating other restoration actions such as fencing, plantings, and grazing management.

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2040-19514

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Noble Creek Tidal Lands
Restoration Phase I Technical Assistance

Applicant: Coos SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$200,017

Application Description

Lack of slow-water refugia off-channel habitat has been identified as one of the major limiting factors affecting Oregon Coast ESU coho salmon recovery. In the Coos Estuary, these habitats, including tidal wetland habitats, have been converted to pasture using tidegate infrastructure to the extent that only a fraction of the historic acreage of tidally influenced wetlands currently exists. Restoration of floodplain tidal wetlands is a top priority for coho recovery in federal, state, and local action plans. The Noble Creek Tidal Lands Restoration Phase I Technical Assistance (TA) Project (Coos Bay, OR, Coos County) will address limiting factors by creating technical designs to implement restoration of functional fish passage to 6.4 miles of coho habitat and ~90 acres of critical off-channel wetland and tidal habitats. This project is the first step in implementing critical habitat restoration for coho and other anadromous fish while also providing improved pasture infrastructure and water management for the landowners in the Noble Creek Drainage. To achieve this, the Coos SWCD is partnering with ODFW, Coos Watershed Association and the landowners in the area. OWEB TA funds are needed at this phase to 1) complete the initial data collection, cultural resources and geotechnical investigations, and site surveys necessary to develop 1-3 restoration alternative scenarios, 2) Develop the selected restoration alternative to the 60% (structural and geotechnical engineering designs for tidegate replacement/removal to meet State and Federal fish passage requirements); 3) finalize designs for tidal channel restoration, wetland enhancement, and riparian fencing and planting plans to the 60%, 4) coordinate meetings between project partners and stakeholders to ensure adequate input at all stages of the process. Together these actions will result in a restoration project design that is 60% complete, and sufficiently developed to begin Phase II Technical Assistance.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns are addressed.
- The resulting project designs will incorporate floodplain habitat features including large wood placement, riparian revegetation, and fencing actions to address habitat and water quality issues impacting salmonids.
- The project area has a lot of potential for improving salmonid rearing habitat.

- The effort could lead to future work to address upstream habitat issues.
- Multiple watershed plans establish a clear need for the work, including the draft Coos River Coho Strategic Action Plan.
- The proposal includes consideration of eliminating the main tide gate at the mouth of the stream, which will improve fish passage and restore a more natural hydrologic regime. This will benefit both earlier and expected future restoration actions upstream by providing habitat connectivity.
- The effort engages a supportive landowner and the resulting project activities will improve their land management capabilities while also improving habitat for ESA-listed fish.
- The applicant is experienced with these types of projects and has assembled the right suite of partners to successfully undertake the technical assistance work.
- The expected project types resulting from the proposed design work are traditionally complex and costly making the investment of technical assistance a prudent course of action.

Concerns

- ODEQ is not listed as a technical reviewer. Given the water quality nexus, adding ODEQ technical expertise during project design is likely to improve the project outcomes.
- The ownership of the main tide gate is not clear and identifying this will be a critical component in moving forward.

Concluding Analysis

The project complements a stakeholder engagement effort currently underway in the watershed. Managing landowner expectations will be critical when examining new infrastructure alternatives. In this endeavor, the applicant will need to clearly lay out project alternatives with the landowners and clear messaging of expectations, looking at cost effectiveness and ecological values. There is potential for significant habitat benefits to result from this project, including protecting tidally influenced wetland areas and promoting restoration actions that improve water quality and habitat for ESA-listed coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2041-19521

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: The Coquille River Strategic Action Plan for Coho Salmon Recovery - Phase 1

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$74,998

Total Cost: \$156,818

Application Description This grant proposes to develop a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for Coho Recovery focused on the Coquille Basin. This plan is critical to develop to ensure that the watershed's limiting factors for coho recovery are assessed and addressed in a strategic, multi-decadal framework. Currently, Coquille watershed specific limiting factors have not been defined, there is a lack of a long term strategy for coho recovery in the watershed, and there is a lack of integration of climate change into project prioritization. The goal of the SAP is to develop a comprehensive restoration strategy prioritizing projects that have the greatest impact on coho recovery and resilience. Specifically, this plan will provide a slate of vetted projects that will result in targeted watershed enhancement focused on coho recovery/resiliency. The SAP development process, facilitated by the Wild Salmon Center (WSC), has been implemented in six other coastal watersheds to date. Activities include a data gathering phase, spatial analysis process and integration of local expert knowledge. This work then allows the team to identify priority sub-watersheds/anchor habitats to focus work in and identify what restoration strategies to implement. The team will create a list of near term high priority projects and identify implementation costs, ultimately leading to the completion of on-the-ground work. Phase 1 (funding requested in this application) will be focused on restoration prioritization, Phase 2 will be focused on finalizing the SAP and publishing, and Phase 3 will be the implementation of vetted projects. The SAP will be developed by the Coquille Coho Partnership, a diverse group of stakeholders that will include the Coquille Watershed Association (CoqWA) as the local convener and the Wild Salmon Center (WSC) who will provide SAP facilitation and additional technical resources. Several other agencies and stakeholders are participating in this partnership (noted in the Project Management table).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application demonstrates a clear need for the proposed activities designed to result in restoration that addresses coho limiting factors identified in the NOAA coho recovery plan.
- The approach steps down planning efforts into the sub-watershed scale. This level is consistent with BLM planning and will help focus restoration in the most strategic locations.
- The project will focus long-term project prioritization for the Coquille River basin.

- The effort builds on lessons learned from other Coho Strategic Action Plan (SAP) work in the region, including the upper Rogue River, Elk River, and Coos River SAPs. Incorporating these experiences helps define strategic work tasks and leads to the best use of funds.
- Project costs are commensurate with previous SAP development efforts.
- The products from SAPs provide an effective framework for engaging landowners and stakeholders to strategically address limiting factors for coho.
- The applicant engaged the right suite of project partners, including local, state, and federal agencies, tribes, land trusts, and other non-governmental organizations.
- The partnership with the Wild Salmon center is appropriate and will bring to this work their leadership and lessons learned from previous Coho SAP efforts.

Concerns

- The application lacks information on how industrial landowners within the project footprint will be engaged.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal represents the first of three phases that will result in the development of a Coho SAP for the Coquille River basin. The work has a high likelihood of resulting in a slate of projects targeted for coho recovery and improving their population resilience.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,998

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$74,998

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2042-19546

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Yellow Creek Instream Technical Assistance

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$42,875

Total Cost: \$98,441

Application Description Yellow Creek, located South of Elkton, Oregon, flows through a patchwork of private timber and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property. The Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR), Roseburg District BLM, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Roseburg Resources Company (RRCo) and Lone Rock Resources (LRR) are working together to restore the Yellow Creek drainage to benefit Oregon Coast (OC) Coho salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout and other aquatic species. According to ODFW High Intrinsic Potential Maps, Yellow Creek has the highest, high and medium potential areas throughout it and its major tributaries (Bear Creek and Doe Creek). In 2005 PUR and BLM placed structures in the lower reaches of Yellow Creek and Bear Creek. The structures coalesced into a few large jams that now form the most complex habitat in the system. We have learned from phase 1 and developed a lot of experience since this project was completed and want to design untreated reaches. The untreated reaches of all three creeks lack large wood and complexity. This project has become a priority at PUR not only for the amount of potential habitat we could restore but because BLM will be conducting a nearby timber sale. We plan to take advantage of being able to source wood from so close. Our BLM Partner has advised us that to take full advantage of this timber sale, we need to get trees marked and staged as soon as possible. To address the limiting factors in the Yellow Creek drainage we are seeking OWEB TA funds to 1) design instream fish habitat structures that will enhance the habitat in a total of 11 miles of the Yellow Creek drainage, 2) Assess invasive species in the riparian zones and create a plan of action for areas in need, 3) work with all the partners involved to produce an instream placement and funding strategy, 4) work with all the partners/landowners on selecting materials for the instream placement, 5) prepare an OWEB restoration grant application for submission.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant addressed previous evaluation concerns by providing a clear cost breakdown.
- The Yellow Creek sub-basin is a high priority restoration focus area for the BLM.
- The proposal clearly characterizes the historic land uses, such as splash damming and logging, that have impacted this watershed's function, highlighting the need for developing restorative actions.
- The resulting restoration work will be able to utilize planned BLM forest treatments as a source for large wood for instream projects.

- The project will help address water quality concerns, such as sediment and temperature, within the stream corridor.
- The design approaches will consider machine and helicopter placed options for wood installation.
- The project focuses work on a few large landowner's properties, making it easier to coordinate and execute activities.
- The applicant has a proven track record with turning instream and riparian design projects into on-the-ground work.
- All match funding sources have been secured, indicating the project is ready for implementation.

Concerns

- It is unclear how the invasive species data collection objective fits into the overall project plan and how this effort will be coordinated.
- Sediment transport resulting from road crossings is not addressed in the application and is a big issue affecting habitat suitability for fish.

Concluding Analysis

The project takes a comprehensive approach to developing a plan to improve aquatic and floodplain habitats over an eleven-mile section of stream that provides quality coho habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$42,875

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2043-19556

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Umpqua Fish Passage Design

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$71,898

Total Cost: \$175,600

Application Description The Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers is partnering with the Roseburg BLM and ODFW Fisheries Staffs to focus on seven (7) fish passage issues in a specific set of Upper Umpqua River tributaries. Wolf Creek, Powell Creek, Bottle Creek, Cougar Creek and Rock Creek all support Coho salmon and/or steelhead trout, along with Pacific Lamprey and cutthroat trout. These species, along with other important aquatic species, are what make the Umpqua so special. While this project is focused on fish passage specifically, the overall results of improved fish passage will significantly benefit the aquatic life and hydrologic function in these watersheds.

This project will consist of conducting outreach to Roseburg Resources and Douglas County. We have worked for many years with Roseburg Resources on various projects, but PUR has not worked with the County in over ten years. Reestablishing our working relationship with the County and continuing our relationship with Roseburg Resources has a strong potential to lead to many future restoration projects. The County owns 3 of the 7 culverts and were identified by our Umpqua Basin Fish Passage Team prioritization model and BLM project partner. The BLM owns 3 of the 7 culverts and Roseburg Resources owns 1 of the 7. The initial step in this project will be to reach out to the landowners where the culverts are located to make initial contact and get permission to proceed with culvert design alternatives. Once permission has been granted and the barriers have been confirmed, design alternatives will be created and then prioritized for replacement. This effort will be accomplished through the work of ODFW, BLM and PUR biologists and technicians and a contracted engineer. The outcome of this project will be design alternatives and prioritization for up to 7 known barriers in the Upper Umpqua River System, enabling the project team to apply for restoration funds to complete Fish Passage Restoration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal rationale links to survey work of barriers and stream systems in the Upper Umpqua River that identified issues impacting salmonid productivity, including culverts reducing habitat connectivity and limiting fish production.
- The Rock Creek culvert is a high-ranking barrier identified in the Umpqua Basin ODFW Priority barrier database.

- Addressing the barriers will improve instream processes, such as sediment transport and stream function.
- The project team is experienced in working on fish passage issues.
- The budget narrative clearly describes costs for the proposed project activities.

Concerns

- The coarse scale maps included in the application lack information needed to understand the quality of habitat in the project area, such as a characterization of aquatic habitats, fish habitat suitability, and fish presence.
- Additional information is needed to better understand potential benefits from improved passage. For example, the application lacks information describing current site conditions at each barrier, such as the extent to which each barrier is currently a complete or partial barrier to fish passage. Also, there are a couple of barriers located higher in the watershed that may limit habitat benefits for anadromous fish species. More discussion on each barrier and how they are related to other potential barriers would be helpful to better understand project benefits.
- Additional information describing upfront engagement with the three land managers is needed to better understand the viability of the partnerships to build the foundation necessary to get this work accomplished.
- One of the letters of support included in the application is for another project.
- The number of hours in the budget for coordination work seem high for a project with a few landowners involved.

Concluding Analysis

The project will develop designs to address seven fish passage barriers on five streams, which will result in a total of thirty-seven miles of improved access. Work is likely to benefit anadromous species, including coho and pacific lamprey; however, additional information is needed to understand the extent of the ecological benefits from this project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

10 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$71,898

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2044-19565

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Palouse Tide Gate Upgrade
Development: Final Design

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$181,276

Application Description Palouse Slough drains into Haynes Inlet in the Coos basin and is one of the highest producing coho anchor habitat streams on the Oregon Coast. Its primary tide gate consists of a collapsing, undersized tide box with two top-hinged wooden doors located under a county bridge, confounding the responsibilities for replacement and leading to a strong desire to decouple the structures. Upgrading the Palouse tide gate will improve hydrological function to mimic natural seasonal and tidal cycles, restoring the hydrology and water quality. Greater tidal connectivity to Haynes Inlet will improve estuarine water and habitat quality for juveniles as well as salmon forage species that accelerate juvenile survival rates. This tide gate upgrade is the first step toward the comprehensive basin scale restoration of Palouse Slough to protect and expand this critical area of Oregon Coast coho anchor habitat.

The proposed technical assistance project is the second & final development phase for the Palouse tide gate upgrade, building upon Phase 1's alternatives analysis study that investigated the best long-term solution for the Palouse tide gate design and the feasibility of decoupling the infrastructure. After a robust review by a team of local/regional experts, a preferred design alternative selected is a sheet pile structure with a 4-bay modular gate just upstream of the existing infrastructure. The main objectives for this proposed technical assistance project are to 1) take the preferred design alternative to 100% engineered designs, 2) develop a water management plan, 3) secure all necessary permits for construction, and 4) finalize the bidding documents for construction. CoosWA will continue to work with the technical team through the proposed phase of this tide gate upgrade project. The Coos Co Road Dept and the Haynes Drainage District are committed to providing technical assistance/review for this second phase and are renewing their MOUs with CoosWA for this upcoming phase.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project area contains great opportunities for building on the quality rearing and over-wintering habitat conditions that are present in the Palouse system.
- There is a lot of momentum at the local and state level for addressing failing tide gates. The proposed work capitalizes on stakeholder engagement the applicant has been implementing in the watershed around tide gates.

- The approach builds on previous tide gate design and replacement efforts, and the new tide gate will improve the tidal cycle exchange, salinity gradient, and fish access to habitat.
- The project is identified in the draft Coos River Coho Strategic Action Plan and will implement priority actions identified in the NOAA Coho Recovery Plan.
- The applicant has a lot of experience working in tidally influenced areas.
- There is a robust coho life cycle monitoring effort in the Coos basin area.
- The proposed project complements Technical Assistance application 221-2045, also submitted this cycle, that will identify and design habitat restoration opportunities above this project area.

Concerns

- It is unclear from the proposal whether there are interior gates located above the main gate that will be addressed, which could limit the effectiveness of the tide gate upgrade and restoration benefits.
- More characterization of habitat conditions found within the overall sub-watershed would be helpful to understand the greater project benefits.
- Additional detail on the longevity of the selected sheet pile structure design alternative is needed to better understand the life expectancy of the proposed tide gate replacement work.
- It is not clear from the application how the project will balance fisheries needs with agriculture land uses.
- The habitat directly above the tide gate is simplified, suffers from poor water quality, and is constrained by levees to protect agricultural areas. It is unclear how the channel meandering goal will be achieved without levee or dredged spoil pile removal to provide the greatest habitat benefits from the project.
- More description on landowner roles and time commitment is needed to better understand whether the in-kind match is a reasonable estimate.

Concluding Analysis

The Palouse Creek sub-basin is the biggest producer of coho in the Coos River watershed. The project is a high priority and is likely to succeed in expanding anchor habitat for Oregon Coast coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2045-19569

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Palouse Creek Restoration Project
Development

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$74,995

Total Cost: \$94,823

Application Description In the Palouse subbasin, the high quality spawning habitat seeds the productive estuarine Haynes Inlet system of Coos Bay, promoting the high potential coho productivity in this subbasin. The high quality marshland once present in lower Palouse has been heavily altered to create and sustain agricultural pastures, resulting in stream channelization, undersized infrastructure, and removal of riparian vegetation. These activities negatively impacted the water quality and instream habitat of the subbasin, resulting in the ODEQ 303(d) listing of Palouse Creek for bacteria, sediment, and stream temperatures.

This technical assistance project will develop restoration treatments to restore watershed function and critical lowland rearing habitat by improving stream complexity, floodplain connectivity, water quality, and flow conveyance across 1.3 stream miles and 45 acres in the Palouse subbasin. The main objectives of this project are to 1) develop a channel reconfiguration design, 2) develop a riparian planting plan, and 3) evaluate culvert conditions to meet the landowner's goal of creating a successful working landscape. CoosWA will work closely with NRCS, SWCD, and CREP to incorporate available resources into the proposed restoration treatments. Additionally, CoosWA will partner with the Coos County Road Department (CCRD) to evaluate and upgrade undersized or failing culverts that directly impact the project area. OWEB funds will be used for project management, mileage, contracted services, material and supplies, and indirect costs. CoosWA is providing water level and surveying materials, and the CCRD, ODFW, and BLM are providing in-kind match through technical assistance for design development. NRCS and CREP are invested to providing technical expertise and guidance to this project. The Granum family is committed to develop a comprehensive restoration plan that incorporates ranch productivity goals, water quality protection, and instream habitat improvements.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is upstream of a tide gate that is currently in a design process for replacement.

- The alternatives being considered are technically sound and appropriate. The approach is effective for establishing expectations regarding ecological and agricultural outcomes. The resulting project will benefit working lands and natural resources.
- The project will have high visibility that could lead to additional restoration opportunities in the community.
- The landowners are open to employing newer techniques with larger restoration footprints.
- The applicant has a proven track record at implementing similar type projects and moving them forward into restoration actions.
- Resulting restoration actions will benefit habitats important to ESA-listed coho and address water quality parameters, such as temperature on a stream listed on the 303(d) list of water quality impaired waterbodies.

Concerns

- More detail describing landowner roles and time commitment is needed to better understand whether the in-kind match is a reasonable estimate.
- The scope of the work will impact the current agricultural footprint, landowner communication to manage their expectations will be critical in building a foundation for a successful restoration project.
- Additional information describing the sequencing of the proposed project with the Palouse tide gate design technical assistance proposal, 221-2044, would be helpful to understand the timeliness of the proposed work. The tide gate design is a logical first step and can be a standalone project and does not appear to be tied to the products from this proposal.

Concluding Analysis

Palouse Creek is a highly productive coho stream that drains directly into the Coos River estuary. The project will treat 45 acres and improve habitat on 1.3 stream miles, improving water quality and habitats for salmonids.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,995

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering **Southwest Oregon (Region 2)**

Application Number: 221-2046-19577

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Leslie Wetland Reserve Restoration
Project: Phase 1 Alternatives Analysis

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$74,997

Total Cost: \$118,479

Application Description In the Coquille watershed, less than 5% of the historic acreage of tidal wetlands remain. Consequently, lack of slow-water refugia and off-channel habitat has been identified as a critical limiting factor affecting Oregon Coast ESU coho recovery. The Leslie Wetland Reserve is a 50 acres tidally influence wetland reserve protected under a NRCS conservation easement in perpetuity in Leneve, OR (Coos County). A restoration project in the 1990's attempted to revert the 50 acres of bottomland from pastureland to the historic wetland state by removal of tide gates and drainage ditches. While beavers have colonized the upper valleys, the majority of the easement, including the alluvial floodplain, is still in poor condition and almost entirely lacks wetland function. This technical assistance application seeks to develop an alternatives analysis that will address the following issues: 1) lack of floodplain connectivity due to an incised channel that is too straight and deep; 2) hydrological constrictions above and below the floodplain due to undersized culverts; and 3) lack of native plant diversity and a monoculture of reed canary grass. This grant request, Phase 1 of technical designs, will result the development of a robust project team, field data collection sufficient to develop an alternatives analysis for restoration actions, a selected alternative, and preliminary cultural resources surveys to inform future designs. Phase 2 of technical designs will result in the development of the preferred alternative, remaining cultural resource surveys, secured permits, cost estimates, and identification of funding sources for implementation. The Coquille Watershed Association with partner with the Leslie Family, ODFW, the U.S. Forest Service, the Coquille Indian Tribe, NRCS, and Coos County Roads Department among other interested restoration practitioners to develop a suite actions to reach our goals.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The technical assistance phase is well articulated and justified in the application narrative.
- The application clearly presents a breakout of the work tasks required for project implementation.
- Addressing invasive reed canary grass will be essential to improve stream channel sinuosity and create complex habitats.
- The 50-acre project area is under an existing NRCS easement.
- The landowners are engaged in the project and provided a letter of support.

- A range of alternatives were considered and are appropriate approaches to improving habitat conditions.
- Habitat conditions in the tributary upstream of the project area are good, which is indicative by the presence of beaver dams and evidence of coho spawning.
- The resulting restoration will implement actions to help address water quality issues identified in the TMDL as well as address issues impacting coho identified in the NOAA coho recovery plan.
- The applicant has sought the right set of expertise for implementing this project, along with a diverse mix of funding partners.

Concerns

- Addressing 50 acres dominated by invasive reed canary grass is a big lift and the likelihood of success is unclear with a well-established infestation in a tidal system and seed sources located above and below the project site.

Concluding Analysis

The project will help restore critical tidally influenced wetland areas important to ESA-listed coho and a myriad of other species. The landowners have demonstrated a conservation ethic and are invested in the success of the project and maintaining its restoration benefits. The project builds on local momentum and partnerships developed to restore these important habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,997

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$74,997

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2047-19578

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Watts Toppin Dam Fish Passage Project

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Josephine

OWEB Request: \$67,175

Total Cost: \$128,565

Application Description This project addresses the need for fish passage improvement at the Watts Toppin Irrigation Dam located at RM 2.1 on Williams Creek, a main tributary to the Applegate River near Provolt, Oregon. Williams Creek and its tributaries are among the most important producers of salmon and steelhead in the Applegate River Basin. Watts Toppin Dam is listed on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Statewide Fish Passage Priority List as the 5th highest priority in the Applegate Watershed. The 4 higher priorities are currently in varying stages of planning and/or design for removal or retrofit by APWC and/or other entities. The proposed project will bring fish passage conditions at Watts Toppin Dam to current standards and evaluate opportunities to improve irrigation efficiency and dedicate senior water rights instream. The project will benefit ESA-listed Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, Steelhead Trout, Coastal Cutthroat Trout, and Pacific Lamprey.

The proposal seeks to build upon the recently completed Lower Bridgepoint Fish Passage Project (OWEB grant 220-2015), located 1 mile downstream of Watts Toppin Dam. The project, was similar in scale and design to the proposed project. Together, they will substantially improve access to valuable upstream spawning and rearing habitats. Additionally, the proposed project is located within the current Applegate SIA and will complement these activities. Topographic survey work has been conducted and conceptual design alternatives are being developed for a roughened channel. This proposal will support engineering for final design, permitting, and bid support; permit applications; and water user coordination. Additionally, an evaluation of the current irrigation system will be conducted to characterize water losses and look for opportunities for irrigation efficiencies. Project partners include water users, Rogue Basin Partnership, BLM, Williams Cr WC, and Paul Allen Family Foundation through American Rivers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is in an existing ODA Strategic Implementation Area.
- The design approach will utilize a roughened channel leading up to Watts Toppin dam. These features are known to provide volitional fish passage without a ladder.
- Addressing the passage issue will improve fish access to cool water and quality habitat upstream.

- The work builds off an earlier project to improve fish passage at the Lower Bridge Point Diversion located a short distance below the project site.
- The project will implement actions that address factors limiting coho production identified in the NOAA recovery plan.
- There is a potential for an instream water right to result from the project, which would add value by addressing low summer flow conditions.
- The project site is included in the Applegate temperature TMDL.
- The proposal will develop a preferred design option and build upon previous planning efforts. The scope of work presented is clear.
- The applicant has a proven track record implementing similar type projects.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the full breadth of the project's ecological goals can be met because not all landowners support an option for dam removal.
- The dam is not a complete barrier to fish passage. Low summer flows exacerbated by water withdrawals impede juvenile passage. At high flows, upstream and downstream passage is known to occur.
- A large seasonal push up dam below the project site at the mouth of Williams Creek impedes juvenile passage seasonally and will limit the potential benefits from the proposed project.

Concluding Analysis

Williams Creek provides valuable habitat for salmonids but is impacted by low flows, poor water quality, and fish passage barriers. The project will develop a design alternative to provide for fish passage at low flows and allow juveniles access to cooler water and higher quality habitat upstream. The complexity of the fish passage issue at Watts Toppin irrigation dam makes the use of a technical assistance phase critical to developing a successful restoration pathway.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$67,175

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2048-19583

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Kennedy Slough Tidegate and Channel Design

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$74,630

Total Cost: \$144,013

Application Description Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers and our partners are working collaboratively to restore the health of the Umpqua Estuary by working with owners of tidal wetlands to protect functional habitat, restore degraded habitat, educate the public and evaluate project effects. The goal of this project is to complete designs for fish passage, tidal channel, and dike work needed to improve the ecological conditions of Kennedy Slough, a tidally influenced wetland located in the lower Smith River. Tidal wetlands along the lower Smith River have been significantly altered for urban and agricultural use by clearing, filling in, diking and draining. This habitat is critical feeding and refuge for many aquatic species including steelhead, salmonids, eulachon and Pacific lamprey. Preliminary designs (30%) for tidegate replacement, channel reconstruction, and dike work have been completed for the Kennedy Slough project. To create a final design for the Kennedy Slough project, work is needed to 1) finalize the conceptual project design, 2) obtain cultural review concurrence, 3) engage permit agencies for pre-submittal review, 4) submit all permit and concurrence applications, 5) provide outreach to neighboring tidegate and wetland owners, and 6) apply for project implementation funding. Project partners include Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District, National Marine Fisheries Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Port of Umpqua, Smith River Watershed Council and private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will address the loss of estuarine overwintering habitat for coho, which is the most important limiting factor for coho identified in the NOAA recovery plan.
- The project builds on past habitat enhancement work in the area, including the Glover Tide Gate Restoration Project (220-2011). The applicant is applying lessons learned from this previous project to the current effort.
- The site is adjacent to wetland habitat owned and managed by ODFW.
- The applicant is seeking input from other groups more experienced with tide gate restoration and is engaging with the appropriate agency, stakeholders, and community partners.
- Resulting restoration projects will restore access to habitat and improve conditions of historic tidal wetlands that are essential for overwintering coho along with a myriad of other species.

Concerns

- Landowner commitment to the project long-term is uncertain because it is unclear if one of the properties is still for sale.
- There are two property owners involved in the project and it appears that each may have different expectations for their “desired future condition”, which could limit the effectiveness of the project. For example, the expectations for where flooding pastureland will occur is unclear.
- Reed canary grass will be left untreated at the upstream site, which could potentially limit the effectiveness of the future restoration project.
- The proposal lacks details describing the extent of the riprap placement in relation to the ordinary high-water line. This information will be a key point in the permitting process.
- The proposal lacks an alternative analysis.
- It is unclear whether the applicant has related experience in conducting tide gate projects. There could be merit to completing the adjacent tide gate restoration project to establish a track record.
- The application budget lacks details needed to determine whether costs align with work necessary to accomplish project objectives. For example, the additional engineering support seems high given the chosen design approach and no more alternatives will be examined.

Concluding Analysis

The project will address two failing tide gates and provide access to over-wintering tidal habitat important to juvenile ESA-listed coho by building connectivity between estuaries and wetlands. The proposal lacks detail related to the project design needed to determine the likelihood for the project to succeed. This work is very important to the recovery of coho and the restoration of more natural tidal flows into wetland areas. It is critical that the design work going into these complex restoration projects consider a variety of factors, including landowner expectations, and design alternatives.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2049-19592

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Winter Lake Phase 3: Hydrologic Enhancement Design

Applicant: Coos SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$56,523

Total Cost: \$194,004

Application Description

The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District (Coos SWCD) & team are developing the Winter Lake Phase III tidal floodplain hydrologic connectivity project. The project is within the Beaver Slough Drainage District (BSDD) floodplain (River Mile 20.5) of the Coquille River, 2.5 miles west of Coquille, Coos County, OR. Historical water management through installation of tidegates, berms, and channel excavation in the early 1900's disconnected fish access to over 14,000 acres of tidal floodplain habitat in the Coquille River basin severely truncating production potential for coho. Early tidegate infrastructure has changed little since tidegates were installed in the early 1900's. Oregon Coast (OC) coho have declined from ~150,000 average /412,000 peak adults prior to Euro- settlement to ~14,000 annually today. .

In 2017 the largest tidegate project within the Pacific Coast was installed; the C3P tidegate project on the BSDD (Winter Lake Phase I). In 2018 installation and reconnection of ~8.0 miles of tidal channel was completed in Unit 2 of Winter Lake (Phase II). Coos SWCD in coordination with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), BSDD, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and landowners are proposing to develop engineering and design for replacement of undersized culverts and installation of swale channels/grassed waterways that will critically enhance the capacity of BSDD Units 1 and 3 to produce OC coho juveniles and pasture grass due to enhanced hydrologic connectivity. This project will provide the infrastructure necessary to fully utilize the investment developed through Phase I and II. The project will aim to incorporate NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy (EQIP/RCP) funding with other match sources for implementation of the project. The project team includes: SWCD, ODFW, TNC, BSDD, and Coquille Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns are addressed, specifically regarding the installation of grazing management tools to protect water quality.
- The project is located within the footprint of the China Camp Creek Tide Gate Replacement Project. The land behind the completed tide gate project includes three units with extensive channel and riparian restoration completed in Unit 2 as part of the previous project. Units 1 and 3 are reserved primarily for agricultural purposes and the proposed technical assistance will result in 90% designs for channel restoration compatible with the agricultural practices in these units.

- The project builds on a restoration work undertaken to replace tide gates and restore habitat in Unit 2, which is currently in a monitoring phase.
- Partners have relevant experience, and their roles are well defined in the application.
- Given past investments and lessons learned, the applicant and partners are realizing cost effectiveness.

Concerns

- It is unclear how the project will achieve improved tidal exchange in Units 1 and 3.
- The design will address only a portion of the limiting factors identified in NOAA recovery plans for coho, which limits potential habitat benefits from the project. For example, water temperatures get high in this part of the Coquille and it needs to be addressed more comprehensively.
- The grass swales described in objective 3 of the application will provide limited habitat opportunities.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a resubmit. The applicant has continued to refine the proposal for a design approach that will improve the channel system on agricultural lands found within Units 1 and 3 of the larger China Camp Creek and Winter Lake restoration project. These two units have water levels that are currently operated by a Water Management Plan designed to consider that coho will have access to these units during the winter months and that these units are managed for agriculture the rest of the year. The project builds on momentum in the Coquille River watershed to improve fish access through tide gate infrastructure and restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$56,523

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2050-19614	Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Indian Creek Sediment Reduction	
Applicant: Curry SWCD	
Region: Southwest Oregon	County: Curry
OWEB Request: \$34,986	Total Cost: \$43,959

Application Description This project is located on Indian Creek, a tributary to the Rogue River. The creek lies within Curry County, near the town of Gold Beach. Indian Creek headlands begin in BLM lands and go through one single owner ranch property, through an ODFW volunteer-run fish hatchery (supported by the landowner), and then empties into the Rogue estuary at approximately river mile 1.2. Indian Creek is an important tributary for fall Chinook, coho salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout.

The landowners are conservation minded and have participated in several of our grant programs (fish passage work, large wood through small grants) throughout the years, as well as NRCS programs on their land. They are currently working within the Conservation Stewardship Program to implement forest conservation practices on their land to enhance wildlife habitat. This includes increasing riparian buffers, creating meadow gaps, diversifying forests, prescribed burns, and creating wildlife snags in several areas. There are currently two locations that cross Indian Creek, which are currently low water crossings and there is a need to reduce their impact to the streams by placing crossings in both locations. One location did previously have a bridge for nearly a century, but it has now failed. Having personally driven across the low water crossings, I have seen 20-30 Chinook scatter quickly upon driving into the stream and have seen productive redds on either side of the crossing. There is also a notable plume of sediment that occurs each time you pass. We would like to see this remedied.

We are proposing to place bridges in both locations to accommodate ranch vehicles, with one bridge needing to pass log trucks as well. We are currently working with the landowner, NRCS, and ODFW staff about how to best address this problem, and how we can best reduce sediment impacts to this important stream for both fish and wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project addresses water quality concerns identified in the TMDL related to sedimentation.
- The stream has high intrinsic potential for coho habitat.
- The planned cultural resource surveys are necessary and appropriate.

- The applicant brings seasoned and capable staff along with a cadre of experienced partners.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the applicant is coordinating with the BLM regarding the compatibility of the project design within the BLM right-of-way and potential future logging on BLM land located above the project site.
- Additional information on the crossing, including the intended use, frequency of use, and the timing of use would be helpful to better understand project technical soundness.
- Additional alternatives analysis that includes consideration of options, such as low water crossings, would strengthen the application.

Concluding Analysis

There are currently two locations that cross Indian Creek that are low water crossings. Crossing solutions will be developed to reduce sediment impacts to water quality in Indian Creek, which supports coho and other salmonids.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$34,986

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2051-19567

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Archie Fire Post Restoration Project
Effectiveness Monitoring

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$138,655

Total Cost: \$607,628

Application Description Unfortunately, severe large forest fires are becoming more frequent in Oregon. There is a need to determine how best to approach restoration and rehabilitation of streams affected by fires. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR) were planning a large-scale stream restoration and effectiveness monitoring project in the Rock Creek Watershed, a major tributary to the North Umpqua River in Douglas County when the Archie Creek Fire burned over 70% of the watershed. Most of this burn was high severity with 100% tree mortality. Additionally, the adjacent watershed (Canton Creek) was mostly unburned, so the potential exists for a paired watershed study. This devastating fire has presented an opportunity to study post-fire water quality impacts in a severely burned watershed, as well as the effectiveness of stream restoration work to mitigate those impacts. Adding a comparison to Canton Creek will provide a substitute for pre-data that we were beginning to collect when the fire occurred. The BLM BugLab at Utah State University is collaborating on the project. They are designing the study so that the data is of statistical significance and have a professor who will analyze and publish the results in peer-reviewed literature. PUR will collect and analyze stream temperature, shade cover, pebble counts, and water quality. Also, PUR will collect all samples for benthic macroinvertebrates, Epilithon, organic matter and nitrate, nitrite, and phosphate that will be sent to the Bug Lab for analysis. Data will be collected for five years. Aquatic macroinvertebrates are good early indicators of stream quality since they respond quickly to physical, chemical, and biological conditions, an indicator of conditions essential for fish survival. USGS re-established a real-time stream gage in Rock Creek in April 2021 and added a sonde to provide year-round water quality data, this will provide critical data for the project.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This monitoring project will complement the existing data in Rock and Canton creeks in regard to fish, water temperature and flow data. The application describes the current and planned post-fire monitoring efforts underway and the plan to engage with several agencies to communicate the results of the collective efforts.

- The applicant will follow professionally accepted protocols and has a DEQ approved Sampling and Analysis plan that will be updated if the project is funded.
- The applicant is partnering with several organizations to collect the data and has engaged with the Utah State University Bug Lab to assist in the macroinvertebrate monitoring element, including sample collection, bug identification, and enumeration.
- The data will be stored internally and with partnering agencies, including submitting water quality data to DEQ.
- The applicant will disseminate the findings in a number of ways, including generating a peer reviewed journal article, providing a final report to OWEB and making the report available on the applicant's website, and presenting at professional conferences, such as American Fisheries Society and/or CONNECT.
- The applicant has many years of experience collecting water quality data. They are working with USGS and BLM to install and operate streamflow gages, and these agencies have the necessary experience to properly operate the gages.
- The applicant took the time to engage an array of technical experts to scope this project and leverage resources to submit a comprehensive application.
- The applicant is engaging community stakeholders and plans to share data with the Glide Water Association to help with operation of their water treatment plant.
- The budget is appropriate for the timeframe, given the data will be collected over a total of five years and three different reports will be written to summarize data at key time intervals.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application poses broad monitoring questions, and it is not clear the monthly sampling (May to September) is needed to answer the question specific to macroinvertebrates.
- While not a major concern, the application did not describe the substrate and stream canopy methods or analysis procedures to understand how they will use these data to answer their monitoring questions.
- The turbidity grab samples will yield limited information. Given the remote location of this watershed, storm events may be hard to capture. Also, it is not clear if stream restoration efforts will reduce turbidity levels.
- Given the focus on benthic macroinvertebrates and algae, this project does not plan to track bed movement (aggradation and degradation) that is likely to occur and impact both of those parameters.
- The application did not describe how all the data will be integrated to understand differences in the control and burned watersheds and restored vs. unrestored reaches.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

Review the frequency of macroinvertebrate monitoring to ensure the data are needed to answer questions stated in the application and determine how this aligns with the monitoring questions stated in the Utah State University document that was uploaded with the application.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The monitoring protocols and methods are appropriate, and science based.
- The applicant has an approved ODEQ monitoring and sampling plan.
- The macro-invertebrate sampling approach has been locally used for over 20 years.
- The applicant has extensive monitoring experience, and a suite of appropriate state and federal partners are engaged and dedicated to this work.
- A diversity of partners supports the project, which is demonstrated by match contributions.
- The applicant has a successful background in implementing quality monitoring work.

Concerns

- The proposed frequency of macro-invertebrate sampling may not provide enough data to detect a measurable change.
- It may not be appropriate to evaluate the effect of installed habitat structures on water quality because these structures are not designed address turbidity.
- The Archie Fire was not a typical wildfire because of its high severity and intensities that resulted in 100% tree mortality instead of a mosaic burn pattern. Due to this, monitoring results from the proposed project may not be transferable to other situations.
- Monitoring results may not be indicative of a typical post wildfire response because post-fire management for the Archie Fire has included a very aggressive wood salvage component.
- Additional explanation for the selection of Canton Creek as a control for evaluating water quality is needed to clarify the suitability of the choice.
- It is unclear from the application how the proposed data is relevant and necessary for informing future aquatic restoration in Rock Creek.
- The geography has burned in the past with seven fires in the last ten years. It may be difficult to incorporate previous changes before this fire occurred.

Concluding Analysis

Using macro-invertebrates as a stream quality indicator has been applied in the past and can be an effective surrogate for comparing and characterizing stream conditions. While determining the impacts of fire on aquatic ecosystems is valuable, the application lacks details indicating the proposed project is the right approach, in the right place, and at the right time to achieve the proposed monitoring goal.

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2052-19575

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Baseline Vegetation and Surface
Water Monitoring after Restoration Activities at
Lalgawa Creek

Applicant: The Understory Initiative

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$55,223

Total Cost: \$74,874

Application Description Located in the Cascade Mountains of Jackson County, Oregon, decades of grazing and water diversion practices have impaired ecological function of Lalgawa Creek and surrounding wet meadow complexes. A collaborative effort between the Vesper Meadow Education Program, The Understory Initiative, The Beaver Coalition, and US Fish and Wildlife Service is attempting to restore hydrologic function along Lalgawa Creek by installing a series of Post Assisted Log Structures (PALS). The intent of the PALS is to reverse the channelization within Lalgawa Creek and raise the local water table by slowing water flow and encouraging the accretion of sediment behind the structures. This partnership will also be addressing the loss of native riparian vegetation by treating invasive plants and installing or otherwise encouraging the re-establishment of native plants that have particular ecological and/or cultural importance within the project area. We are proposing to monitor landscape changes to these restoration activities and help address a current gap in a rapidly developing field of study. Specifically, we will record data before and after restoration activities including 1) measures of plant community composition and structure with a focus on noxious weed cover, riparian woody species density, and the cover of species identified by Siletz and Grand Ronde Tribal members as culturally important, species that are known to be important habitat features for the Federal ESA Candidate species; Mardon skipper (*Polites mardon*), the Oregon Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus affinis*); and 2) measures of improved hydrologic function within the stream-meadow complex. Measures of hydrologic function will include in-stream discharge, surface water temperature, and surface water storage capacity in riparian areas impacted by the PALS. Additional project partners include ODFW, independent field biologists, and the Klamath Bird Observatory.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application adequately describes the monitoring planned for 2021, prior to restoration with matching funds.
- The applicant is working with Tribes that have interest in this area to incorporate indigenous knowledge into the vegetation monitoring efforts by identifying plants that have cultural value.
- The application describes how this monitoring project relates to other bird and butterfly monitoring on adjacent lands by the applicant and partners.

- The applicant will follow professionally accepted protocols to collect the data and will develop a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) to be approved early in the project by DEQ.
- The application describes how the various data will be stored and reported annually after each field season.
- The application adequately describes the partners and staff working on this project. All of those that are mentioned have sufficient qualifications and experience to complete the work as proposed.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It is not clear how this restoration effectiveness monitoring project relates to the vesper sparrow. This restoration project is installing BDAs to increase wet meadow habitat; however, this species is not typically found in this habitat type (although it can be found near the edges of wet meadow).
- It was not clear how extensive the pre-project vegetation data are to track changes due to restoration actions over the course of the project.
- Quantifying hydrologic changes post restoration will be challenging, given that the applicant proposes to collect only one year of pre-project data.
- It was not clear how high flow data will be measured once high flows overtop the banks and spread water across the floodplain.
- The application proposes to partner with ODFW to install the streamflow gage but did not specify who from the agency would be assisting. It was not clear why OWRD was not consulted on this portion of the project.
- The data analysis for water temperature is not well described. The applicant assumes that decreased water temperatures will occur; however, this is not certain given the restoration goal to increase water surface area and residence time in the project area.
- The application lacked detail to understand the hydrologic data analysis to measure changes in surface water storage capacity and flood attenuation. It was not clear what metrics would be used to represent these terms used in the application and how evapotranspiration would be accounted for in the analyses.
- It is unclear if the hydrologic analysis will help answer the monitoring questions. The applicant proposes to track precipitation events, but the application does not adequately describe recording rainfall or obtaining data from nearby weather stations to interpret the data.
- It was not clear if there is sufficient funding in the budget to cover the staff time to collect detailed hydrologic measurements and analyze the data to answer the monitoring questions.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on and complements other monitoring in the area.
- Collecting water temperature will be helpful in evaluating the impacts of Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA) on water quality.

- The proposed monitoring effort is important for characterizing hydrologic and vegetation responses to restoration actions along Latgawa Creek. Restoration actions have been implemented to address incision of high elevation meadows that contribute to many of the issues impacting downstream aquatic resources.
- An array of qualified partners will bring appropriate experience to the project.
- The applicant will follow professionally accepted protocols to collect the data and will develop a Sampling and Analysis Plan for ODEQ approval.

Concerns

- Additional parameters could be helpful for evaluating restoration actions, such as channel aggradation resulting from BDA and post-assisted log structures (PALS) installation.
- Adding soil surveys may be helpful to better understand how water moves through the system.
- The budget includes lump sums, additional detail describing costs is needed to determine whether costs rates are reasonable for the proposed work.
- One year of pre-project data collection during a drought-stricken period may have limited applicability for an effective comparison with post-restoration data.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed monitoring is reasonable, follows established methods, and can help inform future restoration efforts in Latgawa Creek and surrounding wet meadow complexes. The applicant is working with Tribes to incorporate indigenous knowledge into the project work and will share data with Tribal members from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to assist with collaborative First Food plant restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$55,223

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$55,223

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2053-19593

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Coos Watershed Real-time Hydrological and Meteorological Monitoring 2021-2023

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$102,772

Total Cost: \$168,081

Application Description The Coos Watershed, located on the Southern Oregon Coast, is the home of an important population of the ESA listed coastal coho salmon. The ESA Recovery plan for the Oregon Coast coho salmon (NOAA 2016) cites the need for increased quantity and quality of freshwater and estuarine rearing habitat. Historically, the need for hydrological and meteorological data was identified in the IMST's Recovery of Wild Salmonids in Western Oregon Lowlands (2002), and in OWEB's Monitoring Strategy for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (2003). NOAA's A Strategic Plan for Enhanced Coastal Observational System and Predictive Hydrodynamic Model for Improved Management of the Coos Bay Estuary, Oregon (2005) ranked continuing gaging station operations as the highest priority. The lack of long term hydrological data has driven the Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) to meet this need. Most recently, Oregon's 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy (OWRD 2017) recommends that the state continue to maintain the stream gage network, collaborate with other groups, and promote continuous monitoring of changing climates.

OWEB funds will be used for staff to operate, and maintain six real-time stream gaging stations. Hydrological data will be analyzed and summarized by water year, and reported quarterly and annually on the CoosWA website. Discharge data will be further compiled into the long-term data set, flow duration estimates will be recalculated with the updated data. Meteorological data will be summarized by water year. Instantaneous data will be available in real-time on our website.

Since 1999, CoosWA has partnered with OWEB, OWRD, ODEQ, NOAA, U of O, CB/NB Water Board, SSNERR, CTCLUSI, Coquille Indian Tribe, and BLM to support a Water Resources Program that will develop a data set large enough to perform meaningful statistical analysis for monitoring, assessment, research, project effectiveness, and restoration projects needs.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This project will continue to complement a hydrodynamic model in the Coos Estuary that is maintained by the University of Oregon (UoO).
- The application supports streamflow gages and builds upon an existing network of gages in the watershed.
- The application provides a useful history about why the streamflow network was developed and the uses of the data collected to date.
- The application adequately describes how flow and water level data will be collected, along with quality assurance/quality control methods for data collection, management, and analysis.
- The staff working on this project has many years of experience collecting and managing streamflow gaging data.
- The application describes how past data have been shared via the applicant's website and directly with the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, UoO, recreationists, and fisherman.
- The budget is adequate to cover expenses, given that the project leverages the existing streamflow gaging equipment to continue to collect data for two additional water years.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application does not include monitoring questions, which makes it difficult to review the application relative to specific evaluation criteria.
- It is not clear what the applicant's specific plans are to apply the data in a meaningful manner.
- The application does not describe how the continuous water temperature and turbidity data will be collected, managed, and analyzed to meet the objectives described as they relate to benefitting salmon.
- The application does not describe how data will be reported at end of the year and made publicly available in a summarized report that interprets the data.
- The budget includes costs for the annual Kisters user group meeting, but the application does not describe how this relates to the project, which makes it difficult to know if this cost is appropriate for the work necessary to accomplish the objectives.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Appropriate methods and strategies will be used and are well defined in the application.
- The project activities are identified in multiple state and federal plans to evaluate limiting factors impacting ESA listed species.
- The resulting project data will be available on the applicant's website.
- The data collected is useful to a wide variety of watershed stakeholders.

- The data analysis will develop records to help understand how well instream wood structures perform over various flood intervals.
- The applicant is coordinating with appropriate local and state partners that support and actively utilize the information developed from the proposed monitoring work.
- A former USGS employee with appropriate technical expertise assists with data review and Quality Assurance and Quality Control.

Concerns

- Letters of support from state and federal partners would have helped document their commitment to the project work.
- The application lacks some details related to the monitoring questions the applicant hoped to answer with the proposed work.

Concluding Analysis

There is a significant need for gaging stations to collect long-term hydrological data, and yet funding sources for their operation is limited. The information provided from this project is actively used by the applicant to develop restoration projects and inform other monitoring work. The data is also valued by many other efforts and users, including public agencies and private individuals.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$102,772

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$102,772

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2054-19602
Project Name: Almeda Post Fire Monitoring

Project Type: Monitoring

Applicant: Rogue Valley COG

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$170,783

Total Cost: \$287,613

Application Description

The project is located in southwestern Oregon in the Bear Creek Watershed, a major tributary of the Rogue River. The watershed encompasses the Medford urban area and includes the municipalities of Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford, Central Point, Jacksonville, and Jackson County. Specifically, the project focuses on the area burned by the Almeda fire.

In September 2021, the Almeda fire burned 3000 acres and destroyed over 2500 homes and 600 commercial businesses within the cities of Phoenix and Talent in addition to rural homes and farms along Bear Creek from Ashland to Medford. In addition, the fire destroyed native and planted riparian vegetation that helped improve local water quality conditions by providing shade, habitat, erosion protection, and contaminant filtration.

An urban fire of this magnitude presents water quality concerns of short-, mid-, and long-term duration. Toxic materials from destroyed homes and businesses, farm properties, materials used in firefighting have been distributed through ash, smoke and sediment – into the air, soils and water. As sites cleanup, restoration and rebuilding take place, materials continue to enter the stream, washing into the creeks directly or through storm drains. Impacts are heightened by the dramatic loss of riparian vegetation.

Research shows that the most significant impacts occur 2-5 years post fire. Local resources are close to exhausted, so additional funding is essential to analyze data collected, evaluate trends, and continue critical monitoring activities.

Funding would allow us to continue implementing the monitoring program develop a formal SAP/QAPP, complete a comprehensive evaluation of data collected, and prepare a final report that can be used locally, by researchers (OSU) and by other communities impacted by urban fires to determine water quality monitoring needs and responses.

Partners include DEQ, RRWC, RVCOG, Jackson SWCD, SOU, RVSS, as well as local communities.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application is engaging a large group of partners to continue to collect water quality data to meet a variety of objectives.
- The application describes the existing TMDL related and post-fire water quality data that are available, and the applicant is incorporating insights from past urban fires in California to inform their monitoring approach.
- The applicant has the majority of the QA/QC procedures described in existing quality assurance plans and will use this information to develop a DEQ approved SAP.
- The applicant and partners will use established monitoring methods to collect the data and will continue to develop a monitoring plan to organize the different compents of the project.
- The applicant will develop a central database to manage the data internally and submit water quality data to DEQ.
- The applicant and contractors working on this project have the qualifications and experience to complete the project as proposed.
- The applicant is meeting with local community stakeholders and monitoring leads to coordinate and bring the necessary expertise to fully develop and implement this project during the next three to four years.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The project has lots of moving parts, which made the application challenging to understand at times, related to how and when all the data would be collected. In addition, the process and timing for development of a final report (including who will be the lead in coordinating this among the many partners) was not clear, given the timeline described in the application.
- The complexity of the project makes it challenging to understand how the data would be analyzed to answer all the questions posed in the application.
- The application lacked detail about some of the monitoring methods, including a citation for the benthic algae sampling approach described in the application.
- It is unclear if there is enough funding in the budget for project management to complete the final report.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendations

- Coordinate with DEQ to develop a SAP early in the life of the grant.
- The monitoring plan should clearly describe the roles of each organization in relation to each monitoring objective described in the application.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant is incorporating techniques from a City of Santa Rosa template for understanding water quality impacts from urban wildfire.
- The project will continue and expand existing sampling sites to build onto an existing data set.

- Existing data sets from Bear Creek will be beneficial for comparisons with data collected through the proposed monitoring project.
- Improving the understanding of chemical impacts from fire suppression is valuable.
- The project will employ and develop new Best Management Practices (BMPs) in response to wildfire in the urban setting that will be valuable moving forward to inform response strategies in the event of future fires. New fires in 2021 thus far show how important this work is in developing BMP's.
- The project will continue monitoring efforts that were quickly put together post-fire and will incorporate development of a formal Sampling Analysis Plan (SAP).
- A long list of partners representing a wide swath of interests are dedicated to the monitoring effort.
- Eighty percent of fall chinook spawn in the Rogue River downstream of its confluence with Bear Creek. This highlights the need to understand and address water quality impacts from the wildfire, especially during early season runoff that will likely wash pollutants from the burn areas into the stream.
- The applicant is effectively leveraging partner resources.

Concerns

- The public benefit for fish, wildlife, and water quality are over-shadowed in the application by the public benefit due to an emphasis in the narrative on drinking water and the sewer system. Given the importance of the spawning habitat located downstream of Bear Creek on the Rogue River, the watershed benefits from the proposed monitoring is likely significant.
- Recent data has not gone through formal Quality Assurance and Quality Control procedures and there currently is not a SAP guiding the monitoring work; however, the proposed project will include these important monitoring components for future data collection.

Concluding Analysis

Bear Creek flows through an urbanized environment and is a significant tributary to the Rogue River. The Alameda Fire is much different than most wildfires due to its impacts to an urban setting, making it unique in Oregon. The proposed monitoring will evaluate post-fire impacts on water quality to inform BMP development and response to future fires.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$170,783

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$170,783

Staff Conditions

The applicant will coordinate with DEQ to develop a SAP early in the life of the grant. The monitoring plan should clearly describe the roles of each organization in relation to each monitoring objective described in the application.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2055-19607

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Storm Chasers: Volunteer Storm Sampling on the South Coast

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$53,863

Total Cost: \$100,320

Application Description Southern Oregon coastal watersheds are flashy systems with complex geology and historic land-use practices that, when acted on by common short-term, high-intensity storm events, can mobilize significant amounts of sediment in short periods of time. These sediment mobilization events often have negative impacts downstream such as deterioration of aquatic habitat quantity and quality, and increased erosion and stream aggradation on working lands. The Curry Watersheds Partnership (Curry SWCD, Lower Rogue Watershed Council, and South Coast Watershed Council) will monitor sediment mobilization during storm events to identify and prioritize areas for potential restoration actions, and track changes over time. Synoptic storm water quality grab samples will be collected by trained citizen science volunteers, and samples will be processed and analyzed by experienced staff members. Flow data will also be collected by experienced staff members to quantify storm intensities and conduct comparative water quality analysis between sites and over time. The results of this project will be used to identify and prioritize areas for sediment abatement restoration actions, calibrate NetMap model results, and engage and educate our community on issues related to sediment mobilization.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application clearly describes how this project will leverage previously collected storm data and the current technical assistance grant the applicant has underway.
- This data will allow the applicant to perform focused road surveys in the future, based on data interpretation, to inform potential restoration.
- The monitoring questions are clearly stated, and the proposed monitoring approach is appropriate to answer them.
- The applicant will develop a DEQ approved sampling and analysis plan and submit water quality data to DEQ to be stored in the AWQMS database.
- In general, the methods cited for streamflow measurements are appropriate.
- The applicant will provide annual reports to local partners, USFS, and ODFW, and post the reports on their website to be made available to the public.
- The staff that will work on this project have the necessary qualifications and experience to apply the proposed data collection and analysis methods in a successful manner.

- The applicant has engaged a technical expert at USGS to develop the flow monitoring and analysis approach.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application does not describe how the data can complement other monitoring efforts that may be occurring or planned by different agencies and organizations (e.g., USGS, USFS, BLM, private industrial landowners) across such a large geographic area.
- The application does not describe what equipment or methods will be used to measure specific conductivity and turbidity.
- The application does not describe the number of sites to be monitored in this application but uploaded a map that had over 50 sites identified.
- The large number of sites to be monitored with the assistance of volunteers will be a challenge logistically. There was no description of quality assurance/quality control measures regarding how samples collected by volunteers will be handled and tracked to ensure high quality data are collected.
- The rotating panel approach to measure water levels at different sites over three years could be a challenge to implement across a large number of sites.
- The proposed approach to collect water level data with 3-foot staff levels has limitations, given that the streams are likely to exceed this height during storm events and could result in a data gap when water samples are collected.
- The budget narrative did not describe how the monitoring program coordinator's expenses were calculated to determine if the costs are appropriate to accomplish the objectives.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

Consider selecting a subsample of dedicated sites to track water levels over the project timeline.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project work is prioritized based on previous data collection efforts.
- The return of some volunteers from past efforts will provide continuity.
- The applicant is experienced in implementing monitoring efforts.

Concerns

- The number of sites to be sampled is unclear in the application. A map shows around fifty sites, but the narrative does not provide an exact number of sites that aligns with the map.
- The high number of sites to be sampled will be challenging, especially if volunteer recruitment is low. It is unclear from the application whether volunteers are already committed to participate in the project.
- It is unclear how data collected will characterize flow when information will not be collected at regular time intervals.

- It is uncertain whether the proposed protocols will result in consistent data quality. For example, it is unclear how flow data captured during storm events based on volunteer observation will be reliable compared to using gages or staff plates.
- There may be liability concerns regarding the use of volunteers during storm events in potentially dangerous locations.
- The map included in the application lacks context for understanding the proposed project in relation to other efforts in a large geographic area.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds off previous monitoring efforts; however, it is unclear from the application whether the approach is likely to succeed in effectively collecting data in a consistent manner.

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2056-19610

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Temperature Monitoring of 3 High Priority Watersheds in the Sixes Subbasin

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$45,865

Total Cost: \$78,985

Application Description Continuous summer water temperature monitoring is proposed in 3 high-priority watersheds within the Sixes Subbasin (HUC8): the Elk River, Sixes River, and Morton Creek. Extreme summer water temperature has been identified as a primary water quality limiting factor for aquatic species in this subbasin, and is Category 5 on ODEQ's 303(d) list. Strategic Action Plans recently completed for both the Elk and Sixes also identify temperature as a known data gap. While temperature data from these watersheds does exist, a majority of that data is 10 to 20 years old and presumably not representative of current conditions. The highest quality current temperature dataset in this subbasin is an ongoing long-term monitoring effort in Morton Creek, an ODA Focus Area in which ODA has been coordinating continuous temperature monitoring since 2017 until recent COVID-related budget cuts halted funding. This project will establish summer water temperature monitoring sites in the Elk and Sixes watersheds, and continue efforts in Morton Creek, to understand the current status of these thermal regimes, calibrate and develop temperature models of the Elk and Sixes, contribute towards trend analysis in Morton Creek, and inform the restoration and conservation efforts of multiple local and state partners. Fifty-four temperature loggers will be deployed for 3 consecutive years throughout the 3 watersheds at sites determined to best meet project goals and objectives. Data will be analyzed following standard protocols and shared with ODEQ. Model development will be carried out with assistance from ODFW REDD group staff with experience developing similar models. The results of these efforts will be shared via reporting and presentations to the Elk River Coho Partnership, Siskiyou Coast Estuaries Partnership, Curry Watersheds Partnership boards, ODFW, USFS, ODA, and the general public.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This project will leverage the existing water temperature data that have been collected in Morton Creek in coordination with ODA since 2017.
- The applicant has coordinated with several stakeholders in the watershed to minimize the potential for duplicative efforts.
- The application describes the flow data available in the Sixes and Elk basins that will assist them in interpreting the water temperature results and developing the model.
- The applicant has an existing DEQ approved sampling and analysis plan (SAP) and will create a new one to include the additional sites they plan to monitor.

- The data will be submitted annually to DEQ at the end of each field season to be incorporated into the statewide database.
- The applicant has a plan to share the results within their local partnership in which several state and federal agencies participate. The report will be placed on their website and presented to local watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts.
- The applicant has the necessary experience to collect the water temperature data and is working with a qualified contractor to model stream temperatures using spatial stream network (SSN) models.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application did not describe the fish and habitat data that may exist or how any of these current or planned monitoring efforts can leverage the water temperature data.
- The application lacked details on both the NetMap and SSN modeling efforts, making it difficult to understand how the water temperature data will be used and the final products that will result. While the letter of support from ODFW did provide additional details that were helpful, the information would have been useful in the application.
- The time needed for ODFW to model stream temperatures may exceed the amount of time stated in the application's budget.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation:

Connect with ODFW staff who are performing survey efforts to map Yellow-legged Frog distribution in these watersheds; they are likely interested in the water temperature data.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Land management and current land uses have changed a lot in the project area making this data capture important to understand land use changes.
- The data collected will be useful and informative for targeting and developing future restoration actions.
- The locations of the monitoring sites are appropriate for data collection and meeting project objectives.
- Morton Creek has limited habitat and water quality information and this effort will help fill data gaps.
- The need for the proposed water temperature data is well described in the application and is supported by both ODA and ODEQ.
- The existing SAP will ensure data is captured utilizing procedures for quality assurance and quality control.
- There is a long list of partners engaged in this effort.
- The applicant is experienced at this type of monitoring work with proven success.

Concerns

- It is challenging to capture stream temperature variability in large river systems, and this can make analyzing and using the data difficult.

Concluding Analysis

The project team is experienced with monitoring and working within the targeted project areas. The data collected will inform future restoration as well as provide data to better understand the stream temperature issues impacting the project areas.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$45,865

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$45,865

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2057-19517

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Umpqua Oaks Partnership
Landowner Outreach

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$40,172

Total Cost: \$57,292

Application Description The project will take place in Douglas County, Oregon (see attached maps below) within four high priority areas identified by the Umpqua Oak Partnership (UOP). These areas were selected based on local knowledge of sites that contain large tracts of historic oak habitat, has potential for significant oak restoration, has issues with invasive species, has the potential for developing fire resistance with private landowners and private landowners willing to do Oak projects.

Oak habitat is declining over its range in the Western United States. The Oregon Conservation Strategy (ODFW, 2006) estimates that oak woodland habitat may now only occupy 4-7 percent of their historic range. Oak and associated plant communities provided vital resources to Native American communities. Oak savannah and oak woodlands provide habitat for more than 200 species of native wildlife, plant species endemic to oak habitats and insect life.

This project proposal would be to complete the landowner survey, statistical analysis, final report and use the results to help inform next steps in the outreach, education and project development. Follow-up to this program would be to organize and implement an Oak Woodland Day which would be open to landowners/public as a way to promote the results of the outreach, extend our contact list, include the benefits of Oaks, threats, potential projects, oak restoration techniques and funding. Additionally, we would plan two days of tours of project sites where restoration activities are taking place. This project would include funds to pay the UOP coordinator to complete the survey, statistical analysis, final report, conduct presentations to landowner groups and organize the Workshop and tours. Educational materials such as a Landowner Guide to Oak Restoration which includes the Umpqua Basin and revised will be purchased for distribution to interested landowners.

Project Partners and UOP members are included as an Upload.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The engagement effort targets a high priority geography for restoring and protecting oak woodland habitats.

- The Umpqua Oak Partnership utilizes lessons learned from other oak working groups throughout the State and is adapting techniques to move towards the development of a strategic action plan.
- The survey will reach over 1,400 landowners and was created by graduate students with a strong foundation for developing the kind of proposed engagement approach.
- The applicant appropriately identified different geographies to target in the project.
- The Umpqua Oak Partnership is poised to be a catalyst to kickstart public land managers' focus and efforts towards oak habitat restoration.
- A long list of supportive project partners is working to pull together restoration strategies across public and private lands.
- The applicant has relevant experience and previous success engaging private landowners in restoration.

Concerns

- The landowner survey is long. The length and time to complete this survey could create a barrier to private landowners.
- The pathway to restoration is unclear from the application because priority areas or specific project types expected to result from the stakeholder engagement project are not identified.
- It is unclear whether the project will build off or coordinate with the existing NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategies program focusing on oak habitat.

Concluding Analysis

The Umpqua Oak Partnership gained traction during a Focused Investment Partnership development effort and has moved forward with successfully working to conserve and enhance important oak habitat in the Umpqua basin. USFWS has been an active partner in this effort, providing technical expertise since its early inception. The project engages the appropriate partners and stakeholders in a suitable geography and has a high likelihood of resulting in restoration and conservation opportunities.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$40,172

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$40,172

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2058-19518

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Illinois Valley Collective Mobilization
for Fire and Fish

Applicant: Illinois Valley SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Josephine

OWEB Request: \$127,109

Total Cost: \$194,455

Application Description Project location is entirely within Josephine County and the Illinois River watershed; specifically, private lands within the high priority subwatersheds of West Fork Illinois River, East Fork Illinois River, and Sucker, Althouse, and Deer creeks. This encompasses the rural hubs of Selma, Cave Junction, Takilma, and O'Brien.

This project need is to engage landowners in multidirectional communication to address, on their properties, (1) dangerous forest conditions compounding catastrophic wildfire risk, and (2) riparian and instream habitat limitations.

The proposed work is for stakeholders to come together to: coordinate resources, develop a messaging plan and engage in multidirectional communication with private landowners, develop restoration projects with cooperative landowners, and establish a replicable model to maintain and expand successes.

Project partners include: IV Conservation District (IVSWCD), IV Watershed Council (IVWC), IV Community Development Organization (IVCanDO), IV Fire District, City of Cave Junction, Josephine County, Oregon Department of Forestry, Grayback Forestry, Wilson Biochar, KS Wild, NRCS, USFS, and BLM. Each of these partners is already actively participating in the Illinois Valley Fire Resiliency Oversight Group (IVFROG).

Partners share a vision to restore watershed function and health for the benefit of all communities, by building relationships and cultivating a local culture of conservation and collaboration. The project has been community-driven from its onset. This style of grassroots leadership increases the efficacy in outreach and engagement. These values emphasize the approach of localized participatory process that permeates this proposal.

The Illinois Valley (IV) supports thriving human and ecological communities across a landscape struggling to recover from historic land management practices that adversely impacted watershed conditions.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns are addressed by providing information describing the type of products and associated outcomes that are expected from the proposed project.

- The applicant clearly describes a link between the proposed stakeholder engagement effort and upland forest habitat conditions that directly impact important aquatic and fisheries resources.
- The applicant clearly laid out objectives and activities relating to the roles required for successful landowner engagement.
- Improving fire resiliency at a broader landscape scale will benefit riparian habitats.
- The project geography includes water quality impaired streams identified on DEQ's 303d list. Objectives identified in the application could lead to actions that improve water quality conditions.
- The project is very timely with the recent Slater fire raising awareness within the community and focusing attention on fire and forest health issues, which has resulted in a high degree of interested landowners.
- The project brings together and involves the right suite of public and private partners necessary to achieve the project goals.
- The project partners have demonstrated success in engaging stakeholders.
- The project will build off previous successful planning and restoration efforts on private lands.

Concerns

- The pathway from the engagement work to achieving on-the-ground restoration outcomes is not clear in the application.
- The project approach to prioritize private landowners first in the process and then incorporate agency staff later could be less efficient and create missed opportunities in the process. Engaging all stakeholders within the same time frame might prove more effective.
- It is unclear whether the project interacts with or builds off work related to the NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategies in Josephine County.

Concluding Analysis

There has been an increase in unpermitted tree removal to increase defensible space by private landowners in the project geography that cite previous fires as a reason for these actions. The proposed project work will provide an avenue to work with landowners on related resource issues in manners that improve forest and riparian health as well as provide for increased fire resiliency.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$127,109

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$127,109

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2059-19536

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Highland Ditch Stakeholder Association

Applicant: South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$10,417

Total Cost: \$14,417

Application Description Location:

Highland Ditch is a 1911 2.5 mile legacy irrigation diversion located along Cow Creek, a major tributary of the South Umpqua river. Azalea, Oregon is the nearest town. The diversion is located approximately 7 miles below Galesville Reservoir, main water supply source for cities located in the South Umpqua river basin.

Project Need:

The current primitive irrigation diversion is a chronic source of ESA listed fish kills and over utilization of water resources. Present efforts to manage these problems have been insufficient due to a lack of collective community engagement . An association must be formed to address the degraded ditch condition and water distribution for irrigation purposes. Updated irrigation controls and a permanent fish screen need to be installed. The project has a high potential for removing a diversion dam associated with the stakeholders.

Proposed Work:

Engage all landowners and stakeholders to form a function organization that will equitably and safely distributing irrigation water, eliminate ESA listed fish kills, manage irrigation system maintenance and remove fish barriers from the related segment of Cow Creek.

Project Partners:

11 Highland Ditch private landowners, their leasers and renters.
South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership (surcp.org)
Oregon Dept. of Water Resources (ODWR)
Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant is a trusted member of the community and well positioned to lead the proposed effort. The applicant has contacted all the private water users to make them aware of the stakeholder

engagement work.

- The current condition of the water diversion and ditch system clearly demonstrates an urgent need to address fish passage and diversion issues identified in the application.
- There is a high potential for the stakeholder engagement to result in eligible restoration projects centered around fish passage and water quantity. The water right associated with the ditch is senior to others in the area and an instream transfer is a possible result of this work.
- The Cow Creek drainage provides ideal coho spawning and rearing with cool water refugia areas that have high intrinsic potential for coho habitat.
- Natural resource agency staff are engaged due to the importance of Cow Creek aquatic resources and opportunities to improve the ditch system. This will help in identifying viable solutions and with permitting aspects.
- The legal costs seem appropriate given the specific needs for legal advice and document review necessary in the formation of a special district.

Concerns

- The degree to which landowners are currently engaged is not well demonstrated in the application either through letters of support or clarity on landowner roles or expected participation during the project.
- While facilitation will be an important component to the success of the project, it is unclear whether this cost is included in the application budget.

Concluding Analysis

A water user association will likely be created as an outcome of the proposed stakeholder engagement project. This will be an important step towards facilitating the decision-making processes needed to effectively address water use along the ditch, fish entrapment, fish passage, and other issues.

Historically, the ditch likely diverted more water than permitted, however, there are no current or past enforcement actions by either OWRD or ODFW. Having a local non-profit leading this effort is a sound approach given the potential contention and conflict among the water users. The work has a high likelihood of success with the applicant engaging with the appropriate stakeholders in the appropriate geography.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$10,417

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$10,417

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2060-19632

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Stakeholder Engagement along the Bear Creek Corridor

Applicant: Rogue River WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$64,691

Total Cost: \$109,509

Application Description The Bear Creek watershed in Jackson County is the most urbanized watershed in southern Oregon, traversing 5 communities (Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford, and Central Point) with a combined population of over 134,000 people. Bear Creek is rated in the "poor" water quality category by Oregon DEQ. It is water quality-limited for phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and bacteria. Salmonids, including Coho Salmon (currently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act), use the creek for spawning, rearing, and migration. Young salmonids can only survive the hot summer by finding pockets of cool water. The vegetative canopy over Bear Creek was estimated to provide only 15% shade cover prior to the Alameda Fire, likely less now. The creek corridor also has dense colonies of invasive plants such as Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, and reed canary grass, which suppress native plants, increase wildfire risk, and obscure line of sight for law enforcement. The Bear Creek Greenway parallels the creek for 20 miles, providing a popular thruway for recreation. but also an attractive encampment area for the unhoused population of the area, which brings with it issues related to public safety, environmental health, and fire risk. Management of the creek and Greenway is made more complex by the multitude of jurisdictions involved--from the state level down to the local.

Rogue River Watershed Council, partnering with Jackson County Parks, Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Rogue Valley Sewer Services, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District, The Freshwater Trust, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and Rogue Riverkeeper, proposes to engage stakeholders from outside the restoration community--most specifically, those in law enforcement, public safety, and fire prevention, advocates for the unhoused, and government decision-makers to secure commitments to collaborate in solving the many issues related to the creek's health. We will also engage the general public

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes a diverse list of public and private partners, including local government, which is very important to the success of this effort to improve watershed health in the Bear Creek corridor. The applicant assembled the right people to successfully engage with the variety of stakeholders involved in this high-profile opportunity.

- The project hits directly on the issues affecting the riparian corridor along Bear Creek, which provides habitat for salmonids and has challenging water quality issues. The application presents a template for effectively incorporating the variety of issues impacting watershed health into one engagement effort, including fire prevention, unsheltered population residing along the creek, sanitation, fish habitat, and water quality.
- The removal of riparian vegetation post fire is a regional concern. The proposed project could bring to light how riparian vegetation can and should be protected in the urban environment.
- The project is very timely given recent fire history and a culmination of the efforts by the applicant and recent initiatives involving the health and safety on Bear Creek.

Concerns

- The resource, social, and health concerns along Bear Creek are vast and will be difficult to address and correct for the long-term.
- Convening all the right entities needed to assist in addressing resource concerns in Bear Creek might be a big reach given the social, health, safety, and environmental issues impacting this area. Securing the right mix of consulting services to address the variety of concerns affecting the stream corridor could prove difficult.

Concluding Analysis

There are a wide variety of factors and interests along Bear Creek, including public health, fire, homelessness, and natural resources. A group of partners committed to the project's success has been assembled and will build on the applicant's proven track record of coordination and engaging with appropriate stakeholders in the project geography to accomplish planning, restoration, and monitoring efforts. The project is likely to result in meaningful restoration and protection of riparian habitats critical to restoring fish habitat and improving water quality.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$64,691

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

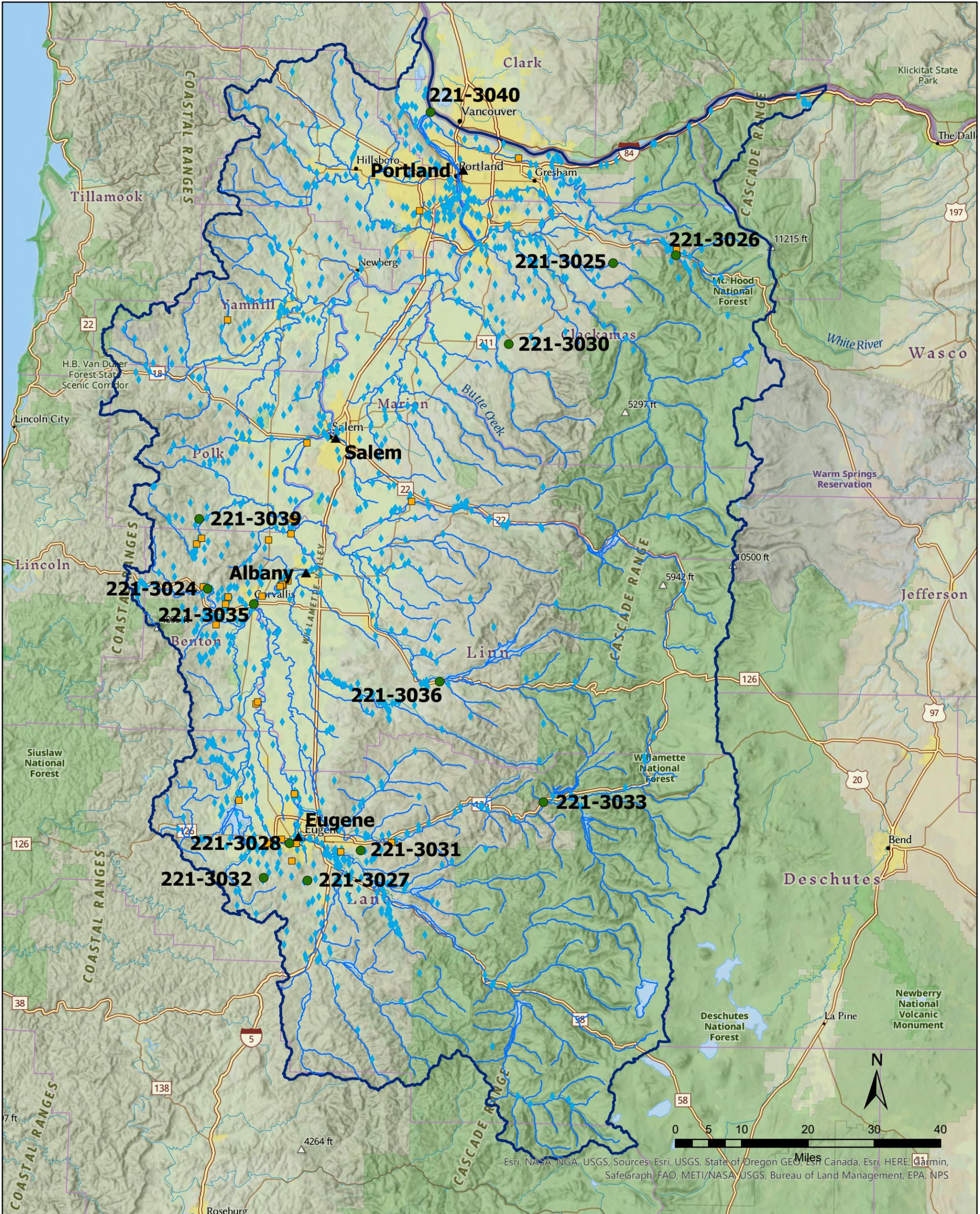
Staff Recommended Amount

\$64,691

Staff Conditions

N/A

Willamette Basin - Region 3 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2020

- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 3 Cities
- Region 3 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 3 Boundary



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Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Sources: Esri, USGS, State of Oregon GEO, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS

Region 3 - Willamette Basin Restoration					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-3026	The Freshwater Trust	Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project	The recovery of naturally functioning conditions within the stream channels and floodplain areas of Salmon River, Zigzag River, Boulder Creek, and Clear Fork will be accelerated to increase the abundance and productivity of Upper Sandy basin salmon and steelhead populations.	291,383	Clackamas
221-3027	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Salyers Family Ranch: Oak Woodland Restoration Phase 2	Oak habitat will be restored across over one hundred acres within the lower Coast Fork Willamette watershed to preserve large legacy oaks, promote native plant diversity, and increase habitat connectivity for native birds and other wildlife.	338,827	Lane
221-3025	Clackamas River Trout Unlimited	North Fork Eagle Creek Dam Removal Project	Fish passage will be restored to eight miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat for native fish by removing a privately owned dam from the North Fork of Eagle Creek, a tributary to the Clackamas River Basin, which is a high priority basin for the recovery of endangered salmon populations.	127,237	Clackamas
221-3030	Molalla River Watch Inc	Woodcock Creek & Grimm Road Fish-Passage Project	A box culvert on Woodcock Creek in the Molalla River watershed will be replaced with a bridge to restore natural streambed processes and will open more than eleven miles of stream habitat to native aquatic species.	348,671	Clackamas
221-3024	Institute for Applied Ecology	Prairie restoration for Willamette daisy recovery	An interconnected network of prairie habitat will be created in the Willamette Valley that supports Willamette daisy populations sufficient to eventually delist this plant from federal and state Endangered Species Acts.	345,883	Benton
221-3032	Long Tom WC	Regenerating Native Plant Communities with Cultural Fire	Cultural burning will be re-introduced to restore native plant diversity, return historical management practices to the land, build Tribal fire capacity for multiple tribes, and better understand the relationship between fire and existing plant communities to inform long-term landscape management with fire.	130,289	Lane
221-3028	Long Tom WC	Urban Stormwater Improvements for Healthy Human, Ecological, & Aquatic Communities	Retrofits will be made at a parking lot in Eugene to integrate rain gardens that will improve water quality exiting the site and reduce urban stormwater pollution entering streams that negatively impacts native fish.	207,248	Lane
221-3031	Middle Fork Willamette WC	Thurston Hills Natural Area Oak Restoration and Enhancement Phase 3	Oak woodland and prairie habitat will be improved in the Thurston Hills Natural Area to increase plant species diversity, increase fire resilience, and increase knowledge and awareness among City of Springfield residents of the importance of oak habitats.	150,981	Lane
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,940,519	

Region 3- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Cycle July 26, 2021

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
221-3029	Tualatin River WC	Balm Grove Dam Removal	450,193	Washington

Region 3 - Willamette Basin Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-3033	McKenzie River Trust	Phase II Finn Rock Reach Floodplain Habitat Restoration Engineering and Permitting	Engineering, modeling, and permitting work will be completed to undertake extensive floodplain restoration actions that will improve habitat for native fish utilizing the middle McKenzie watershed.	51,740	Lane
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				51,740	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County	
None					

Region 3 - Willamette Basin Stakeholder Engagement					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-3040	Columbia Slough WC	Healthy Industrial Lands Initiative Phase II	Stakeholder engagement will build strategic and meaningful relationships within the industrial community to increase voluntary investments in watershed health on private industrial properties in the Columbia Slough floodplain.	27,293	Multnomah
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				27,293	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County	
None					

Region 3 - Willamette Basin Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-3039	Luckiamute WC	Luckiamute Temperature Monitoring Phase 3	Data will be collected to understand water temperature status and trends in the Luckiamute watershed to prioritize and design habitat restoration projects that improve water quality and habitat for native fish while adaptively managing for climate resiliency.	88,891	Polk
221-3035	Institute for Applied Ecology	Willamette daisy restoration effectiveness monitoring	The effectiveness of restoration and reintroduction activities designed to increase the abundance of Willamette daisy and overall prairie habitat quality will be monitored to determine progress toward recovery of this endangered native plant.	166,715	Benton
221-3036	South Santiam WC	South Santiam Temperature Monitoring	Data will be collected to maintain a high-quality, multi-year dataset to better understand water temperature trends in the South Santiam River and make data-informed decisions for prioritizing restoration.	35,372	Linn
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				290,978	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-3034	Sandy River Basin WC	Sandy River Cold Water Refuge Monitoring	144,751	Multnomah	
221-3037	Willamette Riverkeeper	Freshwater Mussel Occurrence and Habitat - North Santiam Basin	78,253	Linn	
221-3038	OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin	American Beaver Population Ecology in Dynamic Forested Landscapes of Western Oregon	314,983	Linn	

Region 3 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	2,310,530
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3024-19527

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Prairie restoration for Willamette daisy recovery

Applicant: Institute for Applied Ecology

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$345,883

Total Cost: \$741,666

Application Description

This project focuses on the endangered Willamette daisy, which occurs in the Willamette Valley and southwest Washington. Most populations are declining and fragmented with restricted gene flow between sites. Plants struggle to survive in habitats invaded by exotic grasses which create dense thatch, especially in the context of modern-day fire suppression. Of 21 known populations, only 6 have more than 200 plants, and only one of 9 Recovery Zones has meets USFWS recovery criteria. Without direct intervention, the risk of extinction is very high. Through habitat restoration and augmentation of Willamette daisy, we will be moving this species closer to recovery and eventual delisting. Nine project locations (Pearcy-Schoener, Bald Hill Farm, Finley NWR, Yamhill Oaks, Cornerstone, Baskett Slough, Ankeny NWR, Santiam Kingson Hills, Chankawan) are in three Recovery Zones (Corvallis West, Salem West and Salem East), five counties (Yamhill, Polk, Benton, Marion, Linn) and five Watersheds (Marys River, Deer Creek-South Yamhill River, Salt Creek, Rickreall Creek-Willamette River, Lower North Santiam River). Reintroduction sites include protected areas on public and private land. The proposed work will restore prairie habitat using techniques such as herbicide treatments, mowing and prescribed burns before seeding and planting with native prairie species, including Willamette daisy plugs and seed. Seed will be sourced from USFWS-funded production fields or from commercial nurseries. The project builds on other restoration projects funded by USFWS and OWEB at the nine project sites. It draws upon a highly functioning network of government agencies, non-profits and private landowners who are working towards prairie restoration and listed species recovery in the Willamette Valley. Partners include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Benton County, Polk and Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Greenbelt Land Trust, and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Federally listed endangered Willamette daisy populations will be augmented at nine project sites distributed over three recovery zones identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This will contribute towards achieving delisting criteria by spreading daisy populations, currently clustered in smaller geographies, across a broader landscape.
- Project objectives are measurable and clearly described in the application. For example, the tables included in the application describing Willamette daisy population targets, current status, and treatments needed for each project location, is helpful for understanding the proposed work over a broad geography.

- The proposed project builds on work completed through previous OWEB grants to restore Kincaid's lupine; another Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed upland prairie plant species.
- The proposed restoration approach will address limiting factors impacting Willamette daisy populations, including encroachment by invasive plant species and woody trees and shrubs that crowd or shade out native prairie species and convert open prairie habitats to forests.
- The proposed project includes a long-term vision for adaptively managing prairie habitats and species through entries for seeding, herbicide treatments, and mowing. This is critical to reach ESA de-listing goals and is feasible because all the project sites are protected by their location on public land or within a conservation easement. Prairies are early-seral habitat, meaning they are primarily dominated by grasses, forbs, and shrubs, which were historically managed by Indigenous people utilizing prescribed fire. These habitats are now highly disturbed and degraded due to human impacts such as agriculture, urban development, and fire suppression. Restoring and maintaining prairie systems and associated plant species requires a long-term commitment and multiple treatment entries over time because these habitats were historically maintained by people for thousands of years.
- The applicant has experience growing out prairie species and implementing prairie restoration; they are co-inventors of methods proving to be effective in restoring upland habitats in the Willamette Valley.
- There is a long, diverse list of partners contributing to the project that provided letters of support, which demonstrates partner commitment and an "all-hands" approach to implement the project.
- Details provided in the budget describing how project costs were calculated provides necessary contextual information for evaluating project cost-effectiveness.

Concerns

- The restoration sites overlap with OWEB-funded restoration and monitoring projects focused on Kincaid's lupine. Additional information describing how the two efforts to restore ESA-listed prairie species are related would provide helpful context to better understand this project. In particular, a description of how monitoring and restoration actions at the same project sites are broken out for the Willamette daisy and Kincaid's lupine, and yet are complementary, would be helpful for understanding how the efforts are leveraged to achieve overlapping prairie restoration goals and not duplicative.
- The proposed method for growing out Willamette daisy seed typically has a lower rate of success. The applicant likely chose the proposed approach to balance costs. Since Willamette daisy seed material supply is no longer as limited as it has been previously, the tradeoff of a lower overall seed germination success rate to limit costs may be appropriate.
- Project match costs are grouped into lump sums in the application budget. Additional detail is needed to better understand how match will be applied to the proposed work.

Concluding Analysis

The Willamette daisy has been somewhat neglected and is one of the last species to be addressed in prairie habitat because it has been difficult to restore due to challenges with growing out daisy plant stock. It has taken time to understand how to effectively collect and propagate Willamette daisy seed. Work in recent years has increased the understanding for what is needed to be successful in restoring Willamette daisy populations. The proposed project will target Willamette daisy recovery and also use it as a surrogate to the recovery of prairie habitats, the approach being "build it around one species and the rest will follow." As a result, this will contribute to recovery goals for both the Willamette daisy species and prairie habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$345,883

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$345,883

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3025-19558

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Fork Eagle Creek Dam Removal Project

Applicant: Clackamas River Trout Unlimited

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$267,237

Total Cost: \$355,562

Application Description

The North Fork Eagle Creek Dam Removal project addresses the decline in Lower Columbia River ESA listed salmonid fish populations partly attributed to a lack of access to high quality habitat. This project will restore full volitional fish passage to 8 miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed Lower Columbia River winter steelhead, coho salmon and spring Chinook within the North Fork Eagle Creek sub-basin. The project will also restore natural channel processes including sediment and large wood distribution. The project site is in the Clackamas River basin on the North Fork of Eagle Creek near Estacada. This dam is listed on OR Dept of Fish & Wildlife's Statewide Fish Passage Priority List as the 8th highest priority within the North Willamette Watershed District. The dam lies downstream of a highly functioning natural stream reach. Removing the dam will restore passage for juveniles and improve adult salmon throughout the year, especially during summer low flow periods. This dam is not a complete barrier to upstream fish passage for adult salmon and steelhead but is a complete barrier for juvenile salmon and other resident adult native migratory fish species including cutthroat trout. The project is composed of two sites: Site 1 - Remove the dam. Site 2 - Side channel connectivity and bank stability. To protect the homes adjacent to the stream and prevent bank sloughing from continuing to contribute sediment to the channel, large wood will be installed on the the upstream landowner's streambank and an historic side channel will be reconnected to take pressure off the actively eroding bank that threatens the existing well. The project partners and key roles include: design engineering and permitting support, Waterways Consulting; project management and technical design review, OR Dept of Fish & Wildlife; grant management, Trout Unlimited; engineering design funding, Resources Legacy Fund and permitting support, Confluence Consulting.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is well thought out and restoration objectives are clearly described in the application.
- The proposed restoration builds on previous work in the Eagle Creek basin, including stream habitat improvements and the Eagle Fern Dam removal scheduled for 2021.
- Limiting factors for lower Columbia Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish will be addressed, including lack of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat. The project will expand access to cold water refuge that is critical for all native fish.

- The North Fork Eagle Creek Dam is identified in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Statewide Fish Passage Priority List as a high priority for removal. The dam is currently a complete passage barrier to pacific lamprey and juvenile salmon and steelhead, and a partial barrier for adult salmon and steelhead.
- Removing the dam will open fish access to approximately eight miles of high-quality stream habitat located in mostly publicly owned lands.
- The project approach is technically sound.
- A variety of alternatives were considered through the design process and the most cost- effective approach for the ecological benefit was selected.
- Sediment released after the dam is removed will likely provide habitat and water quality improvements by building gravel beds that increase hyporheic exchange, which will result in cooler water flows.

Concerns

- There is some uncertainty related to the stability of the riverbank after dam removal since the dam appears to have been built to stabilize the stream channel. This may be a concern for the residential infrastructure located directly adjacent to the stream; however, the restoration design process took into consideration how to maintain streambank stability for these structures.

Concluding Analysis

Removing the North Fork Eagle Creek dam will allow native fish to seek out cold water habitat, which is critical for continued survival of Willamette ESA-listed fish species. Areas upstream of the dam have high quality spawning habitat, fish just need access to use it. The proposed project will have a high benefit for the cost by opening access for ESA-listed fish to eight miles of stream habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$267,237

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Site two was determined to be ineligible for Open Solicitation because of the Focused Investment Partnership overlap rule (OAR 695-047-0100(4)).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$127,237

Staff Conditions

Site two objectives and associated costs must be removed from the project application.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3026-19570

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$291,383

Total Cost: \$1,109,439

Application Description

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 on behalf of the Sandy River Basin Partners (the Partners). The Sandy River originates on Mt. Hood and flows 56 miles northwest before entering the Columbia River, near Portland, Oregon. The proposed project will address primary limiting factors by increasing off channel habitat/floodplain connectivity and large wood abundance in high priority tributaries of the Sandy, including the mainstem Salmon River, Boulder Creek (both in the Salmon River sub-watershed) and Zigzag River (located within the upper Sandy sub-watershed). Proposed work is on public land managed by the USFS and BLM located near Zigzag, Oregon in Clackamas County. Sandy River salmon and steelhead populations have declined over the last century due to degradation of habitat and other factors. The Partners have identified the Salmon River and upper Sandy sub-watersheds among the top areas providing high quality habitat for the basin's native fish. The Partners are aligned on a near term goal of restoring these priority watersheds to advance Sandy basin-scale restoration. Restoration actions to be undertaken as part of the proposed project 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. 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.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly defined methods and a description of how project objectives will be met, providing a clear pathway to success.
- The applicant is targeting restoration in geographies and habitats prioritized for addressing limiting factors to Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish recovery.
- Proposed habitat restoration treatments and approaches, including adding instream large wood structures, creating side-channels, and removing berms, are technically sound techniques proven to effectively restore stream processes and provide ESA-listed fish habitat benefits.
- The restoration strategy will address impacts from previous land management practices, primarily related to logging, that contributed to stream habitat decline.

- Project designs are nearly completed, and the application includes an explanation of alternatives that were considered and a justification for the chosen approach.
- The proposed restoration expands on previous project phases that have demonstrated quantified benefits to fisheries. Post-project effectiveness monitoring from previous project phases indicates the stream restoration approach is successful in restoring fish habitat. The measured fish response documented a 500% increase of fish present in areas with completed stream restoration work.
- The project team has a consistent track record for implementing similar high-quality projects.
- The project budget includes typical costs for the proposed restoration activities.
- A diversity of partners support the project, which is demonstrated by letters of support and match contributions.

Concerns

- The application includes only one map that covers a large geographic area. The applicant is encouraged to provide additional maps in future applications that include details about the position of the proposed work relative to previous restoration efforts and future phases of work. This would provide a better understanding of the proposed current phase of work within the context of the broader, long-term strategy for restoring stream habitat in the Upper Sandy Basin geography.
- Additional information on site conditions would be helpful to understand the different design approaches at each of the project sites. The design approach for the Zigzag site is more engineered compared to the Rock Creek design approach, which may be driven by site specific considerations of the geomorphic processes driving the system. A more engineered approach may be needed to manage risk associated with restoration actions at Zigzag. A description of conditions unique to the individual project sites that had to be considered in the design approach would provide context to better understand different levels of engineered solutions.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project builds on stream restoration over time that has a record of producing a quantified fish response to habitat improvements. The Sandy River watershed provides habitat to numerous ESA-listed fish species, making it a priority area for instream habitat restoration. The project has a high ecological benefit-cost ratio and certainty of success, which is documented by monitoring data from previous phases of restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$291,383

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$291,383

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3027-19573

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Salyers Family Ranch: Oak
Woodland Restoration Phase 2

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$338,827

Total Cost: \$600,979

Application Description

This 133.1 acre project is in Lane County, west of the City of Creswell, in the Camas Swale sub basin. The property (~2000 acres) known as the Salyers Family Ranch is owned by private landowners, the Salyers Family. Approximately 1600 acres of the ranch known as Creswell Oaks is protected by a conservation easement. This property contains rare and degraded Willamette Valley oak woodland, savanna, and upland and wet prairie habitats. The lack of disturbance has allowed open-grown Oregon white oaks within the project area to be threatened by conifer encroachment and overtopping and the establishment of woody vegetation in the understory. This loss of native habitat reduces biodiversity and negatively impacts important species that rely on these open canopy habitats including acorn woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, and western gray squirrel. The proposed project will implement oak woodland restoration on 133.1 acres by: (1) thinning firs and small diameter oaks around legacy oak trees; and (2) enhancing the herbaceous understory by controlling undesired species and reseeding with native forbs and grasses; (3) convert closed canopy oak woodland to a 20-60% open canopy thereby reducing the rate of Oregon white oak woodland loss and habitat fragmentation, with the long-term goal of increased recruitment, structure and function. Partners include Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC), Salyers Family Ranch (Creswell Oaks), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly defined restoration methods and a description of how project objectives will be met.
- The restoration design is based on experience from previous project phases.
- The restoration treatment approach is technically sound for addressing limiting factors for oak woodland habitats. The proposed work also incorporates prioritized actions recommended in multiple planning documents related to oak woodland habitats.
- The proposed restoration across a 133-acre footprint leverages habitat benefits resulting from previous restoration investments on the property.
- The equipment that will be used for mechanical brush management is efficient and effective.
- Materials resulting from treatment of woody vegetation will be mulched instead of piled and burned; as a result, carbon will stay in the soil instead of being released into the atmosphere. Mulching will also be effective for preparing the site for seeding by providing more effective seed to soil contact.

- The applicant has the capacity to complete the proposed restoration and has a proven track record completing similar projects.
- The applicant is engaging appropriate partners to implement the project.
- The landowner has the capacity and experience to implement restoration and has a history of implementing multiple projects across a variety of habitat types on the property. The landowner has also participated in a wide variety of conservation programs, including adding habitat protections through a conservation easement with BPA. Restoration investments are likely to be maintained in the long-term because multiple generations managing the property participate in restoration activities.
- The application budget is detailed. The cost per acre is comparable to similar projects and appropriate for the proposed restoration treatments and stewardship work needed to maintain habitat improvements.

Concerns

- No concerns identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project property contains a wide range of habitat types that offer significant restoration opportunities, and any investment is further leveraged by restoration already completed both on the site and in the region. The property also has the largest breeding population of Oregon Vesper Sparrow in Willamette Valley. Since this species is under consideration for potential listing under the Endangered Species Act, early action to restore habitat that supports this species is a priority. The project site also offers opportunity to demonstrate how working lands can effectively be balanced with restoring native plant communities.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$338,827

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$338,827

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3028-19598

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Urban Stormwater Improvements for Healthy Human, Ecological, & Aquatic Communities

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$207,248

Total Cost: \$280,143

Application Description

Location: Willamette Christian Center 2500 W. 18th Avenue Eugene, Oregon
Need: This site impacts the Upper Willamette River (UWR) Chinook evolutionary significant unit (ESU). Eugene is the largest urban area in the Upper Willamette Basin, and the primary contributor of high temperatures, heavy metals, petrochemicals, and emerging pollutants such as PFAS and 6PPD-quinone - all of which are known to impair fish survival, especially coho salmon. Likewise, the best management practice to reduce the impacts of all of these urban stormwater pollutants continues to be green stormwater infrastructure. Pollutants are typically conveyed through stormwater generated on and adjacent to this site and enters the UWR through the Long Tom River (via Amazon Creek), which accepts untreated stormwater from over 70% of Eugene's urban areas. The Upper Willamette River, Amazon Creek, the A-3 Drain, the Amazon Diversion Canal, Fern Ridge Reservoir, and the Long Tom River are all 303-D listed Creeks for pollutants including lead, mercury, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and turbidity-all of which are recognized as common urban sourced pollutants. The City of Monroe draws the majority of its drinking water from the surface waters of the Long Tom below the confluence with Amazon Creek, making the project within a drinking water source protection area.
Proposed Work: This is phase II of a multi-phase project with the church having taken on the initial phase by themselves, with technical assistance from LTWC. Phase II will treat stormwater from a two acre parking lot, lands adjacent, and air pollution from a bordering primary traffic arterial that currently adds to the stormwater load onsite. Please refer to the attached diagrams and full construction document set for current conditions and proposed solution.
Partners: Urban Waters & Wildlife Partnership (UWWP) , City of Eugene, Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC), Willamette Christian Center, Arbor South Architecture.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly defined methods and a description of how project objectives will be met, demonstrating a thoughtful approach to address urban water quality.
- Previous application evaluation concerns are addressed by clarifying habitat benefits expected from the proposed restoration and providing detailed information on planting plans, long-term stewardship, and costs.

- The project site selection was completed through a screening process for prioritizing stormwater related projects designed through a previous OWEB Technical Assistance investment. The proposed project focuses on one site that is ready for implementation and will have the largest impact compared to other identified locations.
- The restoration treatment approach is technically sound for treating stormwater. The City of Portland's most recent stormwater management manual, along with EPA and DEQ stormwater management guidance, were used to design the project.
- Planting plans are provided in the application and selected plant species are appropriate for the project site.
- The proposed restoration actions are identified in a number of watershed and water quality plans. Also, every recovery plan for Endangered Species Act listed fish species highlights the devastating impacts of stormwater on native fish.
- Treating nonpoint source pollution will also provide water quality benefits for drinking water sources.
- The project provides opportunities for raising public awareness about watershed restoration.
- The applicant has a proven track record with similar projects.
- Appropriate partners will be engaged to implement the project, some of which are new to watershed restoration projects.
- Project costs are clear in the application budget and based on bids provided as an upload to the application.

Concerns

- The literature provided in the application documenting links between stormwater pollutants and impacts to fish and the benefits of using trees and shrubs to reduce heat islands, are likely transferrable for understanding the potential benefits of the proposed project; however, including project specific effectiveness monitoring to document benefits to aquatic systems from the proposed work would be helpful for understanding the impact of urban stormwater investments to watershed health and inform future stormwater related projects.
- The project has a high cost for a small area; however, this is reflective of work in an urban environment. While the restored area is small compared to other watershed restoration projects, the project area is large for an urban landscape.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed urban stormwater improvement project is part of an innovative approach to improve water quality. Since only new development is required to incorporate stormwater treatment, the proposed project addresses a gap in stormwater management by integrating stormwater infrastructure retrofits into previous urban developments. Urban stormwater pollution has significant impacts to native fish, potentially limiting the benefits of stream habitat restoration. Oregon's voluntary approach to restoring habitat has been successful outside of urban areas; applying the same voluntary approach to address stormwater impacts on water quality within urban areas on water quality is likely to provide a significant ecological benefit to native fish.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$207,248

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$207,248

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3029-19605

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Balm Grove Dam Removal

Applicant: Tualatin River WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Washington

OWEB Request: \$450,193

Total Cost: \$774,307

Application Description

Project Location: Gales Creek winds for more than 50 miles through western Washington County, offering some of the best fish habitat in the region. Thirteen miles upstream from where Gales Creek joins the Tualatin River, at 10660 NW Balm Grove Loop, Gales Creek, Oregon (Washington County Property Tax Lot 1N4060003500), an obsolete, three-foot-tall concrete dam at Balm Grove has impeded fish passage since at least 1936. The City of Forest Grove is approximately 7 miles southeast of the property. Project Need: The project need is to restore passage for native migratory fish throughout the mainstem of Gales Creek and assist in recovery of federally listed Winter Steelhead of the Upper Willamette River Distinct Population Segment. The removal of Balm Grove Dam would open up approximately 29 miles of instream habitat to Winter Steelhead; over 25 miles of habitat to Coho Salmon and Pacific Lamprey; over 87 miles to Coastal Cutthroat Trout; and over 5 miles to Mountain Whitefish and Mountain and Largescale Sucker (Myers 2021). Additional benefits include sediment and wood transport, local water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat and connectivity. Proposed Work: This application is requesting funding to remove Balm Grove dam, a high-priority fish passage barrier (ODFW 2019); restore instream habitat; and create floodplain access. In addition, Clean Water Services (CWS) intends to enhance approximately a quarter mile of the Gales Creek riparian area in the vicinity of the dam, 11 acres of riparian forest and most of the upland on the property. CWS anticipates maintaining the riparian plantings for at least 20 years. Project Partners: Tualatin River Watershed Council (TRWC) CWS Metro Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (Tualatin SWCD) Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Confederates Tribes of Grand Ronde Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Tualatin Riverkeepers Joint Water Commission

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application describes clearly defined methods.
- Removing Balm Grove dam is the highest priority restoration action in Gales Creek and is ranked number four in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Statewide Fish Passage Barrier Priority List for removal.
- Plans for removing the dam are technically sound.
- Habitat benefits to steelhead, cutthroat, and pacific lamprey fish populations resulting from dam removal are clearly articulated in the application. A significant number of stream habitat miles will be made available to native fish.

- Partner support for the project is documented with letters of support from a diversity of organizations, including state agencies, local governments, nonprofits, and tribes.
- The landowner purchased the property with conservation in mind, is actively engaged in project design development, and has demonstrated project support through significant match.
- The project provides opportunities for raising public awareness about watershed restoration.
- The partners implementing the project have capacity to complete the project.

Concerns

- The application indicates dam removal will address a temperature sink; however, it is unclear what evidence was used to verify the dam and associated reservoir is contributing to increasing stream temperatures. The primary project benefit, however, is fish passage.
- Additional information is needed to understand the stream restoration objectives and design for large wood structures to evaluate technical soundness of the approach. Plans for instream large wood structures will result in a treatment that significantly exceeds ODFW benchmarks for instream large wood. The ecological value of placing the proposed volume of large wood downstream post dam removal is unclear. The stream system does not appear starved for gravel, which would merit a heavy approach to large wood placement to ensure mobile sediment are captured to provide important stream habitat elements. Also, the dam is a run-of-river structure, therefore, it is unlikely that it is holding a significant amount of gravel that could be lost downstream after dam removal. Given the channel will experience an increase stream dynamism after dam removal, there may be value in seeing how the channel responds post-dam removal before adding instream large wood structures.
- It is difficult to determine how costs associated with large wood debris placement are broken out across two proposed project phases, so it is unclear exactly how much large wood is planned for the phase one placement versus future phases.
- Large wood structures will be placed in a stream transition zone where large wood may not provide the greatest habitat benefits. Instream large wood placement may be a higher priority for locations higher up in the watershed where there would be greater benefit for native fish habitat.

Concluding Analysis

Removing the Balm Grove dam will allow native fish to seek out cold water habitat, which is critical for continued survival of Willamette Endangered Species Act listed fish species. The cost-benefit of the large wood structure project objectives is difficult to evaluate because it is unclear why wood treatments need to exceed ODFW benchmarks. There is significant potential for the stream to migrate post-dam removal and there may be merit in observing how dam removal affects the system, how the channel evolves, and how sediment moves before determining a large wood placement strategy. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address the above concerns.

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-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3030-19609

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Woodcock Creek & Grimm Road
Fish-Passage Project

Applicant: Molalla River Watch Inc

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$358,351

Total Cost: \$688,351

Application Description

An existing 10' wide box culvert in Clackamas County between Colton and the City of Molalla carries Woodcock Creek under Grimm Road. Woodcock Creek is a tributary of Milk Creek, which flows into the Molalla River. Woodcock Creek drains 12.8 square miles and contains 25.2 miles of anadromous fish habitat. This culvert is the remaining complete fish passage barrier on Woodcock Creek and prohibits access to 11 miles or more of high-quality habitat. The existing box culvert is undersized and perched approximately 16" on the outfall end, making it a partial or complete barrier to fish passage. Additionally, the culvert has a flat concrete floor which creates a sheet flow with an average depth of two inches at lower flows and with extreme velocities at higher flows. Upstream aggradation and excessive erosion downstream are constant problems due to the constricting nature of the narrow culvert. The proposed solution is to replace the box with a modular bridge, 1.5 times bank-full stream width. Replacing the culvert will reduce erosion, allow natural streambed processes to occur, and potentially provide an additional 11 miles or more of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat for ESA threatened upper Willamette DPS winter steelhead, upper Willamette DPS spring Chinook, coho, and cutthroat. Also, much needed habitat complexity will be added by installing large wood, boulders, and plantings throughout the project area. Partners include Molalla River Watch (MRW), ODFW, and Clackamas County Department of Transportation & Development (CCDTD). CCDTD has provided survey work, engineered design development of the preferred alternative, and will provide construction oversight. MRW will replant the associated riparian zone. ODFW will continue to provide technical support. Additional partners and funding are being pursued. OWEB funds will be used for construction of the modular bridge, riparian restoration, project management, grant administration, and community outreach.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous application evaluation concerns are addressed by providing additional information regarding other potential fish passage barriers and the available habitat located upstream of the project site, and by adding an instream large wood structure component to the project design.
- The project is ready to implement with completed designs and permit reviews underway.
- The project site is located in Woodcock Creek, which provides cold water refuge to native fish in the Molalla River.

- The project design is site-appropriate and will likely improve fluvial processes in addition to fish passage. The new modular bridge design will meet the 1.5 active channel width fish passage design criteria and will allow natural streambed processes such as sediment movement downstream.
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) provided stream survey information confirming there are no other barriers in Woodcock Creek. Replacing the crossing at Grimm Road will open 11 miles of stream habitat to native fish. The ODFW survey also confirmed that upstream habitat located on the Oregon State University demonstration forest property is suitable for spawning.
- The proposed project provides opportunity to leverage conservation efforts on properties located upstream of the project site.
- Alternatives were evaluated and the selected design was chosen to ensure long-term maintenance and sustainability of the restoration investment.
- The project design is by a qualified engineer, and the implementation team is experienced with a proven track record implementing similar projects.
- Appropriate partners will be engaged to implement the project and partner support is demonstrated by match and letters of support included in the application.
- The project costs reflect current construction rates.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the line-item cost for a portable changeable message sign is reasonable and necessary for implementing the project.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project will remove the final barrier on Woodcock Creek and is timely because it is unclear how long the current crossing at Grimm Road will remain stable since water flow is undermining the structure. Removing the fish passage barrier on Woodcock Creek will allow native fish to seek out cold water habitat, which is critical for continued survival of Willamette Endangered Species Act listed fish species. Addressing fish passage barriers allows fish to move upstream to colder water and allows sediment to migrate downstream forming gravel beds that increase hyporheic exchange, which will result in cooler water flows that improve downstream water quality.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Review Team Priority

4 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$348,671

Review Team Conditions

Remove sign costs and associated indirect cost.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$348,671

Staff Conditions

Remove sign costs and associated indirect cost.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3031-19628

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Thurston Hills Natural Area Oak Restoration and Enhancement Phase 3

Applicant: Middle Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$150,981

Total Cost: \$276,774

Application Description

Thurston Hills Natural Area (THNA) is 665 acres and located on the southeastern edge of the City of Springfield within Lane County and the lower Middle Fork Willamette Watershed. THNA is comprised of rare but degraded Willamette Valley Oregon white oak woodland, prairie, and savanna habitats. Proposed project area contains open-grown Oregon white oaks that are threatened by conifer encroachment and overtopping, with an understory that has been heavily invaded by exotic woody vegetation. Non-native grasses and woody vegetation have invaded the adjacent prairie and savannah habitat. This loss of native habitat reduces biodiversity and negatively impacts threatened species that rely on oak habitats. To build upon the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council's (MFWWC) previous oak restoration in THNA, we will release the oak stands through timber harvest and snag creation of encroaching conifers, implement repeated Integrated Pest Management treatments to remove invasive plants, and seed with native forbs and grasses. The close proximity of the site to recreation and urban zones also creates an opportunity to engage through outreach the local communities in oak restoration and fire mitigation practices. This project area will connect to two previously restored areas (Phases 1 & 2), thus establishing habitat connectivity across the site at varied elevations. MFWWC and Willamalane Park and Recreation District will jointly implement this project. US Fish and Wildlife Service will provide technical support for restoration prescriptions. We will coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management to align restoration efforts with their Fire-Dependent Ecosystems Restoration Project in which THNA is identified for hazardous fuel reduction work. OWEB funds will be used for MFWWC staff salaries, contracted services, travel, and project materials.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration provides an opportunity to leverage similar oak habitat restoration and land acquisition efforts in adjacent areas by expanding habitat connectivity.
- The project site was identified by the Rivers to Ridges Partnership, which is a group of public and non-profit organizations working to restore habitat across the Southern Willamette Valley.
- The proposed oak woodland restoration treatments are technically sound and include strategies typical for addressing oaks overtopped by encroaching fir trees. The proposed approach demonstrates that the applicant understands the structural requirements for restoring oak habitat. There are several large oaks that could be rescued through these restoration efforts.
- The proposed project includes an effective plan for controlling invasive plant species.

- The project provides opportunities for raising public awareness about watershed restoration.
- The applicant is taking a thoughtful approach for balancing recreation use with habitat restoration. This includes strategically leaving blackberry to limit access in some areas and utilizing on-site rangers to guide community use by helping the public understand how to reduce their impact to habitats.
- Appropriate partners will be engaged to implement the project.
- The landowner commitment to the project is demonstrated by a letter of support and match contribution.

Concerns

- The plant species list combines wetland and upland habitat species; however, it is unclear what portion of the project site has wet conditions. The project area appears to be an upland prairie site. Additional information on site conditions and existing habitats is needed to understand whether the plant species mix can be successfully planted in the project area.
- The cost per acre for the prairie seeding line item seems low for the seeding rate listed in the planting section of the application. Seed cost per acre in the budget may not accurately reflect actual cost for the proposed seeding rate.
- Additional information on how the seeding rate was determined would be helpful for understanding the restoration approach. The seeding rate is in line with some technical resources; however, it is high compared to similar projects.
- Planting on a steep slope will be challenging.
- While the applicant has a thoughtful approach for habitat restoration, it will be challenging to manage combining habitat with park use as urbanization is likely to expand nearby and increase recreation demand at the Thurston Hills Natural Area.

Concluding Analysis

The project location is a priority for restoring oak habitat communities to preserve sensitive species relying on these habitats. The proposed project offers an opportunity to expand connectivity of oak habitat in the region, therefore expanding the benefit of this restoration investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

8 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$150,981

Review Team Conditions

At first payment, applicant will provide evidence of a consultation with the Rivers to Ridges Partnership that confirms the final seeding plan and species is technically sound for the project site.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$150,981

Staff Conditions

At first payment, applicant will provide evidence of a consultation with the Rivers to Ridges Partnership that confirms the final seeding plan and species is technically sound for the project site.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3032-19641

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Regenerating Native Plant Communities with Cultural Fire

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$130,289

Total Cost: \$375,121

Application Description

Regenerating Native Plant Communities with Cultural Fire encompasses Rattlesnake Butte (Grand Ronde site), Andrew Reasoner Wildlife Preserve (conserved private site and host to Native youth internship program), and Camp Creek Hills (Siletz site). Funding is requested to support the re-introduction of cultural burning on three sites, including support for drafting burn plans, site preparation, day of burning costs, day after mop up efforts, and monitoring. The Willamette Valley's (WV) oak and prairie sites are ecocultural systems that require ongoing stewardship rooted in a cultural context of stewardship. It is anticipated that Grand Ronde will implement the prescribed fire concurrent with that heritage of stewardship. The Oregon Prescribed Fire Council will support burn organization as a training to build Tribal fire capacity across multiple Tribes. Burning at each site continues restoration actions on prairie-oak savanna and woodland habitats, using prescribed fire in small plots and native seeding a portion of the areas burned.. Plant responses will be compared in seeded and unseeded areas, and learning from the small plot burns will inform future management across the sites with fire, while gaining experience with prescribed fire across habitat types. One of the key questions is: will fire or a combination of fire/seeding allow us to restore the herbaceous plant community with minimal herbicide? The first plot burns are just a step in answering this question, but would inform management approaches across the sites, which seek to use fire at regular intervals to manage the habitats long term. This project is a collaboration with The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. LTWC is supporting partners along with Doug & Linda Carnine, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Institute of Applied Ecology, McKenzie River Trust, McKenzie Watershed Council, and Oregon Prescribed Fire Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration expands on an OWEB Stakeholder Engagement investment focused on building prescribed fire capacity in the Southern Willamette Valley.
- The problem that led to the loss of prairie and oak habitats is clearly described in the application, and the proposed solution addresses causes over symptoms of habitat degradation.
- The proposed project is an innovative restoration approach that will also build capacity and tools needed to bring a historic cultural practice back onto the landscape for long-term conservation of priority Willamette Valley habitats. Tribal fire crews will be utilized on sites with on-going restoration activities, which will increase prescribed fire experience within tribes.

- The proposed project will set the stage and framework for putting fire back on the landscape while burning acres that can and need to be burned to restore prairie and oak habitats.
- Project sites selected for treatment are located in geographies with high conservation value for oak and prairie habitats.
- Potential impacts to the project sites and adjacent properties were considered in the project plan. The project includes smoke management plans and plans for safe burn procedures, mop up, and monitoring to ensure sites are safe after a prescribed fire.
- The project provides opportunities for raising public awareness about watershed restoration and habitat benefits from prescribed fire.
- Partnership commitment is demonstrated by a variety of leveraged resources.
- The applicant has the capacity and experience to complete the proposed restoration and has a proven track record completing similar projects.

Concerns

- Few acres will be treated for a relatively high cost; however, the ecological values and benefits of fire are overshadowed by the social values discussed in the application. Additional detail on expected ecological benefits would likely demonstrate that the benefits from the proposed project will outweigh the costs.
- Weed control may be problematic on some of the project sites where herbicides will not be used; however, these sites are limited to locations identified for future tribal harvest.

Concluding Analysis

Restoration practitioners in the Willamette Valley have been restoring prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitats without a necessary tool that addresses the driver critical to enhancing these habitats. The cause of habitat degradation and widespread loss started when the relationship between Indigenous people, land, and fire was disrupted in combination with urban and agricultural development, invasive species encroachment, and fire suppression. More recently, the social license and public support for using fire as a management tool has increased. A landowner survey in the project area indicated more than 70% of respondents support the use of prescribed fire, which produces less smoke than wildfires. Prescribed fire has been successfully used in other habitats and landscapes; there are likely few habitats that would not benefit from a reset by prescribed fire. While the cost per acre for the proposed restoration approach is higher compared to more traditional techniques, the traditional approaches will never provide the same benefits as fire for restoring prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$130,289

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$130,289

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3033-19597

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Phase II Finn Rock Reach
Floodplain Habitat Restoration Engineering and
Permitting

Applicant: McKenzie River Trust

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$51,740

Total Cost: \$76,362

Application Description

The project will provide engineering and permitting assistance to facilitate a middle-McKenzie River floodplain habitat restoration project encompassing approximately 65 acres of floodplain. The project is on a side channel of the McKenzie River, near the town of Blue River, Lane County, 3.75 miles downstream of the South Fork McKenzie Floodplain Enhancement. It is directly upstream of the FRR phase 1 restoration scheduled to be implemented in the summer of 2021. The watershed issue to be addressed is the degradation of streams through simplification, the removal of large woody debris, and decreased floodplain connectivity. Impaired habitat complexity, diversity, and off channel habitats are limiting factors for spring Chinook salmon. At this site, former gravel extraction pits in the floodplain, and their attendant access road, has disrupted the flow regime within the side channel. Bathymetry shows that the side channel is incising, increasing flow velocities and transporting sediment. The proposed project will regrade the gravel ponds, and much of the side channel itself, and add substantial amounts of large woody debris, transforming the area to a depositional environment with increased permanently wetted surface area, floodplain connection, and habitat complexity. The consultant will develop the engineering necessary for the completion of all required permits to implement restoration actions. They will incorporate existing data (hydraulic modeling, aerial mapping, geomorphologic survey data, etc.) on project area from MRT, resource agencies, universities, and other sources and supplement and utilize as required. The consultant will develop and submit all applications and obtain all permits necessary to construct the final design. Environmental compliances associated with listed and or sensitive species and adjacent federal and state land will be obtained. Major project partners include the McKenzie Watershed Council and USFS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project expands on restoration work completed during summer 2021 for Finn Rock Phase 1.
- The application provides a clear explanation of the existing site conditions and what technical assistance is needed. Unlike Phase 1, Phase 2 Finn Rock will occur on private lands, which elevates the need for hydraulic modeling utilizing high resolution data from LiDAR and engineering work to ensure no net rise floodway permit requirements are met.

- Limiting factors identified in multiple watershed and species recovery plans will be addressed, including the lack of floodplain and habitat connectivity, habitat diversity, and winter refugia for anadromous fish.
- Future restoration actions will restore stream processes that will benefit terrestrial species with life history stages dependent on stream systems, including amphibians, insects, and birds, in addition to Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish species.
- The project scope and scale are reasonable and based on experience from previous implementation of similar projects in the McKenzie Watershed.
- A range of design alternatives were considered.
- The applicant and partners have a proven track record completing similar projects.
- The applicant has sufficient organizational capacity to complete the project.
- The applicant is working with a qualified consultant experienced in designing realistic plans for on-the-ground restoration.
- Costs are reasonable for the complexity of the engineered solution.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the applicant explored opportunities to build on existing data available for the area before deciding to collect new data; for example, there may be other LiDAR flight efforts underway that could be leveraged. Additional information on the data gaps within existing data would provide helpful context for understanding the need for new data and LiDAR to achieve the technical assistance goals and objectives.
- There may be restrictions from no-net-rise floodway requirements that limit restoration opportunities.
- It is unclear from the application how existing weeds within the project footprint will be addressed when restoration is implemented.
- The ponds resulting from previous gravel extraction likely have bass that are invasive predators of ESA-listed salmon smolts. Encouraging smolts to utilize restored habitat at the ponds could make them vulnerable to these predators; however, rivers become less habitable to warm water fish, such as bass, when rivers are restored to function like historic Pacific Northwest rivers with cold water refuge habitat.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant is taking an informed approach to utilizing a Stage 8 floodplain restoration design concept. Restoration is timely to take advantage of wood material resulting from recent wildfires to construct instream and floodplain wood structures. The resulting watershed project design will restore habitat for spring chinook salmon, trout, and other native aquatic species utilizing the middle McKenzie watershed. The proposed technical assistance is needed to move the project forward to be ready for implementation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$51,740

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$51,740

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3034-19524

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Sandy River Cold Water Refuge
Monitoring

Applicant: Sandy River Basin WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: \$144,751

Total Cost: \$208,695

Application Description EPA's 2021 Columbia River Cold Water Refuges Plan recommends that summer water temperatures within the Sandy River cold water refuge (CWR) be maintained at 18.78°C. The EPA report identified the Sandy River as one of 12 CWR tributaries of the Columbia, key to minimizing salmon, steelhead, and other native species exposure to warmer Columbia River temperatures. The Sandy River CWR may also be important to Pacific lamprey populations of the Sandy and tributaries of the Columbia River upstream. Given regional commitment to the persistence of Pacific lamprey and support of traditional tribal use of this species, understanding the use of this CWR by Pacific lamprey will provide information to guide Sandy River restoration activities.

To contribute to understanding of the importance of the Sandy CWR, we propose to monitor temperature in the Sandy River CWR. We also propose to survey for larval lamprey in the Sandy River delta and in Beaver Creek. Data gathered should identify the importance of the Sandy River CWR, delta channels, and delta side channels to lamprey habitat. In addition, we propose to survey Beaver Creek for larval lamprey prior to the full effect of restoration activities in the basin including plantings of native riparian shade trees. As one of our monitoring activities, we will repeat lamprey surveys post-restoration to assess response to the improved riparian areas. These monitoring activities will adaptively guide management actions needed to promote climate resiliency in the Sandy River watershed, to protect and restore native fish habitats, and to protect natural ecosystem functions in order to improve water quality.

Project Partners include US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Tributaries Network, Wisdom of the Elders, The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Cities of Gresham and Troutdale, City of Portland Water Bureau, Multnomah County, and Beaver Creek Conservation Partnership

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application clearly described the importance of cold water refugia to salmonids and lamprey and the need to collect additional data.
- The applicant will develop a sampling and analysis plan (SAP) for the water temperature monitoring component and have it approved by DEQ.
- The lamprey data will be made available through the Pacific Lamprey Data Clearinghouse and shared with ODFW.

- The applicant is working with qualified contractors on study design and implementation of lamprey monitoring and data analysis.
- The applicant will share the lamprey data with the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative, the Lamprey Technical Workgroup, and the regional management unit of the Willamette/Lower Columbia River. The water temperature data will be shared with the Beaver Creek Conservation Partnership. The applicant will hold two public meetings to present the study design and results of the final study.
- The applicant is engaging community stakeholders, including the Wisdom of the Elders, The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, cities of Gresham and Troutdale, City of Portland Water Bureau, and Multnomah County, that are likely to be interested in the data.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The maps uploaded to the application are challenging to understand. It is not clear where the monitoring would occur, and the maps do not appear to be directly linked to the proposed monitoring project.
- The application does not discuss existing water temperature data in the Columbia River or Sandy River that this project could complement.
- The objectives stated in the application are not well matched to the work proposed.
- The water temperature monitoring component of the application is not well described and is still in development. The review of existing data should have been completed to inform this proposal, and greater detail could have been provided on the proposed water temperature study design. The lack of information about study design makes it challenging to understand whether the design is sufficient to accomplish the objectives for temperature (i.e., understanding temporal and spatial dynamics) or contributions to the Sandy River cold water refuge temperatures.
- The application does not describe how the water temperature data will be analyzed to answer the monitoring questions posed in the application.
- The application lacked detail about how the water temperature and lamprey larval data will be synthesized to identify important habitats.
- The current watershed council staff lacks experience in monitoring data collection, and it is unclear what qualifications will be required to hire new staff, if funded.
- Lack of information about the study design makes it challenging to evaluate if the budget is adequate to achieve the objectives.
- It is unclear if the watershed council staff time proposed in the budget is appropriate, given that much of the intensive monitoring will be completed by a contractor.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes the importance of cold water refugia to salmonids and lamprey and the need to collect data to better understand the critical role of micro-habitats for lamprey. This data can be used to inform actions for restoration of lamprey habitat.

- The Environmental Protection Agency 2021 Columbia River Cold Water Refuges Plan identifies the Sandy River as one of twelve Columbia River tributaries providing cold water refuge to salmon and steelhead.
- The proposed project will complement ongoing temperature monitoring and restoration efforts on Beaver Creek focused on riparian restoration to improve stream temperatures.
- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) protocols will be used to collect water quality and lamprey data.
- Project oversight will be provided by a watershed council member with relevant experience.
- Appropriate partners will be engaged to implement the project. USFWS will provide necessary expertise to accomplish the proposed monitoring goals and objectives.

Concerns

- The application lacks details describing specific activities for achieving the monitoring objectives.
- It is unclear from the application how the proposed monitoring complements existing data and current monitoring efforts by other organizations, or whether the applicant explored existing data when developing the proposed project.
- The application lacks information describing locations for monitoring, how sites were selected, and how monitoring locations are related to other efforts. Since the Sandy Basin has a large geography, a map indicating monitoring site locations would be helpful for understanding the proposed monitoring approach.
- Additional information describing restoration efforts completed in Beaver Creek would provide helpful context for understanding how the proposed monitoring will provide data needed to inform future restoration in the area.
- The application indicates data will be shared; however, there is limited details provided to understand how data sharing will be done effectively.
- USFWS is contributing significant staff time and equipment needed to implement the proposed monitoring work; however, USFWS support and commitment to the project is unclear without a letter of support in the application.
- Estimated staff time for temperature monitoring is high compared to similar efforts. Additional information is needed to understand whether staff costs are appropriate and necessary for accomplishing the proposed monitoring objectives and not funding a position with a broader scope of work.
- It is unclear why two computer laptops are necessary for accomplishing the proposed monitoring work.

Concluding Analysis

While the virtual site visit provided some clarity about the proposed monitoring, the application lacks details necessary to understand monitoring site locations and activities. Additional details are needed to understand and evaluate the likelihood of success for this monitoring 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-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3035-19528

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Willamette daisy restoration effectiveness monitoring

Applicant: Institute for Applied Ecology

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$166,715

Total Cost: \$219,321

Application Description Less than one percent of the prairies that historically existed throughout the Willamette Valley ecoregion remains intact. As a result, many prairie species have declined, including Willamette daisy (*Erigeron decumbens*), which was federally listed as endangered in 2000. The Recovery Plan for the Prairie Species of Western Oregon and Southwestern Washington (USFWS 2010) identifies the need to restore and maintain population networks across the species' historic range. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently awarded the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) a Recovery Challenge grant focused on Willamette daisy recovery actions. IAE is applying for a complementary OWEB restoration grant (Prairie Restoration for Willamette Daisy Recovery), which aims to implement habitat restoration and Willamette daisy augmentation activities to meet recovery goals in the Salem East, Salem West and Corvallis West recovery zones. In this monitoring proposal, we seek to assess the effectiveness of Willamette daisy restoration efforts at all 19 project sites (10 OWEB and 9 USFWS). We will implement standardized Willamette daisy and habitat quality monitoring protocols to determine if sites meet recovery goals. Baseline data will be collected and analyzed the first year (2022) and compiled into a brief progress report. Post-project monitoring data will be collected in 2027, three to four years after restoration actions have been completed at each site. All data will then be analyzed in a final project report. This project helps fulfill the monitoring requirement of nine different local assessment plans in five counties. Partners include USFWS, Benton County, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Greenbelt Land Trust, Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District, Polk Soil and Water Conservation District, Jefferson Farm (private) and Patricia Wheeler and John Westall (private).

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The data to be collected will complement the range-wide assessment work that was completed in 2018.
- The project is connected to broader Willamette daisy and prairie restoration efforts in the Willamette Valley.
- The applicant is familiar with the monitoring methods and the methods are consistent with the 2018 survey. The applicant will refine the existing monitoring protocol to fit it to site-specific conditions.
- The study design and data collection methods and analyses are described in adequate detail.

- The data will be stored in the USFWS's threatened and endangered plant species database for Willamette Valley species, which the applicant currently maintains.
- The applicant will produce a final project report, and any resulting publications will be posted to their website, the Cascadia Prairie-Oak Partnership technical library, and ResearchGate.
- The information generated from this monitoring project will be presented to the Prairie Plant Working Group and interested landowners and stakeholders at regional meetings and conferences.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The monitoring questions are not listed in the objectives. The applicant does pose two broad questions in the problem statement, making it difficult to align the objectives with each question when applying the evaluation criteria.
- It was unclear if the resulting monitoring data across all 19 sites will be sufficient to inform future restoration actions.
- The application proposes to collect data in 2022 and then again in 2027. During this timeframe, issues can occur that could impact the project, creating logistical challenges around budgeting.
- The budget lacked detail to evaluate if the estimated costs in the budget are appropriate. It is not clear what the three permanent staff will do on this project, given that their roles related to this project are not articulated. The overall the costs seem high since there will only be two years of monitoring at 19 sites.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed monitoring is clearly linked to restoration actions and will provide significant knowledge needed to inform future Willamette daisy restoration.
- The monitoring questions relate directly to the Recovery Plan for the Prairie Species of Western Oregon and Southwestern Washington. The resulting monitoring data will help determine whether recovery criteria are met at each restoration site.
- The resulting plant community data will reflect whether restoration is successful at an individual site. Since the same actions implemented at different sites can have different results on Willamette daisy populations, it is difficult to compare monitoring results across multiple sites. The proposed monitoring approach will provide information about the range of Willamette daisy population responses to better understand what this species needs and inform future restoration work towards recovery.
- The monitoring timeframe is reasonable to ensure baseline data and effectiveness monitoring data is collected over a range of restoration activities needed to restore Willamette daisy populations.
- The applicant and partners have the capacity and expertise to complete the proposed monitoring and has a proven track record completing similar projects. The applicant is the expert in monitoring protocols for the Willamette daisy.

Concerns

- Protocols described in the application are more conceptual and references to standardized protocols are provided instead. Additional information in the application describing the protocols would be helpful to better understand monitoring methods that will be used. The protocols referenced in the application do, however, provide a sufficient explanation of the monitoring methods.
- The project budget has a significantly high number of personnel hours. Additional details describing roles of each position would be helpful for understanding whether costs are appropriate for the work necessary to accomplish the monitoring objectives. It is likely the budgeted time is reasonable because of the unique nature of the project where each monitoring site will require individual monitoring designs.
- In-kind match is grouped into lump sums and it is unclear how the match is related and contributing to implementation of the proposed monitoring objectives.
- It may be challenging to accurately estimate out-year costs over the long project timeline.
- The restoration sites to be monitored overlap with OWEB-funded restoration and monitoring projects focused on Kincaid's lupine. Additional information describing how the two efforts to restore and monitor Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed prairie species are related would provide helpful context to better understand this project. In particular, a description of how monitoring and restoration actions at the same project sites are broken out for the Willamette daisy and Kincaid's lupine, and yet are complementary, would be helpful for understanding how the efforts are leveraged to achieve overlapping prairie restoration goals.

Concluding Analysis

The monitoring approach models similar efforts that have impacted both recovery and de-listing of other prairie plant species. The applicant is one of the experts for the Willamette daisy and monitoring prairie plant populations. There is a strong need for the proposed monitoring to complement the companion Willamette daisy restoration project. The Willamette daisy is one of the most beleaguered of the ESA-listed prairie plant species that is finally getting concerted attention. The combination of the Willamette daisy monitoring and restoration grants will provide essential information to better understand how the Willamette daisy ticks and what is needed for species recovery.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$166,715

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$166,715

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3036-19550

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: South Santiam Temperature Monitoring

Applicant: South Santiam WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$35,372

Total Cost: \$46,303

Application Description The South Santiam Watershed Council (SSWC) seeks to continue and grow its stream temperature monitoring program in McDowell and Hamilton Creeks, two basins that are important for both migratory fish and overall watershed health in the South Santiam watershed. Several private landowners in these basins have undertaken voluntary measures to improve wildlife habitat, reduce non-native vegetation and increase critical shade to streams. They have continued to engage in fish conservation by hosting in-stream data loggers from May to October to help the council monitor stream temperatures. These data were collected as part of a long-term stream temperature monitoring program operated by Oregon Departments of Agriculture (ODA) and Environmental Quality (DEQ).

While funding from ODA for this effort has lapsed due to state-level budgetary downturns related to COVID, the council sees great benefit to maintaining an existing multi-year dataset and understanding the effectiveness of our efforts to enhance riparian habitats throughout the watershed. Further, the council seeks funding to expand efforts to collect year-round water temperature data and explore relationships between flow, streamside vegetation, air temperature and water temperature. These data will continue to support our partners' needs for data and will help inform strategic planning efforts for the council, directing future work to benefit fish, humans and habitat in the South Santiam basin.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This monitoring application will follow straightforward, widely accepted monitoring protocols for data collection.
- The applicant has an existing sampling and analysis plan (SAP) to collect water temperature data.
- The water temperature data will be submitted to DEQ annually.
- The final comprehensive report will be share with their partners and made publicly available.
- The applicant has experience collecting the continuous water temperature data, and the number of sites seem manageable for the staff.
- The budget seems reasonable for the objectives identified in the application, and level of detail in the budget is adequate.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application mentions USFS and DEQ monitoring sites, but it is not clear on how this information will be integrated in the study design or data analysis.
- The application lacks an objective or monitoring question to describe why flow is being monitored and how that information will be incorporated into the data analysis. Based on the available information in the application, it was not clear if estimating flow data using the buoyancy method at a quarterly interval will yield useful information.
- The application lacked detail on the WATR model to understand how the data will be incorporated into this modeling effort.
- The application lacks detail about how the appropriate community stakeholders are engaged beyond the landowners and volunteers participating in this monitoring project and related restoration projects.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed monitoring project continues a long-term stream temperature monitoring effort in the South Santiam watershed.
- The application has clearly stated project objectives and tasks for monitoring water temperature on two South Santiam River tributaries.
- Temperature monitoring is coupled with four miles of stream revegetation restoration projects. Data will be used to explore the relationships between streamside vegetation restoration and water temperature.
- Gathering year-round water temperature data is valuable for understanding long-term temperature trends.
- Landowners providing access to monitoring sites support and are committed to the monitoring effort.
- Standard temperature monitoring protocols will be used.
- The applicant has submitted previous monitoring data to Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).
- Project costs are reasonable and appropriate for the proposed monitoring work.
- Applicant staff have appropriate experience to accomplish the objectives outlined in the application.
- The applicant is engaging appropriate partners to implement monitoring work, including DEQ and Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

Concerns

- Additional details describing previous temperature monitoring and how data will be integrated from other monitoring efforts, such as DEQ monitoring sites, would provide helpful context for understanding how the proposed project complements existing monitoring data.
- Letters of support from project partners would strengthen the application.

- Additional information describing the WATR model, its connection to the monitoring project, and how it will support decision making is needed to better understand a path from the proposed monitoring to informing future restoration.
- The protocols for “neutral buoyancy” flow monitoring may not be adequate without an accompanying depth measurement. Flow measurement could be more accurate and as cost effective with a probe; however, the neutral buoyancy was chosen to engage volunteers in measuring flow and this method requires less training. The applicant should consider using a staff plate to track depth.
- The referenced Sample Analysis Plan (SAP) may be outdated; the applicant should work with DEQ to update the SAP as needed.
- The applicant may have limited expertise for data analysis; however, technical partners will be engaged to accomplish the analysis.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed monitoring project is technically sound and the applicant will engage volunteers and technical experts as needed to achieve monitoring objectives. The project will maintain and expand a long-term dataset that will provide information for understanding the effectiveness of riparian habitat restoration efforts, long-term water temperature trends, and inform future restoration strategic planning decisions.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$35,372

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$35,372

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3037-19608

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Freshwater Mussel Occurrence and Habitat - North Santiam Basin

Applicant: Willamette Riverkeeper

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$78,253

Total Cost: \$103,294

Application Description The monitoring for this project will occur instream, in anadromous fish-bearing reaches of the North Santiam River basin in Linn and Marion counties. eDNA lab analyses will take place in the Molecular Ecology lab at Utah State University.

Western freshwater mussels provide immense benefits to streams improving water quality, stabilizing substrate, and encouraging healthy benthic communities, all of which benefit salmonid populations; however, there is a dearth of information on the locations at which these long-lived, cryptic mussels reside. Studies of their habitat are necessary to conserve mussels and to help prioritize protection and restoration of stream reaches based on their populations. We propose a two-season survey effort to locate extant western ridged mussels (*Gonidea angulata*) and western pearlshell mussels (*Margaritifera falcata*) in the Santiam River basin gaining needed information on regional habitat associations. During the first season, we will collect water samples by paddle craft for eDNA analysis to gain a broad presence/absence understanding of population locations. The second survey season will target areas that showed mussel occurrence via positive eDNA results and conduct in-depth snorkel surveys to characterize mussel bed characteristics.

Results from this work will be publicly available on an interactive web map that will include a story-style website providing information on western mussels and their importance. Results will be published in a peer-reviewed journal and shared at conferences. We will reach out to local watershed councils, land management agencies, and tribes to provide results and context for their use to prioritize watershed protection and restoration, and how to restore habitat specifically for freshwater mussels. This early phase project will focus on the North Santiam River basin; to expand this work to additional basins.

Project partners: Willamette Riverkeeper ICF and the Molecular Ecology lab, Utah State Univ.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the data gaps associated with freshwater mussels (FWM) in this basin and how this project will complement previous surveys completed by the applicant.
- The study design to incorporate field surveys when collecting the water samples and use of follow-up surveys if eDNA is detected should help the partners learn more about FWM distribution in the North Santiam River.

- The eDNA water sample collection methods and lab analyses are well established and professionally accepted.
- The applicant will follow quality assurance/quality control measures when collecting and analyzing eDNA samples to prevent cross contamination and review the data when it is entered into web-based tools.
- The laboratory performing the eDNA analysis is experienced and the consultants that are working on this project have sufficient experience and
- qualifications to assist the applicant in completing this project as proposed.
- The data will be made publicly available using a public facing interactive web map for data visualization.
- The budget table and narrative provide adequate detail, and the estimated expenses are appropriate to accomplish the objectives.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application did not cite the source of the existing data for the North Santiam basin and it is unclear if the Xerces FWM database was accessed to identify potential data in this basin.
- It was not clear why the North Santiam River was chosen for this pilot project and if the recent 2020 wildfire could impact the data they are proposing to collect.
- It is not clear if this study design will be able to prove absence if the eDNA is not detected and the rapid survey does not identify any FWM when water samples are collected, given site selection and timing of sampling.
- The application does not mention submitting data to the Xerces Society to be uploaded to their FWM database.
- It is not clear how these data will be applied to inform future restoration actions, given that other stakeholders are the ones that will use this information for such purposes and outreach plans are not well articulated.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application describes a clear need for monitoring mussels to better understand their habitat needs and population distribution.
- The data could provide valuable information to assist with landowner outreach about watershed restoration and can be shared with organizations focused on restoration, such as the local watershed council and tribes, to inform restoration planning and prioritization.
- The monitoring approach includes a reasonable sampling plan using eDNA signals as a tool for locating mussel bed sites. If the proposed approach for using eDNA for monitoring mussels is successful, there is opportunity for this pilot effort to be replicated across the state.
- The interactive story-style web map to share data will provide a helpful outreach tool.
- The applicant has appropriate expertise to accomplish the proposed monitoring.

Concerns

- Additional information is needed to understand why the North Santiam watershed was selected for this pilot effort and how sampling locations were determined. The map provided in the application covers a large geography and lacks details needed to better understand sampling locations.
- It is unclear whether recent fires will affect access to sampling locations.
- Plans for gaining access agreements with landowners are not clearly described in the application.
- To maintain a streamlined budget, water quality monitoring is not included in the proposed monitoring project. Recent fires may have increased sediment loads into the North Santiam streams that could be negatively impacting mussel populations. Monitoring water quality may be important for understanding mussel population distribution.
- Since the proposed monitoring project is a pilot for using eDNA to monitor mussels, there is some uncertainty for the project to effectively result in data that could inform future restoration efforts.
- It is unclear whether appropriate partners and technical experts will be engaged to implement the proposed monitoring project. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife may be able to provide technical input on monitoring sites targeting anadromous fish-bearing reaches of the North Santiam River, and The Xerces Society may be able to provide helpful feedback on monitoring protocols since they have completed extensive work on mussel-related Best Management Practices.
- It is unclear how the proposed monitoring will inform future restoration because there is only one letter of support provided by an organization involved in restoration in the area.

Concluding Analysis

Freshwater mussels provide a number of benefits to Oregon stream health and anadromous fish populations; however, little is known about their distribution and habitat needs. The proposed monitoring project will use eDNA data as a pilot tool for detecting the presence or absence of mussels to better understand mussel population locations in the North Santiam Watershed. Additional detail is needed to understand the project, such as monitoring site locations and how data will be used by restoration practitioners, to determine whether it will be a cost-effective approach that has a clear pathway to 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-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3038-19623

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: American Beaver Population Ecology in Dynamic Forested Landscapes of Western Oregon

Applicant: OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$314,983

Total Cost: \$393,729

Application Description Incorporating beaver into management planning continues gaining support despite a lack of empirical evidence reflecting their current status and trends in Oregon. Information developed from beaver populations outside of our state should not be applied here due to the large variability in physiographic, hydrological, and vegetative conditions, in addition to the behavioral differences that exist among beaver populations within these systems. An essential first step in beaver-related stream restoration is identifying the resources and environmental conditions that influence beaver habitat use. Examining how natural (wildfire) and anthropogenic (timber harvest) disturbances influence beaver colonization at multiple spatial and temporal scales will provide a unique opportunity to identify changes in habitat composition and configuration that may affect beaver distribution, survival, and movement in a forest-dominated landscape matrix. This project will collect baseline monitoring data to improve understanding of American beaver population ecology and habitat use in the Western Cascades of Oregon by: 1) implementing repeated landscape-level beaver activity surveys to understand patterns of beaver distribution and dam construction, 2) tracking individuals from multiple family units to estimate survival, movement, and space use, generating models to assess the spatial-temporal patterns in beaver habitat relationships, 4) predicting beaver occurrence and dam locations. Providing a data driven framework to inform decision making and land management strategies will increase the effectiveness of future projects in aquatic systems as opposed to using a process of trial and error. Project partners include the Bureau of Land Management, National Wildlife Research Center, Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and private industrial landowners including Weyerhaeuser and Cascade Timber Consulting.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The data that will result from this project will complement previous monitoring in the Cow Creek Basin that was used to inform this study design.
- This project will collect data in the west Cascades and complement the data collection planned in the other two ecoregions (coastal and southwestern) of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Resource Management Plan areas.

- The application provides clear and succinct monitoring questions and the study design and data collection, management, and analysis methods are likely to answer these questions.
- The applicant is the co-author of the monitoring protocol. The method has been applied previously in a project that resulted in a published manuscript. This project will aim to improve the protocol and allow other practitioners to apply it, since there is a great demand for and interest in beaver related data.
- The data will be stored in tabular and spatial database in the cloud to provide back-up storage.
- The data will be made available to the BLM and private landowners who are partnering on this project and providing access to their lands. Information also will be shared more broadly via peer reviewed manuscripts and public presentations.
- The applicant is highly qualified and is one of the lead experts in the field to improve understanding of beaver ecology in forested landscapes.
- The applicant has produced several peer reviewed journal articles, demonstrating the ability to complete past projects in a successful manner.
- The applicant is engaging technical experts from a multi-disciplinary group from Oregon State University (OSU), USFS Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center, and the USDA/APHIS/WS National Wildlife Research Center.
- The budget and narrative provide sufficient detail to understand how the costs were estimated to complete this project over three years. This funding will include the publication of a peer reviewed journal article(s) and time for technicians to collect the data over a large geographic area.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- While data in Oregon is sparse, it would have been helpful to understand what data are available from other Western states to inform land management impacts to beaver ecology.
- The application did not describe how timber harvest and wildfire would be factored into the study design or data analysis to determine how these disturbances influence beaver colonization at multiple spatial and temporal scales.
- Additional detail about how information will be made available to the public, including which publications are being targeted and where presentations would be made, would help explain the audiences being targeted.
- The application identified future community stakeholders but does not clearly address how these stakeholders will be engaged over the course of the project or afterwards to share the results.
- The budget includes a lump sum match from the BLM, but the application does not describe what this contribution is or how it is related to this project.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly stated project objectives, tasks, and monitoring questions.
- There is a clear need for the resulting monitoring information to better understand American beaver population ecology and habitat use in the Western Cascades of Oregon.

- The proposed project will test detectability and repeatability of monitoring protocols.
- The monitoring approach includes a sufficient sample size and incorporates locations to better understand both timber and fire impacts on beaver habitat.
- The applicant has extensive experience monitoring beaver populations and is involved in the Beaver Working Group.
- A letter of support from a timber company participating in the project is included in the application.
- Costs are reasonable for the large geographic scale of the project.

Concerns

- The application lacks a description of a clear path for how the monitoring data will inform future restoration. The proposed monitoring will be used for a planning framework to update Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans and policies, but it is unclear how it will also lead to on-the-ground watershed restoration.
- Application materials, including letters of support, emphasize the research elements of the proposed project instead of how monitoring data will inform future restoration.
- The project area map included in the application provides only general locations for monitoring. A more detailed map indicating specific watersheds where monitoring will occur would provide context needed to understand the monitoring approach.
- Only one year of trapping and tagging may not provide enough data if tags go missing.
- Partner roles are unclear based on the limited letters of support provided in the application. It is unclear whether appropriate partners and technical experts will be engaged to implement the proposed monitoring project. Potential partners not included in the proposal include Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, and other stakeholders in the project area, such as watershed councils.
- The draft letter of support included in the application from BLM commits to cooperating on the project, however, it does not reference the BLM match documented in the application needed to meet the minimum 25% match requirement. Match could not be confirmed in the application because the BLM budget was not yet approved. Since BLM is the only match source listed in the application, it is unclear if the project is likely to succeed if there are no other potential match sources available to meet the minimum match requirement and provide the funds necessary to achieve the monitoring objectives.
- Due to constraints in the OSU process for submitting the application, match was documented as a lump sum in the application budget. As a result, it is unclear how match relates to the proposed monitoring objectives, what BLM match will contribute to the project, and in-kind partner roles in implementing the monitoring work. It is difficult to fully understand the entire project scope to evaluate the likelihood of success and whether project costs are reasonable.

Concluding Analysis

There is a clear knowledge gap regarding the distribution, movement, habitat selection, and influence of disturbances, such as fire and timber harvest, affecting the status and trends of beaver populations. The resulting monitoring information could be useful to restoration practitioners and land managers; however, the application is too broad and vague on how the proposed monitoring will provide information that is directly used to inform future 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-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3039-19631

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Luckiamute Temperature Monitoring
Phase 3

Applicant: Luckiamute WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Polk

OWEB Request: \$88,891

Total Cost: \$112,493

Application Description The Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) proposes to continue its temperature monitoring program in Phase 3. The project will collect continuous temperature data from surface waters in the Luckiamute River Watershed during the summer months of 2022 and 2023. The goal is to continue to fill a data gap of stream temperatures and trends in key locations to inform prioritization and planning for restoration projects. Sites will be selected to characterize priority tributaries and stream reaches, detect trends, collect baseline data, and continue to ground-truth results of the thermal loading model from the 2017 NetMap analysis. The LWC proposes to repeat 19 monitoring stations in the mid and upper Luckiamute watershed in Polk and Benton Counties. Work will include field deployment, mid-season checks, and retrieval of loggers. The LWC will also implement appropriate quality assurance and quality control measures to ensure high-quality data that meets A-level standards. As a result of Phase 3 work, 17 of the 19 proposed monitoring sites would have five to seven consecutive years of data. The LWC will establish a partnership with technical experts to conduct an analysis of the full dataset to assess trends and examine relationships with external drivers of temperature. The LWC will share data through presentations and the web-based interpretation and visualization application created during Phase 2. Project partners include field and technical volunteers, private landowners, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application clearly describes the existing data that have been collected and how the water temperature data that is proposed to be collected will complement current monitoring efforts, including a USGS streamflow gage, a remote automated weather station, and ODFW steelhead spawning surveys.
- The application lays out four monitoring questions and the study design and data collection, management, and analysis methods are likely to answer these questions.
- The applicant has a DEQ approved SAP and plans to update it, if funded.
- The applicant is following a professionally accepted monitoring protocol that includes a variety of quality assurance and quality control measures to collect high-quality data.
- The application clearly describes the data storage plan and process to review the monitoring results annually within their organization's Project Review Committee and Monitoring Sub-Committee. This helps ensure the applicant will apply the data in a meaningful way.

- The applicant will share the data with the public in a variety of ways, including making it available on a data visualization website that the applicant recently developed and plans to maintain. Results are also included in a newsletter that is mailed to their list of community members, submitted to DEQ to store in their AWQMS database, and posted in a final technical report on their website.
- The applicant has performed well on the previous two monitoring grants and is applying the data in a successful manner. Staff currently are continuing to work on this project and, if funded, the organization will hire a new monitoring coordinator.
- The applicant is engaging several technical experts to assist them in adaptively managing this monitoring project and applying the data.
- The applicant has engaged community stakeholders by recruiting landowners that allow access to the monitoring sites and by hosting an annual watershed-scale outreach program with local partners.
- The budget provides sufficient detail to understand how the expenses were estimated. The budget was informed by experiences with the previous two monitoring grants.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- This grant will fund the hiring of a new monitoring coordinator, so there is some uncertainty about the specific qualifications of the person who will lead the project.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly stated project objectives, tasks, and timeline for the proposed monitoring work.
- The proposed monitoring approach is technically sound, and the applicant has utilized technical experts over multiple project phases to adjust and improve monitoring efforts to achieve a more reliable data set. For example, the applicant has adjusted monitoring sites and added an air temperature data comparison to the monitoring project.
- Data will be shared using a data visualization application that can be accessed by the public.
- The proposed monitoring is directly linked to future restoration projects. The application includes a current example of how monitoring data is tied to identifying a current watershed concern, landowner engagement, and identifying a restoration strategy to address a water quality issue.
- The applicant has a proven track record with similar monitoring work and has demonstrated effective use of monitoring data in prioritizing restoration projects.
- Project costs are reasonable based on the objectives and activities described in the application.

Concerns

- The application lacks detail describing data analysis that will be completed and who will be completing this task; however, the council has a monitoring team that is likely to provide technical support for this work.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed monitoring project is phase three of an ongoing stream temperature monitoring project in the Luckiamute watershed. The applicant has a history of actively using this monitoring data to plan and prioritize restoration projects, which has also led to an effective watershed strategy and high-quality restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$88,891

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$88,891

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3040-19622

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Healthy Industrial Lands Initiative
Phase II

Applicant: Columbia Slough WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: \$27,293

Total Cost: \$76,493

Application Description

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council (Council) kicked off the Healthy Industrial Lands Initiative in 2020 with a grant-supported survey of industrial landowners in the Middle Columbia Slough (Phase 1) that was designed to learn about the private sector's motivations for, and barriers to, voluntarily investing in nature-based solutions to stormwater management and native habitat enhancements on their properties. Funding has been secured for Phase 2 which allows us to extend the survey to the rest of the industrialized floodplain of the Columbia Slough and collect further property owner data in 2021-22. But we learned during Phase 1 that we need additional time for deeper one-on-one conversations with property owners to build the kinds of relationships needed that lead to cooperative habitat improvements, including site visits to explore what kinds of projects might be possible on their property. Phase 2 of the survey is an opportune time to increase stakeholder engagement and foster relationships that will lead to businesses committing to enhancement projects. Thus, we are seeking OWEB funding as a match to expand our online surveys to also include phone and in person meetings and site visits. At the close of this phase of the project, we will have a strong understanding of who makes up the industrial sector in our watershed and their interest in improving the environmental values of their property. We will also have built stronger relationships to enlist early adopters in our Healthy Industrial Lands Initiative. As a trusted environmental leader in the community, the Council is well-positioned to drive the private sector toward greater investment in watershed health, creating more resilient ecosystems for people, fish, and wildlife in the watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Most of the previous application evaluation concerns are addressed.
- The proposed Stakeholder Engagement project is an innovative approach to engage industrial landowners, which have the largest ownership in the Columbia Slough Watershed.
- Landowners will be engaged beyond a computer-based survey through phone and in-person meetings. This approach is likely to result in businesses committing to restoration actions.
- The applicant has experience from the first phase of the Healthy Industrial Lands Initiative and is incorporating lessons learned into phase two.
- The applicant has sufficient employee capacity to achieve the proposed stakeholder engagement scope of work and will hire a consultant to provide expertise to implement the survey.
- The project costs are reasonable.

- Stakeholder engagement is timely by providing an opportunity for landowners to choose voluntary action before City of Portland regulatory environmental zone designations are initiated.
- Restoration opportunities will be staged in time to leverage future fund sources expected from Portland's Clean Energy Fund and consolidation of local drainage districts that could target specific stormwater and green infrastructure actions proposed to stakeholders through the project.

Concerns

- The application lacks letters of support confirming partner support and involvement.
- Outreach to invite people to participate in the survey depends on partners; however, it is unclear who those partners are and how this outreach will be implemented.
- Additional information on how the success indicator was determined for the objective related to enrolling landowners in enhancement work is needed to better understand project outcomes. Setting a target of four landowners enrolling in an enhancement project seems low given the expectation that there will be 150 survey respondents and 30 site visits with landowners. Additional information on what enrollment means may provide context for the work related to the four projects and demonstrate that four enrolled landowners is a reasonable success indicator for the organization's capacity. For example, does enrollment mean the landowner is committed, or that four projects will be fully developed, designed, and ready for funding?

Concluding Analysis

The Columbia Slough watershed is a highly urbanized watershed and most habitat restoration efforts have been limited to residential and public lands. Focusing stakeholder engagement on private industrial lands is unique and critical for future priority restoration to occur in the Columbia Slough watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$27,293

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

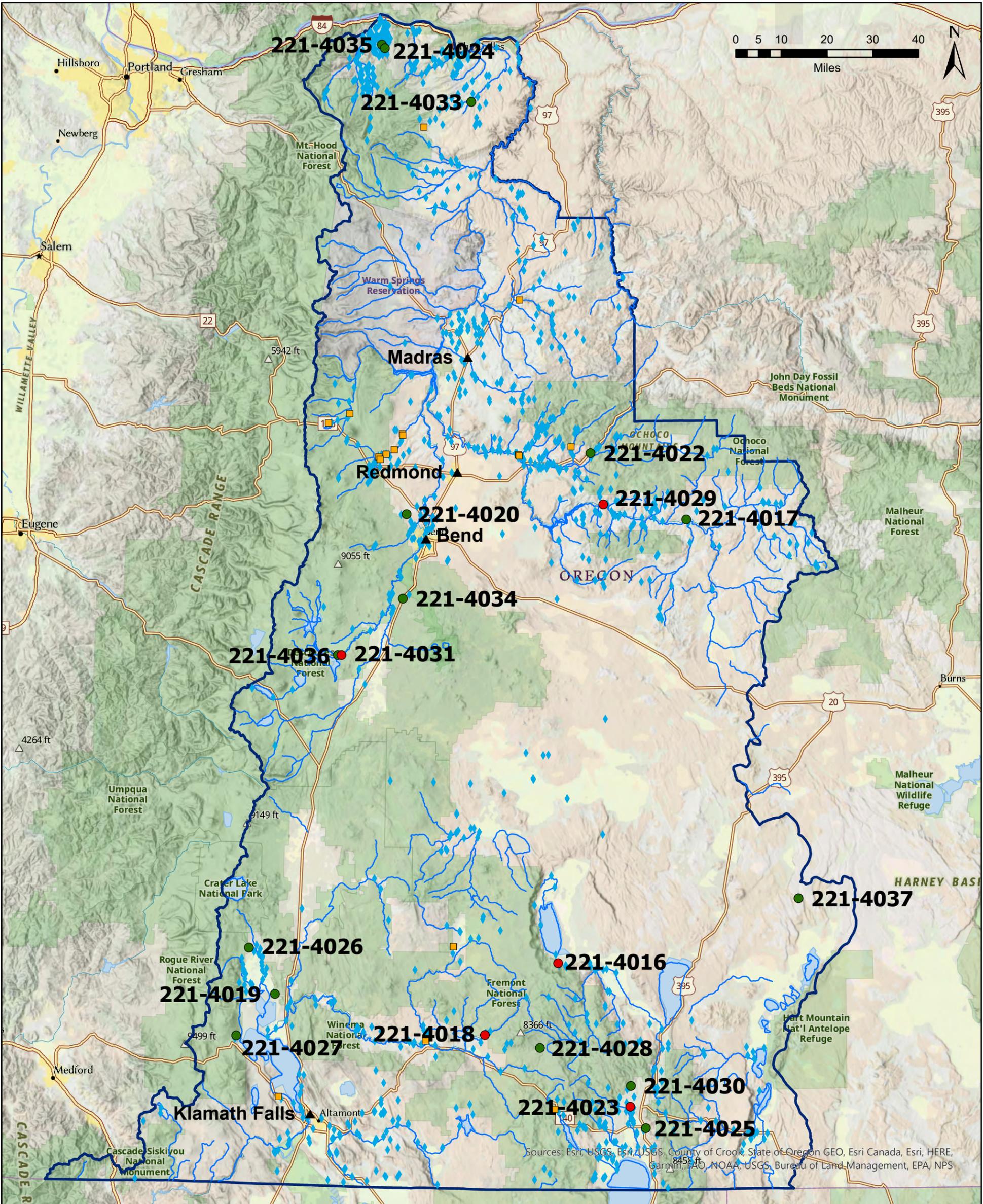
Staff Recommended Amount

\$27,293

Staff Conditions

N/A

Central Oregon - Region 4 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



Sources: Esri, USGS, Esri, USGS, County of Crook, State of Oregon GEO, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS

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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

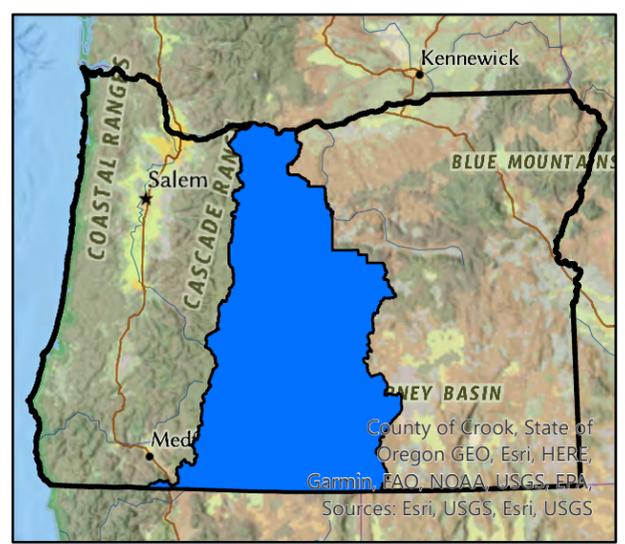
Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2020

- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 4 Cities
- Region 4 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 4 Boundary



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County of Crook, State of Oregon GEO, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS
 Sources: Esri, USGS, Esri, USGS

Region 4 - Central Oregon Restoration					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4022	Crook SWCD	Fish Passage and Screening in the Upper Ochoco Creek Watershed: Implementation Phase 1	Fish passage and screening work will be implemented on irrigation diversions along Ochoco Creek just upstream of Ochoco reservoir.	323,339	Crook
221-4019	Trout Unlimited Inc	Ranch Creek Redband Trout Habitat Enhancement	Redband Trout spawning and survival will be improved by enhancing instream habitat, providing fish passage at an irrigation diversion, and improving streamside vegetation along Ranch Creek, a tributary to Crooked Creek in the Upper Klamath Basin.	103,476	Klamath
221-4017	Crook SWCD	Lower Camp Creek Riparian Improvement	Native trees and shrubs will be planted along Lower Camp Creek and the Crooked River to improve water quality and stream conditions for native fish.	78,500	Crook
221-4024	Hood River SWCD	Neal Creek Phase II Instream Habitat Restoration Project	Fish habitat will be restored along portions of Neal Creek by adding large wood into the stream, which will improve the connection between the stream and floodplain and increase spawning and rearing habitat.	85,402	Hood River
221-4020	Tumalo Irrigation District	TID Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration Project - Group 6A	A portion of an open ditch canal will be enclosed in leak-free piping to permanently conserve water to both Tumalo and Crescant Creeks and address water quantity, water quality, and public safety concerns.	200,000	Deschutes
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				790,717	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4023	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Three Creeks Fish Passage, Fish Screening, and Wet Meadow Restoration	Wet meadow and stream habitat will be restored by installing beaver dam analogs, livestock fencing, and fish passage and screening at two irrigation diversions in the Goose Lake Watershed.	352,524	Lake
221-4018	Klamath Watershed Partnership	Harmony Preserve Landscape Restoration	Priority upland acres will be treated to improve forest health and preserve sage steppe habitat by small tree thinning as well as juniper removal in the North Fork Sprague River in Klamath County	228,370	Klamath
221-4016	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Summer Lake Wildfire Risk Reduction	Upland forest health and wildlife habitat connectivity will be improved by small tree thinning in Summer Lake.	198,864	Lake

Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-4021	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation	Greater Williams Prairie Restoration Project 2021	239,188	Crook	

Region 4 - Central Oregon Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4026	Trout Unlimited Inc	Annie Creek Fish Passage and Screening Design - Phase II	Engineered design plans will be developed for the last four irrigation diversions along Annie Creek to provide fish passage and to install fish screens on ditches.	75,000	Klamath
221-4025	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	South Warner Forest Health Mapping & Inventory	Forest health treatment plans will be developed for private lands in Lake County to initiate a large-scale forest management effort and reverse the current fire trend.	74,998	Lake
221-4028	Trout Unlimited Inc	Sprague River Fish Passage Improvement Project	Engineered plans will be generated to correct fish passage barriers at six road crossings in the Upper Klamath Basin to expand native fish access to stream habitat.	75,000	Lake
221-4027	Klamath Watershed Partnership	Southeastern Cascades Landscape Forest Resiliency Planning	Private forest lands will be surveyed and inventoried to develop forest health treatment plans in Klamath County.	73,686	Klamath
221-4030	Lakeview SWCD	Maxwell Ranch Bauer's Creek Diversion Replacement - Survey and Design	Designs to replace the last remaining fish passage barrier on Bauers Creek will be created to provide fish passage to stream habitat as well as providing surface water across the floodplain for migrating waterfowl.	49,485	Lake
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				348,169	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4031	Deschutes River Conservancy	Upper Deschutes Basin Comprehensive Water Management Plan- Technical Assistance	A comprehensive water management plan will be developed to address streamflow conditions in the Upper Deschutes River.	75,000	Deschutes
221-4029	Crooked River WC	Upper Crooked River Floodplain Restoration	Data will be collected and analyzed to generate conceptual restoration designs that will improve floodplain connectivity on private land and restore a vibrant habitat for thriving wildlife populations along the Crooked River upstream of Bowman dam.	74,896	Crook

Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
None					

Region 4 - Central Oregon Stakeholder Engagement					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4035	Hood River SWCD	Hood River Pesticide Management	Pesticide management trainings will be provided to orchard growers in Hood River County to reduce pesticides entering Hood River and improve water quality.	32,981	Hood River
221-4037	Oregon Agricultural Trust	Outreach & Collaboration to Promote Easements in Southeast Oregon	Agricultural landowners in southeast Oregon will be engaged to generate support for conservation easements that will preserve Oregon's unique mixed agricultural and natural landscapes.	96,485	Harney
221-4036	Deschutes River Conservancy	Upper Deschutes Basin Comprehensive Water Management Plan - Stakeholder Engagement	Local, regional, and statewide stakeholders will be engaged through a facilitated, collaborative process to develop a comprehensive water management plan for the Upper Deschutes Basin.	84,518	Deschutes
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				213,984	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
None					

Region 4 - Central Oregon Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4033	Wasco SWCD	Fifteenmile Creek Steelhead Status and Trend Monitoring	Salmon production and life history will be tracked for a period of four consecutive years in Fifteenmile Creek watershed, which enters the Columbia River just below the Dalles Dam.	209,025	Wasco
221-4034	OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin	Wildlife Crossing Effectiveness Monitoring in Central Oregon	Data will be collected at wildlife crossing structures on Highway 97 to evaluate the effectiveness of these structures in facilitating wildlife passage and preventing wildlife vehicle collisions.	54,831	Deschutes
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				263,856	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-4032	Oregon Glaciers Institute	Oregon Glacier Monitoring Network in the Upper Deschutes and Hood River Basins	170,958	Deschutes	

Region 4 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	1,616,726
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4016-19488

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Summer Lake Wildfire Risk Reduction

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$198,864

Total Cost: \$427,449

Application Description 1) The Summer Lake Wildfire Risk Reduction project area will focus on an approximately 600 acres within an overall 1,800- acre area with multiple ownerships. Three private landowners make up about 1,358 acres with the remaining 475 acres under BLM management. The project area is flanked by three wildfire scars and the US Forest Service has been focused on conducting thinning treatments to the boundaries.

2) This area is the last dense forested stand at risk of wildfire. A stand that would lead wildfire to four permanent residences and one hunting cabin. The area is currently being surveyed for pre-wildfire roads and contingency lines within a grant agreement between the USFS and the High Desert Rangeland Fire Protection Association (HDRFPA).

3) The implementation of a thinning project would successfully complete a wildfire contingency line spanning nearly 10 miles from Paisley to the project area west boundary. Additionally, the treatment would improve watershed function in four sub-watersheds of the region.

4) Partners would include Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, BLM, USFS, ODF, ODFW, HDRFPA and private landowners

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant and partners have experience with implementing forest health projects and are likely to succeed in executing the proposed restoration.
- The cost per acre of forest stand treatment is comparable to other similar type projects.
- During the virtual site visit, the applicant and partners emphasized the wildlife benefits, specifically mentioning goshawk, mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep.

Concerns

- The project is not identified in a watershed plan or assessment.
- There is no discussion in the application on how the treatments will be maintained or managed into the future.
- The application lacks letters of support from landowners where work will occur.
- There are no photos attached to the application to help illustrate the project need.

- The application lacks a discussion explaining the specific ecological impacts or species that could benefit from this project.
- The ecological uplift outcome from brush mastication described in objective 2 in the application is unclear.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal presents forest health treatments on private land that is surrounded by three previous wildfire scars. The application demonstrates a clear need for this project to mitigate future wildfire impacts to private lands, however, fell short on demonstrating the ecological need and benefit.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$198,864

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

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4017-19504

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Camp Creek Riparian Improvement

Applicant: Crook SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$78,500

Total Cost: \$101,950

Application Description The Lower Camp Creek Riparian Planting Project capitalizes on years of investments made by many partners including OWEB, ODA, the landowner, and Crook SWCD. The project is intended to jump start instream and riparian processes by providing the system with the necessary tools to heal itself over time. Plantings will be strategically designed to maximize return on investment by prioritizing plant survival in order to provide the maximum amount of bank stability, instream shade, and fish and wildlife habitat. Species lists will be simple, consisting of only a few species that are the most likely to survive and meet our long term objectives. Planting locations within the project area were chosen based on channel morphology and the resulting soil and water table conditions that will ensure the highest return on investment. Beavers already occupy the site so container stock will be protected while relatively inexpensive, locally sourced willow cuttings will be left uncaged.

Previous OWEB funding was used to construct riparian fences allowing exclusion of grazing along 3.5 miles of Camp Creek and the Crooked River. Legacy management was in place for over 25 years and consisted of season long grazing which resulted in complete loss of woody riparian shrubs and changes to channel structure. Current managers took over 5 years ago and have been actively restoring the property for the benefit of wildlife habitat and watershed function. Restoration actions undertaken by the landowner include over 50% reductions in cattle numbers, rebuilding infrastructure to protect sensitive areas, riparian plantings, western juniper treatment, upland seeding and a rigorous weed treatment program. Current management has seen marked progress in improving watershed conditions and habitat for sensitive species including sage grouse and trumpeter swan.

Restoration actions were partially identified using the recently completed Camp Creek Watershed Restoration Atlas.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The planting locations will be located inside newly placed livestock exclusion fencing.
- The root cause of the watershed problem, overgrazing, is identified clearly in the application and is addressed by low-cost methods that are proven to be effective.

- The maps and associated photos provided in the application were helpful in documenting the project need and evaluating the potential benefit.
- The project was identified in the Camp Creek Watershed Atlas as a priority to address sediment, a key water quality parameter of concern.
- The costs are reasonable and appropriate.
- The applicant and landowner have completed similar type conservation projects together, indicating a high likelihood for success.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the proposed planting plan focusing on woody plant species is appropriate for the site conditions that are dominated by fine soils with high pH levels unsuitable for woody vegetation.
- Photos provided in the application show streamside areas dominant with sedges and rushes, species known to be effective at trapping sediment. It is unclear why these plants are not considered in the planting plan.

Concluding Analysis

The project will restore woody vegetation to highly degraded sections of Camp Creek and the Crooked River, which is a good first step at addressing water quality problems. The project is likely to succeed given the existing fencing network that will protect riparian areas and landowner commitment to the project. This project may also spawn additional restoration actions to aid in sediment retention.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$78,500

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$78,500

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4018-19516

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Harmony Preserve Landscape Restoration

Applicant: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$228,370

Total Cost: \$317,055

Application Description The Harmony Preserve is a 900-acre parcel of private land featuring ponderosa pine, juniper, sagebrush flats, and riparian meadow encompassing both sides of approximately 3/4-mile of the North Fork Sprague River in Klamath County. New, progressive owners have developed a vision for holistic, ridgetop-to-ridgetop restoration, and have sought support for planning and implementation. Through a collaborative effort, Klamath Watershed Partnership, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife are undertaking a phased restoration of the uplands, meadows, and river.

Historically the Harmony Preserve was grazed by cattle and horses, and the river was channelized to facilitate meadow grazing. Decades of these practices saw the removal of riparian vegetation and large wood, resulting in loss of shade and instream complexity. River velocities, erosion, and habitat simplicity continue to diminish the value of this stretch for bull trout (Federally Threatened), redband trout (species of concern), and anticipated anadromous salmonids. Fire suppression and grazing in the uplands with little forest management allowed for overstocking in pine and juniper stands, and juniper encroachment into sagebrush flats. Mule deer, elk, beaver, and numerous sage-dependent species have been observed in the area in the two years since grazing cessation.

This project will facilitate treatment of priority upland acres to address riparian health, overstocking, wildfire risk, and sagebrush restoration. By collaborating with stream and riparian restoration efforts, upland work will expand the benefits to ecologically linked habitats, provide efficiencies in implementation, protect investments, and ultimately set the landscape up for long term, sustainable management by dedicated landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project's intent to provide logs for stream habitat restoration on the property is a smart and useful approach for utilizing cut trees with no or little market value.
- The landowner is very supportive of the project, which is documented by a letter of support, and has implemented similar type conservation work on other properties.

- The YouTube video link and associated documents provided in the application are helpful in understanding the property and project need.
- The proposed forest health treatments, combined with the stream and floodplain restoration that is funded outside of this proposal, provide a ridgetop-to-ridgetop strategy for fish and wildlife habitat restoration.
- The applicant has a proven track record implementing similar type projects.

Concerns

- The application and budget lacks details explaining the stream and floodplain restoration components identified throughout the proposal and its nexus with the forest treatment objectives. Specifically, it is unclear how objective four in the application, which describes the stream and floodplain work, will be implemented and funded.
- The project area falls within the perimeter of the Bootleg fire and it is unclear how the fire may have impacted the viability of the project or the wildlife that could potentially benefit from the proposed restoration.
- The cost per acre of forest health treatment appears high compared to other similar type projects.

Concluding Analysis

The project will implement forest health and sagebrush flat enhancement by small tree thinning and juniper removal. This work will be in conjunction with partners implementing stream and floodplain enhancements, yet the specifics of how this aquatic restoration work will be implemented are unclear.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

7 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$228,370

Review Team Conditions

Check with applicant prior to funding to see if the Bootleg Fire has compromised the project as proposed. Direct staff to investigate and work with the applicant to determine what actions and costs remain viable.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4019-19564

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Ranch Creek Redband Trout
Habitat Enhancement

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$103,476

Total Cost: \$157,056

Application Description

1. This project is located in Klamath County near Ft. Klamath, Oregon. The project will occur on Ranch Creek, which is a small tributary to Crooked Creek. Crooked Creek flows into the Wood River and from there into Upper Klamath Lake.
2. Klamath Basin Redband Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss newberrii*) are endemic to the Upper Klamath Basin and are listed as a State Sensitive Species by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Over the last century, their populations have been affected by land use changes that have disconnected, degraded, and eliminated spawning, rearing, and migratory habitat throughout the basin. In Ranch Creek, Redband Trout spawning has decreased substantially since surveys began in 2003, likely due to inconsistent flows. Biologists assume that much of the spawning habitat used by Redband Trout will also be important for anadromous salmon and steelhead that return to the basin after the four mainstem Klamath River dams are removed, so maintaining existing habitat and creating or enhancing additional habitat is especially important at this time.
3. In order to improve spawning abundance and success in Ranch Creek, and to provide access to additional spawning habitat upstream for Redband Trout and future anadromous populations, we propose to construct 0.15 of new channel, reconnect fish passage to 0.75 miles of upstream habitat, screen one 5-cfs irrigation diversion, and improve diversion management to ensure consistent flows in Ranch Creek. Overall, accessible spawning habitat will almost triple, from 0.5 miles to 1.4 miles.
4. Partners on this project include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Klamath fish biologists as well as fish passage and fish screen programs), U.S. Forest Service (all project work will take place on USFS property, and USFS will complete NEPA process), The Klamath Tribes, and the adjacent private landowner (Root Ranch).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project objectives are clear, and the application demonstrates a strong need for the restoration actions proposed.
- ODFW spawning surveys indicate the project area is a high priority for redband trout and other native fish and there are lots of opportunity to increase spawning habitat.
- The water diverted out of Agency Spring has an instream water right for fish and wildlife that aligns well with the management of Ranch Creek.
- The landowner excluded livestock with fencing, protecting the adjacent riparian and floodplain habitat.
- The applicant has a proven track record in implementing similar type projects.
- The project approach is a relatively low-cost option that will have substantial ecological uplift.

Concerns

- The maps provided in the application would benefit from the addition of arrows indicating flow paths of water bodies.
- The riparian planting buffer is 15 feet, which is narrow compared with ODA water quality standards of 25 feet.
- Diverting high quality cold spring water to a human created creek may degrade stream temperature and overall water quality in Agency Creek.

Concluding Analysis

The project presents a unique approach in creating and enhancing native fish habitat on a human created creek, called Ranch Creek, that flows directly into Agency Creek. The drop culvert that will be removed impedes stream flow and presents a clear problem for fish passage. ODFW will continue to monitor the project area. The solutions proposed have a high likelihood of success in achieving the desired ecological outcomes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$103,476

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$103,476

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4020-19566

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: TID Deschutes Basin Flow
Restoration Project - Group 6A

Applicant: Tumalo Irrigation District

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$200,000

Total Cost: \$6,140,037

Application Description For decades, irrigation districts in the Deschutes Basin have been working toward enclosing porous open canals to return and protect flow to the Deschutes River and their tributaries. The open porous canals, lined with volcanic rock and open to evaporation, cause the loss of approximately 50 percent of the water withdrawn. By enclosing the canals into leak free piping, the district can reduce its consumption by nearly half and return that conserved water into the basin that has resulted in a restoration of 24.2 cfs of instream flow to Tumalo Creek during the period of April – September, and 3,136 acre-feet of stored water to Crescent Lake for the storage season. The water conserved is protected for instream flow through Oregon Water Resources Department’s Conserved Water Program through a transfer of water rights.

The Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration – Group 6A project (project) encloses 2.3 miles (12,300 ft) of open porous irrigation canals into leak-free piping resulting in 1.5 CFS returned and protected in the Deschutes Basin (Crescent Lake and Tumalo Creek.) The project will pipe the Columbia Southern Lateral from approximately Tumalo Reservoir road to the northeast, using 48" diameter, pressure-rated high density polyethylene pipe. Like other TID modernization projects, the pipe will follow the existing canal alignment and will be installed in a compacted trench with a minimum of 3-ft of cover to protect the pipe from freezing and damage. The surface will be restored with topsoil and native seeding, where appropriate.

This project is part of a regional collaboration effort with the Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC) consisting of eight irrigation districts (Arnold, Central Oregon, Lone Pine, North Unit, Ochoco, Swalley, Three Sisters and TID). Members are working toward enclosing open canals to restore flow to the Basin that modernizes irrigation infrastructure while returning the basin to a more natural state.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has a long history of successfully conserving instream water rights for fish and wildlife.
- The applicant will engage ODFW and USFWS to determine how best to split the conserved water realized from this project.
- The applicant has the capacity and experience to implement the proposed project.

- Additional storage in Crescent Lake will allow for increased releases into Crescent Creek, which will benefit the threatened Oregon spotted frog.
- Additional water remaining instream on Tumalo Creek will add value to high quality redband trout habitat as well as increase cold water inputs to the Middle Deschutes River.
- The restoration objective of conserving 1.5 cfs is cost effective.

Concerns

- The proposal includes attachments that are not relevant to the proposed project, including outdated letters of support for different projects.
- Additional details describing match costs is needed to better understand whether match estimates are reasonable and align with the work necessary to accomplish the project objectives.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a continuation of Tumalo Irrigation District's effort to pipe their network of delivery canals that are leaky and inefficient in conveying water. This effort is supported by a watershed plan developed in conjunction with the NRCS.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$200,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$200,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4021-19587

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Greater Williams Prairie Restoration
Project 2021

Applicant: Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$239,188

Total Cost: \$763,851

Application Description The Greater Williams Prairie Restoration Project (GWPRP) is located 25 miles east of Prineville, OR, in the Ochoco Mountains, on the western edge of the Blue Mountain Range. The project area incorporates the North Fork of the Crooked River with drains to the north and east, eventually flowing into the Crooked River near Post, Oregon. GWPRP incorporates whole-watershed restoration of 17,500 acres on the Ochoco National Forest. The primary goals are protection and restoration of whole-watershed processes and increased local landscape resilience to climate change. Projects, from ridge-top to valley-bottom, include work in streams, riparian areas, and uplands. Projects focus on the protection, management and/or restoration of hydrologic function (with water table restoration in prairies and meadows), aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna habitat restoration, travel route improvements including aquatic organism passage restoration, forest health restoration, early detection and rapid response treatments of invasive plants and cattle management. This funding request focuses on stream restoration and conifer reduction. Stream restoration will occur on 1.9 miles of the North Fork Crooked River and .75 of Long Prairie Creek. Conifer thinning across 415 acres will occur adjacent to Williams Prairie. Proposed actions include in-stream placement of wood and/or rock, filling gullies, installing beaver dam analogues, and commercial and non-commercial thinning. This supports direct improvements in habitat conditions for aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna. Through a unique partner initiative referred to as "All Hands, All Brands, For Public Lands" we have secured monetary and in-kind support from the following partners; Western Native Trout Initiative, Blue Mountain Elk Initiative, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, among others.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is part of a landscape scale effort that is a ridgetop-to-ridgetop approach to improve fish and wildlife habitat on the Ochoco National Forest.
- The applicant and USFS partners are experienced and have a proven track record at implementing the restoration actions in this proposal.
- The proposed stage 0 stream and floodplain restoration design will increase the wetland footprint and associated watershed benefits wetlands provide.

- The forest health and invasive species treatment will improve wildlife habitat quality and connectivity throughout the project area.

Concerns

- The proposal lacks designs for the stream and floodplain components needed to understand the methods and strategies that will be employed and whether the expected ecological outcomes can be achieved.
- Maps provided with the application lack sufficient detail to understand the extent of the proposed stream and floodplain work and its context in relation to other work proposed, such as the forest health and invasive weed treatment. Adding road and stream labels along with aerial imagery to the forest health treatment map would provide details needed to understand where proposed treatments are located in the landscape.
- It is unclear from the application how the proposed restoration will provide expected benefits to anadromous salmonids given the project location is 35 river miles upstream from a dam with no fish passage.
- A description of post project maintenance and activities, including future livestock grazing management, is not included in the application.
- It is difficult to determine if project costs are appropriate without designs.
- Evidence of additional local support for the project would strengthen the proposal.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal is a resubmit and the current application addresses some but not all of the previous evaluation concerns, in particular the lack of project designs and detailed maps needed to evaluate project technical soundness. This project presents an incredible opportunity to build resiliency, improve habitat conditions for a wide variety of species, and improve habitat connectivity across a large landscape. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address the concerns identified above.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

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-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4022-19611

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Fish Passage and Screening in the Upper Ochoco Creek Watershed: Implementation Phase 1

Applicant: Crook SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$323,339

Total Cost: \$417,316

Application Description Our project area is anchored by the confluence of Ochoco and Marks Creeks in the Upper Ochoco Watershed. Marks Creek is the largest tributary to Ochoco Creek and is an important source of cold water to the upper watershed, located east of Prineville.

These streams exhibit rich ecological potential but past management and barriers to fish migration and survival have fettered their productivity. With proper fish passage and screening this lush valley can offer important spawning and rearing habitat for resident redband trout (a state and federal sensitive species), while continuing to provide excellent big game habitat and agricultural production. Significant instream and riparian restoration was completed in 2020 to improve habitat and passage in the section above our proposed project reach. Our project will solidify that investment by creating a barrier free system from Ochoco Reservoir to Marks lake, improving the connection to an additional 15 miles of improved habitat.

This application seeks to secure funding to implement the designs produced through an OWEB Technical Assistance Grant. After receiving the TA grant we worked closely with our project partners to identify a unified approach to addressing watershed problems in the upper watershed. Through that process our team evaluated the designs in order to identify which projects were best suited for restoration investment. In this phase of implementation project we will address fish passage at four sites (on 5 PODs); one in Ochoco Creek and three in Marks Creek. The team agreed that screening and passage at this set of diversions is the next logical step in improving conditions for native migratory fish in the Upper Ochoco Watershed.

This proposal is the result of a collaborative partnership between the Lookout Ranger District of the Ochoco National Forest, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Crooked River Watershed Council, Oregon Water Resources Department and Crook SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will implement a subset of fish passage solutions designed by a qualified restoration consultant as a result of a previous OWEB technical assistance grant.

- All the screens proposed occur on one landowner's property who is aware of the maintenance requirements and supportive of the project.
- The approach and strategy of addressing fish passage barriers upstream of Ochoco reservoir is appropriate and supported by ODFW. The proposed work will open stream habitat for fish and prevent fish loss into ditches.
- The addition of headgates associated with the diversions will allow for new efficiencies in water use and measurement.
- The proposed restoration compliments other watershed-related work nearby, including CREP and planting projects.
- The budget provides sufficient detail and breakdown of project costs.
- The project is well supported, evidenced by a variety of support letters.

Concerns

- The roughened riffle component described in the designs attached to the application is not listed or described in the objectives part of the application.

Concluding Analysis

The project is the first implementation phase to address fish barriers at four sites above Ochoco Reservoir, improving habitat connectivity along 15 stream miles. The project is likely to succeed because the approach is strategic and methods are technically sound.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$323,339

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$323,339

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4023-19633

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Three Creeks Fish Passage, Fish Screening, and Wet Meadow Restoration

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$352,524

Total Cost: \$574,803

Application Description The proposed restoration project is located in the Goose Lake Basin, Lake County Oregon. The project involves three major watershed concerns that will be addressed in cooperation with three private landowners, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Swift Water Designs, and River Design Group.

The Goose Lake Basin has several unique features as it lies within the Southern Oregon-Northeastern California (SONEC) region of the Pacific Flyway, standing out as highest priority habitats across the 11-state geography. SONEC sustains more than six million migrating and breeding birds each year. Latest data indicates that wetlands across this landscape are threatened not only by land use changes but also drying as a result of climate change and human water use. Also unique to this watershed are the nine native fish species that complete their life cycles in these streams. Four of which are listed as “species of concern” by the US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) due to vulnerability within this challenging system. These fish are adapted to the alkaline lake waters, the ever-fluctuating seasonal flows, and periods of drought – yet populations, distribution, and abundance are greatly influenced by the environmental and human modified conditions we see today.

Historical channel straightening, irrigation infrastructure, livestock grazing, and resulting channel incisions have greatly impacted the stream corridor and wetland function in and along Cox Creek, Camp Creek, and Thomas Creek. The goal is to restore the degraded stream and meadow system habitat using process-based restoration strategies, improve fish connectivity by constructing a fish bypass channel at an irrigation diversion structure, and installing a panel fish screen to prevent fish from becoming entrapped in a 6-mile irrigation system.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds off a previous OWEB technical assistance grant that provided project designs in partnership with USFWS.

- The project capitalizes on adjacent landowners' willingness to address fish passage and habitat concerns, as well as an opportunistic chance to provide screening at a private diversion on federal land.
- The fencing component will be designed and built following Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) placement to ensure installation is adapted to changes to the floodplain in response to restoration.
- Historically, the streams in the project area were heavily populated with redband trout, as indicated through past reports and PIT tag studies within the Thomas Creek watershed.
- The applicant has a record of implementing similar type large-scaled projects.

Concerns

- A grazing management plan would provide a better understanding of future land use and its compatibility with ecological restoration.
- The design information provided in the application is more conceptual and lacks details to evaluate technical soundness of the design approach.
- The ecological outcomes expected from the process-based restoration utilizing BDAs are unclear. The number of proposed BDAs to be installed will have a significant maintenance burden and the use of sagebrush material for these structures will limit their longevity in the stream. It is unclear from the application how these structures will be monitored and maintained. A monitoring and adaptive management strategy is needed to quantify project impacts and long-term benefits.
- The design approach for the BDA structures do not seem to align with fish passage criteria from ODFW.
- There is a lack in proposal clarity because it is unclear how the objectives at the three project sites correlate with the budget and uploaded documents.

Concluding Analysis

The project is working with three private ranches to address fish passage along with instream and riparian habitat degradation. The project area has suffered from past overuse by livestock. However, new landowners are engaged and interested in supporting conservation. Combining fish screening, riparian fencing, and BDA's has wide reaching capabilities to improve stream conditions; however, the application lacks details needed to evaluate the extent of expected watershed health benefits for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$352,524

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

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4024-19635

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Neal Creek Phase II Instream
Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: Hood River SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Hood River

OWEB Request: \$85,402

Total Cost: \$399,127

Application Description This project will take place on Neal Creek, located within the Hood River Watershed in Hood River County. The project will include nine private properties located up and downstream of Thomsen Road in a reach of Neal Creek that has the highest intrinsic potential for salmon and steelhead due to a relatively low gradient (= 2%) and wide valley bottom.

Neal Creek is one of the few clear water (non-glacial) tributaries of the lower Hood River and contains a viable population of threatened winter steelhead, threatened coho salmon, cutthroat trout, and resident rainbow trout. Based on ODFW sampling and population estimates, Neal Creek is estimated to provide 5-10% of steelhead production in the Hood River Basin. The primary limiting factors that this project will address are habitat diversity and key habitat quantity, particularly spawning and juvenile rearing habitat. On Neal Creek, the combination of channel alterations, fill from private and county roads, and large wood removal has led to entrenched channel segments with limited amounts of large wood.

This project will reconnect 12 acres of floodplain and restore 3/4-mile of spawning and rearing habitat by increasing the number of key pools, spawning gravel patches, and channel complexity through the addition of large wood structures.

Project partners include Hood River Watershed Group (project manager), Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District (applicant/fiscal sponsor), Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (cash match, materials), and project landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds off a previous OWEB technical assistance grant that developed project designs.
- The project designs were reviewed by BPA as part of the project's nexus with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. This ensures project technical soundness and viability.
- A hydraulic analysis was completed to ensure the county no-net rise requirements will be met.
- The project will address limiting factors for ESA listed salmonids, specifically coho and steelhead.

- The expenditures associated with the ecological outcomes are cost effective.
- The project will promote water quality benefits by capturing sediment thus reducing downstream inputs.

Concerns

- The proposal lacks detail on the post construction planting plan.

Concluding Analysis

The project continues momentum that is building along Neal Creek to engage private landowners in the rural-urban interface to support instream and floodplain habitat enhancement opportunities. Utilizing local partners with experience increases the likelihood for the project to succeed in improving stream and floodplain interactions that benefit multiple fish species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$85,402

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$85,402

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4025-19487

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Warner Forest Health
Mapping & Inventory

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed
Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$74,998

Total Cost: \$93,988

Application Description The South Warner Forest Health Project (SWFHP) encompasses 39,037 acres of private, non-industrial forestland in Lake County, east and south of Lakeview. This landscape scale project is tied directly to Fremont-Winema National Forest's South Warner Integrated Landscape Restoration Project, totaling 85,620 acres and is adjacent to the North Warner Forest Health Project where current treatment is underway. Through a century of fire suppression, the forests of this region have increased in density, lost diversity, and altered the structure and hydrologic function of watersheds. This loss from historic conditions has increased the scale and risk of fire severity, and reduced forest resiliency to drought, insects, and disease. High priority resources and habitat such as waterways and associated sensitive species, homes, ranch land, and private/industrial timberland are currently in jeopardy. The goal of the SWFHP is to initiate a landscape-level forest management effort aimed at improving forest health conditions that will reverse the current fire trend and increase ecosystem resiliency.

Based on similar efforts in Lake County, the SWFHP uses an 8 step model founded on personal connections with informed and engaged private landowners. A comprehensive outreach, mapping, and inventory effort will inform and facilitate cross-boundary planning and implementation of forest health practices.

Technical Assistance will be used to conduct targeted outreach to private landowners, including phone calls, mailings, site visits, forest management planning sessions, and educational workshops. Landowner education efforts will include two OSU Extension workshops for forest ecology/management, fire science and prioritization planning. Project partners include the Fremont Winema National Forest, ODF, NRCS, ODFW, and members of the Klamath- Lake Forest Health Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project geography is the Fremont-Winema National Forest's second highest priority area to address forest health.

- The project scope and deliverables generated will aid in prioritizing limited funding for targeting on-the-ground forest health restoration.
- The applicant and partners have a proven track record with similar type projects at landscape scales.
- The methodology proposed has proven to be effective at laying the foundation for implementing successful landscape scale forest health restoration.
- Recent wildfires within and adjacent to the project geography have heightened private landowner awareness, creating a high level of interest in partnering with the applicant to improve forest health.
- The technical assistance effort involves working in the field directly with individual landowners, which has proven to be effective at building relationships and trust for future work.

Concerns

- The approach utilized for field verification and mapping on private land is not consistent with those employed on neighboring federal land. The scale of the public land's effort is, however, vastly different by relying more on remote sensing tools as opposed to a field based "boots on-the-ground" approach.

Concluding Analysis

The project continues the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership restoration efforts to address overstocked forests and habitat degradation in targeted geographies across private and public lands.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,998

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$74,998

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4026-19507

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Annie Creek Fish Passage and Screening Design - Phase II

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$207,449

Application Description

1) The proposed project is located on Annie Creek, a tributary to the Wood River in Klamath County. 2) The lower portion of Annie Creek flows mostly through private property, where numerous ranching-related impacts led to a lack of year-round volitional fish passage, degraded riparian conditions, and a homogenous creek channel. Prior to 2018, there were 8 irrigation diversion structures along the length of this reach that served as barriers to upstream fish passage and posed a significant entrainment threat. With assistance from OWEB and a number of other funders, Trout Unlimited (TU) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will have removed four of these barriers by the fall of 2021. Bull Trout have been expatriated from Annie Creek since the 1980s; however, there is a recovering population in neighboring Sun Creek, and Annie Creek is the top priority for Bull Trout reintroduction. The USFWS Klamath Recovery Unit Implementation Plan for Bull Trout (Recovery Plan), identifies "Connectivity Impairment" as one of the primary threats to Bull Trout recovery in Annie Creek. The Recovery Plan identifies passage improvement and screening to address "Connectivity Impairment" on Annie Creek as critical recovery actions. 3) Trout Unlimited is requesting funding to acquire engineered designs for removal of the four remaining diversion structures along Annie Creek. These projects will provide year round access to 10 miles of additional habitat that is currently blocked by the 4 passage barriers. Trout Unlimited will also work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to install fish screens on the ditches at these points of diversions (57 cfs total) to eliminate entrainment. However, funding is only requested for the passage portions of these projects. 4) Project partners include the USFWS, ODFW, Crater Lake National Park, and U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds off the applicant's previous successful work in providing fish passage at similar type barriers downstream from the project site.
- Utilizing the same experienced consultant team who developed designs for the downstream structures and capitalizing on their site-specific knowledge and existing data sets will provide cost savings for the proposed project.
- The use of roughened riffles has proven to be successful at year-round volitional fish passage.
- The project will address impaired habitat connectivity, the primary threat to Bull trout outlined in the USFWS recovery plan.

- The applicant will engage the ODFW screen shop once designs reach 30%, allowing for adequate time for fish screen design and fabrication.

Concerns

- The application lacks information describing plans for long-term maintenance once the restoration project is completed.
- The application describes potential impacts to wetlands and the use of riprap in the project design; however, it lacks a discussion explaining why the design approach was selected and any considerations made to minimize negative impacts.
- The application lacks information describing how adjacent lands will be managed, such as whether fencing will be incorporated to protect the stream corridor and allow riparian vegetation to establish.
- Brook trout are currently present in Annie Creek, posing potential problems for the reintroduction of Bull trout because brook trout will hybridize with Bull trout populations. However, methodologies and lessons learned from Brook trout removal on Sun Creek will be applied to Annie Creek.

Concluding Analysis

The project will continue efforts on Annie Creek to address the last four instream barriers to fish movement. A recovering population of Bull trout has been documented in neighboring Sun Creek and similar results are expected for Annie Creek as habitat improvements are completed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4027-19508

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Southeastern Cascades Landscape
Forest Resiliency Planning

Applicant: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$73,686

Total Cost: \$100,329

Application Description

The Southeastern Cascades Forest and Fire Project (SCFFP) encompasses nearly 197,000 acres in western Klamath County. This project area has been identified by the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP) as the next priority landscape for cross-boundary work based on opportunities for collaboration with planned and existing projects on Federal land. The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) North Landscape Project and the United States Forest Service's (USFS) Klamath Landscape Restoration Project are included in the SCFFP based on complementary objectives for forest resiliency, wildfire risk reduction, and resource protection. Wildfire does not recognize property boundaries, but there is currently no comprehensive inventory of forest resources for private land in the project area to promote or facilitate management in step with Federal efforts. This project will conduct the necessary outreach and education of landowners across 21,000 acres of non-industrial private land to encourage forest stewardship and engagement in the larger effort. Remote sensing, combined with ground verification and data collection, will be conducted to provide the necessary resolution to understand the scope and scale of restoration needs on private land. Documented techniques for developing treatment recommendations and prioritizations will then be used, setting the private lands up for future forest management plan development and acquisition of implementation funding. Project partners are members of the KLFHP, including the USFS, BLM, Oregon Department of Forestry, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon State University Extension, and Klamath Watershed Partnership. Additional partners to be engaged through this project include local fire districts and private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal provides a clearly describes the project objectives and outcomes.
- The project geography is a priority for adjacent federal land managers, including BLM and USFS.
- The applicant is utilizing lessons learned from a similar project in the Chiloquin Community Forest area. The work will result in relevant field data that is imperative to inform on-the-ground implementation.
- Resulting projects will aid in habitat recovery for the Oregon Spotted Owl.
- The applicant and partners have a proven track record working on projects with a similar scope and scale.
- The methodology is technically sound.

Concerns

- No concerns were raised.

Concluding Analysis

The project will initiate the eight-step methodology developed by the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership to address forest health and habitat degradation in order to facilitate cross boundary landscape level restoration. The private landowner engagement and plan development specific to individual properties has shown to be successful at putting plans into action.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$73,686

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$73,686

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4028-19513

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Sprague River Fish Passage Improvement Project

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$319,458

Application Description

1) The proposed project will improve fish passage and hydrological processes at 6 road/stream crossings in the upper Sprague River watershed, upper Klamath basin. 2) The 6 existing structures block volitional fish passage for Bull Trout and other native fish species. Removing fish passage barriers will assist in Bull Trout recovery by allowing full volitional passage from the Sprague River into tributaries such as Leonard, Brownsworth, Camp, and Corral Creeks from the South Fork Sprague River. Volitional fish passage is important for species recovery and protection from catastrophic events. 3) Trout Unlimited will partner with the U.S. Forest Service Fremont-Winema National Forest to contract an engineering firm to complete 100% designs for replacing the existing 6 culverts with structures that allow for year-round volitional fish passage. 4) Trout Unlimited, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Green Diamond Resource Company, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is cost effective by developing 100% complete designs for fish passage at six different road crossings.
- The project is within USFWS's critical habitat designation for Bull trout.
- The applicant is engaging with the Green Diamond Resource Company, who has partnered on similar type projects with success.
- The project is timely by aligning with the US Forest Service's plan to pave the road with five of the crossings that are fish passage barriers.
- The South Fork Sprague River system is prioritized by the USFS to focus on projects that benefit Bull trout.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether additional barriers exist downstream that could limit the effectiveness of the proposed work.
- Pictures submitted with the application seem to depict adjacent wetlands associated with the road crossings but there is no discussion on how these resources will be protected or enhanced.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant and partners are seeking to expand the spawning and rearing range of an isolated population of Bull trout in the South Fork Sprague River system. Leonard and Brownsworth Creeks are the only two streams to occupy Bull trout in the South Fork Sprague River system, making the population vulnerable to extirpation. This project will open up suitable habitat with the hopes of Bull trout colonization into the future.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4029-19579

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Crooked River Floodplain Restoration

Applicant: Crooked River WC

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$74,896

Total Cost: \$106,605

Application Description

1) The project area is 24.8 linear miles of the Upper Crooked River, known hereafter as (UCR) mainstem and 4.5 sq. miles of historic floodplain between Prineville Reservoir and its confluence with the N. Fork.2) Degradation of the UCR is well-evidenced by multiple 303(d) listings. During late summer, the UCR often flows at <5 cfs and >80°F. Prior work estimated that floodplain reconnection could support late season flows >20 cfs, which is likely to improve water quality. There is widespread interest in restoration of the UCR, but there are not enough data to provide for science-based restoration planning. In other words, there is a diverse coalition of UCR stewards, but no clear roadmap to restoration.3) This project answers the data needs to guide future UCR restoration. First, we will monitor floodplain groundwater levels in four new transects (and continue monitoring four existing transects). These transects represent a range of valley constraint, hydrologic regime, and soil types to characterize the heterogeneity of the study area. Second, we will collect soil data to characterize the floodplain aquifer. Third, we will fly LiDAR to generate a high-resolution topographic model of the study area. These three activities will provide distributed estimates of current and potential floodplain aquifer volume capacity and the baseflow discharges that such volumes support. Fourth, we will model the amount of floodplain reconnected by two different illustrative restoration options, spanning from small-scale projects to holistic restoration. These results will provide a data-based platform for stakeholders to consider what restoration approaches would be optimal and most cost-effective.4) CRWC, OSU-Cascades, and 7 of 9 landowners in the project area: McGrath, Neuharth, Gillen, Dow, Wood, The Nature Conservancy, Fulbright. Letters of support from: Crook County SWCD, Deschutes Land Trust, Deschutes River Conservancy, Central Oregon LandWatch, USFS Ochoco NF.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The development of restoration plans will provide a valuable foundation to engage landowners interest in future enhancement opportunities.
- The project builds off work initiated by Oregon State University (OSU) and expands it into priority areas to maximize floodplain restoration opportunities.
- The LiDAR data capture will serve as an invaluable tool in restoration planning.
- The project's footprint spans a large geography that is privately owned by landowners who have large parcels. Most of these landowners provided letters of support for the proposed project.

Concerns

- Drilling geotechnical holes will trigger a permit process with Oregon Department of Water Resources (OWRD) that will specify this work be completed by a licensed and bonded well driller unless performed by the landowner. Since the application lacks information on how this project component will be completed, it is unclear whether requirements associated with the OWRD permit will be met.
- The application lacks details explaining how the data to be collected is necessary to develop restoration plans for reconnecting the Crooked River to its floodplain.
- It is not clear from the application whether appropriate State natural resource agencies, such as Oregon Departments of Water Resources, Environmental Quality, and Fish and Wildlife, were contacted and engaged as part of the proposed project.
- It is unclear how many conceptual restoration designs will be developed, and the extent to which a qualified engineer will be involved in developing these designs.

Concluding Analysis

The project will address degraded floodplain and riparian habitats along the Upper Crooked River. The resulting technical assistance will provide quantifiable floodplain aquifer capacity and potential summer streamflow estimates that will be valuable for communicating with landowners and engaging them in floodplain restoration design.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,896

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

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4030-19588

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Maxwell Ranch Bauer's Creek
Diversion Replacement - Survey and Design

Applicant: Lakeview SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$49,485

Total Cost: \$63,093

Application Description

The Lakeview SWCD seeks to continue ongoing legacy conservation efforts on the Maxwell Ranch in Lake County, Oregon, a pivotal landscape in the Oregon SONEC. Maxwell Cattle, Inc. has been a long-time Lake County partner where numerous wet meadow and stream restoration and fish passage treatments have been employed. The project addresses a dilapidated instream diversion structure that currently serves as a fish passage obstacle on Bauer's Creek, contains no fish-screening, and no longer effectively diverts surface water across the historical floodplain. The project aims to replace the traditional structure with a rock chute feature and associated lateral ditch infrastructure to restore perennial fish passage, provide fish-screening, and reestablish flood-irrigation capabilities on 80 acres of historical floodplain wet meadows. The feature is the last remaining fish passage obstacle on the Maxwell Ranch. This project is a collaboration with Maxwell Cattle, Inc., Ducks Unlimited, and the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds off previous fish passage projects implemented on Maxwell Ranch and will address the final barrier on Bauer's Creek.
- The design approach utilizing a roughened channel to facilitate fish passage is technically sound.
- The project area is within in an existing conservation easement, ensuring long-term habitat protection for fish and wildlife.
- The application provides a reasonable rationale describing the strong correlation for how a well-functioning flood irrigation system can benefit migratory waterfowl and native fish.
- The proposed technical assistance effort will also evaluate habitat enhancement opportunities along Bauer's Creek, specifically considering Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) installation and vegetation improvements.
- The applicant actively engaged landowner to think through the project.

Concerns

- Flood irrigation on land with a grazing livestock contributes to bacteria and nutrient loading that can result in poor water quality conditions.

- The application lacks information about the seasonality of the flyway and whether it coincides with the timing of flood irrigation practices to provide meaningful habitat benefits to migratory birds.
- The application lacks details on specific waterfowl species needs and limiting factors, specifically to provide context for how the project will address those needs.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed technical assistance work will continue engagement in stewardship and conservation efforts with the Maxwell Ranch to address the final fish passage barrier on Bauer's Creek. The project fits well within the context of other on-going fish passage and habitat enhancement efforts occurring on neighboring ranches and waterways, which further leverages the habitat benefits from the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,485

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$49,485

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4031-19627

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Deschutes Basin
Comprehensive Water Management Plan-
Technical Assistance

Applicant: Deschutes River Conservancy

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$125,057

Application Description

The Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC), in partnership with the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC), proposes to develop a comprehensive Upper Deschutes sub-basin water management plan through the Deschutes Basin Watershed Collaborative (DBWC). The Upper Deschutes sub-basin is a HUC-8 watershed and encompasses the Middle and Upper Deschutes River above the Pelton-Round Butte Dam Complex and associated tributaries, including Tumalo Creek, Crescent Creek and the Little Deschutes River. This project addresses low and altered streamflow issues in the upper Deschutes River sub-basin, a major limiting factor for fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and watershed health. The Deschutes River is over-appropriated - more water is authorized to be diverted from the river than actually exists in the river. Inadequate streamflow and unnatural stream flow regimes created by valid irrigation water use have been identified as the primary limiting factor with regard to native fish distribution and productivity. The proposed comprehensive water management plan will be built upon years of collaboration and planning in the Deschutes Basin. The recent completion of the Basin Study and HCP provides a substantial and timely foundation to build on in order to develop a comprehensive and widely supported water management plan that will accelerate the efficiency, pace, and scale of water reallocation in the basin to maintain productive agriculture, achieve flow restoration targets, and ensure water supply reliability for the growing communities in the Deschutes Basin. The comprehensive plan follows the framework agreement being completed under the current OWEB grant to the DRC, which also support COIC to facilitate the DBWC's efforts, which includes participation from many disparate collaborative partners (list uploaded). DRC is concurrently submitting a stakeholder engagement proposal to OWEB to support COIC's continued facilitation and co-leadership of the DBWC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will fill critical data gaps and aid in obtaining instream conservation targets set in the recently approved Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) permit.
- The technical assistance effort will build upon an engaged stakeholder group and previous planning efforts to develop multiple strategies to obtain streamflow restoration objectives. The cohesion demonstrated amongst stakeholders ensures project development and prioritization will be done in a coordinated manner through consensus decision-making.

Concerns

- The application lacks information describing the connection of the proposed project with related work funded by an open OWEB technical assistance grant, number 220-4015, and why additional OWEB funding is necessary.
- There are few agricultural landowners involved in the development of a plan that will directly impact their water use and operations.
- The application lacks information describing what eligible restoration projects will be developed with the comprehensive plan and who will be responsible for implementation.
- The timeline in the proposal is ambitious and may not be realistic given the vast geography and complex nature of the future restoration projects.

Concluding Analysis

The technical assistance project continues an ongoing effort to develop a comprehensive water management plan to target and prioritize projects that improve streamflow in the Deschutes River. The water management plan is a logical step in order to prioritize restoration efforts.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

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

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4032-19552

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Oregon Glacier Monitoring Network
in the Upper Deschutes and Hood River Basins

Applicant: Oregon Glaciers Institute

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$170,958

Total Cost: \$306,480

Application Description Glaciers are the natural reservoirs of Oregon's high Cascade-mountain water towers. Their meltwater supports crucial late-summer streamflow, sustaining streams that would otherwise run dry while keeping instream temperatures below fish-survival thresholds. Irrigation, drinking water and fisheries all depend on glacier meltwater discharge to streams yet the glacial source of the meltwater is not monitored. How are these glaciers responding to climate change? What will be the impacts on streamflow, instream temperatures, and flood and debris-flow risks?

The Oregon Glaciers Institute proposes a monitoring project to document the surface mass balance of glaciers within the Upper Deschutes and Hood River Basins. This project will measure the seasonal input (snow) and outflow (melt) of two benchmark glaciers within these basins (Hayden and Eliot, respectively) in an analogous manner to the balance of a human-made reservoir. These data will relate snowfall and temperature to glacier mass changes and attendant meltwater discharge to streams. Annual snowline and biennial dimensional measurements of all glaciers within the basins will determine glacier health, estimate basin-wide summer meltwater discharge and document changes in the volume of naturally-stored water.

This project follows the USGS Benchmark Glacier Program to quantify changes in glacier mass and their effect on streamflow, define the relationship between glacier cover and climate variations, and document potential hazardous situations. Products comprise seasonal glacier contributions to streamflow, annual glacier health and geohazard documentation, and biennial glacier volume estimates. Partners include the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, Hood River Watershed Group and irrigation districts, LightHawk, the Cities of Sisters and Bend, the Deschutes National Forest, Coalition for the Deschutes, Deschutes River Conservancy, the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters of Deschutes County, and Trout Unlimited.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application described the prior glacial measurements that will be used in the study as well as the data collected by the public. This project will leverage existing mass-balance measurements as well as measurement of glacier area and estimates of volume.

- With one exception, the proposed methods will likely be adequate to address the monitoring questions.
- The applicant will be establishing benchmark monitoring stations using protocols approved by the USGS and UNESCO.
- Data storage, processing, and access will be done in compliance with USGS and UNESCO protocol, sent to an archive in Switzerland, and posted on the applicant's website.
- The study design clearly identifies the study sites selected and why, parameters, and frequency to collect the data to answer the monitoring questions.
- The application clearly links the monitoring questions and thoroughly describes how the data will be managed and analyzed.
- The applicant and staff working on this project have the experience and qualifications necessary to complete the project as proposed.
- The application includes several letters of support that demonstrate the extensive list of stakeholders that have been engaged and are interested in the data.
- The budget seems reasonable given the effort involved and the products to emerge over a three-year period. The budget and narrative adequately describe how the costs were estimated.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The USGS documentation referenced in the application describes that the USGS has established a benchmark glacier for all of the Cascades, but the application did not address the relevance of the existing data from this benchmark.
- The applicant cited the USGS methods for establishing benchmark glacier monitoring. However, while all the benchmark sites also include the operation of streamflow gages, gages were not proposed for this study. The applicants do not explain why they did not include this component of the benchmark study design.
- The application did not describe how the data analysis will assess groundwater losses between the streamflow gage and glacier as a part of the computation of the percent contribution of the glacier to streamflow. The analysis to compare glacial discharge to downstream gages is uncertain to result in an accurate determination of annual glacial contribution to that year's streamflow due to not accounting for groundwater loss or contribution that could occur.
- It is not clear if the geohazard component of the monitoring project is an eligible activity, given potential lack of connection to intended uses of Measure 76 funds.
- Some of the costs detailed in the budget may be better included under the indirect costs category.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

The application mentions that, in subsequent years, the applicant will be contributing to a study that uses the Glacier Evolution Runoff Model. When performing this modeling, consideration should be given to the unique hydrology and hydrogeology of the Deschutes Basin. The hydrologic model coupled with the glacial retreat model may not adequately treat the dominant role of groundwater in the region.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has the appropriate education, expertise, and experience to implement the project.
- Glacial status and trend monitoring data is lacking, this effort would fill in gaps to help characterize conditions and potential impacts to water bodies downstream.
- The relative contribution of glacial melt to streamflow has not been studied in the Deschutes River basin.
- Glacier contribution to streamflow will continue to decline given climate change and quantifying this decline could be useful in water management/resources planning.
- The partnership with Lighthawk to capture high-resolution photographs of glaciers will add significant value to the project.

Concerns

- It is unclear from the application how the study design will answer the monitoring question in objective 3 of the application relating to streamflow because there is not a one-to-one relationship between glacial melt and streamflow. The amount of meltwater at or underneath the glacier itself that infiltrates and bypasses the stream network upgradient of existing stream gages is unknown, but likely significant given the highly permeable nature of the young volcanics in the central Cascades and large amounts of recharge that occur along the eastern flanks of the Cascades. Similarly, channel seepage losses for streamflow between the glacier terminus and stream gages may also be occurring. Thus, it is unknown, but likely, that significant portions of the meltwater bypass the local stream network upstream of existing local gages and recharges the regional groundwater system, which then discharges in lower stream reaches of the confluence area. As a result, the study design may not be sufficient to achieve objective 3 in the application because the gages will not capture all the streamflow resulting from glacial melt.
- The application lacks information describing how the proposed project complements current monitoring efforts; for example, studies in the Hood River basin using a combination of hydrologic modeling and isotope sampling to decipher the contributions of meltwater to streamflow.
- The monitoring period may be too short to determine trends and relationships between glacier mass and their effect on streamflow. This also limits the extent to which project objectives can be realized and for the data to inform future restoration work.
- The extent to which the resulting data can inform future restoration may be limited or even unnecessary to carry out restoration actions.

Concluding Analysis

The monitoring effort will implement status and trend monitoring on glaciated areas in the headwaters of the Deschutes and Hood River watersheds. There is an inherent lack of glacial data that could be beneficial to informing water management. However, it is unclear how the proposed monitoring is necessary for informing future restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

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-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4033-19561

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Fifteenmile Creek Steelhead Status and Trend Monitoring

Applicant: Wasco SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Wasco

OWEB Request: \$209,025

Total Cost: \$325,024

Application Description We propose to provide status and trend monitoring of three anadromous salmonid populations (ESA listed Mid-Columbia steelhead, coho salmon, and coastal cutthroat trout) present in Fifteenmile Creek and associated tributaries located within the Fifteenmile Creek watershed, all within Wasco & Hood River Counties.

Fifteenmile Creek flows into the Columbia River immediately downstream of The Dalles Dam on the Columbia River. Anadromous salmonid productivity and life history data for salmonid fish populations were established through monitoring studies from 2006-2019. However, these studies have since ceased, and status and trend data necessary for adaptive management, including evaluations of riparian and habitat improvements, are now lacking. Status and trend data are fundamental and necessary data used to evaluate habitat, watershed enhancement, or ongoing projects. This in a continued effort to recover ESA listed Mid-Columbia Steelhead, for which Fifteenmile Creek steelhead have been designated as 'must have viable' in the NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion.

We propose to monitor the production and life history of salmonids in Fifteenmile Creek Watershed by providing smolt abundance and escapement estimates to the Fifteenmile Creek Watershed for a period of four consecutive brood years. The baseline status and trend data will include brood years 2022–2026; and were selected to compliment and continue collecting baseline production metrics for Fifteenmile Creek Steelhead. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will provide technical assistance in estimating anadromous fish production during these consecutive brood years. Deliverable metrics will include: annual smolt abundance, age structure, migration timing, smolt-adult return estimates to Bonneville Dam & Fifteenmile Creek, overshoot rates and adult return timing to Bonneville Dam & Fifteenmile Creek. Project partners include Wasco County SWCD, ODFW & Fifteenmile Creek Watershed Council.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application provides a thorough explanation of the fish monitoring data that has been collected in the basin since 2006 that this project will leverage.

- This project will extend the life of the existing PIT array at the confluence of Fifteenmile and Eightmile creeks and incorporates some modifications to collect priority data while minimizing costs.
- The monitoring methods and analyses are well suited to address the questions listed for each monitoring question.
- The PIT detection data will be stored in PTAGIS, which is a publicly accessible repository and is backed-up to ensure data storage longevity. The additional fish data will be made publicly available on NOAA and ODFW's Recovery Tracker.
- The ODFW staff conducting the work have the experience and qualification necessary to collect the data in a successful manner and have a track record of the collecting this data in the past.
- The expenses in the budget are well aligned with the work proposed over five years and are adequate to successfully complete the project.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacks detail about how the monitoring is linked to current or planned habitat restoration efforts to be implemented by the grantee and other restoration practitioners in the basin.
- The application briefly mentions that these data can complement habitat data, but it was not clear to the extent habitat data exists or there are plans to collect these data in the future.
- The project mentions the FAST program but does not mention the data they collect or plan to collect to complement this effort.
- The application does not describe how the data would be analyzed to understand how many of the fish overshoot the Dalles Dam and successfully return to Fifteenmile Creek.
- The application does not describe the implications of not operating the downstream migrating juvenile fish trap Friday morning to Sunday afternoon and how that data gap can be accounted for when estimating the abundance of out-migrating juvenile fish.
- The application does not describe the roles of the specific ODFW staff identified in the application.
- The application does not describe the specific efforts to engage community stakeholders to share this information and to assist with describing trends associated with watershed restoration actions.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

The final report should provide a description about how the grantee and restoration practitioners have used or plan to use the data to evaluate effectiveness of restoration actions across the watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous fish monitoring work that occurred from 2006 to 2019 developed a robust data set essential to management of salmonids in the Fifteenmile Creek watershed. The proposed project will continue status and trend monitoring for salmonids in the Fifteenmile Creek where previous efforts left off in 2019.
- The applicant and partners have implemented similar type monitoring efforts with proven success.

- The monitoring data could be beneficial for informing current fisheries, habitat, and water quantity restoration projects in the Fifteenmile basin.
- The data will help managers better understand whether fish are effectively utilizing the sluiceway at the Dalles dam for adult downstream passage.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether all ODFW staff listed can commit to the time allotted in the application and budget.
- The application lacks specific details on how the data will inform future restoration.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed monitoring effort is led by research staff at ODFW. Data collected will provide status and trend information on ESA listed anadromous fish in the Fifteenmile Creek watershed that is critical to inform future fisheries management and restoration needs.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$209,025

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$209,025

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4034-19625

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Wildlife Crossing Effectiveness
Monitoring in Central Oregon

Applicant: OSU Office of Sponsored Research &
Award Admin

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$54,831

Total Cost: \$77,703

Application Description This project will document effectiveness of five wildlife crossing structures on U.S. Highway 97 between Gilchrist and Lava Butte (mileposts 149-185) designed to restore and enhance habitat connectivity for mule deer and elk between summer and winter ranges. Four of the crossing structures have been completed, while the fifth will be completed in 2021 as the latest component of a regional connectivity initiative. Three of the five crossing structures will also include design elements (deer guards) that were not a component of structures completed in prior phases of the project, and for which no effectiveness monitoring has occurred. A previously awarded proposal for completion of the fifth structure specified use of camera traps (in combination with ODOT deer-vehicle collision data) to document individual structure effectiveness but did not include funding for study design, data processing and analysis, or associated reporting. Further, there is a need to monitor all five crossing structures to evaluate regional effectiveness of the habitat connectivity initiative overall and to provide the necessary information to inform future connectivity restoration efforts statewide. Funds requested here will be applied toward camera trap study design, data collection, image processing and analysis, and associated reporting by the Oregon State University Human and Ecosystem Resilience and Sustainability Lab (HERS). HERS will collaborate with both Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and ODOT regarding study design parameters, agency information priorities and reporting requirements. Funding this request will inform a strategic and evidence-based platform for effective regional wildlife crossing systems in a corridor identified as a high priority in the Oregon Action Plan.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the existing data about wildlife vehicle collisions on this highway that are collected and maintained by ODOT, and the camera trap data for some sections of the highway that have existing wildlife passage structures.
- The project will develop a draft and final study design and protocol, with peer review from ODOT, ODFW, and National Park Service staff.
- The applicant cites methods from Colorado and Nevada and acknowledges that these methods will be refined during this project.

- The application describes the quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) measures that will be taken to review the data at key stages for transcription errors prior to data analysis. QA/QC measures are also described in and taken into consideration during camera deployment, and when using software to review the camera trap imagery to reduce redundant counts or missing ungulate movements.
- The application thoroughly describes how data will be stored in Excel and placed on a cloud-based database to share with partners. A comprehensive report will be completed with the finalized protocol and shared with ODOT, OWEB and ODFW.
- The data will be made publicly available by generating a peer-reviewed journal article and a poster will be presented at the OR Chapter of Wildlife Society conference. A presentation will be delivered to local audiences at either the High Desert Museum or Sunriver Nature Center.
- The staff and consultants working on this project possess the necessary qualifications and experience to complete this project as proposed.
- The applicant is engaging the community stakeholders by working with the Central Oregon Landwatch, which is contributing match, to understand wildlife habitat connectivity issues and monitor the wildlife passage project.
- The costs in the budget include expenses for a Master's student at OSU to assist with data collection and analyses. These costs are appropriate for the work necessary to accomplish the objectives and timeline described in the application.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It was not clear how applicable this data will be to inform similar wildlife passage actions in other geographic areas.
- The application does not describe any other current or planned wildlife monitoring efforts besides ODOT plans to continue to collect vehicle collision data by processing road kills.
- The application does not include monitoring questions, which makes it difficult to review the application relative to specific evaluation criteria.
- It was not clear if one year of collecting camera trap data at the newly installed site is enough data to make conclusions about the effectiveness of the different wildlife passage features.
- The study design does not have pre-project camera trap data to compare post-project data they will be collecting.
- The timeline included in the application was confusing; some of the information was conflicting about timing to complete data collection and reporting tasks. It was not clear if there was enough time to complete a thorough analysis and develop peer reviewed journal articles.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will help document the effectiveness of different strategies to safely allow for wildlife passage under and near highways.

- Many other Western states are further along in developing strategies and solutions for wildlife passage, the applicant and partners will utilize and incorporate lessons learned from these other efforts.
- There is a clear need to identify effective wildlife crossing measures since there is a high correlation between crossings used by animals and where animal mortalities have been recorded.
- ODOT traffic data indicates a continued trend in increased highway traffic, making this project timely to inform future wildlife passage design.
- The applicant and partners have experience in similar work and are well suited to be successful.

Concerns

- The monitoring timeline is only for one year which may not be enough time to meet project goals.
- It is unclear why OWEB is being asked to fund this project instead of ODOT, which has a role as managers of transportation infrastructure.
- It may not be cost effective for Oregon to invest in monitoring the effectiveness of wildlife crossing strategies when other Western states have developed proven measures to safely pass wildlife that could be implemented.

Concluding Analysis

The project will utilize previously installed measures to pass wildlife under Highway 97 to understand the effectiveness of these wildlife crossings. The project will evaluate different types of passage mechanisms and track photo data for all animals, which will inform future wildlife connectivity efforts.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$54,831

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$54,831

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4035-19555 **Project Type:** Stakeholder Engagement
Project Name: Hood River Pesticide Management
Applicant: Hood River SWCD
Region: Central Oregon **County:** Hood River
OWEB Request: \$32,981 **Total Cost:** \$50,319

Application Description

This project will take place in Hood River County, which covers the entire Hood River watershed, and focuses on the agricultural areas of Parkdale, Odell, and Hood River. Approximately 350 cherry, pear, and apple orchards cover 10,800 irrigated acres in the Hood River Valley. Orchards are sprayed with herbicides, fungicides and pesticides, and many border waterways making pesticide run-off and drift into surface waters a major concern. Steelhead and Chinook salmon are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and impaired water quality was identified as contributing to their decline (Hood River Watershed Action Plan, 2014 Update). The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership program began in Hood River to sample for pesticides in local waterways and implement best management practices to try to reduce their occurrence in samples. While sampling has been continuous since 2000, pesticide training efforts have waned and efforts in Spanish are non-existent. We propose to provide three years of pesticide trainings, in Spanish and English, to local orchardists and their employees. Trainings will cover hands-on sprayer calibration and optimization, as well as best management practices to reduce the amount of pesticides over applied and in drift. We will provide quick guides, in Spanish and English, to reference when working with pesticides. We will also generate a list of landowners from these workshops interested in establishing vegetative buffers around waterways to reduce pollution entering rivers and streams. Partners include: Oregon State University Extension, Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Training in pesticide application and associated equipment calibration has been identified as a need by the applicant and partners.
- The access to pesticide credits through non-English speaking trainings is a great incentive for attracting participation.
- The proposed training should lead to a more efficient use of chemicals, promoting an environmental benefit and a reduction in operational costs.
- The applicant and partners are experienced with this type of work.
- The proposed stakeholder engagement builds off established relationships and lessons learned from similar successful efforts.

- The timing of the trainings is thoughtful and designed to align with the seasonality of the work to reach as many people as possible.

Concerns

- The application lacks a description explaining a direct link between the proposed engagement activities and expected water quality improvements.
- It is unclear from the application whether the Pesticide Stewardship Program that has been active in Hood River will be engaged in the proposed project.
- Recruiting landowners to establish streamside buffers may be difficult. Growers prefer no vegetation along the stream because it traps cold air sinks that can be harmful to fruit trees.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal presents a thoughtful approach to engage orchard staff to be more efficient with pesticide applications. This project will utilize the same Spanish speaking workshop presenters that assisted with previous irrigation water management trainings that targeted the same set of stakeholders. The proposed stakeholder engagement is likely to succeed in reducing pesticides entering Hood River.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$32,981

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$32,981

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4036-19621

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Upper Deschutes Basin
Comprehensive Water Management Plan -
Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Deschutes River Conservancy

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$84,518

Total Cost: \$172,165

Application Description

The Deschutes River Conservancy, in partnership with the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, proposes to develop a comprehensive Upper Deschutes sub-basin water management plan through the Deschutes Basin Watershed Collaborative (DBWC). The Upper Deschutes sub-basin is a HUC-8 watershed in Deschutes, Jefferson, Crook and Klamath Counties in Central Oregon. It encompasses the Middle and Upper Deschutes River above the Pelton-Round Butte Dam Complex and associated tributaries, including Tumalo Creek, Crescent Creek and the Little Deschutes River. This project addresses low and altered streamflow issues in the upper Deschutes River sub-basin, a major limiting factor for fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and watershed health. The Deschutes River is over-appropriated - more water is authorized to be diverted from the river than actually exists in the river. Inadequate streamflow and unnatural stream flow regimes created by valid irrigation water use have been identified as the primary limiting factor with regard to native fish distribution and productivity. This project focuses stakeholder engagement around the collaborative process of the DBWC – namely, the committees and processes outlined in the Charter (see Attachment C), including the Planning Team, Working Group, and the Technical, Communications/Outreach, and Groundwater committees. The goal is to support these multi-stakeholder groups with neutral facilitation and coordination services to help them develop a collaborative Comprehensive Upper Deschutes Basin Water Management Plan from October 2021 with a final Plan being produced in August 2022, and adoption by regional boards occurring by November 2022. The remainder of the project time frame – from December 2022 to September 2023 – is focused on convening the group to support and monitor the implementation of the Plan. The project also incorporates outreach to key regional boards, the general public, and local and state decision makers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant will utilize a neutral party facilitator with a proven track record leading the Deschutes Basin Watershed Collaborative stakeholder group.
- The proposed work is timely given the need to build consensus in developing a comprehensive water management plan.
- The applicant is experienced and best suited to lead this stakeholder group.

- The engagement is essential to maintain focus amongst a diverse set of interests in developing solutions to a complex problem.

Concerns

- It is challenging to discern how many meetings are included in the budget, and whether the sub-committee meetings are included as well, because the contracted services line item is a lump sum.
- The timeline for generating consensus and approving a comprehensive plan by August 2022 seems optimistic.

Concluding Analysis

Restoring streamflow in the Upper Deschutes River basin is a complex issue involving many stakeholders with various interests. The Deschutes Basin Watershed Collaborative has been actively leading and engaging the stakeholders to develop solutions, this proposal allows for this process to continue.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$84,518

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$84,518

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4037-19624

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Outreach & Collaboration to Promote Easements in Southeast Oregon

Applicant: Oregon Agricultural Trust

Region: Central Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: \$96,485

Total Cost: \$128,125

Application Description

1) Oregon Agricultural Trust's (OAT's) stakeholder engagement project will partner with farmers and ranchers for conservation on their privately owned agricultural lands in our Southeast Oregon focal area of Lake, Harney, and Malheur counties (see map of our strategic focal area). This area includes all or portions of 11 watersheds. 2) This project addresses three issues in the focal area: 1) degradation and fragmentation of rangeland that also serves as Greater Sage Grouse habitat, 2) proliferation of invasive species and woody encroachment of nonnative grasses on these lands, and 3) threatened loss of riparian wet meadow habitat necessary for migratory waterfowl and aquifer replenishment. This project will enable OAT to build existing and new relationships with agricultural landowners interested in permanently protecting their lands with working land easements and participating in conservation activities funded by OWEB and NRCS. Landscape-scale conservation is much more efficient when the land is not fragmented and is stewarded by owner operators who know and invest in their property. Therefore, the use of working land conservation easements to prevent fragmentation and promote ranch and farm business viability will enable effective implementation of regional conservation efforts. 3) Outreach activities are: 1) 6 outreach events to a total of 50 agricultural landowners on how they can use conservation tools to meet their goals of business/succession planning; 2) one-on-one meetings with 20 existing and new landowner partners; 3) development of a booklet for land protection staff to use in guiding landowners through their options; 4) meetings with partner organizations to customize our easement template and develop a FIP or RCPP by fall 2022; 5) develop and draft the partnership grant application. 4) Project partners include: DU; IWJV; Lake, Harney, and Malheur SWCDs; Harney County Farm Bureau; the High Desert Partnership; and the Burns Paiute Tribe.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A stakeholder engagement effort in the proposed geography will allow for opportunities to communicate and build relationships with landowners who have traditionally been challenging to effectively engage.
- The applicant's staff has a depth of knowledge regarding effective ways to engage agriculturally based landowners, including experience in implementing conservation easements on working landscapes.
- The development of a brochure outlining a guide to conservation easements will be an effective tool to provide landowners.

- The conservation values within the project geography are vast, including sage grouse habitat and wetland ecosystems. The applicant will utilize knowledgeable partners to aid in prioritizing easements with high conservation value.
- The applicant has ample capacity to take on conservation easements, is adept at fundraising, and has experienced staff with diverse capabilities.

Concerns

- The cost for hosting six workshops appears high compared to similar projects; however, it is likely because these workshops will require long travel times and various degrees of landowner recruitment work leading up to the workshops.
- The timeline in the application is aggressive to accomplish the work proposed.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant is seeking opportunities to engage remote parts of Southeastern Oregon to gauge interest in conservation easements. The applicant's recent surveying of agricultural producers emphasizes this geography as a priority for engagement and opportunity to protect high value conservation habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$96,485

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

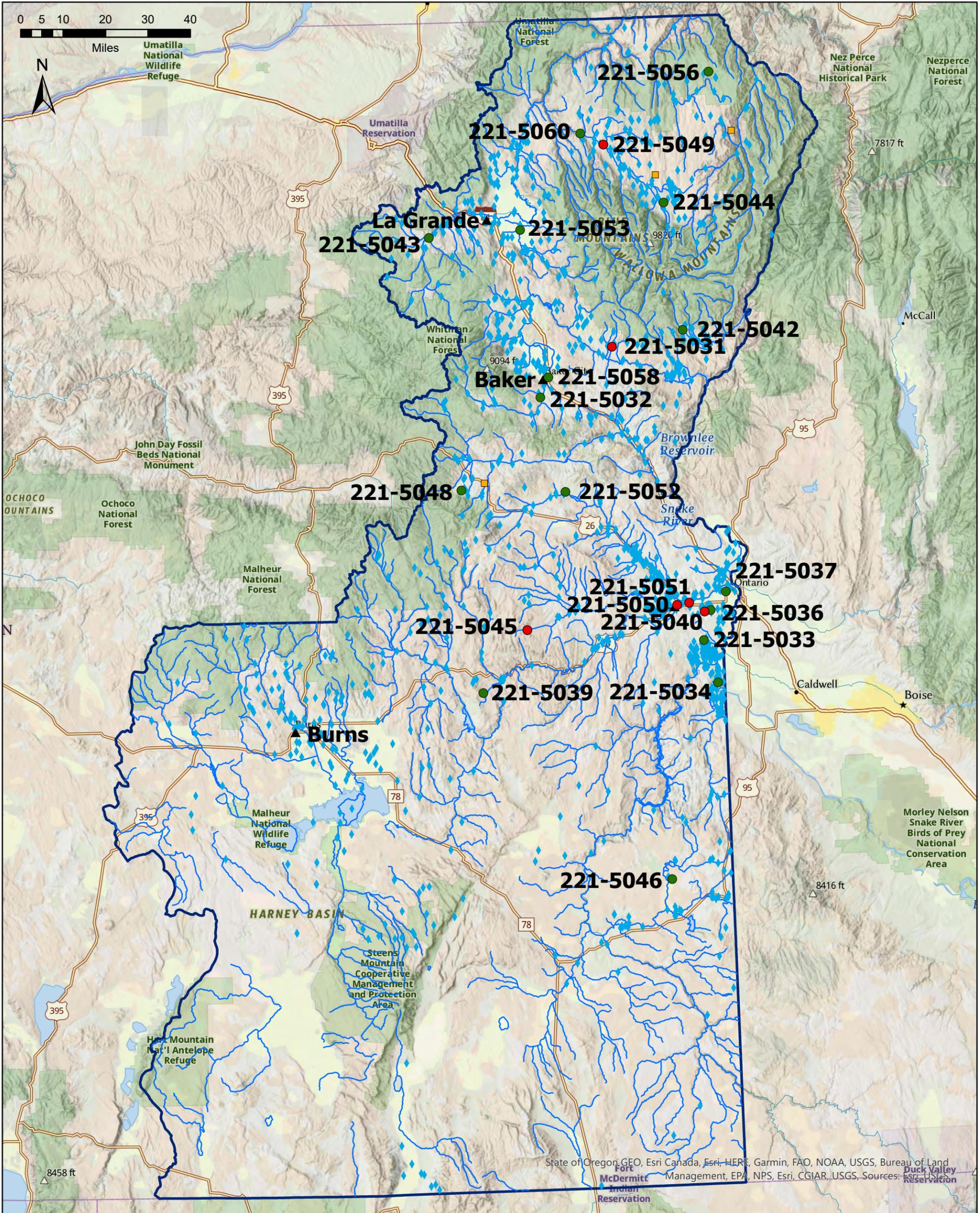
Staff Recommended Amount

\$96,485

Staff Conditions

N/A

Eastern Oregon - Region 5 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2020

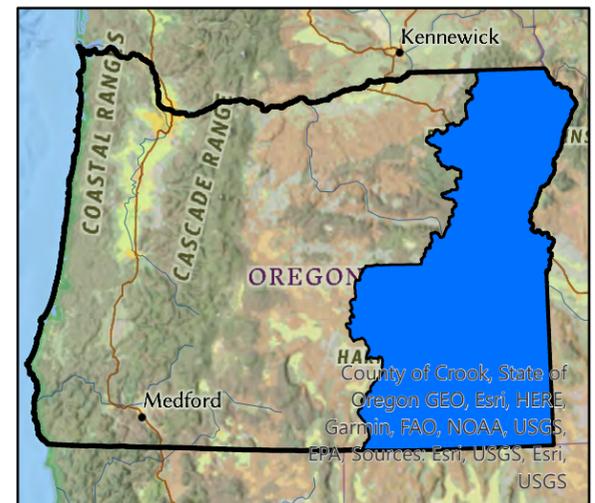
- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 5 Cities
- Region 5 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 5 Boundary



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State of Oregon GEO, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS, Sources: Esri, USGS, Esri, USGS

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon Restoration					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-5043	Tri-County CWMA	Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase VI	Non-native weed inventory, treatment, and monitoring will occur in the Upper Grande Ronde River watershed to contain and control noxious weeds impacting fish and wildlife habitat.	35,474	Union
221-5034	Owyhee WC	Angus Water Quality Improvement	Forty flood irrigated acres will be converted to sprinkler irrigation in the Big Bend area east of the Snake River near Adrian to eliminate irrigation wastewater and improve water quality in the nearby Snake River.	73,538	Malheur
221-5036	Malheur SWCD	The Right Key	Over thirty-five irrigated acres will be converted to sprinkler irrigation in a water quality improvement focus area near Ontario to eliminate irrigation wastewater and improve water quality in the nearby Malheur River.	46,397	Malheur
221-5039	Malheur WC	Poison Creek Wet Meadow Rehab: Stop the Invasion	Juniper will be removed on a 685-acre privately owned land near Juntura to improve habitat for sage-grouse and water quality in the Upper Malheur River Watershed.	155,265	Malheur
221-5033	Owyhee WC	Birds Eye Water Quality Improvement	Twenty flood irrigated acres near Adrian will be converted to sprinkler irrigation to eliminate irrigation wastewater and improve water quality in Cow Hollow Creek as well as the Lower Owyhee River.	38,371	Malheur
221-5037	Malheur SWCD	Watering Juniper Chapter 2	Juniper will be removed on a 376-acre privately owned land near Brogan to build on prior sage-grouse conservation efforts and improve water quality.	106,861	Malheur
221-5042	Powder Basin WC	Pine Creek Fish Habitat Enhancement Resubmit	Fish habitat and water quality will be improved in Pine Creek near Halfway by improving livestock management, planting streamside vegetation, and constructing instream structures to address eroding streambanks.	69,210	Baker
221-5044	Tri-County CWMA	NE Oregon Yellow Flag Iris Control	Yellow flag iris, a non-native and invasive plant, will be inventoried, treated, and monitored in Baker, Union, and Wallowa Counties to contain and control this noxious plant impacting native plant communities.	22,050	Wallowa
221-5046	Owyhee WC	Blue Bird Water Quality Improvement	Sixty-five flood irrigated acres west of Jordan Valley will be converted to sprinkler irrigation to eliminate irrigation wastewater and improve water quality in Cow and Jordan Creeks as well as the Upper Owyhee River.	54,794	Malheur
221-5032	Baker Valley SWCD	Vaughn Stock Water	Sediment and bacteria delivery into Powder River will be eliminated by piping an irrigation ditch and installing watering troughs to prevent livestock access to surface water on private property near Baker City.	37,567	Baker
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				639,527	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County

Region 5- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Borad: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grancy Cycle July 26, 2021

221-5031	Keating SWCD	Skinner Irrigation and Stock Water	Water quality in Balm Creek and the Lower Powder River in the Keating area of Baker County will be improved by converting 180 flood irrigated acres to sprinkler irrigation to eliminate irrigation wastewater and developing three springs to provide off stream stock water access.	53,654	Baker
221-5040	Malheur SWCD	Arabian Pipeline	An open earthen canal will be converted to a burried pipeline to convert 243 flood irrigated acres to sprinkler irrigation, which will eliminate wastewater and improve water quality in the Malheur River.	128,531	Malheur
221-5045	Malheur WC	Indian Creek Fire Rehab: Kill Medusahead While You Can	Critical sagebrush-steppe habitat for sage-grouse will be restored following the Indian Creek fire near Westfall in Malheur County by treating invasive annual grasses, removing juniper, and rebuilding pasture fence.	75,420	Malheur

Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT						
Project #	Grantee	Project Title			Amount Requested	County
221-5030	Burnt River SWCD	High Line Ditch Repair			19,275	Baker
221-5035	Harney SWCD	Sagebrush Habitat Restoration HC54 and HC78			664,024	Harney
221-5038	Malheur SWCD	Gully Wash			33,720	Malheur
221-5041	Malheur SWCD	Investing in NF Bank Futures			96,648	Malheur
221-5043	Tri-County CWMA	Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase VI			35,474	Union

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-5048	Powder Basin WC	Makin' Clarity on the Run	Designs will be developed for efficient and effective irrigation diversion structures that will eliminate the need to install and maintain push-up dams, which will improve water quality, fish passage, and stream channel stability in the South Fork Burnt River Watershed near Unity.	29,194	Baker
221-5053	Union County Admin Services	Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Feasibility and Stream Flow Study	A large-scale instream study of the Grande Ronde River upstream of La Grande will be conducted to determine instream flow needs and inform future fish habitat, water conservation and storage, and water quality improvement restoration.	75,000	Union
221-5052	Malheur WC	We Ain't Greenhorns but We Need Help Fixin' Willow Creek_CLONE	Restoration plans will be developed to address the lack of streamside vegetation, floodplain function, and fish habitat on Willow Creek upstream of the Malheur Reservoir, which will improve water quality and fish and sage-grouse habitats.	62,701	Malheur
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				166,895	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-5051	Malheur WC	River Mile 15: Technical Assistance_CLONE	Designs will be developed to address eroding streambanks, poor streamside vegetation, deficient water quality, and inadequate wildlife habitat on a private property near Vale in the Malheur River watershed.	38,352	Malheur
221-5049	Wallowa Resources	Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland Upland Restoration	A restoration plan will be developed to convert a three-acre stand of non-native grasses to native plants using non-chemical methods.	8,123	Wallowa
221-5050	Malheur SWCD	More SSP Plans	Habitat conservation plans will be developed for six landowners and progress will be monitored on ten additional properties with existing plans in a priority sage-grouse habitat in Malheur County, which will contribute to proper land stewardship for sage-grouse conservation.	67,705	Malheur

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
None					

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon Stakeholder Engagement

Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
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None

Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff	
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Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
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None

Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
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None

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-5056	Wallowa Resources	Monitoring the Effects of Management on Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation (MIM): Phase 3	Grazing allotments on US Forest Service lands will be monitored to inform pasture management decisions and activities that will lead to improved stream conditions and fish habitat.	21,815	Wallowa
221-5060	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation	Grande Ronde Basin Stream Flow Gauging Stations Operation - Water Years 2022 & 2023	Stream flow data will be collected at twelve stream flow gauging stations located in Union and Wallowa Counties to inform irrigation water management, fisheries research and management, and restoration project development.	101,002	Wallowa
221-5058	Powder Basin WC	Powder Basin Long-Term Water Quality Monitoring - Enhanced	Water quality data will be collected in the Powder River Basin to build on eight years of existing data, better understand long-term water quality trends, and inform land management and restoration.	174,662	Baker
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				297,479	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-5057	Harney SWCD	Harney CCAA Monitoring	147,414	Harney	
221-5059	Malheur SWCD	Down and Dirty	69,827	Malheur	

Region 5 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	1,103,901
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5030-19443

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: High Line Ditch Repair

Applicant: Burnt River SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$19,275

Total Cost: \$24,323

Application Description

This project is located near Hereford, Oregon, about seven miles from Unity Reservoir, in the Burnt River Soil and Water Conservation District and partially within, and surrounded by, the Burnt Fork Focus Area; part of Oregon Department of Agriculture's Ag Water Quality Program. This project consists of the open earthen High Line Ditch that diverts irrigation water from the Burnt River and travels two miles to the property; serving as the only source of irrigation water. A 700-foot section of the High Line Ditch is currently experiencing severe erosion and water loss due to the rocky composition of the soil as well as the steep terrain at the project site. The proximity of the Burnt River (only 215 feet below this eroding section of ditch) makes a potential failure an even greater concern. If erosion continues at the same rate, the ditch will wash out, causing significant damage to the project site while contributing a large bedload of sediment, debris, and matter into the Burnt River. The landowner is partnering with the Burnt River SWCD to implement the High Line Ditch Repair project to mitigate the erosion and water loss at the project site.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The map and photos provided in the application clearly present the water quality problem to be addressed, including the proximity of the ditch to the Burnt River.
- Piping the ditch may be a technically sound alternative given the site conditions, including rocky ground.
- The landowner consulted an irrigation contractor for pipe sizing and design alternatives.
- The applicant has been engaging producers to build support for improved irrigation water management near Unity.

Concerns

- The application does not provide evidence that the design alternatives were considered and that the proposed project is an effective way to improve the irrigation ditch and prevent erosion.
- The proposed solution may address an isolated problem in the immediate project area, but the application does not describe the whole ditch system or provide detail to determine project priority.
- At completion the producer will not change flood irrigation practices on the property. Project benefits are limited to a small improvement to the water delivery system.

- The project implementation strategy in this area is piecemeal and focuses on a landowner-to-landowner approach rather than a larger watershed perspective. A larger discussion with the irrigation district is warranted to improve water delivery and to make significant ecological change.
- Without linkages between water quality data and the proposed action within the larger system of the irrigation ditch and the Burnt River, the watershed context and priority for the proposed action is unclear.
- The Burnt River Irrigation District is not identified as a partner on the project. This is important as the district delivers stored water to patrons demonstrating the need for their participation.

Concluding Analysis

Proposing to mitigate erosion and irrigation water delivery loss in an ODA water quality focus area, the applicant seeks to pipe a small eroding section of the High Line Ditch. Water quality and quantity are high priorities in the watershed, but it is unclear to what extent the proposed actions will improve these parameters. The application lacks significant detail; it is unclear if this problem is isolated or pervasive in the ditch, designs are not included in the application, and the partnership does not include key participants. Likelihood of success is unknown based on the information provided.

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-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5031-19449	Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Skinner Irrigation and Stock Water	
Applicant: Keating SWCD	
Region: Eastern Oregon	County: Baker
OWEB Request: \$53,654	Total Cost: \$191,263

Application Description

This project is located within the Keating SWCD as well as the Lower Powder Strategic Implementation Area (SIA); a focus area that consists of four drainages (including Balm Creek) and multiple tributaries to the Powder River. This area was chosen specifically to help demonstrate the effectiveness of water quality programs, as well as for the watershed's need for continued water quality improvements. The Skinner Irrigation and Stockwater Project will address 180 acres of flood irrigated pasture ground and exposed springs that are currently being trampled and degraded by livestock use. Sourced from Balm Creek, an unnamed irrigation ditch transports water to the project site where it is then diverted into a series of earthen ditches that flood irrigate the property. As flood irrigation water is "pushed" across the field it collects sediment, debris, and material adding it to Balm Creek. In addition, flood irrigation requires more water than what is necessary to refill the soil profile compared to a pivot system, which allows the landowner to apply water only when and where it is needed. Water-saving is a big concern. More water is used through flood irrigation than is necessary and ineffectively covers the ground. Water quality becomes a main concern as well, as sediment and other debris flows down the hillside, emptying back into Balm Creek in the Lower Powder SIA. The landowner will partner with Keating SWCD to convert 180 acres from flood irrigation to sprinkler by installing two center pivots, developing three springs and installing three rubber tire watering troughs to encourage livestock to redistribute across the pasture. With the installation of the pivots, the ditch will be abandoned and the only source of water will come from the water trough.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner is engaged, motivated, and ready to implement the proposed project.
- Photos and maps provided in the application show the terrain in sufficient detail to evaluate the proposed project.
- Converting from flood to pivot irrigation may have a significant water savings benefit, although the benefit is not quantified.
- The project is within the Lower Powder River ODA Strategic Implementation Area, which is a priority for water quality improvement. A water quality monitoring plan is currently in development in this area that encompasses the SIA geography. The monitoring will document landscape changes related to irrigation water and livestock management improvements.
- The application references applicable science from the Klamath Basin describing nutrient reduction to creeks resulting from this project type, providing confidence the project is focused on outcomes.

Concerns

- The application does not have sufficient detail on slopes, how the pivots will negotiate the steep site conditions, and how the terrain will impact equipment longevity and irrigation application.
- Closed trough systems with an automatic shut off or piped water return will result in greater water quality benefit than the proposed open system.
- The wetlands in the project area are not natural systems, making this a challenging place for the SWCD to work from a regulatory perspective. Additionally, the springs are not exempt from permitting and require a stock water development permit from OWRD.
- It is unclear if there will be a quantifiable water quality benefit without fencing the springs.
- The drainage ditches on this property are part of a larger system that flows into adjacent BLM lands with robust vegetation communities, bringing into question the riparian management on this private property.
- Russian Olive, an invasive species, occupies the spring sites, which will obstruct the pivot operation. More detail on how the project will address Russian olive would have strengthened the application.

Concluding Analysis

Seeking to improve water quality in ODA's Lower Powder River SIA, the applicant, in partnership with the landowner, proposes to convert 180-acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation and improve stock watering methods. Both conservation approaches are generally effective methods to improve water quality; however, the application lacks topographic and design detail informing the longevity and effectiveness of the pivots. The proposed stock watering system is not exempt from OWRD permitting, requiring the system be built as an enclosed system.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

11 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$53,654

Review Team Conditions

Construct stock watering troughs as a closed system with no overland return flow and according to OWRD permitting requirements.

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-2021 Spring Offering **Eastern Oregon (Region 5)**

Application Number: 221-5032-19452

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Vaughn Stock Water

Applicant: Baker Valley SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$37,567

Total Cost: \$51,331

Application Description

This project is located just outside of Baker City, Oregon in the Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and within the Powder River Watershed. The Powder River is located approximately one mile from the project area and is connected through several irrigation ditches. Currently, livestock have unrestricted access to water in an irrigation ditch that runs through a five-acre corral at the project site. While there are many factors that contribute to poor water quality, unrestricted livestock use amongst freshwater systems is the most common cause in rural areas, causing erosion and contributing excess sediment, nutrient, and organic matter inputs that flow directly back into the Powder River via the irrigation ditch. With the successful funding of this project the landowner will reroute the irrigation water that currently runs through the corral, thus no longer using the ditch, by establishing a new headgate location on the Stewart ditch and installing 20 feet of 12" and 720 feet of 10" PVC pipe to carry irrigation water around the corral instead of through it. Three new heated frost-free water troughs that will serve eight individual corrals within the five-acre area using steel cross fencing to better manage livestock distribution and watering access. These restoration activities will eliminate livestock pressure on the ditch entirely and will prevent future erosion, sedimentation, and run-off from entering and further degrading water quality in the Powder River. The landowner is partnering with the Baker Valley SWCD to implement the Vaughn Stock Water Project

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed methods are technically sound. Using domestic water to fill the troughs in the winter will benefit the system by reducing maintenance, eliminating the need to source water from an unreliable irrigation ditch, and add to the longevity of the watering system.
- The proposed corral system will provide a long-term solution to help mitigate water quality issues that result from winter feeding.
- Removing ditch water from the corrals provides a significant water quality benefit.
- Water quality monitoring documents elevated E. coli levels in the Powder River and this project will reduce bacteria runoff to the river.
- The proposed project will likely provide significant water savings through improved irrigation water delivery.
- Potential additional costs due to rising material prices, specifically large diameter pipe, will be absorbed by the landowner as match.

Concerns

- The application would benefit from more clarity around the plan to supply the troughs with well water and clear identification of the stock water source.
- The fencing material to construct the pens is appropriate and necessary; however, it is unclear if the amount of fencing proposed is appropriate for the site.
- Obtaining large diameter pipe is currently a challenge due to ongoing supply and materials shortages.

Concluding Analysis

Removing an irrigation ditch from this domestic livestock feeding facility near Baker City will have significant water quality benefit to the Powder River, which has documented sediment, organic material, and E. coli pollution. The irrigation ditch not only provides water for livestock but delivers water to a 58-acre irrigated field adjacent to the facility. Placing this ditch into a pipeline for irrigation purposes and installing a stock watering system will address both water quality and water conservation concerns on this property.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

10 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$37,567

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$37,567

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5033-19490

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Birds Eye Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$38,371

Total Cost: \$55,466

Application Description

The Birds Eye Water Quality Improvement Project is located approximately 5 miles NW of Adrian on East Cow Hollow Creek. The project area consists of 20 pasture and hay acres currently irrigated with flood/gated pipe irrigation. The upper project area sits above East Cow Hollow Creek and has many steep slopes which direct irrigation tailwater containing sediment, nutrients and bacteria directly into East Cow Hollow Creek. Steep slopes combined with current flood/gated pipe irrigation methods are also causing severe erosion in multiple areas of the fields. East Cow Hollow Creek is a tributary to Cow Hollow Creek and the Lower Owyhee River. The proposed work includes converting 20 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 1 wheelline, 7 big gun sprinklers on carts and all required pressurized conveyance infrastructure. Project partners include the landowner, Owyhee Irrigation District, Owyhee Watershed Council, and Romans Precision Irrigation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application addresses comments from a prior review and includes water rights information, a map of other irrigated land nearby, and clarification that a water right transfer is not needed.
- Five alternatives were identified and evaluated prior to selecting the final design.
- Similar projects have resulted in little to no irrigation runoff after implementation.
- Combining two points of diversion into one is efficient, cost-effective, and reduces watershed impacts.
- The soils in this area are highly erodible and eliminating irrigation water runoff will have direct water quality benefit to Cow Hollow Creek and the Owyhee River.
- Monitoring data from Cow Hollow is provided with the application and indicates that the proposed project is likely to address a known water quality problem.
- The proposed project fits within the context of and builds on similar projects that have been implemented in this watershed.
- The project is located near the headwaters of the watershed, which is an ideal location to implement this type of work.
- At completion, the project will have high visibility and will be a catalyst for other water quality improvement work in the area.
- The applicant has a strong track record of implementing similar projects.

Concerns

- No concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 20 steep and highly erodible flood irrigated acres from flood to sprinkler application will eliminate irrigation wastewater from this property. The application is a resubmittal that addresses prior review concerns, proposes fully vetted actions resulting from an analysis of many alternatives, and helps implement ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives for Cow Hollow Creek and the Owyhee River.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$38,371

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$38,371

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5034-19505

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Angus Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$73,538

Total Cost: \$181,160

Application Description

The Angus Water Quality Improvement Project is located across the Snake River just East of Adrian in the Big Bend Area. The project area consists of 39.69 acres of pasture, hay, and row crop land currently irrigated with flood/gated pipe irrigation. Tailwater containing sediment, nutrients and bacteria flow off the project area into the Oakander Drain, Singer Drain, then into the Snake River approximately ½ mile from the project site. The proposed work includes converting 39.69 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 2 pivot systems (35.69 acres), 2 solid set big gun sprinklers (2 acres), handline sprinklers (2 acres), all required pressurized conveyance infrastructure. Project partners include the landowner, Big Bend Irrigation District, Owyhee Watershed Council, and Rain for Rent Irrigation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Maps, photos, and design details within the application are clear and helpful in evaluating the project.
- The proposed work is well thought out and the application contains data supporting the chosen design.
- The site is located close to the Snake River and is an appropriate location to convert from flood to sprinkler irrigation, reducing transport of nutrients, bacteria, and sediment to adjacent water ways.
- There is no water quality monitoring in this area, but the Snake River downstream of this project does have monitoring sites. A decrease in sediment and phosphorous has been documented at those sites, which may be attributed to upstream improved irrigation water management efforts.
- The Big Bend area is a priority for the Owyhee Watershed Council and this project builds on prior installed flood to sprinkler conversion projects.
- The applicant consistently completes projects in a timely manner and as proposed.
- The project area is important and often overlooked by other entities due to its geographic location east of the Snake River and on the Idaho and Oregon border.
- A contingency is provided within the budget to accommodate rising material costs.

Concerns

- Small diameter pipe installation is missing from the budget, but this expense is identified in the application as landowner match.
- Pipe availability is low, and cost is high due to COVID 19 disruptions to pipe manufacturing and supply chains. This could impact the project implementation timeline and budget.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 39.7 irrigated acres from flood to sprinkler application will eliminate irrigation wastewater from this property. Reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria runoff will build upon other work in the Big Bend area implementing ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives for the Snake River. Application clarity, descriptive uploaded documents, and applicant track record indicate a high likelihood of project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$73,538

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$73,538

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5035-19509

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Sagebrush Habitat Restoration
HC54 and HC78

Applicant: Harney SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: \$664,024

Total Cost: \$899,083

Application Description

The majority of the project area is located within the original Harney SWCD sage-grouse FIP boundary (Drewsey PAC), while a small portion is just outside of it in preliminary general habitat (PGH). The Harney SWCD is continuing to restore sage-grouse habitat on private properties enrolled in the Harney Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). Coordination with partnering agencies and neighboring properties is critical in planning and implementation of our projects. The private landowners of Harney county are determined to improve ecosystem health and expand critical sage-grouse habitat. By cutting juniper it will create connectivity of each critical habitat type that the sage-grouse requires, and will provide a safe corridor for migration. Juniper encroachment remains a major threat to sage-grouse habitats. Juniper serve as perches for birds of prey, and sage-grouse instinctively avoid areas with significant juniper cover. In the absence of "pre-settlement" wildfire regimes, juniper out compete shrubs, native grasses and forbs. Without active juniper removal, the sage-brush steppe can transition to a juniper dominated site with less desirable species, such as invasive annual grasses. With annual grasses comes an increased, unnatural, fire interval. These types of fires can destroy thousands of acres of critical, intact, habitat. With this increased threat comes the need for installation of "fuel breaks" to protect critical habitats. Fuel breaks can consist of conifer removal, brush reduction, annual grass treatment and seeding of desirable perennial species. Properties enrolled in the Harney CCAA are required to address threats to the survival of the Greater sage-grouse. The SWCD seeks to use OWEB funds for the implementation of juniper removal and medusahead treatment to minimize wildfire threat and restore sagebrush habitat. Project partners include, NRCS, BLM, HCWMA, USFWS, private landowners and ODFW.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will address recommended conservation measures for sage-grouse conservation on the subject properties.
- The project is adjacent to similar work on both private and public land and builds on past sage-grouse conservation efforts. The proposed work will fill in the gaps where other organizations are unable to work.
- There is a direct link in peer reviewed literature between sage-grouse population growth and juniper removal.

- The properties are within and adjacent to core sage-grouse habitat, the highest priority for sage-grouse conservation.
- Landowners enrolled in a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) have an annual conversation with Harney SWCD about conservation measures implemented and the project areas are monitored on a three-to-seven-year rotation.

Concerns

- The desired perennial cover and the location of invasive annual grass treatments are unclear, making it challenging to determine the technical soundness of the proposed project.
- The application lacks a grazing management plan, which is necessary to determine the likelihood of long-term sustainability of the conservation investment.
- It is unclear whether slash piles will be burned and if so on what timeline. Landowner match for slash pile burning is detailed in the budget but is not described in the narrative.
- It is unclear how juniper density was inventoried and what stages of juniper encroachment exist in the project area.
- The density of medusahead is unclear from the application and additional detail describing how medusahead will impact the proposed conservation measures is needed.
- The application maps lack detail; inclusion of aerial photography would have helped provide clarity on juniper density and potential sage-grouse benefit.
- Landowner privacy concerns notwithstanding, the application lacks specific maintenance and monitoring requirements necessary for understanding the likelihood of long-term success of the project. A detailed description of the CCAA and how it will improve sage-grouse habitat on the properties would have been helpful.
- Letters of support indicating partner roles and responsibilities are needed to evaluate whether appropriate partners are engaged.

Concluding Analysis

Harney SWCD continues to implement sage-grouse conservation efforts with private landowners following the completion of the Harney SWCD sage-grouse FIP. This work in the Drewsey PAC proposes to control encroaching juniper and treat medusahead, both of which are threats to sage-grouse. The application lacks significant detail including inventory methods, description of how these efforts promote sage-grouse conservation, and conditions in the field. Partnerships are not described, and lack of post-treatment maintenance is a concern for project longevity.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5036-19522

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: The Right Key

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$46,397

Total Cost: \$118,787

Application Description

1) Six miles west of Ontario, located in the Morgan Bench Focus Area. This proposed project will connect to the pressurized Morgan Feedlot Pipeline (OWEB #220-5034) that runs east of the proposed project, that will be installed in the fall of 2021.2) Runoff from 36.5 acres of flood irrigation on 65 irrigated acres for this farm is contributing to the sediment loads from the Nevada Ditch, then the Malheur River which is known to be the second dirtiest river in the state, ending up in the Snake River. The landowner uses his fields in the winter months to winter 60 to 70 head of livestock. There is a small hill on the South West corner of the field that is currently difficult to irrigate with gated pipe, requiring extra water to be applied trying to get this area wet.3) Grant 220-5034 Morgan Feedlot Pipeline will be installed by Owyhee Irrigation District (OID) this fall with NRCS funding for pipe cost increase and cultural survey done. The landowner working with NRCS and the SWCD will connect to the new pipeline- Morgan Feedlot Pipeline turn out and • bury 902 feet of 100# PIP Pipe to the center of the pivot pad. • 4 tower Reinke pivot with end gun, • Clemmons in line screen at the pivot pad to irrigate 30 acres. • The 3-phase power is already set up on Morgan Avenue by the landowner, working with Idaho Power and is ready for use. • Cornell 3 phase hp pump and electrical panel next to road. • Bury 3543 feet of 3 phase electrical power from panel box to pivot pad. • Landowner will remove 1480 feet of fence. • install 1250 feet of new fence. 4) Landowner, NRCS, ODA, Idaho Power, BOR, Owyhee Irrigation District and the SWCD

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner is ready to implement the project and power is already on site.
- Soil maps are included with application, which helps determine applicability for the proposed irrigation system.
- Other irrigation methods are present on the site, informing the irrigation design choice. The project team evaluated a range of alternatives and determined that pivots are most appropriate for the site.
- The proposed design will double the efficiency of the current irrigation system.
- Water quality monitoring data is included in the application and is used to identify this project as a priority in the Morgan Bench focus area.
- Elimination of irrigation water tail flow will result in direct water quality benefit to the Malheur River.
- The project will build on other OWEB funded projects located nearby, including a pipeline that will serve this farm.

- Morgan Bench is a water quality improvement focus area for the applicant, NRCS, ODA, and DEQ, and the project area is monitored to document improvements to water quality.
- NRCS will provide final design if the application is funded.
- The partners have a successful track record of promoting and implementing similar projects.

Concerns

- Shortages in supplies and materials may impact project readiness.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 36.5 irrigated acres from flood to sprinkler application will eliminate irrigation wastewater from these acres. Reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria runoff will continue work in the Morgan Bench priority area implementing ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives for the Malheur River. Application clarity, descriptive uploaded documents, and partnership track record indicate a high likelihood of project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$46,397

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$46,397

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5037-19523

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Watering Juniper Chapter 2

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$106,861

Total Cost: \$135,283

Application Description

The project is located approximately 11 miles West of, Brogan OR. within Malheur County . The project is needed to further protect sage grouse while expanding their available habitat within the property. Juniper has vastly taken over southern portions of the property and needs to be addressed before anymore under story is lost. This will be a continuation of a previous cut to further remove 376 acres of encroaching juniper within enrolled lands. Also, by removing juniper we are going to be expanding the landscape and connecting larger corridors of Sage Grouse habitat. This will result in increasing spring flow water entering pole creek which is currently lost through interception and evapo-transpiration. Additionally, as this property is enrolled in the CCAA and has a letter of concurrence the project will allow MC018 to further address Juniper related conservation measures outlined in their plan and remain in compliance while transitioning the landscape from C State to an A state. Project Partners include L/O MC018 and Malheur SWCD

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Many photos are included with the application providing clarity on the landscape perspective of the project.
- Vegetation inventory information is included with the application, which helps to understand the species present and the conservation needs.
- Removing juniper has a direct and proven link to improving sage-grouse use and habitat quality, including reduced fragmentation.
- The project will build on previous work by connecting to prior successful juniper treatment efforts.
- The property is enrolled in a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) and is priority habitat for sage-grouse.
- The project will maintain initial investments because of the CCAA enrollment, where monitoring and maintenance is a long-term requirement of the agreement.
- Due to its context within priority sage-grouse habitat where successful conservation measures have been implemented, the site is strategic and continues to expand on previously established habitat benefits.
- The landowner has a track record of successfully maintaining previous juniper treatments.

Concerns

- Pre- and post-treatment photos from previous projects would have strengthened the application.
- Landowner privacy concerns notwithstanding, a map providing regional conservation information would be helpful to understand landscape context.
- The application indicates that a small dozer will be used for juniper control. While an experienced operator may be successful at reducing the area of impact, lower impact methods may be more suitable.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant proposes to improve sage-grouse habitat by continuing to remove encroaching juniper on 376 acres. Informed by successful prior projects, landowner attention to maintenance, and conditions of the CCAA agreement, there is confidence this work will be maintained post-treatment. The application would benefit from inclusion of past project monitoring results and further description of treatment methods; however, landowner history provides confidence in project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$106,861

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$106,861

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5038-19526

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Gully Wash

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$33,720

Total Cost: \$45,719

Application Description

1) The project is in the NRCS Jacobsen Gulch priority area, approximately 6 miles North of Ontario. Runoff is 1.22 miles before co-mingling the Jacobson Gulch Drain, then .22 miles to the Snake River. SWCD samples Jacobson Gulch Drain 2X a month during irrigation season. 2) The first gully created by over watering from the neighbor's tree farm is in the middle of 11 acre field and the second gully is at the top east corner of the landowner same field, but in a different field for the neighbors runoff. The gullies have cut banks and are very steep. This issue started in the early 2013 and has increased in depth size since. 3) This proposal will Pipe the drain that comes underneath Oak Road alongside the driveway before it crosses into his pasture and stopping in the trees before entering his pond. Up at the top of the East side of the field, collect runoff into a can, then pipe down to the pond. This project would improve water quality by reducing erosion. This project is in a NRCS priority area and has erosion issues. Water quality improvement in the Jacobsen Gulch Priority. Water quality improvement is achieved through on-farm irrigation infrastructure improvements and management. This project is all about irrigation management. • 4 – Control Structures • 1300 ft-10" 80 pip pipe for gully • 1140 ft -12" pip pipe for drain • 300 yards of fill dirt • Pipe the drain 4) Project partners include NRCS, landowner and the SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Water quality monitoring occurring in Jacobsen gulch as part of the SWCDs monitoring program may inform the proposed project.

Concerns

- The application does not indicate that alternative conservation approaches were considered.
- The erosion occurring on the property is a result of irrigation water delivery mismanagement on a neighboring property. The proposed project addresses a symptom rather than the root cause of the watershed problem.
- There is no clear water quality benefit to Jacobsen Gulch and the Snake River given that all sediment and wastewater go to a pond on the property.
- Water delivery and overuse problems must be addressed by Owyhee Irrigation District.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant proposes to collect and pipe mismanaged irrigation water and deliver it to a pond located on the project site. While this action may stop erosion, the methods are not substantiated by a design, and no actions are proposed to improve irrigation water management. It is unlikely that the project as described will measurably improve water quality.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5039-19531

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Poison Creek Wet Meadow Rehab:
Stop the Invasion

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$155,265

Total Cost: \$210,840

Application Description

1) This project is located around Poison Creek about 5 air miles SW of Juntura.2) Juniper is shading out native vegetation around 3 wet meadows and 1.85 miles of the riparian area. Reduction of native vegetation negatively affects sage-grouse habitat and Poison Creek's hydrology. The project area is in core sage-grouse habitat. Juniper out-compete native bunchgrass, forbs and shrub necessary habitats for sage-grouse life cycle. And juniper provide perches for avian species predating on young sage-grouse. Riparian areas and wet meadows are critical for late-season, brood-rearing. Because of less-than-desirable vegetation conditions, Poison Creek is susceptible to erosion during heavy cloudburst storms common in the area. These conditions lead to excessive erosion and sediment movement. Several recent studies have shown that dense stands of juniper negatively affect infiltration of water to the ground, which affects wet-meadow function.3) Remove juniper from 685 acres165 acres are "light" density -Late Stage I240 acres are "medium" density -Early Stage II280 acres are "heavy" density -Late Stage IIChainsaws will be used to cut juniper. Slash will be machine-piled on 360 acres for later cool-season burning. "Light" density and steep areas the slash will be lopped-and-scattered and limbs cut to keep the slash below 4-feet.Post-Project MaintenanceOn a yearly basis, the treated area will be inspected to determine if action needs to be taken. Criteria include counts of juniper trees per-acre. Action will be needed if there are 10 or more trees per acre. These actions could include mechanical treatment of small or large areas with loppers and/or chainsaws. This monitoring will occur for a minimum of 10 years.This project complements nearby juniper removal and riparian restoration projects. Approximately 3,550 acres treated, and successful plantings along Cripple Creek.4) Partners include: MLB Ranch, Department of State Lands, Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project objectives are clearly stated, and a monitoring plan is provided with the application.
- The site description, photos, and overview map provided in the application are clear and demonstrate site conditions in a way that helps in understanding the conservation benefits of the project.
- Examples of similar projects implemented by the applicant are provided in the application.
- The selected methods are appropriate to treat juniper expansion in the project area.
- Careful thought is given to techniques proposed in different habitat types to minimize impacts on sensitive areas.

- Springs in this area are important for wildlife including big game and sage-grouse and are a priority for ODFW.
- The applicant has a successful track record of monitoring their projects.
- The landowner manages grazing on the property appropriately to minimize ecological impacts.
- The budget is realistic based on location, access, and juniper density considerations.

Concerns

- The costs to treat juniper on public versus private lands with similar population densities are different due to the necessity of hand cutting in sensitive areas. This is not detailed in the application and would have helped with budget clarity.

Concluding Analysis

The application proposes to treat 685 acres of stage 1 and stage 2 juniper encroachment in sage-grouse habitat near Juntura. Treatments are site-specific by location and take into consideration upland, mesic, and riparian habitats and impacts from juniper removal activities. The applicant is experienced, the landowner maintains prior projects effectively, and a monitoring plan is included providing confidence the project area will be maintained post treatment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$155,265

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$155,265

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5040-19533

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Arabian Pipeline

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$128,531

Total Cost: \$313,531

Application Description

1) The project is in the Malheur SWCD, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and NRCS designated priority area of Morgan Bench 9 miles west of Ontario with Owyhee Irrigation District and NRCS as major players in this proposal. This lateral spills into Lee Road Drain, Mal 389 where the SWCD has a continuous flow meter and a water quality sample point that the SWCD samples 2X a month in the irrigation season using ODA funds. 2) The proposed pipeline is located 9 miles west of Ontario and services bench ground which has slopes up to 15%. Excessive sediment, nutrients, and bacteria are being delivered to the Malheur River caused by irrigation induced erosion and the lateral itself. This earthen lateral serves about 243 irrigated acres of crop ground that is flood irrigation. We have grants on two landowners with NRCS commitments to replace furrow to sprinkler system on 100 acres and another 21 acres this fall on this lateral. Potentially these fields could deliver 2 to 5 tons of sediment per acre per year to the Malheur River that empties into the Snake River. 3) We are proposing to:-- Replace 7040 feet of Arabian earthen lateral with an enclosed pressurized system. -- Install 8 turnout assemblies with flow meters to feed adjacent fields, one check gate -- Connect pipeline to junction box for the two landowners at the end of the pipeline.-- Install a self-cleaning screen at the headgate on the canal to keep debris and moss out of the pipeline.-- Install various kinds of tees, elbows, air vents, pressure reducers, valves, and gates. 4) Partners are:-- NRCS-- Owyhee Irrigation District-- Malheur SWCD-- Oregon Department of Agriculture

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes helpful maps showing the project area and watershed context.
- Photos show the lateral under different flow conditions, providing a clearer understanding of the watershed problem.
- NRCS is a partner in the project, providing review of the design package prior to implementation, and an engineering inspection to ensure proper installation.
- Morgan Bench is an ODA and NRCS focus area and this project builds on many prior completed and in-progress projects.
- The Owyhee Irrigation District was present at the virtual visit and is an engaged partner.

Concerns

- Monitoring data from the Morgan Bench area exists but is not included in the application. Inclusion of the data would have helped demonstrate potential water quality benefits of the project.
- The application is not proofread, making some sections difficult to understand.
- The application does not describe the overall project benefit in the Morgan Bench area and the number of acres in the queue for irrigation conversion is not articulated.

Concluding Analysis

Converting the Arabian canal to a pipeline will improve irrigation water delivery to 243 acres in the Morgan Bench priority area. This work will further efforts to implement ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives by reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria delivery to the Malheur River. While the application lacks clarity, descriptive uploaded documents and stakeholder participation indicate potential likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

12 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$128,531

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5041-19535

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Investing in NF Bank Futures

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$96,648

Total Cost: \$123,488

Application Description

1) The project is on the North Fork of the Malheur River about 9 air miles north and west of Juntura, Oregon. It is part of the Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) designated by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. 2) Need: Riparian vegetation is not in good condition at the site. There is not enough woody species present to modify water temperature and prevent bank erosion. The banks have 4 (four) to 8 (eight) feet unprotected vertical drops and are continually eroding which is contributing to excessive sediment entering the stream. The North Fork is listed by DEQ for not attaining water quality standards for dissolved oxygen and for lacking aquatic habitat. According to ODFW, redband trout, a state designated sensitive species, use the area. 3) Our goal is to improve stream, and riparian function. This will improve water quality, habitat for fish, amphibians, and other aquatic life. To accomplish this we propose to:-- Install 1388 feet of whole tree and rock revetments using 82 large juniper trees with limbs still attached (20 foot long 24 inch dbh), 98 large anchoring rocks (3 foot by 3 foot by 3 foot), 170 willow clumps above and behind juniper trees and 990 cubic yards of mixed native fill. -- This will stabilize eroding streambanks, reduce the channel's width/depth ratio, and reduce bank erosion. 4) Partners include the Landowner, RSI engineering, and the Malheur SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project may build upon other restoration work in the ODA Strategic Implementation Area.
- The applicant is experienced and has implemented similar projects.

Concerns

- A grazing plan is not identified or described in the application and is necessary to assess the sustainability of the restoration project.
- The application lacks an assessment of the compatibility of current land management practices with proposed restoration.
- Further design details including a risk and alternatives analysis are needed to evaluate likelihood of success for this type of work in this location.
- Objectives reference riparian and aquatic habitat improvements but don't align with proposed actions.
- The design is at 60% and appropriate stakeholder review by ODFW, ODA, DEQ, and others has not occurred, demonstrating a lack of due diligence.

- The scope of the project is mostly limited to instream infrastructure and consideration of the riparian area and floodplain including grazing management is not articulated.
- Proposed hardening the outside river bends may not consider fluvial geomorphic attributes of the river or be the best alternative for overall ecological benefit. Channel hardening may preclude attainment of restoration potential as well as transfer erosive flow forces downstream.
- The project treats symptoms rather than the root cause of the problem which includes grazing management and high flow releases from Beulah Reservoir.
- There is no identified plan for fish salvage which is likely to be a requirement of project construction.
- Electric fence is a concern for long-term maintenance and will not preclude browse of planted material by deer and elk, for which there is no plant protection plan.
- There is a lack of understanding of flood events in this watershed. Some erosion control work has been done; however, confidence is low that the proposed project will address erosion.
- Similar nearby projects are still in the beginning stages of implementation and success is unknown.
- The project would benefit from the involvement of stakeholders during the project development and design phase.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant proposes to improve water quality, riparian condition, and fish habitat below Agency Dam on the North Fork Malheur River. The application is informed by an OWEB-funded technical assistance grant and that design effort is at 60%. As proposed, the project lacks important detail and designs at 60% are not sufficient to confidently review a project in this location. Given the location below a dam known for high flow releases, completion of an engineering risk analysis as the design approaches completion and the inclusion of relevant stakeholders is imperative.

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-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5042-19551

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Pine Creek Fish Habitat
Enhancement Resubmit

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$69,210

Total Cost: \$96,615

Application Description This project is located on the Corrigan property within and adjacent to Pine Creek, approximately six miles upstream from the town of Halfway, OR in the eastern portion of Baker County. Pine Creek has been the focus of attention for fish recovery during the past decade due to efforts by ODFW and Idaho Power Co. to re-establish migratory bull trout from the current population that resides high in the headwaters of Pine Creek year-round. In addition, redband trout, which are considered a species of concern in Oregon, reside throughout the Pine Creek system year-round. In 2010, Pine Creek experienced a 30-year flood event, which highlighted to many landowners the poor health that the system is in. Because of this, landowners have been interested in working with us to improve function of the watershed. The goal of this project is to enhance fish habitat, while addressing the concerns of landowners regarding damage from past and future flooding. By using engineered log structures to deflect high flows and stabilize approximately 220 feet of eroding banks, managing livestock grazing through installation of a riparian buffer fence, and planting of native willows, there will be multiple benefits to Pine Creek. These include reduced sediment inputs, increased shade to lower water temperatures, more overhanging vegetation to provide hiding cover for fish and an increase in the diversity of fish habitats through pool formation and establishment of backwater. Partners on this project include the landowner, who is providing logs from her property and the Idaho Power Company. Idaho Power Company will provide \$14,505 cash contribution for rootwad installation and installation of riparian fencing and in-kind donation of boulders and willow whips for the project (\$4,928 value).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A grazing management plan will be prepared prior to project implementation.
- Metrics are provided in the drawings for depth, velocity, and shear stress, which will help determine project success.
- All concerns identified in the previous evaluation are addressed with this application.
- The project approach includes use of cottonwood root wads, which will help initiate riparian vegetation recovery.
- The proposed revetments include logs with boulders used as ballast which is a more natural approach than riprap.

- Bull trout use this reach as a migratory corridor and the proposed restoration will contribute to bull trout recovery in the Pine Creek Basin.
- The project site has minimal fish habitat complexity and proposed actions will help to improve that limiting factor.
- Habitat both up- and downstream of the project site is of high quality adding to the importance of restoration at the project site.
- The applicant's project manager is a fish biologist with over 30 years of experience and has extensive local knowledge and understanding of Pine Creek watershed dynamics.
- Project cost for the expected benefit is favorable.

Concerns

- Application objectives are general and lack success measures.
- Revetments are not currently a preferred method of aquatic habitat restoration and may not be the most appropriate treatment for the site.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmittal and follows an OWEB-funded technical assistance grant for stream restoration in Pine Creek near Halfway. Bull trout and redband trout are a conservation priority focus for Idaho Power, USFWS, and ODFW, and landowners along Pine Creek are seeking ways to protect their properties from frequent area flooding. The partnership proposes to restore aquatic habitats and improve riparian conditions while providing infrastructure protection. The final design package is comprehensive and demonstrates a high likelihood of achieving the objectives.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$69,210

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$69,210

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5043-19582

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase VI

Applicant: Tri-County CWMA

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: \$35,474

Total Cost: \$57,474

Application Description

Located within the Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed, approximately 10 miles west of La Grande, the Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase VI project seeks to contain and control leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and diffuse knapweed. Since 2016, OWEB has continuously supported Tri-County's efforts to inventory, treat, and monitor leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and diffuse knapweed in this watershed. Leafy spurge is the primary target of this project and due to its longevity, consistent herbicide treatments are necessary for effective control. Historic anthropogenic disturbances in this area have negatively impacted many fish and wildlife species, including Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Many of these disturbances have introduced invasive species, such as leafy spurge, and have promoted the spread of these species throughout the watershed. This project began treating high priority areas, such as the Grand Ronde River, in Phase I, and has worked outwards towards the larger infestations by Phase V. The goal of Phase VI is to treat all known leafy spurge sites along the Grande Ronde River and provide follow-up treatments of leafy spurge in the Phase V project area. Tri-County is already contracted with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Oregon Parks Dept. to treat all noxious weeds within their project areas along the Grande Ronde River in 2021 and coordinates treatment efforts with the US Forest Service. Given the aggressive nature of leafy spurge, this project is more important than ever to continue given the recent large-scale efforts to restore native fish habitat in the Upper Grande Ronde Watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is ready to implement, and landowners are motivated to continue weed control in the area.
- The photo points provided are helpful in evaluating the success of past treatments.
- Inventory and monitoring work continue to be implemented, helping to measure project success.
- The selected approach is systematic, with each phase having an inventory component and setting the stage for the next phase of treatments.
- Staff and hired contractors assess adjacent lands as well as the treatment areas, improving the effectiveness of the program.
- The applicant has demonstrated success implementing similar types of projects and the work is organized, clear, and methodical.

- The applicant has successfully built relationships with private landowners through a systematic approach to developing and implementing projects.
- The project is cost-effective and has many components for the price including weed treatment, inventory, monitoring, and educational outreach.

Concerns

- Dates in the proposal schedule are not accurate and this work is scheduled for 2022, not 2021.
- Outreach efforts may not be reaching the target audience including agricultural organizations, river user groups, hunting organizations, and irrigation ditch managers.
- The project approach is sound, but the applicant should consider planning more than one year of work with OWEB funding. A multi-year approach will provide project continuity and security.
- The budget for project management may not be sufficient to cover all necessary project management costs.

Concluding Analysis

Tri-County CWMA proposes to continue treatment of several invasive weeds in the Upper Grande Ronde River Basin near La Grande. This is phase six, and the prior five phases demonstrate effective inventory, treatment, and monitoring techniques, which has led to a successful and high functioning program. There are many relevant project partners working towards the success of the project including the Umatilla Tribe, state and federal agencies, and private landowners.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$35,474

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$34,474

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5044-19589	Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: NE Oregon Yellow Flag Iris Control	
Applicant: Tri-County CWMA	
Region: Eastern Oregon	County: Wallowa
OWEB Request: \$22,050	Total Cost: \$35,290

Application Description

Since 2009, Tri-County has worked with both landowners and agencies to inventory and control yellow flag iris in NE Oregon through funding from the DEQ and BLM. Although yellow flag iris is widely distributed across much of Oregon, in NE Oregon only a handful of populations exist. Starting 2016, Tri-County began working closely with Idaho Power to treat and manage yellow flag iris in the Hells Canyon and Oxbow Reservoirs of the Snake River. This working relationship has effectively reduced the total yellow flag iris population by 80% within the treated areas. The primary goal treatments in this project area is to protect the Wild and Scenic portions of the Snake River from yellow flag iris invasion below the dams. A total of 85 miles of shoreline along with reservoirs has been treated annually by Tri-County staff and proposed to be treated in this project. Outside of the reservoirs, little is known about the distribution of yellow flag iris in Baker County and its potential to re-invade the reservoirs of the Snake River, ultimately making its way to the Wild and Scenic areas of the Snake River. In Union County, yellow flag iris has been found in two sites along the Grande Ronde River but have recently been eradicated. Additional inventories are necessary in Union County to map yellow flag iris in the irrigation ditches that feed into the Grande Ronde River. Tri-County is seeking funding to cover the cost of staff time to inventory, prioritize, treat, and monitor yellow flag iris in Baker, Union, and Wallowa (select populations) counties in 2021. This project will work closely with the weed supervisors from each county, along with the USFS, and Idaho Power to inventory and prioritize treatments of yellow flag iris. A long-term management plan will be developed to ensure that treatment efforts are consistent, effective, and will be maintained beyond the life of the grant period.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides information to demonstrate the success of previous yellow flag iris control projects.
- Identifying yellow flag iris sites in Baker, Union, and Wallowa counties and controlling them before they are large infestations is an effective approach.
- Preventing the spread of yellow flag iris into areas where it would be very difficult to control is an effective watershed strategy.
- The applicant has a strong partnership with Idaho Power that effectively treats yellow flag iris in the Snake River and tributaries.
- Tri-County CWMA is forward thinking in its weed control methods and has a proven track record in implementing successful projects.

- The applicant is organized and diligent in tracking hours and effort spent on each project, resulting in effective budgeting.
- The proposal is cost-effective for the expected benefit and the amount of ground covered.

Concerns

- Dates in the proposal schedule are not accurate and this work is scheduled for 2022, not 2021.
- Outreach efforts may not be reaching the target audience including agricultural organizations, river user groups, hunting organizations, and irrigation ditch managers.
- The project approach is sound, but applicant should consider planning more than one year of work with OWEB funding. A multi-year approach will provide project continuity and security.
- The budget for project management may not be sufficient to cover all necessary project management costs.

Concluding Analysis

Tri-County CWMA proposes the inventory, treatment, and monitoring of yellow flag iris in Baker, Union, and Wallowa Counties. This is phase 1, which is informed from prior treatment efforts in partnership with Idaho Power and the US Forest Service along the Snake River. The applicant runs a successful and high functioning weed control program with many project partners from each county, state and federal agencies, and Idaho Power.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$22,050

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$22,050

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5045-19601

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Indian Creek Fire Rehab: Kill
Medusahead While You Can

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$75,420

Total Cost: \$657,820

Application Description

- 1) The project is located at the Becker Horse Camp on the Indian Creek Ranch, about 14 air miles from Westfall.

- 2) The human-caused Indian Creek fire ignited on August 16, 2020. The wind-driven fire swept through western juniper, Wyoming big sagebrush, antelope bitterbrush, Ribes species, scattered mountain-mahogany, rabbitbrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, Sandberg bluegrass, cheatgrass and medusahead. The fire was contained a month later burning 45,180 acres (36,687 BLM, 6,737 private, and 1,756 State acres). The fire burned fragile sage-grouse habitat on private and public land. The burned area has an increased likelihood of invasive species expanding and dominating the perennial bunchgrass and rangelands critical to sage-grouse habitat.

- 3) We are proposing to spray the 1,520 acres of the Horse Creek area at Indian Creek Ranch (private) adjacent to the BLM. Medusahead and cheatgrass will be treated with Imazapic at a rate of 6 oz/acre. The spray will occur shortly after the BLM sprays over 14,000 acres to ensure that noxious weeds will not reinvade adjacent treated areas. Malheur WSC and Indian Creek Ranch were awarded a Wildfire Response grant earlier this year to rebuild more than 67,000 feet of fence surrounding the Becker Horse Camp area. This spray project complements the BLM's fire rehabilitation activities. The proposed fence will help protect these treated areas from livestock until the vegetation is vigorous to support grazing again. Spraying medusahead and cheatgrass helps ensure that perennial bunchgrass and forbs, dietary requirements for sage-grouse, will remain the major component in the plant community. Reducing the amount of medusahead and cheatgrass present in the stands will help improve the overall stand conditions.

- 4) Partners are the Vale District BLM, Indian Creek Ranch and the Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation Strengths

- This project provides an opportunity to treat medusahead following the Indian Creek fire in 2020, before the species expands significantly within the disturbed areas.
- Medusahead is an invasive annual grass with a high silica content that is unpalatable for livestock and wildlife. One year's growth is manageable, but a quick control response is important to limit its occupation of the site.
- There does not appear to be much medusahead re-growth to date even though earlier treatments were not completed.
- Waiting to see the status of native vegetation response post-fire and prior to seeding is a conservative approach.
- The project builds on work started with OWEBs Wildfire Response grant awarded in 2021.

Concerns

- A post-treatment grazing management plan would have been helpful to understand long-term project viability and is not included in the application.
- The site visit clarified that seeding will be accomplished by helicopter and the seed mix intent is to prevent erosion and the spread of medusahead, but this information is lacking in the application.
- The timeline does not coincide with the availability of OWEB funding in October of 2021. Medusahead control is most effective if implemented during the year of the fire and a winter treatment is less effective than in the fall due to weather conditions.

Concluding Analysis

The partnership of Vale BLM, Malheur WC, and the landowner have been proactive in restoring this landscape following the Indian Creek fire in 2020. The landowner is actively rebuilding fence lost to the fire and BLM is controlling erosion and juniper, as well as mapping and planning the control of medusahead. The timing of medusahead treatment described in the application is a concern and post-treatment grazing management is not included, both of which bring into question the effectiveness of the proposed actions.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

13 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,420

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5046-19620

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Blue Bird Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$54,794

Total Cost: \$158,858

Application Description

The Blue Bird Water Quality Improvement Project is located across approximately 12 miles west of Jordan Valley, and consists of 65 acres of flood irrigated meadow and alfalfa cropland . Tailwater containing sediment, nutrients and bacteria flow off the project area through a series of small drain ditches, into Cow Creek, Jordan Creek and the Upper Owyhee River. The proposed work includes converting 65 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 1 pivot system, 8-inch pipeline, 25 HP pump and required electrical connections. Project partners include the landowner, Owyhee Watershed Council, Aqua Irrigation and Agrilines Irrigation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The maps and photos are clear and helpful in evaluating the proposal.
- There are both surface and ground water rights on the property, providing adequate source water for this and future irrigation water management.
- The project will have water quality benefit as the project site drains into Jordan Creek, a tributary to the Upper Owyhee River, both of which are a DEQ concern for E. coli and phosphorous.
- The proposed work builds on an OWEB Small Grant project that piped source water to the project area.
- The landowner is new to irrigation water management conservation and is inspired by neighbors implementing similar work.
- The project site is adjacent to sage-grouse core habitat. Conversion from flood to sprinkler irrigation will reduce mosquito populations and therefore could reduce sage-grouse mortality due to West Nile Virus transmission.
- The proposed project, along with several prior OWEB-funded projects demonstrates the benefits of watershed restoration in an underserved area.
- Owyhee WC has a track record of successfully implementing similar projects in similar geographies.

Concerns

- A phased approach to conservation is mentioned in the application; however, it is unclear how this phase and the prior OWEB Small Grant pipeline will lead to a possible third irrigation water management project.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 65 flood irrigated acres to sprinkler application will eliminate irrigation wastewater in the project area. Reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria runoff will continue work in the Jordan Valley area implementing ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives for the Upper Owyhee River. Application clarity, descriptive uploaded documents, and applicant track record indicate a high likelihood of project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$54,794

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$54,794

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5047-19640

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Morgan Horse Derby

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$83,451

Total Cost: \$139,853

Application Description

1) 9 miles West of Ontario, located inside the Morgan Bench Focus Area.2) Runoff from 70 acres flood irrigation on a small cow/calf operation, 70 irrigated acres for this farm is contributing to the sediment loads in the Lee Road Drain, that spills into the Nevada Ditch, then the Malheur River which is known to be the second dirtiest river in the state, ending up in the Snake River. The landowner uses 17 acres to grow crops in the summer and in the winter months, uses this field as a pasture, along with his other acres of pasture for 60 to 70 head of livestock. This farm has a major ridge line that runs north to south along his landscape. There is as much as 25 % fall in parts of the farm that is flood irrigation with gated pipe.3) This project aligns well with Arabian Pipeline, Horses in the Corner and Wrangling Horses. • Install new orifice head gate with measuring blade at main canal,. With measuring device being installed at headgate on canal for OID ditch rider to read, no flow meter is required. • Install and Bury 400 ft of 10" pipe from canal to delivery point (OID)• Install and bury 1620ft 8" delivery pipe to pond• Install a VFD, 3 phase converter• Install a large floater pump on holding pond• Install and bury 1200 feet of 6" 100# PIP Pipe to the pivot pad. • Install a 5- tower Zimmatic pivot with end gun for a wipe pattern, • Run 1200 ft of #2 Wire to pivot pad • Cornell 20 hp pump and electrical panel next to road. • Install 2 solid sets groups4) Landowner, NRCS, ODA, OID, and SWCD

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Converting 70 flood irrigated acres to sprinkler application will make progress towards conservation priorities in the Morgan Bench focus area.
- Reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria laden runoff from the property will have significant water quality benefit to the Malheur River.
- Ongoing water quality monitoring will enable the documentation of project impact.
- The landowner is prepared to absorb any increase in the cost of materials.
- Efficiencies will be achieved with the Arabian pipeline project, should both projects be funded.

Concerns

- It is unclear where irrigation wastewater goes when it leaves a pond on the property.

- The pumps needed for the irrigation conversion are not identified clearly on the maps provided and it is not evident why they are not located closer to the source water, bringing into question the soundness of the project design.
- It is unclear why a closed system option is not considered that would place the pump in the delivery pipeline, providing additional pressure and eliminating the need to pump from the lower elevation pond.
- Due to lack of application clarity, it is challenging to determine the watershed benefit.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 70 irrigated acres from flood to sprinkler application will reduce irrigation wastewater. Reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria runoff will continue work in the Morgan Bench priority area implementing ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives for the Malheur River; however, the application lacks clarity and design rationale is not evident. A future application will benefit from a clear description of on-farm wastewater management, an irrigation design alternatives analysis, and quantification of the expected water quality 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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5048-19501

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Makin' Clarity on the Run

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$29,194

Total Cost: \$37,134

Application Description

This proposed Technical Assistance project will address water quality, fish passage, channel instability and irrigation efficiency issues associated with five irrigation diversions in the South Fork Burnt River watershed. Four diversions are located on Bull Run Creek (tributary to South Fork Burnt River) and one diversion is located on Miners Creek (tributary to Bull Run Creek). The project area is located on private land approximately three miles southwest of Unity, Oregon. These diversions currently do not have permanent diversion structures, requiring the water user to annually install push-up dams to divert water. Installation of push-up dams increases sedimentation, blocks or inhibits passage of native interior redband trout and destabilizes the bed and banks of the stream. In addition, irrigation waters are routed to desired application areas by open ditch, where the water is applied by flooding. This method of delivery/application can lead to significant loss through the ditch and application as well as routing of sediment, nutrients and herbicides/pesticides to the waterway. The water user desires to install permanent diversion structures and ditch piping to accomplish more time-efficient and environmentally sustainable irrigation practices. This project will fund design of permanent diversion structures and irrigation water delivery piping to accomplish this goal. The design process will explore alternatives, and lead to a 90% design of the selected alternative that best meets the needs of the water user and addresses water quality, fish passage and channel instability issues. OWEB funds will be used to hire a qualified engineer to conduct the design work and provide construction cost estimates.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed actions are clear and comprehensively described.
- The actions described are inclusive and forward thinking with regards to the steps needed to achieve project outcomes.
- The capacity of the applicant is improving and moving in a positive direction.
- One of the landowners has been involved with other conservation work and is poised to contribute effective long-term stewardship for the resulting restoration project.
- The budget is reasonable for the work proposed and is a cost-effective method to design for improved irrigation water management in the project area.
- The applicant sought multiple cost estimates to inform budget development.

Concerns

- It is unclear if there is support from all landowners involved in the project.
- The project schedule may be aggressive for the work proposed, specifically completing field investigation, survey, and design work by the end of spring 2022.

Concluding Analysis

Located in the South Fork Burnt River watershed near Unity, Powder Basin WC proposes to deliver a 90% design package that will address irrigation water diversion, delivery, and application with the intent of improving aquatic habitat and water quality. The chosen design will prescribe permanent points of diversion eliminating the need to import material for annual diversion dam maintenance, as well as design a pipeline conveyance system improving delivery efficiency, both of which will be preceded by an alternatives analysis. With improved capacity at the watershed council, this application demonstrates the intent to implement restoration work in an area that is a water quality improvement focus for both ODA and DEQ.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$29,194

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$29,194

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5049-19506

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland
Upland Restoration

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$8,123

Total Cost: \$11,330

Application Description This project will be located on the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland Project site, located in Wallowa, Oregon. The Homeland Project serves as a meeting place for tribes who once lived in and used the Wallowa Valley prior to European settlement. The Homeland Project site includes over 300 acres of Wallowa River frontage, valley bottom pastures, and upland grasslands on Tick Hill. The valley bottom pastures and the transition zone to uplands are largely comprised of non-native grasses. We propose to make a restoration plan for 3 acres of this transition zone and uplands, converting the monoculture of non-native grasses to desirable native plants. Project partners include Wallowa Resources, tribal members, Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland Project (staff and board), and a local botanist.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Technical assistance work is an appropriate pathway to develop a restoration project at this location. There are many unknowns about the project site, as well as the desired species composition, that will be addressed.
- There is a need to know more about the invasive plant species present to design an effective method for site preparation techniques as well as post-construction control.
- The methods developed may be transferrable and scalable to other similar restoration efforts.
- The proposed project site has potential to demonstrate effective restoration of native plant species in an area of high visibility.
- This project phase will provide important momentum to achieving the restoration work.

Concerns

- The application lacks clarity and it is difficult to understand project specifics from information provided in the application. The application does not describe how similar local efforts will inform the work, how and when native plant nurseries will be involved, and how existing irrigation may impact the design as well as restoration results.
- The application lacks clear objectives, and the expected outcome of the resulting restoration project is unclear.
- The site is heavily used by the public and the applicant needs to consider this use when planning the restoration work.

- Given the novel methods of invasive species control, including the use of pigs to control Medusahead and no use of herbicides, a future restoration project may not be cost effective or produce intended results.

Concluding Analysis

The application presents an opportunity to develop, demonstrate, and produce a design to restore 3 acres of transition zone vegetation from existing non-native grasses to desirable native vegetation. Located adjacent to a river restoration project and between riparian and upland vegetation communities, the applicant and partners will develop revegetation methods that will inform a future restoration effort. Methods developed may be non-traditional and may be transferable to other locations. If the project is successful it will offer vegetation control alternatives to common chemical or mechanical means.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$8,123

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5050-19532

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: More SSP Plans

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$67,705

Total Cost: \$94,664

Application Description

1. Four proposed SSP plans are in current FIP area, two are south of Vale, Oregon.2. We are seeking funding for one existing CCAA Coordinator/Rangeland position and one seasonal technician. Staff funding is needed to continue to work with 10 existing landowners that have a SSP on 80,621.15 acres for monitoring, and new SSP plan development on MC004, MC006-B, MC013, MC005, MC023, and MC025 encompassing 49,500 and over 50 miles of stream and will affect 3 Priority Areas for Sage-grouse Conservation (PACs). 3. Baseline monitoring has already taken place on the six proposed plans to be developed; MC004, MC006-B, MC013, MC005, MC023, and MC025. Each of these property owners has a assigned LOI. The rangeland employees will work with the participating landowners to finish developing their individual Site-Specific Plans that are intended to promote good land stewardship and sage grouse survival. Within the grant time frame, employees will work with landowners, US Fish, and other partners to gather data, develop maps, write plans, plan treatments, and manage CCAA's and enter all SSP information in a newly created data management system. The primary sage-steppe ecosystem threats being addressed are juniper encroachment, annual grass invasion and wildfire. 4.) US Fish & Wildlife will be working closely with the SWCD employees on documentation forms, SSP's, and working to help resolve issues or problems that are encountered. And to make sure the information is being entered into the database correctly. Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee -Employees will document work being done in the county to meet the goals set by the Steering Committee and will contribute as applicable to further the achievement of the goals and objectives of the All Counties CCAA work Plan.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowners are engaged and the demand for site specific plans (SSP) in Malheur County is high.
- This technical assistance project is ready to proceed with baseline data already collected on the subject properties.
- Data collection procedures have been modified to eliminate PACE 180 transects and photo point documentation has been simplified. This protocol change requires less time and the data remains comparable.
- The Oregon all Counties CCAA (Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances) database is complete and can be used as new CCAA properties are enrolled, resulting in a more streamlined data collection and storage process.
- The applicant has done this type of work and can implement the work as described in the application.

- Unit costs are low for the work proposed, especially when compared with similar projects in the region.

Concerns

- It is unclear how long the requested funding will support staff to perform the work.
- The application does not describe how interested landowners are prioritized.
- The project timeline and budget do not align. Budgeted staff hours indicate .5 years of employment for 2 employees and the project schedule indicates 4 years of work.
- Some counties are continuing to do the more rigorous PACE 180 monitoring transects as part of the monitoring protocol, which will result in differences in data collection across county lines.
- It is unclear which staff positions will be doing the proposed work and qualifications for the new employee are not detailed in the proposal.
- Budgeting for longer than one year of work would help ensure project continuity and reduce staff turnover.

Concluding Analysis

Malheur SWCD proposes to provide partial funding for the existing CCAA coordinator and hire a seasonal technician to complete six site specific plans on CCAA enrolled properties in Malheur County. While the applicant has experience with this work, there are several concerns including proposal inconsistencies, data collection protocol modification, and landowner prioritization as well as staff longevity, compensation, and qualifications. Baseline data has been collected on each property, data collection protocols are established, and with the CCAA all counties database operational several efficiencies are now in place to promote sage-grouse conservation in southeast Oregon.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$67,705

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5051-19568

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: River Mile 15: Technical Assistance_CLONE

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$38,352

Total Cost: \$50,752

Application Description

1. The project is 3 air miles east of Vale; river mile 15 on the Malheur River. 2. Several 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 damaging. There was a record amount of snow fall in 2016-17, which led to record high levels of run-off. Riparian vegetation is inadequate in places along the project reach and the aquatic habitat is very simple, no pools, hiding cover or woody debris. The river in this reach does not meet water quality standards for temperature, sediment and nutrients. Invasive species such as Russian Olive is encroaching. The owner is interested in controlling weeds and improving wildlife habitat along the 1.3 mile reach. 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. In addition to the stream habitat work, we will develop a plan for controlling weeds, and planting desirable riparian vegetation that will attract all forms of wildlife. And we need to explore the possibility of enhancing 16 acres of riparian wetland. 4. Partners are the landowners, Malheur WSC, RSI engineering, and design reviewers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The video, maps, and photos provided in the application are clear and helpful in understanding the proposal.
- Designing for wetland habitats in the project reach is feasible and appropriate in this watershed context and will add ecological benefit to the resulting restoration phase.
- The project approach considers many ecological benefits including aquatic habitat, riparian condition, invasive species control, and upland habitats demonstrating a holistic perspective to planning the restoration work.
- The focus of the design goes beyond aquatic and riparian restoration and there will be benefits to mule deer, upland bird species, and pollinators from the resulting restoration project.
- The selected contractor and the project team have extensive experience with implementing similar projects located in similar geographies.

Concerns

- The project team has not completed similarly proposed and funded projects on the mainstem Malheur River, which is different from and offers additional challenges when compared to other technical

assistance projects completed on tributary streams to the Malheur River.

- The project lacks a channel migration analysis, which is needed to evaluate potential impacts to neighboring landowners and infrastructure.
- Budget amounts for the hydraulic analysis and the geomorphic survey are both small, and the project may benefit from increased technical effort in those areas.

Concluding Analysis

The project team comprised of Malheur WC, an experienced consultant, and several state and federal natural resource management partners are proposing to complete 60% designs for a project that will improve aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats on the Malheur River near Vale. Following design examples from prior completed projects on tributary streams and in-progress efforts on the Malheur River mainstem, the applicant proposes a holistic approach to restoration design. There is concern with the approach from both the mainstem setting and level of design perspectives; however, the partnership is experienced and capable of completing actions as proposed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$38,352

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5052-19572

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: We Ain't Greenhorns but We Need
Help Fixin' Willow Creek_CLONE

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$62,701

Total Cost: \$78,887

Application Description

1) Willow Creek. 2.2 miles upstream from the Malheur Reservoir. 16 air miles from Brogan, OR) The 2.1 miles of Willow Creek in the project reach is deficient in riparian habitat, flood plain function, and habitat complexity. The project is in core sage-grouse area and is classified as a redband multi use stream reach per ODFW. Wet meadow/riparian habitat for sage grouse is lacking. Willow Creek does not meet standards for nutrients, bacteria and other parameters. This reach lacks habitat complexity for red band trout and other aquatic life. Irrigation return flow, and outdated infrastructure is causing erosion, and contributing bacteria, and nutrients to Willow Creek. Several restoration projects are in different phases of planning and completion directly upstream from the project reach. When all of them and this project are completed we will have restored over 5 contiguous stream miles. 3) A drone will be used for a topographic survey of the entire reach. In addition, riparian analyses, and hydrologic and hydraulic analyses will be conducted. A 60% design will provide alternatives for a future restoration project. Sections of the riparian area requiring future planting will be identified along with a suite of optimal shrub and tree species. We will develop a plan to improve irrigation infrastructure. 4) Partners include the Wilks Ranch, RSI engineering, Malheur WSC and technical reviewers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The video, maps, and photos provided in the application are clear and helpful in understanding the proposal.
- The property owner is the same on both sides of the creek, resulting in continuous management strategies throughout the reach.
- The proposed project builds on previous work in the watershed.
- The applicant has successfully completed similar projects upstream and in other areas of Malheur County, demonstrating a record of success.
- Both the landowner and the land manager are currently working collaboratively with the applicant and positive management change is likely in the future.

Concerns

- This project area needs a grazing management plan which is not mentioned in the application, and this will be an important component following restoration.

- Under objective 1, the application proposes to develop a feasibility analysis based on hydrological models derived from a drone flight. The degree of accuracy of the proposed methodology is unclear.
- Objective 2, which proposes to investigate irrigation infrastructure improvements, needs to be integrated into objective 1 to inform the alternatives analysis. This will identify a more comprehensive approach to improving irrigation water management in the project area.

Concluding Analysis

The project team comprised of Malheur WC, an experienced consultant, and several state and federal natural resource management partners are proposing to complete 60% designs for a project that will improve water quality, riparian condition, and sage-grouse habitats on Willow Creek above the Malheur Reservoir. Following design examples from prior completed projects on tributary streams and in-progress efforts on the Malheur River mainstem, the applicant proposes a holistic approach to restoration design. There is concern with the approach from both the method and irrigation water management perspectives, however the partnership is experienced in this setting and capable of completing actions as proposed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$62,701

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$62,701

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5053-19594

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Feasibility and Stream Flow Study

Applicant: Union County Admin Services

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$139,000

Application Description

1) The Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed (UGRRW) HUC 17060104 is located in Union County, Oregon. 2) The UGRRW Partnership (a Place-Based Collaborative Planning Group composed of stakeholders representing ecological, tribal, municipal, and agricultural interests) has been meeting for over 5 years to evaluate water quality and quantity concerns in the UGRRW and has come to consensus on strategies to address these issues. Results indicate that: a) Many waterways in the UGRRW do not have instream water rights or have them based on dated methodologies. Quantification of instream demand is a significant data gap. b) Water storage is vitally needed to reduce late season surface water deficit (for instream and out-of-stream needs), improve surface water quality, improve groundwater sustainability, and buffer against natural hazards and climate change risks. 3) The Partnership is working on a study to address Item 2 above and is seeking support from OWEB for Item 2a only. This OWEB grant would help evaluate the instream flow needs in reaches identified as a priority for data collection to both fill instream demand data gaps, and provide data to assist in the evaluation of potential storage projects. The goal of the OWEB-funded portion of the study is to conduct large-scale Instream Flow Incremental Methodology/Physical Habitat Simulation System studies to determine instream flow needs to support future restoration. 4) The Partnership includes Trout Unlimited, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Union County Seed Growers, USFWS, Union County Cattleman's Association, M&M Farming, LLC, City of La Grande, DEQ, City of Imbler, City of Union, Union County Farm Bureau, City of Island City, ODFW, OWRD, ODA, OSU Extension Office, Grande Ronde Model Watershed, USFS (Wallowa-Whitman National Forest), Union County Soil Water Conservation District, Union County, L. Larson, T. Wallender, A. Hulden, C. Ricker, and C. Murchison.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed work builds on the place-based planning process, which produced a plan to improve water quality and water quantity in the Upper Grande Ronde River watershed. The team is comprised of diverse partners including local, state, and federal agencies as well as private landowner.
- The approach considers a wide range of options and includes both on and off channel water storage as well as built and natural solutions.
- The partnership is well informed, locally experienced, and diverse in perspective, demonstrating ample capacity to achieve a common vision of improved stream flow and water quality.

- The partnership is experienced and capable of building support for the project demonstrated by their ability to work with landowners in the project area, indicating a high likelihood of success.
- Tribal involvement in the project is significant, including fisheries management and habitat restoration efforts, adding capacity to the effort.
- The budget is reasonable for the type and amount of work proposed.

Concerns

- Permission has not yet been gathered for some of the private land sampling sites and there is some mistrust among landowners which may affect study design.
- The application does not identify what stream flow measurement equipment will be used, and this information would have been helpful to determine data quality and applicability to study design.

Concluding Analysis

The UGRRW Partnership has been guided by their place-based planning efforts for the last 5 years dedicated to improving water quality and quantity in the Upper Grande Ronde River. The partners are now ready to plan identified conservation and restoration actions. This proposed technical assistance complements the planning effort and will identify instream flow needs from a fish habitat perspective and inform water storage solutions that are both built and natural options.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5056-19491

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Monitoring the Effects of Management on Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation (MIM): Phase 3

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$21,815

Total Cost: \$31,815

Application Description This project is located in Wallowa County, Oregon on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF). Within the WWNF there are 182 stream reaches that host Federally Listed Fish species that are also located within 33 grazing allotments. Managing these allotments to reduce negative effects to streams, and ultimately to fish, is a high priority for WWNF and is specifically targeted in the Forest Plan.

In this project- Phase Three of three OWEB grants- we propose to continue establishing Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) plots, which include long term and short term indicators to adaptively manage in-stream and riparian resources. The MIM protocol is designed to be objective, efficient, and effective for monitoring stream banks, stream channels, and stream side riparian vegetation. This protocol is considered to be the best available and is used by the National Marine Fisheries Service when evaluating grazing impacts. 128 pastures across the 33 allotments require MIM plots. Most of these sites are actively grazed, but some are not and serve as reference sites. The interest in riparian status and trend data by range managers and fisheries biologists continues to increase and outpace the ability of the WWNF Range Program to collect the data, especially for new MIM plots.

This OWEB Grant seeks funding for two field seasons (2022-2023) to establish an additional 14 MIM plots. Partners include WWNF and Wallowa Resources (WR), who participate in the larger Eagle Cap Partnership. which also includes Eastern Oregon University.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This project will complement the previously collected MIM data since 2015 and the applicant's future plans to establish and monitor 128 plots in the Wallowa Whitman National Forest.
- The applicant will continue to follow an established protocol that has been used to collect data during the two previous phases.
- The application describes a plan to manage and store the data at both the Wallowa Resources and USFS offices to provide back-up and increase access to the data.
- The data will be reported after the two years of monitoring are completed, and the report will be uploaded to ODFW's NRIMP clearinghouse, shared with stakeholders, and presented at lectures locally to disseminate the information.
- The application describes how this information is used by the USFS to adaptively manage grazing allotments.

- The applicant will continue to work with the same USFS staff and contractor to implement this ongoing monitoring project.
- Phase four of this project will be led by the USFS to maintain the long-term monitoring sites established in cooperation with the applicant.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The monitoring question posed was overly broad, and this question is not likely to be answered across the entire study area based on the information described in the application.
- The application lacks a description of how the data collectively will be analyzed to answer the monitoring question. This is a concern since the information can help refine best management practices for grazing where sensitive fish species exist.
- It was not clear how resource advocates will access the information generated from this project, given that dissemination is focused on providing information to regulatory agencies and permittees.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation:

Work with the USFS to analyze data across all three phases and identify trends to refine management recommendations with an aim of preventing impacts in grazing allotments before they occur.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) information will help natural resource managers advise grazing management practices in Wallowa County on Forest Service lands.
- Baseline and subsequent data will inform US Forest Service management objectives to improve stream corridor areas where domestic livestock grazing occurs. The data will also serve as an effective communication tool with grazing permittees.
- This phase 3 application is the final OWEB funding request to establish monitoring plots and all future data acquisition will be accomplished by the US Forest Service and local partners.
- The monitoring protocol is established, widely used, and developed by a diverse partnership of agencies and stakeholders.
- The US Forest Service and Wallowa Resources have staff trained to implement the MIM protocol ensuring data will be collected to inform grazing management into the future.
- The prior 2 phases of the project provided useful baseline data indicating this phase 3 effort has a high likelihood of success.
- Cost per monitoring site for the work proposed is reasonable to accomplish project objectives, as demonstrated by phase 1 and 2 accomplishments.

Concerns

- The need, relevance, and applicability of the proposed monitoring to inform future projects is not well described in application.

Concluding Analysis

This phase 3 MIM monitoring project will complete the establishment of identified stream corridor data collection plots on US Forest Service lands in Wallowa County, where both domestic livestock grazing and essential fish habitats co-exist. Baseline data augmented by scheduled follow up data collection at each plot will provide natural resource managers and grazing permittees the tools to guide grazing, riparian, and instream management to meet established objectives.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$21,815

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$21,815

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5057-19503	Project Type: Monitoring
Project Name: Harney CCAA Monitoring	
Applicant: Harney SWCD	
Region: Eastern Oregon	County: Harney
OWEB Request: \$147,414	Total Cost: \$215,143

Application Description The monitoring project area is located on private properties enrolled in the Harney Greater Sage Grouse Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). The majority of the work will be done within the original Harney sage-grouse FIP boundaries. CCAA efforts have expanded since the original FIP and properties have also been enrolled that include preliminary general habitat (PGH), for sage grouse. As a result, the SWCD along with partners have been able to expand sage grouse habitat.

The private properties that are enrolled in the Harney Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances or have a letter of intent to enroll, are actively applying conservation measures for the Greater sage-grouse. There are currently 22 properties enrolled with 48 remaining to be completed. As part of the CCAA agreement, the SWCD is required to monitor baseline condition and trend, project effectiveness, and long term habitat conditions for the lifetime of the 30 year agreements.

The monitoring burden will grow exponentially as more CCAA Site Specific Plans are completed. Harney SWCD has only one CCAA planner at this point in time, which is not adequate for the workload. With additional funds allocated to monitoring we plan to hire a qualified individual to help complete these tasks. It is also necessary, due to work load, that Harney SWCD hires 2 field technicians to perform monitoring and data analysis for the field season.

The CCAA monitoring technicians will be required to perform preliminary threats assessments (baseline inventory and habitat state designations), Modified Pased 180 transects (detailed vegetation surveys used to track condition and trend over time), establish permanent photo points along with project effectiveness monitoring for weed treatments, rangeland seeding projects, juniper cutting, off stream watering facilities, and other habitat improvement projects.

Project partners include: NRCS, USFWS, BLM, ODFW, CWMA and private land owners.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application generally describes the data that will complement sage-grouse habitat data gathered on various land ownership types.
- This project will support the CCAA efforts and will be used to evaluate the program's voluntary efforts to improve sage brush/steppe habitat.
- The data are made available to the USFWS and landowners and communicated through regular meetings that many different stakeholders attend.
- The applicant is qualified and knowledgeable of the established monitoring methods.
- This monitoring project is part of a long-term stakeholder and agency effort to protect and restore sage-grouse habitat.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application focused on the funding gap rather than the need for the monitoring data.
- This project focuses on the need to collect data over thirty years and is not clear what the plan is for ensuring funding for monitoring over the long term.
- It is unclear how this project builds off previous funding for these same monitoring efforts.
- The application does not provide specific details on other monitoring efforts that state and federal agencies are performing and how these data will complement that.
- While landowner privacy restrictions are recognized as limiting some detail from being provided in the application, the study design provided does not describe how areas to be monitored are prioritized across the county. More high-level information about land conditions and habitat types considered would have been helpful.
- The application does not include specific monitoring questions, making it difficult to assess the specific evaluation criteria. The schedule is difficult to understand and does not build in time to analyze and report the data.
- The QA/QC measures employed across the monitoring program are not well described, including a lack of information to ensure the data are comparable over many years and sites.
- The status of the database is unclear given that some sections of the application state that the database and electronic field forms are complete, and other sections of the application state that a new database for data storage, entry and reporting purposes is in development.
- The analysis of the data is unclear, and the application lacked detail about how the data will be used to track trends and effects from restoration actions.
- The application includes USFWS as a source of in-kind match but does not describe their role to understand how they are involved in this monitoring project.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation Strengths

- The applicant is working to secure a stable funding source for future monitoring work that spans 30

years on each property.

Concerns

- The application focuses on the funding gap and does not describe the need for the monitoring or how the data is being used to inform future restoration and implementation of conservation measures.
- The monitoring question in the Proposed Solution section of the application is unclear. It is difficult to determine if achievement of project objectives will provide the needed information.
- Project partnerships described in the application are unclear. Services provided by other partners beyond the SWCD, landowner, and US Fish and Wildlife Service are not described.
- The application budget lacks essential line-item detail to justify the costs for each staff position by task.
- The application lacks a description of monitoring data availability and how this data can be used to inform future sage-grouse habitat conservation, scale and scope of conservation efforts, and results of prior implemented conservation measures.

Concluding Analysis

Harney SWCD proposes to hire additional field technicians to implement CCAA monitoring on private lands in Harney County. Each agreement requires 30 years of monitoring to establish baseline conditions and monitor the effects of conservation measure implementation. A clear funding gap is described in the proposal, the need for the work will grow as more landowners enroll, and the applicant is working towards a secure funding source. Nevertheless, the application lacks essential detail articulating the monitoring question, roles of identified project partners, and how staff tasks are allocated in the budget. The application does not describe how accumulated monitoring data will inform sage-grouse conservation measures, where conservation work has been completed, or how the data will be used to coordinate future efforts in Harney County.

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-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5058-19515

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Powder Basin Long-Term Water
Quality Monitoring - Enhanced

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$174,662

Total Cost: \$243,982

Application Description For the past eight years the PBWC has been conducting detailed water quality monitoring at up to 72 sites throughout the Powder Basin to establish baseline conditions related to temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen (DO) and turbidity. Based upon what we have learned, we would like to continue monitoring at 50 of those sites in order to continue monitoring long-term trends and track trajectory at problem locations. In addition, we propose to expand aspects of our monitoring to address specific needs. First, to support development of TMDL's and implementation of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan for the Burnt River Subbasin, we propose to monitor E.coli and Total Phosphorous at five sites. In support of this, we would collect flow measurements at the upstream-most location where flow data is not available. To document DO concentration relevant to the state standard for salmonid spawning, we propose to monitor DO continuously at 22 sites at times and locations within the spawning distribution of redband trout and/or bull trout. Finally, we propose to monitor turbidity throughout the year at a select number of sites within the known spawning distribution of redband trout and/or bull trout to better understand sedimentation impacts on these species. This 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 aspect of the 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. However, we will need to re-engage participants for start-up again in 2022.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the historical data collected over the life of the water quality monitoring program.
- The data will inform the development of new TMDLs in the watershed.
- The application includes clearly articulated monitoring questions, and the sample design includes expanded sites to help answer these questions.
- The applicant has a DEQ approved SAP and will revise it to include new sites and monitoring methods for dissolved oxygen.

- The applicant will submit their data to DEQ and store it locally on their database.
- The applicant will work with a diverse group of stakeholders comprised of irrigation districts, landowner advisory committee (LAC), private and public landowners, and state and federal agencies to review data annually and share results to incorporate a total of 11 years of data. These stakeholders will help review the final report before it is completed.
- The applicant has a long history of successfully completing monitoring projects and providing comprehensive reports to summarize the results collected across many sites.
- Newly hired staff at the applicant organization has worked in the watershed for a long time and is engaging many landowners to expand the monitoring project and fill data gaps to inform fish conditions.
- The budget is broken down into hours needed to complete each task across three years.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application did not mention how this monitoring project can complement the historic water quality data collected by the Burnt River Irrigation District.
- The application does not describe the water quality data that other agencies are collecting, including the 15 water temperature monitoring sites operated by the USFS. The application lacked detail on other current or planned monitoring efforts, especially those focused on redband and bull trout that are driving some of the water quality monitoring efforts.
- The application lacked a description of the OWRD or USGS flow gages, but rather just notes that these are operated in the watershed. It also does not explain how flow conditions will be used to interpret results.
- It is unclear if the 72-hour deployment of the dissolved oxygen (DO) probes will yield valuable information to answer the monitoring question related to redband and bull trout.
- The plan to rotate sites to monitor DO will be challenging logistically, given the QA/QC measures needed to collect high-quality data.
- The application lacked detail on the methods to measure water levels and streamflow, and the approach to use a time lapse camera is not a professionally accepted method.
- The application does not describe the necessary methods and QA/QC measure to install and maintain a gaging station.
- The application lacked detail on the storm sampling for turbidity to explain where this would occur, and the question being answered with this information.
- The budget includes funding for a pressure transducer, but the application narrative was uncertain about if this equipment would be used to measure water level.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

Consult with DEQ volunteer water quality monitoring coordinator to prepare and implement the continuous dissolved oxygen monitoring tasks.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- DEQ is working on TMDLs for dissolve oxygen, nutrients, and bacteria in the Powder River basin. Existing data the watershed council has collected is used to inform landowners about water quality problems and guide TMDL implementation.
- Dissolved oxygen modeling will be conducted over the next few years by DEQ and this data can inform the modeling effort as well as future restoration work.
- The applicant's Monitoring Coordinator position that is currently vacant will be filled soon, indicating capacity to complete the proposed actions.
- Powder Basin Watershed Council has many years of experience collecting similar data and their database serves as a water quality data clearinghouse, both of which indicate a high likelihood of project success.
- Community volunteers, including Baker County schools, are involved and assist with the work, making this an effective way to engage the community.
- The budget breakdown of hours by monitoring type clarifies the amount of work proposed.

Concerns

- The application is unclear regarding how the monitoring information will be used to guide management decisions.
- It is unclear how data collected at the proposed stream reach scale will be tied to specific management activities.
- The application does not reference other water quality monitoring occurring in the region and how this project relates to those efforts.
- The cost of the project is high for the proposed work and dissolved oxygen sampling for 3 months of one persons' time may be excessive.

Concluding Analysis

The Powder Basin Watershed Council will continue water quality monitoring for 3 years at 50 sites in Baker County, building upon monitoring efforts over the past 8 years. The council works closely with relevant stakeholders in the area including landowners, community members, Baker County SWCDs, and State and federal agencies, specifically ODA and DEQ implementing SB 1010 and TMDL development objectives. While there is some concern how the accumulated data informs management decisions at both site and reach scales, the applicant has demonstrated a competent level of data collection, storage, and sharing capabilities indicating a high likelihood of project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$174,662

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$174,662

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5059-19612

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Down and Dirty

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$69,827

Total Cost: \$101,243

Application Description 1) Malheur and Owyhee River Basins in Malheur County.

2) In the past 20 plus years landowners, agencies, and Irrigation Districts have invested millions of dollars with the intent of improving water quality in the Malheur and Owyhee Watersheds. This monitoring program will help determine the success of these efforts, and help direct future actions.

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has placed most of the Malheur River and its tributaries on the 303 (d) list due to violations of state water quality standards. The most common problem is temperature, followed by excessive levels of bacteria, nutrients, Chlorophyll a, and toxins.

The majority of human caused water quality problems in the basin seem to result from the cumulative effects of non-point source pollution caused by landscape-wide activities. Irrigated agriculture dominates the bottomlands in the lower reaches of the Malheur/Owyhee Rivers.

The goals of the Malheur and Owyhee Watershed Action Plans identify the need to quantify environmental conditions in pursuit of correcting watershed problems. The continuation of the established water quality monitoring program will help provide data and analysis needed to evaluate water quality trends in this basin, assess the effectiveness of conservation and restoration efforts, and contribute to the Water Quality Management Plan and the 2010 TMDL assessment and implementations. In addition, we will be able to observe trends in water quality and target areas needing further work.

3) -- Maintain sampling on 14 sites.

- Maintain sampling to support continuous flow gauges on all sites,
- Flow gauges will be placed to monitor key focus areas and major drains,
- Maintain sampling to determine statistically valid trend analysis,
- Maintain sampling to conduct ambient monitoring on the rivers,

4) ODEQ, BOR, Malheur SWCD, Malheur WSC, NRCS, ODA, Vale Irrigation District, Owyhee Irrigation District,

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant will develop a sampling and analysis plan (SAP) and submit it to DEQ for review and approval.
- The applicant will follow professionally accepted methods to collect water samples and send them to the BOR lab for analysis.
- The lab results will be stored locally by the applicant, and the contract lab will upload the data to STORET to make it publicly available.
- The final report will be developed with a Technical Review Committee and shared with state and federal agencies and local partners.
- The creation of the Technical Review Committee and meeting twice a year to review the data and discuss any issues will help apply the data in a meaningful way.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application does not describe how this project was downsized from past monitoring grants now that the watershed council is no longer participating.
- There is a large amount of data that has been collected by the applicant, but the application does not describe how these data had been analyzed to identify why future monitoring and additional data are needed.
- The application does not include specific monitoring questions, making it difficult to assess the application relative to the evaluation criteria.
- The application lacks detail on streamflow monitoring, including the data collection methods and how these data will be analyzed to generate nutrient loads.
- The study design does not describe why this monitoring project is focused on monitoring during the irrigation season.
- The application does not describe the data management plan for streamflow data and if and how the data will be made available to the public.
- The application lacks an adequate description of data gathering and management roles and responsibilities. It is not clear how the University of Idaho is involved and how they will compile the data to assist the applicant.
- The application does not describe how the water quality data would be analyzed and how restoration actions will be tracked to interpret the findings.
- The budget is difficult to understand, including the expenses for the project and the number of sites for streamflow monitoring. This made it challenging to determine if costs are adequate to meet the objectives stated in the application.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The addition of a project technical team as identified in the application will provide additional guidance to inform future monitoring and conservation efforts.
- Project partners, including ODA, DEQ, and BOR, are qualified and have a proven track record on similar projects.
- The applicant has demonstrated the ability to collect water quality data and use that data to guide on-farm conservation, specifically irrigation water management.

Concerns

- There are no monitoring questions in the Proposed Solution section making it impossible to know if achievement of project objectives will answer the monitoring questions.
- It is unclear why the monitoring sites were chosen and where the chosen sites are located.
- A direct linkage describing how the data will be used and how that data will inform on the ground conservation is not described in the proposal.
- The application is missing critical information needed to evaluate likelihood of success, and most of reviewers' understanding of the project is based on assumptions informed by past monitoring efforts and knowledge of the partners.
- It is unclear what the monitoring is intended to achieve; a description of a long-term vision would have clarified the direction of the proposed work.
- The University of Idaho is identified as a partner and included in the budget, but it is not clear how they will participate in the project.
- Flow measurement budget line items are unclear. It is unclear if the applicant is budgeting for flow gauge sites or stream flow measurements, making it difficult to understand if costs are reasonable.

Concluding Analysis

This application proposes to continue water quality monitoring at 14 sampling sites in the Malheur and Owyhee River basins. Sampling over the past 2 decades demonstrates that water in the lower reaches of both rivers does not meet DEQ water quality standards for several parameters including temperature, sediment, and bacteria among others, demonstrating the need for water quality monitoring in the area. While the need for monitoring is understood, it is difficult to determine where the proposed monitoring will occur, the rationale for the proposed monitoring at the selected locations, and whether the proposed costs are reasonable. The overall lack of clarity in the application makes it difficult to determine likelihood of success, data applicability, and linkage to future conservation efforts.

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-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5060-19630

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Grande Ronde Basin Stream Flow Gauging Stations Operation - Water Years 2022 & 2023

Applicant: Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$101,002

Total Cost: \$313,982

Application Description The Grande Ronde Basin (GRB) covers over 5,000 square miles and includes several thousand miles of perennial flowing streams, many being the home to ESA listed Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon, Snake River summer steelhead and bull trout. A network of stream gauges are in place throughout the Grande Ronde and Imnaha River subbasins to inform and provide data for irrigation water management, fisheries management, long term flow and trend analysis, TMDL and SB1010 water quality management plan effectiveness, subbasin plan implementation, restoration project development and provide essential information regarding cumulative effects response to conservation in the Grande Ronde Basin. This project is in place to operate 12 existing stream gauges in combination with US Geological Survey (USGS) (3 gauges, East Fork Wallowa River, Minam River and Grande Ronde River at Troy), Idaho Power (1 gauge, Imnaha River at Imnaha) and Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) who, independent of this project, operate five additional gauges (Lostine River at Caudle Lane, Wallowa River above Wallowa Lake, Wallowa River at Enterprise, Wallowa Lake, Catherine Cr. near Union) to characterize flow in both the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins. Stream flow characteristics including headwater contribution, land management influence, and basin outlet data are all selectively collected in this network of 21 flow gauges. Production partners include Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW) and Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) with funding partners being BPA, OWEB and OWRD.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This project will continue to provide funds for a contractor to maintain a long-term record of streamflow data.
- The application described a number of other monitoring efforts that use the streamflow data that will be collected.
- The application describes how the data are stored and made available in near real-time to be used by a variety of interested stakeholders to manage streamflow for irrigation and conservation needs.
- The contractor is experienced and will use professionally accepted methods to collect and manage the data.

- The budget describes the costs for the different tasks the contractor will complete over the two-year period.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacks monitoring questions. One broad monitoring question is stated in the application in the problem statement, but it is not clear that the application objectives, study design, data collection and analyses will answer that question.
- The objectives described in the application are not directly implemented through this monitoring grant.
- The activities described in the schedule will not achieve the broader objectives stated in the application.
- The application does not describe any of the QA/QC procedures employed by the contractor to collect high quality data other than citing the protocol.
- The application does not describe how the community stakeholders are engaged other than mentioning a place-based water planning team in Union County that OWRD participates in.
- It is not clear how the applicant helps provide access to the data beyond contracting with OWRD to perform the monitoring.
- It is not clear if or how most of the data users are contributing to funding this project, despite their heavy reliance on it.
- The description of how costs were developed is questionable. The budget narrative refers to past negotiation of costs with the contractor that may be out of date. It is not clear if these costs are reflective of current expenses for the contractor to maintain and operate gaging stations.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Data collected from this project is used by many stakeholders and helps inform management actions that include recreation, fisheries, and restoration planning.
- The proposed work complements other monitoring efforts in the Grande Ronde Basin. The Grande Ronde Model Watershed is an organization with an extensive track record for this type of work, therefore the likelihood of project success is high.
- OWRD is a primary project partner and has extensive experience with stream gauging protocols including data collection, record keeping, QAQC methods, data storage, and reporting.

Concerns

- There are no monitoring questions in the Proposed Solution section making it difficult to whether achievement of project objectives will provide the desired information.
- The proposed close clustering of flow measurement sites may be excessive; however, it is understood the proximity of several flow gauges is to document irrigation-influenced stream reaches.

- The project may be more cost-effective without the near real-time data transmission capability. There are more cost-effective ways of collecting the information that would not impact overall utility of data.

Concluding Analysis

Stream flow data collection in the Grande Ronde Basin has been in operation since the mid-1990s with many natural resource management organizations using the data. Flow data is used for many purposes including irrigation water management, fisheries research and management, restoration project development, and aquatic restoration research and monitoring. While the application lacks some detail, the project team of GRMW and OWRD is experienced and capable of implementing the project as proposed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$101,002

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$101,002

Staff Conditions

N/A

Mid-Columbia - Region 6 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2020

- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 6 Cities
- Region 6 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 6 Boundary



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Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin Restoration					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-6021	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Couse Creek at Blue Mountain Station Fish Passage	A two-foot high concrete dam on Couse Creek, a tributary of the Walla Walla River, will be removed and access to eleven miles of cool water habitat restored for steelhead, Chinook and bull trout.	62,774	Umatilla
221-6023	Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation	Walla Walla River Forks Floodplain Reconnection and In-stream Enhancement Implementation	River flow will be restored to, historic floodplain channels along the North and South Forks, and mainstem Walla Walla River, which will improve habitat for steelhead, Chinook and bull trout as they rest, rear, and spawn.	300,000	Umatilla
221-6022	South Fork John Day WC	South Fork Fire Grazing Management	The last seven of 55 miles of fence destroyed in a 2014 wildfire will be built to protect sensitive streamside areas from livestock and feral horses and improve pasture management for grassland health, which will benefit wildlife in the South Fork John Day watershed.	117,860	Grant
221-6029	Wheeler SWCD	Nelson Creek Forest Restoration	Forest habitat in Nelson Creek, a tributary to Bridge Creek, will be restored to a more natural, healthy, and fire resilient state by thinning unhealthy pine, removing encroaching juniper, developing upland springs for livestock and wildlife, and protecting and enhancing streamside habitat for fish and wildlife.	169,835	Wheeler
221-6028	South Fork John Day WC	Hole In The Ground Upland Health	Rangeland conditions and wildlife habitat will be improved by protecting sensitive aspen groves and removing encroaching juniper in the uplands of the South Fork John Day River.	167,960	Grant
221-6026	North Fork John Day WC	Swale Creek Allotment Fencing	Sections of electric fencing will be replaced with permanent fencing to completely protect and exclude sensitive streamside meadow areas from livestock access in the Swale Creek watershed in the Umatilla National Forest.	132,854	Morrow
221-6032	Bridge Creek WC	Middle Alder Creek Watershed Improvement 1	Juniper will be removed on the hillslopes of Alder Creek, a tributary of the John Day River, and upland water sources will be developed for wildlife use and to aid in livestock distribution to improve grassland health.	91,101	Wheeler
221-6030	South Fork John Day WC	Widows Creek Ranch Upland Health	Rangeland health and wildlife habitat will be improved in the Widows Creek watershed, a steelhead tributary of the John Day River, by developing seven upland water sources, treating and protecting struggling aspen communities, and removing juniper.	65,118	Grant
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,107,502	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-6031	Monument SWCD	Camp Creek Targeted Restoration	Juniper will be removed followed by reseeding to bolster grassland species in the Camp Creek watershed, a tributary of Cottonwood Creek.	87,950	Grant

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
221-6024	Monument SWCD	Lost Fawn Meadow and Spring Enhancements	111,627	Grant
221-6025	Wheeler SWCD	Quant Ranch Upland Restoration	149,872	Wheeler
221-6027	Grant SWCD	Zwegart Irrigation Efficiency Project	113,387	Grant
221-6033	Grant SWCD	Seneca 96 Ranch Enhancements Project Phase I	272,595	Grant

Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-6036	Gilliam SWCD	Ferry Canyon/Hay Creek Floodplain Analysis and Prioritization	A planning document will be created that prioritizes potential restoration locations along 51 miles of Hay Creek and Ferry Canyon, steelhead tributaries of the lower John Day River.	49,999	Gilliam
221-6034	South Fork John Day WC	John Day Basin Partnership Upland Prioritization	Upland habitat restoration actions, strategies, and locations will be prioritized for the entire John Day River Basin to maximize benefits for native wildlife.	35,805	Grant
221-6038	Sherman SWCD	Lower Grass Valley Canyon Structural Restoration_CLONE	Designs will be developed for streamside and instream restoration on five miles of Lower Grass Valley Canyon Creek, a historic steelhead tributary to the lower John Day River, to improve habitat for native fish and address water quality concerns.	30,000	Sherman
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				115,804	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-6035	Grant SWCD	Upper John Day River Aquifer Management Feasibility Study	75,000	Grant	
221-6037	Grant SWCD	Upper John Day Valley Private Forest Lands Assessment	75,000	Grant	

Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin Stakeholder Engagement					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-6044	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Walla Walla Basin Stakeholder Engagement	Landowners will be engaged to partner in voluntary projects that will improve fish passage, instream and streamside habitat conditions, groundwater levels, surface water flows, and water management in the Walla Walla Basin.	42,080	Umatilla
221-6045	Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA)	Walla Walla River Irrigation District Modernization Stakeholder Engagement	Landowners and water users will be engaged in developing on-the-ground water conservation and management projects within the Walla Walla River Irrigation District.	31,135	Umatilla
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				73,215	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
None					

Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-6042	Gilliam SWCD	Combining Methods to Monitor John Day Steelhead Migration and Overshoot	Steelhead migratory data will be collected to build on a multi-year dataset in the Lower John Day and Columbia River near the John Day mouth to inform future habitat restoration.	203,161	Gilliam
221-6043	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	North Fork Walla Walla River Effectiveness Monitoring	Data will be collected for water temperature, streamflow, turbidity, and streamside vegetative cover to document current conditions prior to future restoration planned for the North Fork Walla Walla River.	25,287	Umatilla
221-6039	South Fork John Day WC	Murderers Creek Mussel Monitoring	Freshwater mussels will be monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of relocating mussels to mitigate impacts from stream restoration projects and to document the effects from the Murderers Creek habitat restoration project on freshwater mussels, their habitat, and their host fish.	182,154	Grant
221-6040	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Hydrological Trend Monitoring in the Walla Walla Basin	Data will be collected to produce accurate and reliable datasets that describe stream flows and water temperature in the Walla Walla River and groundwater levels in the aquifer to inform planning efforts that address flow and water temperature limitations in the basin.	86,954	Umatilla
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				497,556	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-6041	Wallowa Resources	John Day Watershed Macroinvertebrates	81,232	Gilliam	

Region 6 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	1,794,077
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6021-19606

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Couse Creek at Blue Mountain Station Fish Passage

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$62,774

Total Cost: \$118,171

Application Description

1) Couse Creek is a 14 mile long tributary that enters the main stem Walla Walla River near RM 48.5, south of Milton Freewater, Oregon (see UPLOADS). 2) A two-foot tall concrete irrigation dam located near RM 3 (see UPLOADS) is the last known barrier in the Couse Watershed based on a Watershed Assessment and Aquatic Habitat Inventory conducted for Couse Creek by WWBWC in 2020. The dam creates a half-meter step that greatly exceeds ODFW step height criteria of >6", therefore is out of compliance with established passage criteria. The portion of the creek goes dry below the dam annually and many fish are stranded below the dam and perish under current operational procedures. Removing the impediment will be beneficial allowing fish improved access to 11 miles of suitable habitat in the headwaters and decrease mortality in the lower reaches. The dam removal process is categorized as Medium Risk by project partner BPA 's HIP guidance document and WWBWC requires proof of liability protection insurance (see UPLOAD). Couse Creek is inhabited by steelhead, rainbow/red band trout, and occasionally by bull trout and spring chinook salmon and described in the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan as a Priority Protection Area. The Plan identifies addressing fish passage barriers as a priority action. 3) Dam removal will occur. Grade control measures will be undertaken in the wetted channel via roughened riffle, cross vane strategy. Large boulders will be staggered at strategic areas within the wetted channel profile to provide roughness, complexity and suitable micro pool habitats for migratory salmonids staging in the reach (see UPLOADS). 4) The landowners are supportive of the project, and have signed agreements to allow the removal of the dam (see UPLOADS). WWBWC Project Committee unanimously approved the Couse Creek RM 3 dam removal project. The design process for this project is currently approved and funded by BPA under project #2007-396-00, contract #86499.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Removing this full channel-spanning barrier to fish passage will open access to eleven miles of steelhead habitat, including an upstream critical cold-water refuge, which is a significant ecological benefit.
- The large wood project components designed to stabilize the stream banks will improve water quality by reducing sediment entering the stream and create a few resting pools for fish as they migrate to upstream habitat.
- Couse Creek is a productive stream for summer steelhead spawning and rearing and is also used by bull trout and juvenile Chinook salmon.

- The project is identified in the OWEB-funded Couse Creek Assessment as the last fish barrier left to correct in the Couse Creek system.
- The applicant has a proven track record in successfully implementing complex instream projects.
- BPA, as a major funder, provides a high level of certainty the project is technically sound and will be successfully completed.
- The budget is appropriate and reasonable to remove a two-foot-high concrete barrier to fish passage.

Concerns

- The 30% design provided in the application was revised by BPA engineers after the OWEB application deadline. Removing the concrete structure and associated dam elements is now the main restoration focus, and most of the large wood habitat structures were removed from the project design.
- The submitted budget no longer accurately reflects current project components because of the design changes made by BPA; however, during the virtual site visit, the applicant clarified that BPA agreed to cover any additional costs incurred because of their design revision.
- The application lacks detail about the associated water rights, the location of the POD – both existing and proposed, and how that irrigation right impacts stream flow.

Concluding Analysis

Couse Creek, a tributary to the Walla Walla River, is one of the area's most productive steelhead spawning and rearing streams. The irrigation dam proposed for removal was identified in an OWEB-funded assessment as the last structural barrier to fish moving upstream, especially for juvenile steelhead attempting to reach cooler flows. At the time of OWEB application submittal, 30% designs incorporating both dam removal and habitat features were provided. As part of the phased BPA grant review process, BPA removed most of the habitat features from the project design to encourage fish to move past the project area to the cooler habitat upstream instead of holding in downstream pools that can dry up and cause fish stranding. Ultimately, removing this critical barrier is key to improving steelhead production and reduce mortality and will result in significant ecological benefit.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$62,774

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$62,774

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6022-19562

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: South Fork Fire Grazing Management

Applicant: South Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$117,860

Total Cost: \$499,461

Application Description

This project is located throughout the South Fork John Day River Watershed, replacing allotment pasture fences on the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area (PWSWA) and Prineville BLM, that burned beyond repair during the 2014 South Fork Fire. This fire was over 66,000 acres, and burned in mixed ownership, 8 miles South of Dayville, Oregon. This area is habitat for the Threatened Mid-Columbia Steelhead, including critical habitat for that species and areas where they spawn annually. This area is high value habitat for wildlife as well, including the Murderers Creek Mule Deer Initiative Area, Murderers Creek Wild Horse Territory, Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area, and South Fork John Day Conservation Opportunity Area. 47 miles of the South Fork John Day is designated Wild & Scenic, containing unique wildlife, botanical species, geologic, recreational and scenic values. The South Fork Complex Fire impacted/damaged approximately 55 miles of allotment boundary and pasture fencing. Pastures impacted by the wildfire were rested from livestock grazing for 2-4 years so post fire rehabilitation actions (seeding, spraying weeds and fence repairs) could be completed. The project area includes 4 grazing allotments administered by the Bureau of Land Management and Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area. The burned fences were surveyed to determine exactly how much will need to be repaired. Over the last 6 years, the BLM has accomplished replacing 39 of these 55 miles and permittees have repaired 9 miles. The remaining fence miles are critical to complete because they restrict livestock and wildhorse access to the South Fork John Day, Deer Creek, Cougar Gulch, and Murderers Creek, which are salmon and Steelhead Critical habitat. OWEB funds are being requested to complete construction of the last 7 miles of fence, also removing down fence. Project partners include the ODFW PWSWA, Prineville BLM, and South Fork John Day Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly defines objectives and describes appropriate methods to achieve measurable ecological benefits.
- The project is shovel-ready, with permitting compliance completed for both BLM and ODFW lands.
- The proposed project builds on completed work by installing the remaining seven of 55 miles of pasture fence burned by the South Fork Fire Complex.
- After the South Fork Complex wildfire destroyed fences, livestock and feral horse trespass into riparian areas was evident. Completing this fencing is critical to protect those sensitive areas.

- The fence is designed to use all metal components to withstand future wildfires, increasing the lifespan of the investment.
- Grazing on these units is highly managed and monitored to assure the grasslands are trending upward in both functionality and health.
- The area around Murderers Creek and the South Fork John Day River provides high value habitat for steelhead, Chinook salmon, freshwater mussels, and numerous species of terrestrial wildlife.
- The applicant has high capacity and a proven track record for completing projects, and effectively collaborating with both private and public landowners in the South Fork John Day River Basin.

Concerns

- The budget appears to have standard rates for fencing; however, it is unclear if the estimated rate will cover current costs of fencing in difficult and remote locations or if partners are prepared to cover any shortfall.

Concluding Analysis

In recent years, restoration on both private and public lands in the South Fork John Day Basin has accelerated. The proposed project finishes the last remaining sections of critical livestock fencing in both the ODFW Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area and the neighboring BLM land. The fences will help control the numerous feral horses that roam the area and aid in managing livestock distribution, which increases the control of range utilization and prevents cattle from getting into riparian areas.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$117,860

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$117,860

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6023-19540

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Walla Walla River Forks Floodplain Reconnection and In-stream Enhancement Implementation

Applicant: Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$300,000

Total Cost: \$1,250,382

Application Description

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) is preparing to implement a habitat restoration project on the Walla Walla River at the confluence of the North and South Fork Walla Walla Rivers. The project area is approximately 5 miles SE of Milton-Freewater, OR in Umatilla County, OR. The project site includes approximately 1,600 feet of the mainstem Walla Walla River, downstream of the confluence; 1,600 feet of the North Fork channel upstream of the confluence; and 800 feet of the South Fork channel upstream of the confluence. The project reach lacks important salmonid habitat including large wood, pools, and low velocity environments. Various site constraints exist along the North Fork, South Fork, and mainstem Walla Walla River, which limit floodplain connectivity and contribute to lack of geomorphic complexity. This project will reconnect the relict channels by removing strategic portions of the mainstem levee, add habitat complexity with the addition of large wood structures, and improve two irrigation diversions, one on the North Fork which acts as a fish passage barrier during low flows and one on the mainstem which can cause juvenile fish entrainment due to the fish bypass pipe becoming disconnected from the mainstem post flood. This project incorporates the primary touchstones described in the 2008 Umatilla River Vision (Jones et al. 2008) while addressing limiting factors identified by other regional plans. CTUIR has partnered with the four private landowners and BPA for the design and implementation of this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides clear objectives and detail about project components needed for a comprehensive project review.
- The design submitted with the application is well-thought out and incorporates features to withstand the Walla Walla River's flashy nature and significant bedload movement.
- The locations and number of log structures will provide significant aquatic habitat for steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout.
- Historic habitat in side channels will again be utilized, once opened to stream flow.
- Allowing high flows to access the floodplain helps to reduce water velocity and the erosive nature of this river on the project reach and extending downstream.
- The project addresses limiting factors, including water quality and degraded habitat, identified in numerous assessments and regional plans listed in the application.

- The applicant will continue to monitor the site and adjust restored stream features based on impacts by future flows.
- The budget provides significant detail that aligns with the project components discussed in the narrative.

Concerns

- The application for moving the point of diversion (POD) has been initiated but is not very far along in the process. This may impact the project timeline if the transfer is complicated.
- The diversions, especially the one on the North Fork Walla Walla River, may need continued maintenance resulting from significant bedload movement characteristic of this river.
- The designs for the South Fork diversion do not include a head gate, which is critical for managing water use and preventing bedload from entering the irrigation ditch system.

Concluding Analysis

The Walla Walla River has a history of erosive, flashy flood events. The river has shown its power at the confluence of the North and South Forks by recreating channels, taking out old cottonwood groves and severely eroding banks. The proposed complex restoration design will use that power to reengage historic floodplains, open new fish habitat and disburse energy across a broader surface area. Also, improving two irrigation diversions by moving and enhancing delivery mechanisms assure fish continue to have upstream passage accessing cooler habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$300,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$300,000

Staff Conditions

POD transfer application(s) must be included with the first fund request; final transfer paperwork shall be provided with the final PISR.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6024-19502

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lost Fawn Meadow and Spring Enhancements

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$111,627

Total Cost: \$208,284

Application Description

1) This project is located on the Longview Ranch in the upper Rudio Creek (HUC 12 -170702021005) and Johnny Creek (HUC_12-170702011402) watersheds near the town of Kimberly in Grant County, Oregon. The proposed project area encompasses the upper ~1 mile of Lost Fawn Creek and ~.45 miles of Johnny Creek.2) Lost Fawn Creek is a tributary to Rudio Creek which provides spawning and rearing habitat for both Chinook salmon and ESA listed Mid-Columbia River steelhead. Johnny Creek is a tributary to the John Day River and is listed as a rearing and migration stream. Both streams are hindered by up to 7 limiting factors throughout most of the listed fish bearing habitat (CTWS 2014). Lost Fawn Creek and Johnny Creek contain historic wet meadows and headwater springs that provide critical upland water sources to both watersheds. However, past management activities have resulted in overstocked forest stands, overgrazing, streambank erosion, noxious weed spread and degraded meadow conditions in both upland and riparian areas of these headwater drainages.3) This project aims to improve wet meadow habitat and upland process and function across ~720 acres of the Lost Fawn Creek and Johnny Creek drainages through the following actions:- Noxious weed assessment and herbicide treatments - Broadcast seeding with a native/introduced grass/forb mix.- An Integrated grazing management approach involving a 1 year livestock exclusion period and rotational placement of salt licks.- Exclusion fencing around an existing aspen stand - Seeding/vegetation monitoring.4) Monument SWCD, Longview Ranch, OWEB

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The ranch is contributing to the proposed work, indicating a vested interest in the project being successful.
- The budget provides sufficient detail to review project costs.

Concerns

- The monitoring project component is unclear both in the utilization of game cameras to monitor grass growth, and how monitoring data will inform effectiveness in the long term.
- The application lacks detail on how the wet meadows and riparian areas will be protected from livestock grazing. Without fencing to protect stream banks, it is unclear how stream bank erosion concerns will be addressed.

- The wet meadow treatment is likely to have limited success because the seeding mix does not include appropriate native wet meadow species; however, on the virtual site visit, the applicant stated the seed company recommended including non-native seed to quickly establish plants and outcompete invasive weeds.
- Photos in the application show sites occupied by grass, but the application lacks an explanation describing what grass species exist on the project site. If these are native grass stands, more detail is needed to evaluate the restoration approach. For example, how will the seeding and harrowing component impact the established stand? If there are invasive annuals, how will site prep be handled to maximize a successful seeding?
- The project site, as shown in photos, may be challenging to harrow because of the numerous rock outcroppings and debris that may inhibit successful soil to seed contact and damage equipment. More information is needed to evaluate the likelihood of success for the selected methodology.
- The project addresses symptoms rather than causes of watershed degradation affecting the wet meadows and riparian corridor ecosystems.
- The ecological benefits from the proposed project will be limited due to the lack of riparian fencing or some other recognized method of exclusion and without riparian planting. The application includes an explanation indicating that fencing would not prevent Corriente cattle from accessing the riparian zone. It is unclear if fencing alternatives were considered.
- The application overstates fish use on the streams within the project footprint. More detail is needed to explain how benefits from this project site extend to downstream reaches.
- The buck and pole fencing design does not appear to allow any expansion of the aspen clone.

Concluding Analysis

The application lacks enough detail to evaluate the project and determine the likelihood of success in achieving the identified ecological benefits.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6025-19585

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Quant Ranch Upland Restoration

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$149,872

Total Cost: \$220,482

Application Description

1) This project is located in the Service Creek - John Day River watershed approximately 17 miles North of the town of Mitchell in Wheeler County. 2) Western Juniper encroachment has increased over the years due to historic wildfire suppression creating both a water quality and quantity concern. Between the loss of native vegetation and forage yields this has resulted in degraded wildlife habitat lacking in food and cover. 3) This project seeks to reduce the negative impacts Western Juniper imposes on the watershed functions by mechanically cutting and piling 157 acres, hand cutting 312 acres, enrolling 40.8 acres of a tributary to Girds Creek into CREP, treat 7 acres of invasive weeds, and provide off-site stockwater in 6 locations, including a pumping plant into a well. 4) Project partners include the USDA Farm Service Agency, Wheeler SWCD, and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes detailed maps and photos with descriptive captions, which is useful in reviewing the project objectives.
- Removing encroaching juniper has proven upland benefits, such as improving grassland species, reducing erosion, and increasing infiltration of rainfall.
- The budget provides significant line-item detail.

Concerns

- The project has low ecological return for the requested investment. The extent of ecological benefits resulting from fencing off an ephemeral gully are unclear, and if any benefit will extend downslope to where this gully connects with the creek.
- The objective related to riparian restoration may be overstated since Girds Creek, as the major and perhaps the only perennial stream in the area, is not included in the restoration footprint.
- The application did not reference any change in grazing management nor strategies to address the resource concerns this project proposes to resolve.
- Wildlife is noted as benefitting from the restoration, yet there is no clear link to the objectives. Consulting a wildlife expert as the proposal is developed would provide added detail useful in the review.
- Steelhead use in Girds Creek is questionable because of numerous barriers, including significant jump height barriers and dry reaches disrupting habitat connectivity.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is likely to provide upland ecological benefits by removing juniper and developing springs as upland water sources. The application, however, lacks information needed to evaluate the likelihood of success for the riparian component and to better understand the cost benefit of this work to the watershed.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6026-19580

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Swale Creek Allotment Fencing

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Morrow

OWEB Request: \$132,854

Total Cost: \$167,497

Application Description

1) This project will take place on the Swale Creek Grazing Allotment in the Heppner Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest. The project area encompasses portions of Swale, Alder, Ditch, Bear and Little Bear Creeks within the Potamus and Wall Creek subwatersheds. 2) Electric fencing within the Swale Creek Allotment has been part of the livestock management for the allotment since the late 1990's. Currently, creeks within the allotment are protected by seasonal electric fences. During the grazing period electric fences can occasionally malfunction allowing livestock access to designated critical habitat for ESA listed Mid-Columbia summer steelhead. Permanent fencing will be more effective at keeping cattle out of sensitive areas and protecting the existing, robust riparian vegetation facilitated by over two decades of the electric fence program while reducing the long-term costs. 3) This project seeks to install approximately 6.5 miles of permanent 3 and/or 4 strand barbwire fences along 5 creeks in the Swale Creek Grazing Allotment. Permanent fencing aims to exclude cattle from sensitive riparian areas as well as to completely exclude Swale Meadows, a wet meadow along Swale Creek. The creeks to be protected by fencing are all known steelhead and chinook rearing streams with existing, robust riparian vegetation. 4) This is a cooperative effort between the North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), the Heppner Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest (UNF) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). NFJDWC will provide project coordination, UNF will provide technical assistance and materials, and ODFW will provide technical assistance, project oversight and materials. This project represents an opportunity for strong collaboration between a federal, state, and nonprofit entity .

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Replacing temporary electric fence with permanent fencing provides resiliency and long-term protection of significant natural resources and habitat for multiple species.
- The project is technically sound, and the application included objectives likely to lead to restoration with ecological value.
- The fencing design incorporates consideration of the challenges associated with heavy snow load and safe wildlife passage.
- Swale Creek is an important cold-water tributary for steelhead and provides water quality benefits to other water courses downstream that provide habitat for juvenile chinook salmon.
- Habitat, within the existing exclusion, is on an upward trend and this pro-active project assures that habitat remains on that positive restorative trajectory.

- Exclusion fencing and protecting the entire meadow system provides numerous habitat and water quality benefits, as noted in the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Restoration Strategy Plan.
- Public partnerships in the project are demonstrated in the application by letters of support.
- The permittee has a successful track record of maintaining fence integrity and managing livestock through a restorative lens in this remote location.
- The watershed council has the capacity and proven track record implementing similar restoration projects.

Concerns

- The application lacks significant detail describing other restoration work implemented in the Swale Creek area, such as the work in the meadows to aggrade channel incision.
- The applicant is encouraged to engage in conversations with the USFS about decommissioning the road through the meadow to reduce vector opportunities for weeds, eliminate ruts, mud, and sediment during wet seasons, and prevent the increased potential for trespass livestock with road gates being left open.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is another example of collaboration to expand the restoration footprint in public lands. This project is identified as an USFS priority to continue to protect and enhance sensitive riparian and wet meadow areas, while maintaining adjacent grazing use for the permittee. By working with the local watershed council to oversee the project and pursue funding, the USFS is assured the project will be successfully implemented.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$132,854

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$132,854

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6027-19576

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Zwegart Irrigation Efficiency Project

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$113,387

Total Cost: \$155,134

Application Description

This project seeks funding support to purchase and install a total of 19950 feet of 6" Gated PVC pipe: The project involves two ditches located on the property: Roberts Creek Ditch and Graham Creek Ditch; both divert water from the named creeks and are steelhead bearing tributaries of the John Day River. The Zwegardt family has begun installing and using gated pipes to control irrigation on Graham Creek Ditch along the small irrigation ditches on his property; this proposal seeks cost share funding to continue the effort along the Roberts Creek Ditch. This project will greatly improve efficiency and reduce erosion. Roberts Creek Ditch has been the subject of a project of the district previously to implement proper fish passage and efficiency. The current systems include open delivery and irrigation ditches, these ditches are causing inefficiency from two needs: a) The first major need to control water volume. Without control over how much water and where the water is being placed at any given time, this contributes to increased erosion. b) The second need is to reduce maintenance of the ditches. With the small irrigation ditches, the landowner has to clean out or regrade these ditches which also contributed to erosion and sediment in the lower ditches that then drain into the upper mainstem of the John Day. The proposed work includes: a) Site preparation, which includes regrading the area to allow for the piping to operate properly and stay in place' b) Installation of 6" gated PVC pipe and c) System management to meet program objectives. The project partners include landowner and operator Lance Zwegardt, landowner Tobe Zwegardt, the Grant Soil, and Water Conservation District, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project objectives include reducing erosion and improving irrigation efficiencies.
- The landowner has already installed and is effectively using several sections of gated pipe.

Concerns

- It is unclear what the water right is for the irrigated fields, and how much water will be distributed through the gated pipe. Documentation that these fields are the legal areas for irrigation water use would be beneficial to the review process in determining the likelihood of successful implementation.
- The application lacks an irrigation management plan providing critical detail on irrigation sets, timing of return, crops, and soils needed to evaluate project technical soundness.

- It is unclear how this investment will result in the ecological benefits of reduced erosion and improved water quality due to the distance to the streams from the project site.
- The application lacks designs, which are needed to assess technical aspects or efficiencies that could be realized by the project.
- Extensive use of gated pipe is proposed for a large area; more detail is necessary to determine if this approach is technically feasible based on the water right, distance, and landform. The proposed approach will require substantial management and expense.
- The application lacks detail explaining how gated pipe on the steepest sections will reduce erosion. It is unclear if existing irrigation ditches will be filled in, or if they will still convey the water to the gated pipe sections, and how the water will get from the ditch to the pipe.
- The contributions to improved fish passage are overstated in the application. None of the stated objectives or actions relate to fish passage. Additionally, there is no fish screen on Graham Creek, and it is not clear if there is a headgate or other method of control for measuring the water right.
- The project property is within the NRCS focus area, but it is unclear from the application whether NRCS is engaged as a partner to help offset cost and provide critical technical input on irrigation systems.
- With the recent increase in pipe costs, the budget may not be sufficient to complete the project.
- Alternatives are described in the application; however, cost is the only identified limiting factor in considering other more efficient irrigation delivery systems.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project has unclear ecological benefit due to the lack of designs or detail needed to determine technical feasibility and watershed benefit for the cost.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6028-19494 **Project Type:** Restoration
Project Name: Hole In The Ground Upland Health
Applicant: South Fork John Day WC
Region: Mid Columbia **County:** Grant
OWEB Request: \$167,960 **Total Cost:** \$223,999

Application Description

The area known as Hole in the Ground is located on the Izee Ranch, in Grant County, Oregon. This area has been selected based upon its high wildlife habitat value, and previously funded OWEB Technical Assistance grant for Aspen Inventory, and Juniper Prioritization. The landowner has also enrolled this area in the South Fork John Day Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), based upon its high priority Juniper ranking, and upland water source development. Hole in the Ground ties together 3 different completed upland water, Juniper, and aspen protection projects funded through OWEB, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. The Izee Ranch has also completed a large scale effort to boost the bitterbrush and perennial grass population by reducing the sagebrush through timing herbicide application to target sagebrush and not harm bitterbrush. We are requesting support from OWEB in order to match the Juniper removal and water development under RCPP, removing an additional 400 acres of Juniper, and protect the 3 aspen stands within the project area using Buck and Pole Fencing and conifer removal. Project partners will include; NRCS, Izee Ranch, and SFJDWC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes comprehensive ecological site descriptions that provide a clear assessment of the property conditions, habitat, aspect, and slope.
- Clear objectives are provided with reasonable actions to achieve them.
- This is a technically sound juniper removal and aspen enhancement project with appropriate ecological benefits described.
- Treating the juniper while it is still small is both efficient and protects existing shrub and grass communities from becoming degraded by encroaching juniper competition.
- The project area has a tremendous bitterbrush community, which provides significant feed that mule deer and elk depend on in the winter, but that is not fire resistant. The application proposes an alternative to prescribed fire for removing phase one juniper.
- NRCS RCPP funds will be leveraged to expand the restoration footprint and multiply the benefits of the project.
- A landscape approach will be used to control juniper by working on parcels adjacent to previously cleared lands and lands to be treated using matching RCPP funds.
- The aspen colonies targeted for restoration were identified from an OWEB-funded technical assistance grant for the SFJDB Aspen Inventory.

- The applicant has a proven track record of implementing similar projects and continues to improve their restoration approach by incorporating lessons learned from previous projects.
- The landowner participated on the site visit, providing context, and indicating commitment to long-term success of the project.
- The budget provides sufficient detail, is reasonable and aligns with current costs for juniper removal work.

Concerns

- Plans for long-term stewardship to prevent juniper from re-establishing are unclear and will be challenging due to the large size of the ranch and the large number of acres where juniper has been removed.
- It is unclear from the application whether ODFW wildlife biologists were consulted during proposal development. The project site is located in the ODFW Mule Deer Initiative area and ODFW expertise could be beneficial to the project design.
- No letters of support are provided in the application indicating appropriate partners will be engaged in the project, such as ODFW to integrate potential wildlife benefits.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is a result of two OWEB-funded technical assistance projects. One project identified and prioritized aspen communities and the second project assessed and identified areas for juniper treatment that will provide the highest ecological benefit. The landowner is committed to maintaining restoration investments by annually fixing buck and pole fences around aspen clones, keeping spring developments working as designed, and continually expanding juniper removal efforts. The area provides critical mule deer and elk winter habitat in the Izee area, where winters can prove challenging to wildlife.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$167,960

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$167,960

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6029-19639

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Nelson Creek Forest Restoration

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$169,835

Total Cost: \$268,797

Application Description

1) This project is located in the Bridge Creek Watershed, near where Nelson Creek leaves the Ochoco National Forest and enters privately owned property, approximately 2 miles South of the town of Mitchell Oregon, in Wheeler County. 2) Historic logging practices and increased fire suppression has led to the over-stocking of timber stands and allowed for the expansion of invasive Western Juniper. This has resulted in a forest setting that is highly vulnerable to disease and infestations, with large fuel loads that increase the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Additionally, historic grazing practices have resulted in a nearby riparian area being nearly void of any woody species. 3) This project seeks to thin stands of Ponderosa Pine back to healthy density, eradicate all Western Juniper, restore the riparian area through the USDA/FSA's CREP program, and develop two springs for stockwater use. 4) Project partners include the USDA Farm Service Agency, OWEB, Wheeler SWCD, and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes maps that provide helpful context to the project review.
- From the photos provided, the site clearly needs a reduction in overstocked conifers, and the application is clear in both the stated objectives and the actions to achieve those goals.
- The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) will be used to install the buffer, increasing the ecological benefit of the project to include stream function and riparian improvement.
- The seeding component follows reasonable protocols using a range drill, improving germination success by increasing soil to seed contact.
- Nelson Creek is incised and will benefit from removing livestock from the riparian zone and increasing the numbers and diversity of native riparian vegetation.
- When appropriate, junipers will be felled into the channel to increase complexity and capture sediment to help aggrade the stream channel.
- The project builds on other juniper projects completed on the ranch and the adjacent BLM property.
- Removing juniper will provide water quality benefits downstream once perennial grass stands are established that will reduce erosion and increase the infiltration of rainfall.
- Landowner commitment to the project is demonstrated through match contribution.
- The project costs are reasonable based on the project components listed in the application.

Concerns

- It is unclear from the application whether the spring sources will be protected by fencing.
- Fisheries benefits are overstated in the application. While steelhead may have historically used Nelson Creek, fish access is currently blocked by a head cut barrier downstream.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan is referenced but additional detail on how this project fits in with the plan would be useful to evaluate technical soundness and watershed context.

Concluding Analysis

White Butte Ranch has a history of restoration, and this project expands on those efforts to increase multiple ecological benefits. Pairing with the Farm Bill Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to fence, plant and protect Nelson Creek is a first step in improving ecological function and potentially bringing fish back to the system. The forest thinning and strategic spring developments will aid in improved grassland health and livestock distribution, reduce watershed damage from future wildfires, and potentially increase stream flows.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

4 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$169,835

Review Team Conditions

Spring sources will be required to be protected by fencing.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$169,835

Staff Conditions

Spring sources will be required to be protected by fencing.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6030-19495

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Widows Creek Ranch Upland Health

Applicant: South Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$65,118

Total Cost: \$134,418

Application Description

The Widows Creek Ranch is located halfway between Mt. Vernon, and Dayville on the Upper Mainstem John Day River, in Grant County, Oregon. The Ranch has been very active in restoration efforts, fencing riparian areas, clearing Juniper, developing upland water, working on forest health, and strategically grazing livestock. They are seeking assistance to enhance, protect, and develop upland water, to draw livestock away from sensitive riparian habitats along Widows Creek, Bridge Creek (Steelhead Critical Habitat), Grouse Creek, and Dry Creek (Redband bearing streams). The Ranch has enrolled all of these streams in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), with NRCS. We are requesting funding to protect and develop 7 upland water sources, 1 acre of Aspen, and cut and pile 60 acres of Juniper. Project partners include the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, NRCS/Farm Services Agency, and Widows Creek Ranch.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous application evaluation concerns are addressed.
- Livestock will be dispersed across the ranch by strategically locating water sources, which will take pressure away from sensitive ecosystems.
- Widows Creek is a priority stream for spawning and rearing steelhead, and for juvenile Chinook seeking cooler flows.
- Most of the proposed project work will focus on tributaries of Widows Creek and the ecological benefits of cooler and cleaner flows from those tributaries continuing downstream.
- During the virtual site visit, the landowner clarified the restoration activities he has completed, and his vision for future improvements to fish and wildlife habitat on the ranch.
- The budget is appropriate based on the project elements and provides details and justification necessary for evaluating the project cost effectiveness.
- The cost of the project is reasonable for the resulting ecological benefits.

Concerns

- Maps showing locations of water developments in relation to pasture fences and ranch grazing strategies would help to better understand the potential project benefits.

- The large uploads are confusing and do not add value for understanding the proposed project. To help navigate information in uploads, the applicant is encouraged to include a cover letter as a part of each upload that explains what the uploaded document is and why it is pertinent to the project; then reference specific details by the document name and page number in the application narrative.
- The aspen protection fence focuses on excluding only livestock and is not designed to deter wildlife from browse. It is unclear from the application whether there are plans to address wildlife browse if it becomes a problem to long-term stewardship of this restoration investment.

Concluding Analysis

The Widows Creek Ranch has a history of restoration across a large landscape. All perennial streams on the ranch are now enrolled in CREP, protecting the riparian areas from livestock. This project builds on those efforts by providing upland water developments to benefit both wildlife and livestock, removing priority juniper to help improve the hydrologic function on upslope aspects, and fencing to protect sensitive aspen habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$65,118

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$65,118

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6031-19534

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Camp Creek Targeted Restoration

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$87,950

Total Cost: \$112,003

Application Description

1) This Project is located on the east side of the upper Camp Creek in NW Grant County, approximately 13 miles south of Monument, Oregon. 2) Camp Creek provides rearing and migration habitat for salmonids and flows into the Cottonwood/Fox Creek drainage ~1.5 stream miles below the opening to Fox Valley. Cottonwood Creek is a critical spawning and rearing tributary for ESA listed (Threatened) Middle-Columbia River steelhead that drains into the NF John Day River. Monument SWCD's Cottonwood Creek Focus Area Action Plan has identified the Camp Creek drainage as likely to adversely affect water quality through the Water Quality Land Condition Assessment with western juniper encroachment being a contributing factor. Fire suppression and climate change have resulted in juniper encroachment across much of eastern Oregon. Studies show juniper removal to result in greater water quantity, quality and spring flow while also benefitting wildlife habitat and rangeland health (Ochoa et al 2018). Approximately 1/3 of the proposed project area approaches or exceeds 30% juniper canopy cover and contains at least 4 springs that could benefit water quantity and quality with a targeted juniper removal effort. Furthermore, the juniper removal and associated monitoring in this project would expand the watershed-scale benefits of adjacent projects and inform future restoration related to upland function and catchment flow regimes. 3) This project will see to 5 primary objectives:- hand cut, pile and burn 247 acres of western juniper - Re-seed burn pile areas and spring sites with a native grass and forb mix.- Monitor stream flow and temperature prior to treatment and continuing for two years following juniper removal- Monitor vegetation growth at selected re-seeding areas.- A flow monitoring results comparison of this targeted juniper removal vs. the landscape-scale Boag Creek juniper removal (OWEB 219-6003). 4) Monument SWCD, Vaughn Ranches, CTWS and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes a grazing management strategy plan and a long-term juniper management plan, helping to assure the investment will be sustained into the future.
- The objectives and actions provide sufficient detail to evaluate the project.
- The project is within the SWCD's ODA Focus Area and will address many of the priority concerns identified in the Camp Creek watershed.
- The proposed project builds on other restoration activities done in this watershed and on the landowner's property, expanding on the ecological benefits accrued across the landscape.

- The detailed budget provides a breakdown of specific costs which help to assess whether costs are reasonable and necessary for the proposed work.
- Using a game camera is an innovative way to monitor stream flow in remote locations and may prove useful in monitoring other projects in the future.

Concerns

- More detail on the specific phases of the juniper stands identified for treatment is needed to understand the extent of the ecological benefits and assess reasonable costs for the proposed project. Juniper treatments are identified by percent cover, which does not fully describe the site conditions of the proposed treatment areas.
- Although a grazing management strategy is provided with the application, it lacks details to determine whether the grazing schedule will allow sufficient time for the seeding to establish.
- It is unclear how the target ecosystems will be protected without including in the project design exclusion fencing around the meadow or the riparian zones; without those protections ecological benefit of the investment may be compromised.
- The monitoring component may not answer the project effectiveness question in such a short time frame.

Concluding Analysis

The project, located on land adjacent to a previous restoration project on the same landowners' property, will remove juniper with the goal of improving wet meadow and riparian habitats and potentially increase flows to Camp Creek, a significant tributary to Cottonwood Creek. The ecological benefits from the proposed restoration actions, however, are uncertain if riparian and wet meadow habitats are not protected by fencing or an accepted alternative. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to explain strategies for how livestock management will serve to increase the health of wet meadow and riparian ecosystems.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$87,950

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6032-19581

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Middle Alder Creek Watershed Improvement 1

Applicant: Bridge Creek WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$91,101

Total Cost: \$121,477

Application Description

The Alder Creek watershed is a smaller watershed within the LJD-Kahler Creek HUC in north central 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 339 acres of western juniper, treat 34 acres of weeds, primarily medusahead, reseed 34 acres and develop five springs for off-channel water sources. Partners include OWEB, NRCS, Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council and the two private landowners in the watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes both a grazing management plan and long-term juniper management plan, indicating the investment will likely be maintained into the future on this technically sound project.
- NRCS consulted on the seed mix that will establish a grass base to outcompete any invasive annual grass species onsite and ensure future plant succession that provides native perennials the opportunity to become established.
- ODFW identifies Alder Creek as a productive steelhead stream for spawning and rearing.
- Ecological benefits resulting from the proposed project will be leveraged to a broader, landscape scale because NRCS and the Umatilla National Forest are completing similar restoration projects on both public and private land.
- Photos provided in the application show perennial grass stands present under the existing junipers, indicating the land has not “tipped over” into a degraded condition, making the restoration efforts more likely to be successful.
- The applicant has a proven track record of accomplishing similar types of restoration in the basin.
- The budget uses NRCS rates for treatments, an established method of estimating costs, leverages partner funds, and appears reasonable based on the project objectives and components.

Concerns

- The application has minor inconsistencies in the number of landowners involved. Clarification provided during the virtual site visit indicated that one landowner dropped out of the project just before the application submittal deadline and the narrative was not updated to remove those components. The budget and metrics, however, were corrected and accurately reflect the project.

- It is difficult to determine whether the landowners or restoration stakeholders in the basin support the project without letters of support in the application.

Concluding Analysis

The project goals focus on treating invasive juniper and degraded forest health across the watershed to address altered hydrology, degraded water quality, and imbalanced sediment processes. The project is the fourth proposal resulting from an outreach collaboration with NRCS to solicit restoration in this watershed; the other three OWEB projects are either in implementation or monitoring stages.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$91,101

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$91,101

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6033-19629

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Seneca 96 Ranch Enhancements
Project Phase I

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$272,595

Total Cost: \$680,588

Application Description

The Seneca 96 Ranch Enhancements include multiple existing pastures. The Seneca 96 Ranch is located in Bear Valley, which is north of Seneca Oregon (18 road miles), and west of Highway 395. The project addresses a need to decrease erosion and livestock pressure along Jack Creek, Scotty Creek, and Little Scotty Creek, which are habitats for Interior Redband trout, a sensitive species on the Malheur National Forest and within the Harney Basin Watershed. Jack, Scotty, and Little Scotty creeks run year-round; the others are seasonal. It also addresses a need to improve water quality, absorption, and reduce fire fuels of the ground in timberland which has been recently harvested/thinned. The installation of seven wells, stock water systems, new fencing, and seeding are proposed to better distribute livestock within the pastures of the Seneca 96 Ranch and allow the development of smaller pastures for rotational grazing. The combination of cross fences and upland water will allow the landowner to better manage the number of livestock that will be in the creeks for water by either making smaller pastures, so there are fewer cattle, or by providing additional water sources to create new pastures and direct livestock away from creeks. By reseeding the otherwise bare ground in the recently harvested/thinned forest ground and redeveloping the understory, the water would not erode the soil and would be uptaken by the ground whilst providing higher quality forage for livestock and wildlife. It also provides a healthier and cleaner forest floor that can compete against invasives species especially annual grasses that provide additional fire fuels. All project partners would include Seneca 96 Ranch's owners Layne and Brent Jackson, the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- According to ODFW, the ranch has red-band trout habitat within its borders.
- The landowner is relatively new to ranching in this area and is enthusiastic about improving habitat conditions on the ranch.
- The applicant has a proven track record for successfully implementing similar projects.
- Significant secured match from the landowner indicates they have a vested interest in the project and increases the likelihood the project will successfully be completed.

Concerns

- The ecological value of this restoration investment is unclear because the application lacks detail describing current site conditions, the wildlife and fish species that use the property and future habitat conditions likely to result from the project.
- It is challenging to evaluate technical soundness due to the lack of designs for the wells, solar systems, and other technical components.
- More detail on the aerial seeding approach is needed to assess the likelihood of establishing a successful grass stand. For example, detail describing prior success using this method or an explanation on how seed will penetrate the pine needle duff would be helpful to understand the approach.
- Without fencing off the streams on the ranch, any grazing during the hot season is likely to negatively impact the condition of both the riparian zone and the stream channel itself.
- The photos supplied with the application indicate riparian and stream conditions are in a degraded state; the application lacks proposed strategies to target and restore these sensitive ecosystems.
- Ecological benefits resulting from this project are minimally described and not fully developed in the application.
- There is no back up plan if the wells result in dry holes or do not provide sufficient flow for the numerous troughs.
- Alternatives discussed in the application focus only on seeding or springs and do not include alternatives to the numerous wells proposed, such as, combining some of the wells and using one or fewer pumps and a series of cisterns to minimize overall cost and achieve the same results.
- It is unclear from the application how constructing well houses in pasture settings is necessary in achieving the proposed ecological benefits from this project.

Concluding Analysis

The landowner has demonstrated commitment to pursuing restoration on the ranch property; however, the proposed project may not be ready for implementation. The application lacks details necessary to evaluate the likelihood that the project will produce significant ecological benefits to fish and wildlife habitat, or to water quality improvements. If resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address the concerns noted above.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6034-19591

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: John Day Basin Partnership Upland Prioritization

Applicant: South Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$35,805

Total Cost: \$64,485

Application Description

The 8,100 square mile John Day River Basin is one of the most important undammed river systems in the West and hosts two of the last remaining intact wild anadromous fish populations in the Columbia River System. ESA listed Middle Columbia summer steelhead and spring run Chinook salmon, in the Columbia River System. The John Day Basin Partnership (Partnership or JDBP) currently consists of 30 organizations who are implementing an action plan to increase the pace, scale, and impact of watershed restoration in the John Day Basin. Per the JDBP's Strategic Action Plan (SAP), watershed restoration is viewed as a ridgetop-to-ridgetop effort. Due to the size and variety of landscapes in the John Day, upland habitat restoration is traditionally implemented opportunistically as resource or agricultural needs arise. This project proposes to develop an 'Upland Prioritization Framework' to serve as a road map for organizations & land managers to identify priority restoration actions and project locations to implement conservation practices. This technical assistance project will build off of work completed by the GIS Specialist funded through that grant and shift its focus to the uplands prioritization process. The project partners include all partners within the Partnership. Members of the JDBP Technical Working Group include: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Gilliam SWCD, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Sustainable Northwest (SNW), North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC), and Morrow SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application presents a clear pathway to future restoration with significant ecological benefits resulting from the proposed high-elevation assessment focusing on native terrestrial wildlife and plant communities.
- The application describes a comprehensive effort, addressing priorities in the upland portions of the John Day Basin using a well-developed and proven strategy to evaluate ecological factors.
- The proposal complements the work the John Day Basin Partnership accomplished using the Atlas process to prioritize instream, riparian, and floodplain ecosystems for the entire basin. When completed, a true ridgetop-to-ridgetop restoration tool will be available for use in implementing the John Day Basin Partnership Strategic Action Plan.
- Multiple partners in the project, including tribes, state and federal agencies, SWCDs, watershed councils, and NGOs, indicate the project team has both the technical capability and the expertise necessary to successfully complete the project.

- Considering the size of the John Day Basin, the cost is reasonable to hire a contractor to assist in the process.
- Efficiencies and lessons learned from the previous process for prioritizing aquatic habitat are incorporated into this effort and will feed into the existing John Day Basin GIS Data Directory.
- The information gleaned from the process will be available to the entire John Day Basin Partnership, an organization of over 30 stakeholders, as well as to the public via multiple avenues through the partnership's JDBP Project Tracker website.

Concerns

- The application lacks detail describing the ranking criteria that will be used to prioritize future upland habitat restoration.
- Utilizing the Atlas Prioritization Framework to prioritize upland restoration may be experimental because the Atlas process is designed for streams.

Concluding Analysis

The John Day Basin Partnership is taking next steps to achieve the goals set out in their Strategic Action Plan by completing an initial analysis of restoration potential of upland ecosystems. Using experience gained through the Atlas process to identify aquatic priorities for restoration, the proposal focuses on both native terrestrial wildlife and plant communities from the toe of the floodplain to the ridgeline across the 5.2 million acres of the John Day Basin. This high-elevation process is a critical first step for identifying opportunities based on limiting factors and potential ecological uplift.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$35,805

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$35,805

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6035-19554

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper John Day River Aquifer Management Feasibility Study

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$583,212

Application Description

Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) derives that the stream systems and groundwater aquifers within Grant County, Oregon are primarily charged by winter precipitation in the form of snow. This seasonal fluctuation in precipitation creates an uneven stream flow discharge which peaks in the spring and is lowest during the summer months when irrigation and aquatic species needs are at their highest level. The unique ecological characteristics of the John Day River Basin further limit viable application of surface water storage impoundments to address this water availability imbalance. This proposal seek funds to cost share with an OWRD Feasibility Grant to assess, prioritize, and locate groundwater aquifer recharge and recovery projects within the Upper Mainstem John Day River Basin to benefit summer stream flows. The project will undertake the specific application of an Airborne Electromagnetic Method (AEM) survey to create a 3D hydrogeologic framework for the selected area to supplement and correlate existing hydrogeologic and borehole data resources to forecast aquifer characteristics, groundwater flow paths, potential recharge areas, and calculate water storage capacity. The AEM findings will be incorporated into a weighted suitability analysis with existing applicable data sets and appraised for localized limiting factors to identify most desirable groundwater recharge and recovery projects. Once identified, additional funding and partnership networks will be developed to support the implementation of pilot projects dedicated to addressing critical flows needs. Successful performance of these introductory projects will inform the creation of an ongoing aquifer management program to be managed by the project sponsor, Grant Soil and Water Conservation District (District). Along with the District, project partners include Bureau of Reclamation Technical Services, along with OWRD and pending OWEB grant resources.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides clear objectives laid out in a logical sequence.
- The product will prioritize projects and aid in obtaining implementation funds.
- Airborne Electromagnetic Method (AEM) is a technically sound approach to get data suitable to identify both aquifer recharge (AR) and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) project sites.
- The applicant has a proven track record for successfully leading and completing complex projects and is partnering with Bureau of Reclamation technical staff to assist with the aquifer framework model and analysis.

- The project cost is efficient for the proposed work.

Concerns

- More information on the mechanics of ASR and how it will be used in the upper John Day Basin is needed to clarify the scope and ecological benefits expected from resulting projects.
- Detail on how or if surface flow water rights can be legally protected by utilizing ASR for irrigation demands is missing from the application. That information is critical to evaluate the ecological benefits resulting from the project.
- It is unclear what percentage of water rights in the upper basin are senior, what volume (cfs) those rights entail, and how far downstream flows will potentially be protected before coming to an older water right. Including these details will help determine whether future restoration projects will result in significant ecological benefit.
- It is unclear from the application if this model could also inform whether the possibility of using wells in the upper basin for irrigation could be an alternative to offset surface water use.
- The ranking criteria and analysis for project prioritization is unclear.
- The level of collaboration with basin partners in the prioritization process, such as ODFW, is unclear in the application.
- The application lacked information about outreach with landowners in the upper basin, if any has been initiated about this project or how communication with the public, before and during the flight, will be handled.
- More detail is needed on the different kinds of restoration that will result from this analysis to evaluate technical soundness. The application named AR, ASR, and irrigation efficiency as potential projects but did not provide detail on how those types of projects translate into protected instream flows or significant ecological benefit.

Concluding Analysis

The upper John Day River limiting factors include diminished flows and high stream temperatures. This innovative modeling using Airborne Electromagnetic Method and GIS technologies will incorporate subsurface data overlaid with other data layers to locate priority sites for future restoration, such as aquifer recharge, aquifer storage and recovery and irrigation efficiency projects with the goal of putting and protecting surface water rights back instream. Without knowing more details on the process and feasibility of protecting instream flows gained from AR, ASR and irrigation efficiency projects, it is difficult to evaluate the extent of ecological benefits from future restoration projects.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6036-19596

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Ferry Canyon/Hay Creek Floodplain
Analysis and Prioritization

Applicant: Gilliam SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Gilliam

OWEB Request: \$49,999

Total Cost: \$183,198

Application Description

1) The project is located within the Hay Creek and Ferry Canyon watersheds in Gilliam County, and are tributaries to the lower John Day River 2) The recovery planning process conducted by the John Day Partnership was used to identify restoration opportunities using the John Day Basin Partnership Atlas multi-criteria decision analysis tool. Within these watersheds, finer spatial scale (i.e., 500 m – 1 km) watershed condition assessments capable of prioritizing the distribution of limited restoration funding are currently lacking. Further, current restoration planning within the lower John Day does not currently leverage contemporary spatial analysis tools and frameworks. This mismatch between recovery planning assessments and the scale at which riverscape restoration actions are implemented makes the allocation of restoration resources difficult and potentially inefficient. 3) Funding under this TA grant application would be used to prioritize the location of riverscape restoration actions within the Hay Creek and Ferry Canyon watersheds. The prioritization will be based on quantification of the current vs. potential floodplain (i.e., recovery potential) extent throughout 51 miles of the Hay Creek and Ferry Canyon watersheds networks that are considered essential salmonid habitat. Specifically, the funding will be used to identify locations where channel and floodplain connectivity, the expansion of salmonid habitat, and riparian vegetation distributions can be maximized. 4) Partners include Gilliam-East John Day Watershed Council, ODFW, BLM, USFS, CTWS, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides a technically sound approach to assessing watershed condition at a finer scale that will inform restoration project prioritization and facilitate leveraging funds within a NRCS RCPP work area.
- The data gleaned from this process will update the Atlas aquatic process used by the John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP) Strategic Action Plan.
- The model uses LiDAR to indicate where floodplain expansion and enhancements can provide maximum benefit to stream flows and salmon habitat.
- The process is based on a similar approach being implemented in the Thirtymile basin, under the JDBP FIP.
- The methodology will be available to the JDBP to replicate in other watersheds as a GIS-driven prioritization tool.
- The data will be utilized to narrow specific restoration within two watersheds and provide baseline data to use for effectiveness monitoring on future restoration projects.

- The applicant has a proven track record for implementing successful restoration, and a high degree of GIS analysis expertise, as well as thorough knowledge of the landscape and the landowners.
- The proposed project builds on a recently completed stakeholder engagement grant that engaged and recruited landowners along essential steelhead streams within these two watersheds.
- The proposed project will provide an overview of stream features, such as wide floodplain, elevations, and infrastructure, which will be useful for conceptualizing future restoration projects.

Concerns

- As proposed, there is no plan for ground-truthing once analysis is complete. The model will benefit by including some field work to confirm analysis accuracy.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant proposes to make use of LiDAR flown and funded through the NRCS RCPP award. Modeled after a similar approach in the Thirtymile watershed, the methodology can be replicated throughout the John Day Basin to identify opportunities for floodplain restoration. Gilliam SWCD, as an integral partner in the JDBP, guarantees sharing of the methodology to other partners looking to replicate efforts in other watersheds.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,999

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$49,999

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6037-19626

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper John Day Valley Private Forest Lands Assessment

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$112,064

Application Description

The project area is located in the Upper John Day River Valley and encompasses sixteen, 6th field Hydrologic Units; the District estimates there are approximately 52,000 acres of private forestlands and juniper dominated range-ground. In 2016, Grant SWCD secured Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funding from NRCS to treat private forestlands and juniper within watersheds containing US Forest Service Stewardship Projects, specifically, the Magone, Dad's Creek and Headwater Projects. Demand from private landowners for this program was overwhelming; funds anticipated to support five years worth of projects lasted only three years. During this time, the extent of need became readily apparent; properties with desirable stocking rate of 200 to 300 stems per acre were found to be well over a thousand. Such conditions have a profound, negative impact on watershed health affecting not only the vegetation, but, also the numerous and complex hydrologic processes that transform precipitation into streamflow available for use by at-risk aquatic species. This proposal seeks cost share funding to support an assessment of private forested lands that will be conducted by OSU to 1) prioritize areas for treatment, 2) develop prescriptions for treatment and 3) provide a better understanding of the complex interactions between the treatments and watershed hydrology. This information will form the basis of a Joint Chiefs proposal to treat both private and public forested lands as well as similar future efforts to be conducted by the District and our partners. Partners include landowners, Oregon State University (OSU) Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Fire Program, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Malheur National Forest, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Blue Mountain Forest Partners (BMFP) and Jerome Natural Resource Consultants, Inc.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project will provide information needed to pursue a NRCS/USFS Joint Chiefs grant in the future and inform an existing NRCS RCPP focus on forest health.
- The proposed model is successfully used in the Klamath Basin to identify key areas to restore forest health and to provide compelling data to pursue competitive funding opportunities.
- The forest lands assessment will identify areas in upper John Day Basin where forest treatments may help mitigate critical stream flow limiting factors necessary for steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout habitat.
- Landowners will receive a copy of the assessment done on their lands to use as a tool for identifying improvements to forest health and best management practices.

- A high level of support for the project is documented in the application by a comprehensive set of partners.
- OSU staff with previous experience using the proposed model have the qualifications necessary to accomplish the proposed work.
- The applicant is qualified to manage the project and participate in the analysis and has a proven track record of implementing and completing successful grants.

Concerns

- The need for this information and how it will differ from what landowners already know about their land is unclear. Due to fire, insect damage, and other impacts to the forest, conditions may be changing at a faster pace than the assessment can document for future restoration.
- The application is not clear on where the inventories will be done. More information on the process for determining those locations will be helpful to evaluate technical soundness.
- Without more detail, it is not apparent if post-fire acres will warrant an inventory or treatment.
- The application focuses mainly on GIS modeling, but it does not explain how this modeling will capture diseased trees nor insect infestation that is causing widespread mortality. This appears to be covered by proposed on-the-ground field work, but the application lacks detail on who will do the field work, their qualifications, what funds cover the cost, and when and where such field work will be done.
- The budget category for contracting is a lump sum and does not provide enough detail to determine whether there are enough funds requested for ground-truthing a landscape-scale endeavor, producing the model, data analysis, or production of the final product.
- More detail is needed for objective 7 in the application on the process of linking forest treatments to potential hydrologic benefits.

Concluding Analysis

Grant County, along with the rest of Oregon, is concerned about wildfire. The tremendous impact the 2015 Canyon Creek fire had on the landscape motivated landowners and state and federal agencies to look for solutions to reverse degraded forest health. The proposed technical assistance is one method to prioritize locations for forest treatments. Similar efforts using this model have been successful in the Klamath Basin, both in identifying priority areas for treatment and leveraging multiple sources of funds. Additional detail in the budget and activities is needed to evaluate the project and determine the likelihood of success that the proposed technical assistance will lead to future restoration with meaningful ecological benefits.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6038-19642

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Grass Valley Canyon
Structural Restoration_CLONE

Applicant: Sherman SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Sherman

OWEB Request: \$30,000

Total Cost: \$61,274

Application Description

Lower Grass Valley Canyon (LGVC), the lower 16 miles of Grass Valley Canyon, is a tributary to the Lower John Day River in Sherman County. The stream is historic summer steelhead spawning and rearing habitat and beaver habitat, as well as current habitat for redband trout, redband shiner, dace, sculpin, suckers, and possibly Pacific lamprey. Due to land use changes, historical overgrazing, and catastrophic floods, LGVC has eroded, incised, and straightened, leaving the lower 7 miles ephemeral for much of the year. In part due to the loss of riparian vegetation, Grass Valley Canyon has been on the 303(d) list for temperature since 1998. Compounding these problems, a past landowner realigned the mouth decades ago, and the mouth now impounds with sediment and becomes a fish passage barrier for most of the year. Though, most of the stream and adjoining draws are enrolled in CREP and landowners improved upland conservation practices, the riparian and in-stream conditions have not improved. This project builds off a 2006 watershed assessment and a 2012 restoration action plan to design in-stream restoration. We will design riparian and in-stream restoration projects on 4.99 stream miles. We will develop measurable restoration objectives; craft a multi-phase restoration design and implementation plan; and submit permit applications for restoration implementation. This project will have a large-scale benefit for Mid-Columbia steelhead habitat. Partners in this project are private landowners, Western Rivers Conservancy, Sherman County Area Watershed Council, Sherman County SWCD, Anabran Solutions, ODFW, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Most of the concerns noted in the previous evaluation are addressed.
- The goal of the proposal is to move this stream from being intermittent to perennial, as has been done successfully in adjacent lower basin tributaries to the John Day River.
- The application was developed from an OWEB-funded assessment and restoration priorities identified in an action plan that followed.
- Sherman County has minimal steelhead streams; however, this lower basin tributary historically was a steelhead stream. Improving flow and enhancing riparian vegetation may encourage future fish use.
- CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) has been implemented on upstream reaches. By enhancing connectivity of live stream flow, those protected reaches could be accessed and used by fish.

- Reconnecting the floodplain using low-tech, process-based structures will improve riparian vegetation establishment.
- The project will be a strong catalyst for other instream projects in the basin and offers significant outreach potential because of Western Rivers' involvement as the landowner.
- The requested amount is reasonable for the proposed work.

Concerns

- The application lacks details on how the passage barrier at the mouth will be addressed.
- The application budget appears lean for engineering a complex solution to the passage barrier at the confluence.
- The application lacks specific details on the types of treatments that will be considered.
- ODFW surveys this stream for steelhead use and have not found any recent redds; however, they plan to continue to survey this stream.

Concluding Analysis

Grass Valley Canyon has a history of providing steelhead spawning and rearing habitat. Currently steelhead access depends on connectivity at the mouth impacted by stream flows, which are dependent solely on precipitation in this low-elevation watershed. By implementing low-tech, process-based designs, floodplains will be reconnected, storing high flows, and returning hydrologic function to the upstream sections. Resulting stream connectivity, and increased riparian vegetation will improve water quality, reduce temperatures, encourage beaver to recolonize, and ultimately restore steelhead to this stream. The seasonal barrier at the confluence with the John Day River will be explored but is likely to require a more complex solution in a future application.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$30,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$30,000

Staff Conditions

The completion report will include an alternatives analysis for solutions to the seasonal barrier at the mouth.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6039-19619 **Project Type:** Monitoring
Project Name: Murderers Creek Mussel Monitoring
Applicant: South Fork John Day WC
Region: Mid Columbia **County:** Grant
OWEB Request: \$182,154 **Total Cost:** \$270,353

Application Description

Murderers Creek is an important watershed for wild steelhead populations in the John Day River system. The Murderers Creek Ranch Enrichment (220-6021) project to improve late season flow to support steelhead rearing and juvenile survival has been developed and is scheduled to be implemented by the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, ODFW, and Bureau of Reclamation in 2022. It is located about 3 miles upstream of the confluence with the South Fork John Day River and extends another 2.5 miles along Murderers Creek. In the Summer of 2020, Xerces Society biologists met with South Fork John Day Watershed Council staff, through their OWEB Stakeholder Engagement Grant “Conserving Mussels in Aquatic Restoration,” and to conduct a survey at the Murderers Creek restoration site. This survey, and follow-up surveys within the restoration project reach through their companion OWEB Technical Assistance Grant, revealed the presence of an extremely high abundance of freshwater mussels (an estimated 70,000 within the approximately 2.5-mile stretch of the creek), including both western pearlshell (*Margaritifera falcata*) and floaters (*Anodonta*). We propose to implement a freshwater mussel monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and to document the resulting effects of the Murderers Creek habitat restoration project on freshwater mussels, their habitat, and their host fish. To do so, we will monitor survival of mussels onsite and at relocation sites using mark-recapture methods prior to the habitat restoration project, in months following the project (when survival rates may be the most impacted), and for a period of 5 years. We will also monitor the effects of the project on host fish species by conducting annual monitoring, as well as changes in the habitat onsite by repeating CHaMP protocol data collection. Project partners includes; South Fork John Day Watershed Council, Xerces Society, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the lack of knowledge of stream restoration impacts to freshwater mussels and builds on the previous mussel survey that was completed in this location.
- The proposed project leverages the fish and habitat monitoring that is to be completed by ODFW.
- The study design to use PIT tags to investigate the various relocation strategies provides a non-intrusive approach that will yield valuable information on freshwater mussel survival and displacement.
- The applicant is contracting with qualified consultants to collect the freshwater mussel and fish/habitat data.

- The mussel data will be stored in the Western Freshwater Mussel Database that Xerces maintains and makes available to a wide audience.
- The applicant is working with a diverse group of practitioners active in restoration in the John Day Basin to relocate the mussels prior to restoration and serves as an opportunity to learn how these mitigation efforts affect survival and displacement.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The fish and fish habitat data that are proposed to be analyzed with the freshwater mussel data are not well described or integrated in the application description.
- The application does not describe the fish and habitat monitoring methods and only cites a report that has used modified CHaMP and fish monitoring protocols that was uploaded to the application.
- The application lacked clarity about how the habitat data would be analyzed to interpret the freshwater mussel data. The habitat metrics, specifically the substrate data collected in the CHaMP protocol, may not translate to the level of detail needed for freshwater mussels.
- The application mentions that all the monitoring data will be stored in OWRI, but this is not an appropriate database to store monitoring data (it contains only restoration data).
- The application does not describe if a final report will be written to summarize the interpreted results from the analyses and if or how such a report would be made available to the public.
- The short-term changes in fish hosts may not impact the mussels since they are so long lived.
- The budget included lump sums for the contractors, lacking detail about how the expenses were calculated.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed monitoring will fill an information gap for mussel relocation and salvage in relation to restoration actions. The project is timely to gather pre-implementation baseline data of a large-scale restoration project on Murderers Creek.
- Xerces Society is a partner and has the required expertise and proven track record for collecting data and integrating mussel and mussel habitat considerations into the restoration culture, protocols, and publications.
- ODFW provides an integral part of the monitoring by handling the CHaMP and BACI fish monitoring components.
- The resulting data will provide insights into the correlation between mussel and juvenile steelhead abundance that will improve baseline knowledge of the steelhead life cycle.
- The proposal is technically sound using Xerces Society's proven best management practices and protocols.
- The costs are in-line for a four-year period and are reasonable based on the amount of salvage and monitoring that will occur at a remote location.
- The application is the result of contacts made from Xerces Society's OWEB-funded stakeholder engagement and technical assistance grants.

Concerns

- The scale and feasibility of tagging and relocating thousands of mussels is unclear from the application and more detail on crew numbers, volunteer pool, and timing of each phase of work is needed to better understand how the proposed work will be implemented.
- The budget for contracted services is a lump sum; however, the narrative following the budget provides some detail on how costs were determined.

Concluding Analysis

The South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC) contacted the Xerces Society after hearing about their methods of salvaging mussels during restoration. The council is involved in a large-scale restoration instream and riparian project on Murderers Creek on ODFW Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area. During an initial survey by Xerces Society and the SFJDWC, over 70,000 mussels of two species were located. This opportunity to salvage and gain more data related to mussels and the impacts of restoration will result in replicating best management practices for mussels and salvage techniques into future restoration planning. The SFJDWC is an active participant in the John Day Basin Partnership, so this knowledge will be shared and available across the John Day Basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$182,154

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$182,154

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6040-19541

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Hydrological Trend Monitoring in the Walla Walla Basin

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$86,954

Total Cost: \$125,985

Application Description

This project is located in the Oregon portion of the Walla Walla Basin in Umatilla County near the town of Milton-Freewater. The project will measure water temperature and stream flow in the Walla Walla River, its tributaries and distributaries, and also measure water levels in the underlying shallow alluvial aquifer during a 2 year period. Data are needed to guide current planning efforts aimed to address the Basin's inadequate water supply to meet the needs of aquatic life as well as agricultural and municipal uses. The Walla Walla Watershed is utilized by ESA-listed bull trout, summer steelhead, and reintroduced spring Chinook salmon, which are limited by lack of summertime flow and high water temperatures. Monitoring will document current conditions and describe trends to inform development of projects to restore watershed function and increase in-stream flows. BPA will be the source of match for this project and project partners (non match) include private landowners, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Oregon Water Resources Department, City of Milton-Freewater, Hudson Bay District Improvement Company, Walla Walla River Irrigation District, Fruitvale Water Users Association, and members of the Walla Walla Water 2050 project and Bi-State Flow Enhancement Study.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the historic data collected across the basin by the applicant and partners such as OWRD, USGS and WDOE.
- The application describes how this project complements current and planned efforts as part of the Walla Walla Basin Water Plan 2050 with additional monitoring from those organizations listed above.
- The applicant proposes straight-forward monitoring objectives and questions, which the monitoring methods, data management, and data analysis should be adequate to answer.
- The applicant has a DEQ approved Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and they will update the SAP and submit it to DEQ for approval.
- The applicant has the software necessary to manage the continuous data and plans to submit water temperature data to DEQ and water quantity data to OWRD.
- The applicant developed this application in coordination with its board of directors, which represents a diverse group of local stakeholders and water resources professionals/experts.
- The application describes a number of ways the data and final report will be made publicly available. Related to this, multiple state, tribal and federal partners provided letters of support.

- The application proposes to continue a long-term monitoring project with a previous track record of success.
- The large number of sites proposed in this application requires the applicant to maintain private landowner agreements to provide access, which demonstrates the capacity to engage community stakeholders.
- The proposed costs seem appropriate to accomplish the objectives proposed in the application, given that two years of data collection will occur across many sites for which existing monitoring infrastructure has created cost efficiencies.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacked detail about how the data they have collected to date informs their current monitoring plan. It was not clear what the applicant has found to date from the monitoring and how this informs the need for additional data at the sites proposed in the application.
- The application mentions that data gaps exist, but little detail was provided about what or where they are.
- It was not clear how the trend data will be interpreted to better understand the restoration actions that have occurred and how that can specifically inform applying this information to future restoration or acquisition projects.
- The application did not describe the overall process for reviewing, grading, and publishing the different data sets that are proposed to be collected.
- The study design did not identify the parameters and describe data collection frequency to answer the monitoring questions.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is a continuation of long-term water quality monitoring in the Oregon side of the Walla Walla River Basin.
- The data resulting from this monitoring is used by various stakeholders in the basin and is available on the Watershed Council's website.
- The application clearly outlines objectives and monitoring questions and includes specific actions necessary to answer those questions.
- The applicant has the necessary field equipment and analysis software, the technical expertise and experience to implement the proposed work.
- A significant number of partners and landowners are engaged in this monitoring program, as evidenced by letters of support for the project.
- The applicant maximizes cost effectiveness with existing infrastructure and efficiencies incorporated from past monitoring experiences.
- Monitoring sites were analyzed when preparing the application to ensure sites are not duplicative with other monitoring efforts occurring in the basin.

- This information can feed into multiple Walla Walla Basin water planning processes currently underway.
- The proposed monitoring is critical for learning about the basin “re-set” occurring in response to impacts from the recent 100-year floods in the Walla Walla Basin and continuing assessment of water quality trends.

Concerns

- The application lacked trend analysis from previous monitoring efforts that would provide helpful context for evaluating the proposed monitoring project.

Concluding Analysis

The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council has a long history of collecting water quality monitoring data in the basin and providing access to this data to stakeholders, including ODFW, irrigation districts, agricultural producers, the City of Milton-Freewater, and the Confederated Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). The watershed council also participates in the Bi-state Flow Enhancement Study, the Walla Walla Water 2050 project, and the USGS groundwater study where this information may prove useful.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$86,954

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$86,954

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6041-19560

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: John Day Watershed
Macroinvertebrates

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Gilliam

OWEB Request: \$81,232

Total Cost: \$102,032

Application Description

Macroinvertebrate populations are an important base for the food web in freshwater ecosystems and can be used as indicators of water quality. This project will monitor macroinvertebrate populations at three restoration sites in the John Day watershed. Two of the sites are currently under restoration through a Focused Investment Partnership – Thirtymile Creek and Bull Run Creek. The third site, Hay Creek, is the one we will focus on for this proposal. The Hay Creek restoration project, located on the main stem at the lower end of Cottonwood Canyon State Park, is led by Oregon Natural Desert Association and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. We will sample at ten sites on Hay Creek. The sampling sites are located in relation to currently installed Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs). Nine sites were selected based on where the restoration partners have placed HOBO temperature recorders and one site is upstream from the restoration area. The restoration partners are interested in changes that occur over time in the macroinvertebrate populations in relation to the restoration efforts, particularly the BDAs and vegetation. Sampling will occur three times during the year, in mid-April, mid-June, and mid-September, and will follow the standard protocols for macroinvertebrate sampling adopted by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Sample collection will be led by Eastern Oregon University (EOU) biology faculty, Joe Corsini, PhD who will be working with a college-level student intern and, for one sample set, students in a field studies course. All samples will be sent to a certified lab to identify the organisms that are collected. Data will be uploaded to a public access database and results will be summarized and reported by the student intern with supervision and support from Professor Corsini. The project management will be led by Julie Keniry, Program Manager for the Rural Engagement and Vitality Center, a partnership between EOU and Wallowa Resources.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This proposed project will leverage the continuous water temperature monitoring data that ONDA currently is collecting, with the proposed macroinvertebrate monitoring being paired with those monitoring sites.
- The applicant proposes to follow DEQ sampling methods and send the macroinvertebrate samples to a certified lab for identification and enumeration.
- The applicant is working with a professor at Eastern Oregon University who will lead the sampling effort and has the technical capacity to implement this project as proposed.

- The applicant also is working with the restoration implementer (ONDA), the landowner (OPRD), DEQ, and Mt. Hood Community College to collaborate on this project and leverage existing data.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It was not clear why the proposed data collection is needed. The application does not describe how monitoring data could be used to modify the existing restoration project based on the monitoring results or inform future restoration efforts in Hay Creek.
- The application does not include a map to illustrate where the work is occurring and how the sites are distributed across the restoration project.
- The study design does not have pre-restoration macroinvertebrate data, and it is not clear if the “above” restoration project site’s characteristics represent a “before-restoration” condition to compare with the “below” restoration data.
- The application does not include an objective or monitoring question that addresses the need to collect basic water quality parameters or how these data will be incorporated into the analyses to interpret the macroinvertebrate findings.
- The application does not describe how the data will be analyzed to answer the second question posed at the end of the application regarding correlating changes in macroinvertebrate assemblages to the revegetation and BDA actions.
- The application does not describe why macroinvertebrate samples need to be collected three times in one year to answer the monitoring question, given the proposed project’s intent to track changes related to the restoration project across three separate years.
- The applicant did not elaborate on the quality assurance procedures and references a draft DEQ Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). It was not clear if the applicant incorporated time and expenses to cover development of a site-specific sampling and analysis plan (SAP) for this project, which would need to be developed before data is submitted to DEQ.
- The budget included expenses for water quality probes, yet the application did not describe how the information would be used to answer the monitoring questions.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendations:

- Applicant should contact DEQ early in the project to develop a SAP for review and approval by DEQ.
- Funding of the purchase of water quality probes is not recommended by the OPMT, since it is unclear how the data gathered with these probes would be used.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A partnership with OSU will provide expertise and capacity needed to implement the proposed work.
- The travel budget is reasonable given the remote location.
- Letters of support from partners indicate that information resulting from this effort complements other ongoing monitoring actions on Hay Creek.

- The data collected will fill a data gap in understanding how macroinvertebrate communities react over time at locations where Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs) are installed.
- The schedule provided in the application appears reasonable.

Concerns

- The application lacks comprehensive maps showing the actual location of proposed monitoring in relation to the installed BDAs, where the control sites are located, and the location of existing beaver colonies.
- More detail describing the monitoring protocol as it relates to BDA placement is needed to understand technical soundness of the monitoring approach to answer the monitoring questions.
- A Before After Control Impact (BACI) type protocol may be a more appropriate approach for learning about the impacts of BDAs on macroinvertebrate communities. For instance, incorporating pre-restoration baseline monitoring sites on the lower reaches of Hay Creek prior to installing BDAs will provide detail on the density and diversity of the current macroinvertebrate population.
- It is not clear in the application why macroinvertebrates were selected to gauge the effectiveness of BDA restoration techniques. BDAs encourage formation of pools and the accumulation of sediment, which are not habitat features that normally promote diverse communities of macroinvertebrate taxa.
- More detail describing monitoring site stream features such as presence of pools, riffles, and glides, how monitoring results will be analyzed, and whether more than one control site will be used would be helpful information for understanding the technical soundness of the monitoring approach.

Concluding Analysis

Macroinvertebrates are a critical component to streams as both a food source for fish and wildlife and as a water quality indicator. With the increase in use of low-tech, process-based restoration techniques, monitoring the impacts to the macroinvertebrate communities could provide information important to siting BDA structures and ancillary benefits to the aquatic population. If resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address all the concerns noted.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6042-19590

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Combining Methods to Monitor John Day Steelhead Migration and Overshoot

Applicant: Gilliam SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Gilliam

OWEB Request: \$203,161

Total Cost: \$703,120

Application Description

Approximately 60% of adult steelhead returning to the John Day River "overshoot" the John Day River mouth and are detected 119 km upstream in the Columbia River at McNary Dam. After crossing McNary Dam, John Day adult steelhead must "fallback" in order to return and spawn in the John Day River. Adult overshoot past a hydroelectric dam can directly (via physical injury during fallback) and indirectly (via increased energy expenditure) reduce the survival and reproductive capacity of returning adults. The current proportion of adult steelhead overshooting the John Day River contributes to a 7-year mean Bonneville Dam to South Fork John Day conversion probability of 50%, and is a limiting factor for steelhead population recovery. This means that only half of the adult steelhead arriving at Bonneville Dam survive and return to their natal stream to spawn. Life-cycle models indicate substantial risk of quasi-extinction for a John Day steelhead population if this status quo conversion probability continues. The quasi-extinction risk diminishes to near zero if conversion rate increases to 70%. In order to increase the probability of John Day steelhead returning to their natal stream, we propose a third phase of a three phase monitoring for John Day adult steelhead overshoot. To do this, we leverage existing acoustic data and receivers (ODFW-Sturgeon and OWEB funded Phase One of this study) and new Passive Integrated Transponder antennas (funded by ODFW's R&E Board - Phase Two of this project). This combination of antennas positioned in the Columbia and John Day rivers will detect tagged adults and allow us to map migratory routes and relate adult steelhead migration to environmental parameters that restoration can influence such as stream discharge, velocity and temperature. We will compare fate of steelhead by migratory route to identify relationships between migration route and environmental parameters. Gilliam SWCD and ODFW will be the lead partners.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The proposed project leverages equipment and effort from other tagging projects, such as the sturgeon monitoring project and other existing acoustic and PIT arrays in the Columbia and John Day rivers. It is able to use the existing PIT tagging of outmigrant juveniles to maximize the effort to place acoustic tags in John Day River steelhead.
- The application's monitoring questions are very specific and the study design description accounts for how each question will be answered. Data analysis is well described to understand how data will be processed to answer the different questions posed, and the application includes a few examples to better explain how the questions can be answered.

- The application cites professionally accepted protocols and includes a few reports that describe how the data are collected and analyzed for the different components of the project.
- The applicant is working on developing a sampling and analysis plan for the water temperature monitoring data and they will submit the data to DEQ.
- The acoustic tag data will be stored in various databases and will ultimately be made available in an ArcGIS Online account maintained by the John Day Basin Partnership.
- The PIT detection data will be loaded to the PTAGIS database and the Columbia River DART website, which requires metadata, backed up, and made available to the public.
- The staff and contractors (ODFW) working on this project have extensive experience working in this area and collecting and reporting similar data. The progress to date on Phases 1 and 2 of the project is proceeding as proposed, which likely will result in this project being implemented in a successful manner, if funded.
- The applicant is engaging OSU fisheries professors to recruit a graduate student to work on this project and is collaborating with the EPA cold water refuge experts to leverage existing data to better understand how steelhead are migrating upstream and downstream of the John Day River mouth.
- The data will inform a variety of different efforts to improve watershed conditions and manage the hydroelectric dams that may reduce steelhead overshooting the John Day River.
- The budget is based on the previously funded monitoring grant, allowing the applicant to estimate realistic expenses needed to complete the project as proposed.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The proposed project leverages equipment and effort from other tagging projects, such as the sturgeon monitoring project and other existing acoustic and PIT arrays in the Columbia and John Day rivers. It is able to use the existing PIT tagging of outmigrant juveniles to maximize the effort to place acoustic tags in John Day River steelhead.
- The application's monitoring questions are very specific and the study design description accounts for how each question will be answered. Data analysis is well described to understand how data will be processed to answer the different questions posed, and the application includes a few examples to better explain how the questions can be answered.
- The application cites professionally accepted protocols and includes a few reports that describe how the data are collected and analyzed for the different components of the project.
- The applicant is working on developing a sampling and analysis plan for the water temperature monitoring data and they will submit the data to DEQ.
- The acoustic tag data will be stored in various databases and will ultimately be made available in an ArcGIS Online account maintained by the John Day Basin Partnership.
- The PIT detection data will be loaded to the PTAGIS database and the Columbia River DART website, which requires metadata, backed up, and made available to the public.
- The staff and contractors (ODFW) working on this project have extensive experience working in this area and collecting and reporting similar data. The progress to date on Phases 1 and 2 of the project is proceeding as proposed, which likely will result in this project being implemented in a successful manner, if funded.
- The applicant is engaging OSU fisheries professors to recruit a graduate student to work on this project and is collaborating with the EPA cold water refuge experts to leverage existing data to better understand how steelhead are migrating upstream and downstream of the John Day River mouth.
- The data will inform a variety of different efforts to improve watershed conditions and manage the hydroelectric dams that may reduce steelhead overshooting the John Day River.

- The budget is based on the previously funded monitoring grant, allowing the applicant to estimate realistic expenses needed to complete the project as proposed.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation:

This is a complex project in terms of the phasing and how all of the pieces come together in Phase III to ultimately produce a less expensive means for monitoring in the future. A recommendation for reporting, if this project is funded, is for the applicant to diagram how the various phases come together, clarify how different investments are leveraged, and describe how various funders' expectations are met (e.g., for OWEB, discuss how this work will inform future restoration actions).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes how the proposed monitoring ties into the previous two phases, and incorporates lessons learned to maximize both leverage and efficiencies in equipment and personnel sharing.
- Information gleaned from the proposed monitoring is crucial to improving ESA-listed steelhead numbers returning to their natal streams.
- The methodology and data will be transferable to analyzing overshoot for other species, including Chinook.
- The application includes comprehensive details on how data will be analyzed, stored, and shared.
- The project integrates with restoration work being done in the John Day Basin benefitting aquatic species at risk, specifically ESA-listed steelhead.
- Data relating to temperature and velocity will inform restoration actions in the John Day River, cold-water refuge along the Columbia, and other tributaries to the Columbia River.
- The stakeholders involved in this process have the technical expertise and capacity to achieve the goals and objectives of this proposal, and successfully complete the project.

Concerns

- The deliverable is dependent on the outcomes from the previous two phases to provide sufficient analysis.

Concluding Analysis

Gilliam SWCD and ODFW partner on this innovative and ambitious monitoring project to help determine the nuances of steelhead as they return to their natal rivers. Determining the impacts of temperature, velocity, and other environmental conditions at the confluence of the John Day River with the Columbia River on the movement of steelhead will inform multiple efforts to keep this species from continuing to decline.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$203,161

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$203,161

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6043-19600

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: North Fork Walla Walla River
Effectiveness Monitoring

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed
Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$25,287

Total Cost: \$33,709

Application Description

The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council is seeking funds to conduct project effectiveness monitoring on the North Fork of the Walla Walla River from the confluence with the South Fork to the Little Meadows Canyon, outside the town of Milton-Freewater, Oregon, in Umatilla County. The project includes the collection of water temperature, streamflow, turbidity, and riparian inventory data to document current conditions, flood impacts, and produce a baseline data set for evaluating project outcomes in the future. Data will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed habitat improvements on the private property above the end of the North Fork Walla Walla River Road. Monitoring of water temperature, streamflow, and turbidity will be conducted according to methods described in WWBWC's standard operating procedures. Riparian monitoring will be conducted according to Oregon's Riparian Assessment Framework, which is included in the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. Bonneville Power Administration will be assisting in funding this work. The project is supported by the property owners, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Walla Walla Ranger District.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The proposed monitoring will complement the hydrology and water temperature data collected in the entire Walla Walla Basin as part of the USGS hydrology study and the baseflow assessment and inventory currently underway and planned in the South Fork and North Fork.
- The applicant proposes to follow professionally accepted monitoring protocols and will produce a sampling and analysis plan (SAP) and submit it to DEQ for approval.
- The applicant will store manage and store data using specialized software for time series data and make the data available on web.
- The water temperature will be submitted to DEQ, and the applicant will write a report summarizing results, submit this to OWEB, and make the report available to partners and on their website.
- The applicant is engaging the community and state and federal agencies, and secured access by the private landowners in the area to be monitored. The application includes letters of support that demonstrate the community stakeholder engagement and interest in these data.
- The applicant has the necessary experience in data collection of this nature, and has a good track record completing similar projects and generating reports to summarize findings.
- The proposed costs are appropriate for the monitoring the applicant proposes over one year.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application does not describe other monitoring efforts in the North Fork Walla Walla River that could complement this proposed monitoring project, such as fish, habitat and geomorphology.
- The project proposes to track changes associated with future restoration actions, but the application does not explain the geomorphic context to understand if geomorphology will be monitored. This is an important consideration, given that extensive changes occurred recently due to flooding and conditions are likely to continue to change over the short term.
- One year of pre-restoration data (i.e., vegetation, stream flow and turbidity) will limit the comparison to post-restoration conditions over time.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation:

Follow up with OWRD on a recently established gage in this monitoring reach (OWRD gage #14010800).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project follows two recent 100-year flood events in the Walla Walla Basin and is a well-planned monitoring effort.
- The application clearly describes the goals and objectives and the related actions to achieve them.
- The North Fork of the Walla Walla River is in an important production area for ESA-listed steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout.
- The maps and drone footage provide an understanding of the landscape to be monitored.
- Obtaining pre-restoration baseline information will aid in the restoration design process, as well as provide an opportunity to determine the effectiveness of future restoration on the North Fork Walla Walla River.
- The applicant has a proven track record of successfully implementing monitoring in the basin. Staff have both the capacity and the technical expertise to collect and analyze the data.
- Four of the five landowners along this reach are engaged and approve this monitoring to be done on their land.
- The application has a letter of support from the National Forest, managers of the public land upstream of this monitoring reach.
- The budget is reasonable for actions described in the proposal.
- This effort complements the WWBWC stakeholder engagement proposal, submitted during this application cycle.

Concerns

- There are no significant concerns.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant noted that post-flood water temperatures are higher compared to previous data collected from a monitoring site at the confluence with the main stem Walla Walla River. This information has spurred efforts to restore this reach of the North Fork, which provides habitat and serves as a conduit to critical cold-water refuge in the National Forest for steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$25,287

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$25,287

Staff Conditions

Have grantee follow-up with OWRD on a recently established gage in this monitoring reach (OWRD gage #14010800).

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6044-19615

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Walla Walla Basin Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$42,080

Total Cost: \$60,479

Application Description

The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC) seeks to engage stakeholders in and around Milton-Freewater, Oregon in the Walla Walla River (WWR) Basin, with a focus on the upper WWR, Couse Creek, Little WWR system and connected alluvial aquifer. Engagement activities will support projects aimed at addressing some of the basin's hydrological and ecological issues, including degraded stream flows, floodplain connection, surface-groundwater interaction, water quality, fish passage, riparian conditions, and aquatic habitat complexity. To address fish passage and habitat issues, the WWBWC and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) will engage directly with landowners to identify potential project partners on the upper WWR and Couse Creek. WWBWC will engage with individuals throughout the basin who possess senior water rights in order to develop partners for irrigation efficiency projects directed at protecting water in-stream via Oregon's Allocation of Conserved Water program. Stakeholders will be sought to partner in pursuing the goals of replicating floodplain connection, recharging the shallow aquifer, and improving related ecological and hydrological system functions. Additionally, various stakeholder engagement activities will be carried out to familiarize potential stakeholders with the WWBWC's work, the basin's hydrological and ecological issues and the potential for projects. The aim of these engagement activities is to develop future partners and projects necessary to address the basin's degraded hydrological and ecological systems. In various capacities, the WWBWC will seek to partner with landowners, holders of water rights, CTUIR, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Little WWR Working Group, local irrigation districts and other stakeholders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has a proven record of engaging the community in restoration and watershed health in the Walla Walla River Basin.
- Utilizing multi-directional communication as proposed in the application is likely to be effective.
- The application describes clear objectives and actions to achieve the stated goals.
- The proposed project builds on the applicant's years of serving landowners and highlights the level of trust resulting from these continuing relationships.
- The project costs are appropriate for the stated actions.
- This proposed project complements the other stakeholder engagement application from the Farmers Conservation Alliance for the Little Walla Walla River.

Concerns

- There are no significant concerns.

Concluding Analysis

The application focuses on efforts to develop projects that address hydrological and ecological issues in the Walla Walla Basin. The team at the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council will work with both the community and stakeholders in the area to share knowledge and opportunities about watershed health.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$42,080

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$42,080

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6045-19571

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Walla Walla River Irrigation District
Modernization Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA)

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$31,135

Total Cost: \$45,537

Application Description

The proposed stakeholder engagement project would occur within Walla Walla River Irrigation District (WWRID) and along the waterbodies that are affected by WWRID's operations in Umatilla County. Competing agricultural, environmental and community water demands in the Walla Walla Basin have created challenges for both instream and out-of-stream water uses in the basin. Out-of-stream uses have contributed to decreased streamflows in the Walla Walla River and its tributaries. Correspondingly, increased groundwater demands and reduced recharge have contributed to declines in both the regional aquifer and the shallow aquifer that feeds many springs and creeks in the Walla Walla Basin. Together, these changes have reduced habitat quantity and quality for and limited populations of Endangered Species Act-listed steelhead and bull trout. Limited water supplies in WWRID associated with voluntary streamflow restoration have correspondingly limited agricultural production. The proposed work will focus on developing potential on-the-ground water conservation and management projects in WWRID would meet both agricultural and environmental water needs. Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) and WWRID propose to engage stakeholders through individual and, if appropriate, small group meetings to better understand where their goals, objectives, and priorities align in a manner that would accelerate the development of successful projects. Stakeholders would include local, state, and federal agencies; tribes; nonprofit organizations; and landowners with an interest in WWRID or the resources that would benefit from water management and conservation projects in the district. FCA has partnered with WWRID to complete the proposed work, and this work will both complement and inform a parallel technical assessment of potential projects that will be funded through other sources.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The goal of enhancing and protecting instream flows in the Walla Walla River is a priority for stakeholders concerned about ESA-listed steelhead, bull trout, and reintroduced Chinook.
- The application describes the ecological benefit likely to result from engaging 250 water users, some with the most senior water rights in the Little Walla Walla River system, to protect approximately 25 cfs of instream flow.
- The Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) has a proven track record of working with landowners on water transfers and implementing irrigation efficiencies.

- The application includes letters of support from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, indicating an effective start for collaboration with established watershed health stakeholders in the basin.
- FCA has completed a preliminary assessment of the irrigation district identifying modernization opportunities in the irrigation system. Stakeholder engagement is the next step for contacting both farmers and urban residents who are impacted by the Little Walla Walla River canal system.

Concerns

- The application does not include an upload of the FCA assessment, which may have been useful in reviewing the application by providing a better overall understanding of the long-term plan for developing irrigation efficiency projects.
- Details related to the Walla Walla River Irrigation District's loss decree and how that approach works with the State's Allocation of Conserved Water (AOCW) program is missing. Without that detail, the likelihood of success in obtaining protected flows is unclear.
- It is not clear in the application how or if the approximately 250 water users in the district may be impacted by the resulting water saving efforts.
- The application lacks a detailed map of the Little Walla Walla River irrigation system that would provide landscape context to better understand the proposal.

Concluding Analysis

The Farmers Conservation Alliance will work with the Walla Walla River Irrigation District to develop conservation projects that lead to protected instream flows. At times, the canal system within Milton-Freewater floods urban residents who live next to the canal. These urban residents, as well as farmers using the district's irrigation water, will be engaged through phone calls, mailings and in-person meetings to come to a consensus on conservation and restoration projects within the system.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$31,135

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$31,135

Staff Conditions

N/A



Agenda Item G supports OWEB's Strategic Plan Priorities 3, 4, and 7.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Post-Fire Recovery Funding
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the General Fund appropriations to OWEB during the 2021-2023 biennium in support of post-fire natural resources recovery in 2020 fire impacted areas. Staff request the board approve receipt of these General Funds for the purposes outlined in House Bill (HB) 5006 and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through appropriate agreements.

II. Background

Wildfires of historic proportion ravaged Oregon in 2020, affecting approximately 1.2 million acres. Impacts from these fires continue to pose great risks to natural resources around the state. The Governor's Office and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management activated the state's disaster recovery plan in response to the fires. In September 2020, interagency and intergovernmental coordination on fire recovery began to occur through the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force (NCRRTF), convened by OWEB and the Oregon Departments of Forestry (ODF) and Environmental Quality. The NCRRTF summarized information about fire impacts to natural and cultural resources (NCR) and identified high-priority actions needed in the next two years to help address and mitigate for NCR impacts. This assessment synthesis built upon rapid assessments for federal lands, along with Erosion Threat Assessment/Reduction Team reports and a Water Quality/Drinking Water Supply Resource report, which assessed impacts and needed actions on state and private lands.

The assessment synthesis summarized impacts and high-priority actions related to two critically important risks—human life and safety, and protection of drinking water/source-water supply areas. To reduce risk, several priority actions—such as storm proofing roads, replanting burned areas, and restoring floodplains to reduce post-fire flood risks—were identified. NCRRTF also developed an estimate of state funding needed to address several high-priority NCR actions in a two-year period. This estimate totaled \$86 million.

At the request of the Governor's Office and Chair Brian Clem of the House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery, NCRRTF co-conveners presented the assessment synthesis findings and information about the cost estimate during multiple meetings of the House committee during the 2021 Legislative Session. These discussions resulted in resources being included in HB 5006 that appropriated \$26 million in NCR recovery funding to OWEB, ODF, and Oregon Department of Transportation.

III. Post-Fire Recovery Funding and Grant-Making

The Legislature appropriated a total of \$19.75 million in General Funds to OWEB to administer three categories of grants for 2020 wildfire recovery and restoration:

- \$10.75 million for riparian and upland restoration, focused on replanting and associated activities in locations that will pose risks to water quality and important aquatic habitat due to post-fire erosion if not restored;
- \$5 million for floodplain restoration and reconnection, focused on more complex projects that restore and reconnect rivers to floodplain areas, re-establishing hydrologic and ecological functions in ways that help reduce post-fire impacts; and
- \$4 million for one or more pass-through grants to the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB), focused on work by EWEB, in coordination with its local partners, to restore and/or acquire riparian and floodplain areas to reduce post-fire risks.

The legislative intent for use of these General Funds to support grant-making by OWEB is well articulated in HB 5006 and supporting materials from the Legislative Fiscal Office. These documents noted that OWEB will leverage its granting infrastructure to develop targeted grant offerings for the explicit purposes outlined above. Local partners currently eligible for OWEB's existing programs can access these offerings. Granting process steps will include project solicitation using tailored grant applications; evaluation by an interagency team of experts; grant award and oversight; and project implementation and reporting, including regular updates about progress and, ultimately, outputs and outcomes that address post-fire natural resources concerns and provide community benefits.

Staff are developing the grant applications and guidance for these offerings, in addition to grant agreement templates in coordination with Oregon Department of Justice, designed to specifically address legislative intent of the General Funds for post-fire recovery grants. In addition, the grant offerings will encourage engagement with Tribes and consideration of equity and climate related issues.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve receipt of \$19.75 million in General Funds, as appropriated in OWEB's 2021-2023 biennial budget, to support grants for the purposes of post-fire natural resources recovery as described in House Bill 5006 (2021), and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of August 6, 2021.

Attachment

A. Memo from Matthew Garrett, Governor's Wildfire Recovery Director

Governor Kate Brown



October 27, 2021

Liza Jane McAlister and Barbara Boyer, Co-Chairs
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
775 Summer St NE #360
Salem OR 97301

Subject: Governor's Priorities Funding

Dear Co-Chairs McAlister and Boyer,

Let me begin by sharing Governor Brown's appreciation of OWEB's assistance with recovery from the devastating 2020 wildfire season. The agency played an important role in helping to convene the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force, bringing together state and federal agencies and Tribes to identify fire impacts to natural and cultural resources and articulate the recovery actions and funding needed to address these.

As a result of the Task Force's work, the Oregon Legislature was able to clearly understand these impacts and allocate funding to begin to address them. The allocation of nearly \$20 million in General Funds to OWEB to support natural resources recovery in the fire impacted areas is a testament to the good work of the agency in administering public funds with transparency and accountability.

Now it is time that we repay the confidence shown by the legislature and deliver on these critical wildfire recovery investments. I strongly encourage and support OWEB board actions to advance its approval of the receipt of this funding and the delegation to the Executive Director at the October board meeting. This prompt action will ensure proposals for on-the-ground restoration work can be expeditiously solicited and reviewed, and grants awarded to local partners that are working diligently to protect and restore their fire affected watersheds. These post-fire recovery grants are specifically intended to address concerns around water-quality impacts to drinking water supplies and aquatic habitat, and human life and safety concerns such as post-fire flood risks. The grant program developed by OWEB staff adheres to the legislative intent of these General Funds, and will include regular reporting by grantees that enables periodic updates to the Governor's Office and Legislature regarding on-the-ground progress being accomplished with the investments.

Your actions in post-fire recovery through the recently secured General Funds is key to advancing critically important work that will help communities around the state restore their watersheds and build back better.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to this recovery effort.

Matthew L. Garrett
Director of Wildfire Recovery
Office of Governor Kate Brown
Matt.Garrett@oregon.gov

Cc: Renee Davis



Agenda Item I supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Miriam Forney, Acquisitions Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – April 2021 Land Acquisition Grant Offering Awards
October 26-27, 2021, Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the April 2021 land acquisition grant offering and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards.

II. Land Acquisitions – April 2021 Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The April 2021 grant offering is the first of two land acquisition grant cycles for the 2021-2023 biennium. Due to revenue reductions in 2020, the planned October 2020 land acquisition offering was postponed. With revenues fully restored in the approved 2021-2023 budget, the board asked that delayed offerings be moved earlier in the biennium whenever possible, so the land acquisition solicitation opened in April 2021 instead of October 2021. To evenly space offerings, the second offering of the biennium will occur in October 2022. The land and water acquisition-spending plan includes \$9 million for the biennium. Four land acquisition applications were received in April 2021 requesting \$8,688,167. The applications are summarized in Attachment A. Application evaluations are included as Attachment B.

Following technical reviews, land acquisition applications 221-9900, 221-9901, and 221-9903 are recommended for funding with conditions. Land acquisition application 221-9902 is not recommended for funding.

B.R eview Process

The land acquisition applications were reviewed in accordance with administrative rules for the program, most recently revised in 2019. 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.

Staff and teams of ecological reviewers consisting of subject matter experts selected by the applicant and chosen by staff from the standing regional review teams conducted site visits.

Each ecological reviewer completed a project evaluation form, and staff summarized the input of all ecological reviewers.

A team consisting of staff, the land acquisition program's due-diligence technical assistance contractor, and the Oregon Department of Justice conducted project soundness reviews. 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 Committee met with staff during the evaluation process. The purpose of the meeting was for committee 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 clarifying questions about the applications.

III. Staff Funding Recommendation

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 \$3,079,073.

Attachments

- A. Summary of Land Acquisition Applications and Recommended Awards, April 2021 Grant Offering
- B. Land Acquisition Project Evaluations
- C. Project-specific Funding Conditions (*to be provided to the board in advance of the meeting*)

April 2021 Offering - Land Acquisition Applications and Staff Recommendations

Application #	Application Name	Applicant	\$ Requested	\$ Recommended
221-9900	Oak Creek Preserve	Greenbelt Land Trust	\$1,027,390	\$1,027,390
221-9901	Mt Ashland Forest Climate Resilience Project	Pacific Forest Trust	\$1,128,010	\$1,128,010
221-9903	North Fork Siuslaw	The Nature Conservancy	\$923,673*	\$923,673*
221-9902	Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement	Wild Rivers Land Trust	\$5,212,524	\$0

Total	
Recommended:	\$3,079,073*

* The recommended award for application 221-9903 includes, and is contingent upon receipt of \$490,000 in USFWS Coastal Wetlands funds. If federal funds are not awarded, the OWEB award for 221-9903 will be \$433,673 contingent upon the applicant securing \$490,000 in other match funds.

SPRING 2021 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	221-9900-19489		
Project Name:	Oak Creek Preserve		
Applicant:	Greenbelt Land Trust	Region:	Willamette
Basin:	Willamette	County:	Benton
OWEB Request:	\$1,027,390	Total Cost	\$2,060,130

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

Oak Creek Preserve, a 143-acre site located in NE Benton County, offers unparalleled opportunities for connecting habitat restoration and trails, and preserving waterways in the Oak Creek Watershed. This high-visibility property is essentially the 'missing puzzle piece' to connect over 12,000 acres of protected lands, and has been identified as a site critical for protection for decades.

Greenbelt Land Trust is a trusted conservation partner, with over 30 years of consistent, demonstrated success at navigating complex acquisitions, pioneering large-scale habitat restoration, and building community support for our work. Oak Creek Preserve is a stone's throw from the land trust's Bald Hill Natural Area, Bald Hill Farm, Mulkey Ridge, and Fitton Green Natural Area properties. The addition of Oak Creek Preserve to this expansive portfolio of protected lands will effectively solidify our legacy in this region of connecting lands and resilient habitats for generations to come.

The future vision for Oak Creek Preserve includes a mosaic of wetland, prairie, and oak woodland habitat, and engages the community through recreation and volunteerism. Imagine a dynamic site where endangered grassland birds nesting amid tufted prairie grasses, acorn woodpeckers peeking out from the trunks of legacy oak trees, with riparian swales collecting into a marshy wet prairie that is bursting with camas in the Spring.

Support for Greenbelt's acquisition of Oak Creek Preserve is at a fever-pitch. The attached list of supporters includes federal and state conservation partners, local government, tribes, regional conservation nonprofits, and neighbors. These letters give voice to the countless additional community members who are championing this acquisition - collectively we know that the protection of Oak Creek Preserve is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and that this site will be a keystone property for Greenbelt, for our regional conservation goals, and for Oregon Watershed Enhancement.

REVIEW

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

The Oak Creek Preserve land acquisition project will protect and restore wet prairie, upland prairie-oak savannah and oak woodland habitats, which historically made up the majority of the Willamette Valley. Today these habitats are the top three declining habitats in the Willamette and are now mostly gone from the landscape. The acquisition property also has a small portion of Oak Creek, which is listed on the 303(d)

list of water quality impaired water bodies. With the development that has already occurred in the Oak Creek watershed, much of the original wetlands and floodplain connection have been lost to impervious surfaces, infrastructure, and agricultural land use. Preserving the remaining oak woodland, upland prairie-oak savannah, wetland, and wet prairie habitats is a high priority in the Willamette to rebuild ecological connectivity needed to support species relying on these habitats.

Value of Habitat Connectivity to Species Recovery

The Oak Creek Preserve property provides an unmatched opportunity to connect a corridor of upland prairie and oak habitats in the Corvallis and Philomath area because of its location adjacent to and within proximity of a network of properties protected for ecological values. The large size of the property and connection to other conservation sites significantly increases the ecological benefit gained from protecting this site to prevent permanent alteration and loss of habitats needed for protected species recovery. The value of this habitat connectivity cannot be overstated for the target species that will benefit from protected high value habitats, especially fauna, because maintaining resilient populations for many of them simply requires large, unfragmented areas.

The proposed acquisition site has potential to provide suitable habitat for several rare and declining species, including Federal and State listed species. These species include Fender's blue butterfly, Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, Willamette daisy, Kincaid's lupine, and Nelson's checkermallow. "Corvallis West" is the second-most important Fender's blue butterfly habitat in the Willamette Valley according to USFWS. There are already endangered Fender's blue and Taylor's Checker spot butterflies present in the neighborhood of the property, and so it is reasonable to expect these species to utilize the property once it is restored. The site will also provide habitat for many grassland and oak-dependent species identified by conservation partners, including western meadowlark, chipping sparrow, vesper sparrow, white-breasted nuthatch, western bluebird, and acorn woodpecker. The property provides an opportunity to reintroduce listed plant species and contribute to species recovery goals. The proposed land acquisition project site combined with the adjacent conservation properties is likely to contribute unfragmented habitat needed to establish resilient plant populations and a corridor of uninterrupted habitat connectivity for threatened and endangered bird and butterfly species.

Risk to Habitat Connectivity

The Oak Creek Preserve property is located within the Urban Growth Boundary for the City of Corvallis and is zoned for housing development. Testing has already been completed to determine the suitability of the property for home sites, and the primary home sites would be placed in the oak woodland portion of the property where there are many legacy oak trees. Other nearby properties that once had similar habitats like the Oak Creek Preserve site are now town houses, residential neighborhoods, or student housing blocks for Oregon State University. There is a high likelihood for the project property to be developed if it is not acquired for conservation. The opportunity to restore and preserve high priority habitats and expand habitat connectivity will be lost, and further habitat fragmentation of these habitats will impact landscape efforts to recover listed species. Permanent protection is the only way to restore and manage the priority wet prairie, upland prairie-oak savannah and oak woodland habitats. Unlike stream restoration projects where restoration goals can typically be achieved within a finite period, these habitats require long term investment to maintain restoration gains. The threats posed by development of the site into housing, along with the associated roads and other impervious surfaces, would disrupt habitat and forever block the recovery of natural ecological system processes on the Oak Creek Preserve site.

Opportunity for Habitat Restoration

The oak woodland portion of the Oak Creek Preserve is currently in good condition with the presence of multiple large legacy oak trees and no fir trees creeping into the oak stand and threatening to over top the

oaks. Very little restoration is needed to maintain the ecological values of the oak woodland that already support key target species, such as the acorn woodpecker.

Most of the remainder of the property has no native plant community and a significantly altered hydrology. Restoration work will be necessary to recover natural ecological systems and functions, and to re-introduce native plant species in the abundance and diversity with which they would naturally occur. Due to the project site position on the landscape and recent agricultural management, restoration has a high likelihood for succeeding in recovering target habitats, improve plant biodiversity and structure, and increase wildlife diversity and abundance.

This project reflects a common conservation theme in the Willamette Valley in which land use must be changed completely, often from agriculture, and starting from scratch to restore historic conditions to the maximum extent possible. The property is located in the transition zone from the valley bottom to upland habitats, such as the oak woodland. There is significant opportunity to establish wetland and upland prairie, both of which are habitats listed in the ODFW Conservation Strategy. The site historically contained a large area of wetlands and wet prairie that is currently limited due to alterations made to accommodate agricultural practices. Seasonal tributaries and seeps have been ditched to quickly transport water off the grass fields. Most of the area is in annual ryegrass production. Annual ryegrass fields are easier to restore compared to old pastures. Pastures tend to have a variety of invasives plant species mixed in with native plants, while annual ryegrass acts as a cover crop that breaks the weed cycle. The ryegrass fields provide a blank slate for restoration that is relatively clean of weeds, which is often more cost effective because conversion to habitat can be done at an economy of scale.

Restoration and maintenance plans for the property are well thought out, site-appropriate, and in line with the current knowledge and approach taken by restoration practitioners for restoring the multi-habitat mosaic once common to the Willamette Valley. The wet prairie restoration planned will reverse the current conditions caused by ditched and channelized tributaries that were designed to move water quickly out of the floodplain. This will restore floodplain connection by reconnecting ephemeral tributaries and create vernal pools that will promote groundwater recharge needed to support wet prairie plant and wildlife species, including migratory birds and amphibians. Restoring wetland filtering functions is likely to improve water quality in Oak Creek by providing slow subsurface cold-water releases during warm months and filtering overland runoff.

The applicant has the expertise and capacity to undertake the necessary restoration to achieve the desired ecological outcomes. They have experience specifically in restoring oak habitat and restoring prairie habitats from former agricultural fields. Their restoration work on the adjacent Bald Hill Farm site is a “Gold Standard” for oak restoration in the Willamette Valley.

Opportunity to Increase Community Awareness

With its close proximity to Corvallis, the proposed land acquisition project location provides an opportunity for community outreach that showcases conservation at work. It will be challenging to maintain high ecological values that are not compromised by a likely high demand for public use. The applicant has significant experience in balancing public use and ecological values on the adjacent Bald Hill Farm and has already contracted to develop a conceptual plan for a boardwalk that will restrict access and link with other trails. The accessible and culturally sensitive trail system planned for the site will serve an important role in social connectivity and access for the community to learn about the importance of the diverse habitats and species on Oak Creek Preserve and the need to protect them in the long term.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

The acquisition is a relatively uncomplicated purchase of fee simple title. GLT has completed several significant due diligence items, including obtaining an option and appraisal and analyzing certain title-related matters. One due diligence item in particular, the potential for a major road, as described in the local comprehensive plan, to be built through the property, needs to be thoroughly investigated and the risk determined to be minimal for the project to be consistent with the purpose of OWEB's funds. An existing title encumbrance also appears to include a right to construct roads on the property, which requires a risk analysis. One of the property's boundaries is adjacent to several small-acreage rural ownerships, where boundary encroachments may be an issue. The boundary should be surveyed and any encroachments should be resolved. The property's rental agreement for agricultural use will need to be carefully considered to ensure compliance with relocation-related laws.

Completed and additional due diligence would need to be reviewed and approved by OWEB if the application is awarded funds. GLT is likely to complete the process in an efficient manner because of their experience with OWEB's requirements.

GLT is requesting \$1,000,000 from OWEB for the property purchase price and needs to raise \$500,000 for the remainder of the purchase price. GLT also needs to secure a stewardship fund for the property. GLT estimates it needs to raise \$500,000 for the fund to generate sufficient income for annual stewardship of the property, although additional information is necessary to confirm this. GLT has started a fundraising campaign that it reports has generated significant community interest so far. GLT appears confident that it will raise the necessary stewardship funds and additional purchase funds by OWEB's 18-month due diligence deadline.

Reviewers identified a long-term project soundness concern pertaining to potential extensive public use of the property. The use needs to be managed effectively and in a manner that protects the restored ecosystems and complies with OWEB's conservation easement. Infrastructure related to public use on OWEB-funded properties is typically minimal. Infrastructure and its use must not impede the ability of the property to meet the purpose of OWEB's land acquisition grant program, which is the protection and enhancement of native fish and wildlife habitat.

The application proposes updating the property management plan every 10 years. However, GLT will need to review the management plan every five years and update it if needed in accordance with OWEB's management plan guidance.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states that community benefits include high-value native habitat, clean water for fish and wildlife in the Oak Creek Basin, cleaner drinking water for communities that draw water from the Willamette River (Adair), trails designed to reduce barriers to the outdoors, and opportunity to build partnerships around restoration/management of the land.

These benefits have a high likelihood of being realized if the application is funded. While the drinking water benefit would be challenging to quantify given the scale of the drinking water supply watershed, the Willamette River, the benefit is nevertheless important, particularly given the public visibility of the property and neighboring conservation properties.

A concern regarding public access noted in the soundness review will be important with respect to the trails benefits described in the application. The benefits of public access to restoration of prairie habitat, which is needed in the Willamette Valley, will need to be balanced by managing public access in such a way as to minimize impacts to wildlife habitat.

A public hearing was held July 8 to provide an opportunity for community comments on the application. No members of the public attended; a neighboring landowner submitted an email comment in support of funding the application.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The Greenbelt Land Trust is an accredited Land Trust and is following best management practices in accordance with the accreditation. The organization's portfolio includes nearly 4,000 acres across more than 20 properties, many of which have been acquired with OWEB funds. The proposed property aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy. GLT does have several outstanding reports associated with other OWEB acquisition projects, which would need to be addressed prior to entering into a grant agreement.

The project team has the necessary expertise to complete this transaction and to ensure the long-term stewardship, management and monitoring of the property. GLT has an experienced stewardship team with the knowledge and skills to successfully manage this property; however, the application does not provide sufficient detail on the overall obligations of the team and how staffing and financial resources will be distributed across the many properties to meet the organization's overall stewardship, management, and monitoring obligations.

SUMMARY

The application provides an opportunity to permanently protect a key property connecting to a significant network of protected lands with oak woodland/oak savannah habitat. The property's location near an urbanized area makes it vulnerable to development threats that would eliminate the possibility of habitat restoration and protection. GLT has the depth and breadth of experience in property transactions and habitat restoration on similar properties to make the likelihood of success on this property high. While GLT will need to balance public access with habitat protection and restoration, they have demonstrated ability to do this effectively on similar properties.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the Board award \$1,027,390 for the project in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with GLT to finalize project-specific conditions, which will be provided to the Board at its October 2021 meeting.

SPRING 2021 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	221-9901-19497		
Project Name:	Mt. Ashland Forest Climate Resilience Project		
Applicant:	Pacific Forest Trust	Region:	Southwest Oregon
Basin:	Rogue	County:	Jackson
OWEB Request:	\$1,128,010	Total Cost:	\$2,300,185

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

Pacific Forest Trust (PFT), an Accredited Land Trust, is seeking OWEB funds to acquire 960 acres of forestland (the Property) on the Siskiyou Crest that is part of the 1675-acre Mt. Ashland Forest Climate Resilience Project (the Project), a broad conservation partnership. We are also seeking funds for acquisition costs, baseline information, and planning for ecological management. The Project's Phase 1 was completed in 2020 with the acquisition of 555 acres from Siskiyou Timberlands by Mountcrest Forest, which charitably granted a conservation easement to PFT. OWEB funds will be matched 100% by a combination of cash and in-kind contributions, including the Phase 1 conservation easement value, the fee value of a 160-acre portion of the Project and other expenses being funded by a secured grant from the LTA Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative.

The Property is in the heart of the Siskiyou Crest Conservation Opportunity Area and contains priority habitats for this COA. It is adjacent to Mountcrest Forest and is the largest remaining unprotected private tract in the Neil Creek drainage, comprising many of its headwater springs. The Property provides critical connectivity within a large network of protected lands allowing for wildlife migration across the landscape for species seeking to adapt to climate change. Its habitat types include the notably biodiverse Siskiyou mixed forest, meadows, palustrine forest and wetlands. The Property supports many imperiled species including northern spotted owl, coho and steelhead, fisher and gray wolf.

Conserving the Property will prevent it from being developed for residential/recreational uses as well as intensively logged, degrading ecological functionality. PFT's conservation management will maintain and enhance habitats and improve resiliency to climate change stressors. We intend to use the Property as a hub to engage stakeholders in learning about ecological forest management for climate resiliency.

REVIEW

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

Strengths

The goals listed in the application are consistent with successful protection and preservation outcomes within this type of environment. This acquisition could provide significant benefits for connectivity, climate resiliency, and sensitive species conservation.

The acquisition addresses the board-adopted conservation principles of protecting sites with exceptional biodiversity values, improving connectivity, and complementing existing networks of conserved areas. This property is a vital undeveloped link for connectivity of wildlife. This area has been rated as one of the most important biological corridors in the western United States. Acquisition mitigates for potential risks due to logging, fragmentation, and habitat loss, and provides opportunities for landscape scale, cohesive management of late seral forests for wildlife and other benefits, enhancing connectivity within the project area and protecting significant biodiversity resources.

The property consists of a high-quality mosaic of habitats from early to late seral as well as wetlands and meadow networks. The area is an ecological critical habitat area of concern, surrounded by the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) Late-Successional Reserves, spotted owl critical habitat, and spotted owl and fisher detections. The proposed management of the property is consistent with the USFS NWFP and BLM Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument conservation principles.

This property provides intact natural and undeveloped sections that are important to wildlife movements. The property includes significant and rare habitat types that are in functional condition and provides important habitat features for wildlife including snags, wet meadows, uneven-aged stands, canopy gaps, bare ground, and rock outcrops. Promoting and protecting older forest characteristics will enhance and restore complexity and habitat values for species associated with intact and mature forests, as well as forest-associated resident and neotropical migratory songbirds. Nevertheless, plant communities are poorly characterized in the application, and an inventory would improve the understanding of potential at risk-communities on-site.

Keeping the landownership contiguous provides an opportunity for a more comprehensive and large-scale management approach to address forest resiliency and climate change. Having larger tracts managed with climate change in mind is necessary because of the magnitude of the stressors and megafire possibilities in our forest ecosystems. Having more intact and restored forest ecosystems keeps options open to allow for adaptively managing for increasing threats.

The strategic location and proposed management objectives of the acquisition plus adjacent forest properties under PFT management will enhance the conservation value of this location from the standpoint of maintaining a species-habitat connectivity bridge among multiple physiographic provinces (i.e., Oregon and California Klamath, Oregon and California Cascades). This forest connection will provide for important meta-population dynamics for multiple at-risk and federally listed species. Focusing on forest resiliency and climate change in this location is expected to help keep the forest community and connectivity with similar habitat intact or at least reduce stressors at the regional level.

The property is at the heart of the Cascade-Siskiyou ecoregion, directly linking the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. This habitat-connectivity bridge is beneficial to spotted owls, Pacific fisher, wolves, and Coastal marten. Further, the on-site diversity of springs and wet meadows is essential for pollinators and amphibians. This landscape mosaic for the fisher provides for foraging and dispersal across the larger forested context and serves as important steppingstones for population viability of the northern California and southern Oregon Pacific fisher populations. The subject property has both the strategic location and diversity of habitats to hasten recovery and conservation of the spotted owl, Coastal marten and fisher. Protection of this area (and anticipated future management), coupled with the conservation benefits of the adjacent areas will provide for resilient forests in adapting to climate change across this biologically rich area.

Other species of concern include the western bumblebee and the Franklins bumblebee, a species listed as endangered, and only found in the Mount Ashland area. This property provides potential habitat for both of these species. The meadows also provide habitat for a plethora of early seral species. The wetlands provide for many aquatic species including beaver, pond turtles, western toad and mountain beaver. Ungulates like

deer and elk use this property extensively during the summer. Late successional habitat provides closed canopy habitat for species like the black salamander, hermit warbler, various woodpeckers, bald eagle, as well as various mollusk and other invertebrates of concern.

Aquatic species that may benefit are cold water trout and ESA-listed coho salmon, as Neil Creek is Coho Designated Critical Habitat in the lower reaches. There are other aquatic species of concern, such as red tailed frog and pacific giant salamander.

Concerns

This is an extremely important ecological area with fragile habitats. Too many educational or management activities could disturb this condition. Educational and management activities should be limited as much as possible to avoid disturbing the incredibly diverse and sensitive flora and fauna of the area.

While the applicant organization has a history of successful and engaged conservation action on the Siskiyou Crest, it will be critical that adequate field staff time and availability to implement the proposed restoration and management actions be allocated.

The application indicates a high level of planned timber harvest (25% every 10 years). This level of harvest could be detrimental to the desired habitat outcomes expressed in the application, and a management plan will need to reflect how this level of harvest can be completed while still meeting outcomes.

Strategic active forest management under PFT's management plan of the forested areas, particularly the younger forests, will be necessary to achieve more structurally complex and resilient forests. Ongoing restoration of the open meadows will be needed to address encroachment as will addressing the threat of invasive plant species.

Additional plant and invasive species inventory work and site assessment would inform the refinement of management plan goals and actions.

Concluding Ecological Analysis

The property provides valuable habitat connectivity, high biodiversity, and high ecological function within a large regional area when considering adjacent conservation properties and federal ownership that is managed for conservation. This is an important ecological transition area with different species from high to low elevations mixing at fine scales and at the landscape scale, a transition zone of habitats that come from the great basin, California chaparral, coastal west zone and the northern boreal forest.

The ecological condition and function of the property is excellent currently and rare for this area. There is relatively minimal restoration that needs to be done and the emphasis should be on preservation for the known and unknown rare plant and animal species present and for protection of the multiple micro-habitats found throughout the property.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

If the application is funded there are several title encumbrances that need to be addressed:

- i) a current lack of insurable access;
- ii) a mineral reservation that PFT asserts does not apply to the property but has not been removed from the title;
- iii) rights of the public to use the property's roads; and
- iv) rights of other parties to construct roads on the property.

Another potential complication is the potential for the seller's expectations for the deed to diverge from OWEB's requirements. OWEB will require a deed that cites only specific encumbrances affecting the property, consistent with OWEB's current title guidance. The current appraisal will need to be updated, incorporating OWEB's appraisal requirements.

PFT's intended timing for the transaction is not clear, although the application states that PFT can reobtain previous approval of a bridge loan if its option period terminates before all of OWEB's funding conditions are met. In such case, it will be important for PFT to ensure it has met OWEB's requirements for the initial closing and understand that closing in advance of receiving OWEB's funds does not guarantee OWEB's funds will later be released.

If the application is awarded funds, PFT will need to work with OWEB to ensure that all property it intends to use for match for the OWEB award meets OWEB's requirements for permanent protection.

Reviewers identified long-term soundness concerns related to PFT's plans for a stewardship fund and management of the property, which will be PFT's first fee simple ownership. The proposed annual stewardship budget appears to be a general estimate of costs related to monitoring, as opposed to a calculation of costs based on planned stewardship time and activities. Furthermore, the application states that initial stewardship expenses will be funded through grants and PFT's operational funds until a stewardship fund can be established.

The application states that PFT plans to harvest the property's timber to have an adequate fund for typical stewardship activities such as weed control. PFT intends to remove up to a quarter of the property's timber inventory every ten years. This plan needs to be assessed by an independent subject matter expert familiar with the property to confirm that this level of harvest will be consistent with the purpose of OWEB's funding, which is the protection and enhancement of native fish and wildlife habitat.

The application proposes updating the property management plan every 10 years. However, PFT will need to review the management plan every five years and update it as needed in accordance with OWEB's management plan guidance.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states that as the last privately-owned property in Neil Creek watershed, the project will continue to generate economic, wildlife, watershed, scenic, scientific and educational values for the surrounding communities, the region and the state in perpetuity. Specifically, the application states that these benefits include: cold water fish habitat, fuels reduction that will reduce wildfire threats, and a learning opportunity for climate resilient forest management.

While there are potential climate resilience benefits that could be achieved on a forested property within a diverse ecosystem, the application would have benefited from more specific descriptions of how the applicant intends to achieve climate resilience benefits and how those benefits may be transferable to other properties in the region.

Nevertheless, the applicant is a leader in forest management in the Pacific Northwest and has the capacity to implement harvest strategies that could accrue climate resilience benefits.

A public hearing was held on July 1 to provide an opportunity for public comment on the application. Two members of the public attended and stated their support for the application due to its significant ecological benefits. One written comment was received expressing concern for potential fire risk and other risks associated with public use of the property.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

PFT received its accreditation in 2010 and is following best management practices in accordance with the accreditation. The organization's portfolio includes management responsibility for over 100,000 acres spread across more than 30 project sites in two states. This project would be PFT's first fee simple

ownership. The organization has completed one previous project with OWEB's acquisition program and is currently up to date with OWEB acquisition related reporting requirements. The proposed property aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy.

The project team has the necessary expertise to complete this transaction and to ensure the long-term stewardship, management and monitoring of the property. The stewardship team does seem stretched thin across many projects in multiple states. PFT might be nearing maximum staffing capacity to meet its stewardship needs and might need to consider additional staffing resources in the future to continue meeting its stewardship and management goals.

SUMMARY

The application presents an opportunity to permanently protect a key property within a larger regional context of conservation properties in the Cascade-Siskiyou ecoregion. Since the proposed outcomes are dependent upon the forest management strategy, it will be important to ensure that harvest strategy aligns with the long-term goal of restoration of a forest with late seral characteristics. While the property would be the first fee simple acquisition for PFT, their long-term experience managing forests for conservation purposes indicates a high likelihood of success for perpetual habitat conservation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the Board award \$1,128,010 for the project in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with PFT to finalize project-specific conditions, which will be provided to the Board at its October 2021 meeting.

SPRING 2021 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	221-9902-19498		
Project Name:	Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement		
Applicant:	Wild Rivers Land Trust	Region:	Southwest Oregon
Basin:	South Coast	County:	Curry
OWEB Request:	\$5,212,524	Total Cost:	\$10,488,024

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

The Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement Project is the purchase of a conservation easement on the 783-acre Wahl Ranch which is located on the southern Oregon Coast in the lower Elk River watershed. The Ranch is located about three miles north of Port Orford, about ½ mile west of Hwy 101, and immediately southeast of Cape Blanco. The Project will perpetually protect 783 acres, including ~250 acres of fish and wildlife habitat, ~1.1 miles of the Elk River which includes the Elk River estuary, large portions of two low-gradient streams (tributaries to Elk River), several wildlife ponds, and 0.6 miles of Oregon coastline.

This project presents an opportunity to protect a large family ranch and an ecologically critical piece of this remarkable landscape for generations to come. The need for this project is significant given the development pressures. The Ranch is in a 20 mile stretch of scenic coastline consisting of ten ranches owned by eight families, and public parks or natural areas. It is the longest stretch like it left on the Oregon coast and is known as the “dark coast” by sailors for lack of lights from development. None of the ten ranches has converted out of ranching in four generations, but significant residential and commercial development pressures have now reached Oregon’s south coast. The project will also ensure that the investments that the Ranch has made to restore and protect the ecological areas supporting fish and wildlife into Ranch operations are secured, including major restoration efforts on Cedar and Swamp Creeks, with additional restoration work planned for both.

Partners include the Wahl Ranch, Wild Rivers Land Trust, The Conservation Fund and the Natural Resources Conservation Service through their Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. The project supports the recommendations of the SONCC coho salmon recovery plan and the ODFW Sixes River-Elk River Conservation Opportunity Area to protect wetland and estuarine habitats.

REVIEW

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

Strengths

The project involves many of the South Coast Basin priority ecological systems listed in the 2004 OWEB Ecological Priorities for Land Acquisition by Basin (OEPLAB): CA-Southern OR coastal bluffs and headlands, deciduous swamp, freshwater emergent marsh, lowland riparian woodland and shrubland, Sitka spruce forest, and South Coast grassland. The OEPLAB identifies the Cape Blanco area as a priority place to address biodiversity conservation because of its at-risk species and unique coastal habitats. The project area has

preferred stream conditions for projects intended to benefit native fish: low gradient, unconfined channels, tributary junctions where smaller streams enter a much larger river, and estuarine channels.

The project area is situated at an ecologically diverse zone encompassing several habitat types for fish and wildlife including riparian and stream corridors, estuary, and headlands. Protecting these ecologically sensitive areas that provide critical habitat is vital as ranches consider conversion to more intensive land uses posing risks of habitat fragmentation, water quality impacts, and higher carbon emissions.

Conversion of the Ranch to other uses would reduce the quality of fish and wildlife habitat and the value of the completed restoration work, as well as the management practices implemented to support it. The forest and upland habitat quality could suffer if the Ranch was subdivided, but the restored and enhanced aquatic habitat, aside from perhaps narrower buffers, would likely persist given land use laws.

The property is a large, intact ranch with significant biodiversity. In particular, the ranch includes significant, and functioning, overwintering habitat for coho in Swamp and Cedar Creeks, and summer habitat for Chinook in Elk River estuary. Protecting that habitat with a conservation easement is consistent with state and federal plans for the conservation and recovery of coho and Chinook salmon.

Historical impacts on the property include overgrazing/ground disturbance followed by significant gorse invasion, ditching and simplification of Swamp and Cedar creeks, and loss of floodplain connectivity. Current management of the ranch over the last 20 years has included improved grazing practices, protection and ongoing restoration of riparian areas, completion of fish passage projects, and improved floodplain and wetland connectivity. The landowners clearly understand the long-term benefits that restoration and proper management can provide. They have dedicated a lot of time and funds to improve the ecological condition of this property. While fish habitat has not completely recovered from historical impacts it has recovered to a functioning condition, with potential for additional improvement. The quality and size of riparian buffers is large and as the vegetation matures it will provide excellent habitat for wildlife and shading of Cedar and Swamp Creeks. As temperatures continue to rise due to climate change, cold water refugia maintained through shaded corridors are going to be critical habitat for fish.

Concerns

Ensuring that the management plan strikes the balance of having flexibility for the landowner and achieving and maintaining ecological outcomes is critical to project success. This is especially critical for the areas that will remain in agriculture. The easement will not provide the long-term ecological and carbon sequestration benefits if the agricultural management practices diminish from the current state. Current practices are excellent and yield strong ecological outcomes, thus it is key that the management plan captures the goals and strategies clearly to ensure the integrity of the easement is maintained in perpetuity over the course of land ownership changes.

The gravel operation, while not proposed to be included in the easement, borders it and drains into Cedar Creek. This could have adverse impacts to water quality in Cedar Creek. It is unclear whether there is a current gravel extraction plan that safeguards water quality and ecological function.

Although there are fish passage measures in place at the Swamp Creek dams, ideally if protected in perpetuity the dams would be eliminated to restore Swamp Creek to its natural state. Also, if the dams remain in place it could pose management challenges in the future for the landowner and/or WRLT if the dams impact the desired ecological outcomes. It would be helpful to have more information on the scope of work proposed for the 2021-2022 Swamp Creek project that is referenced in the application. As such, it is difficult to evaluate the extent of remaining restoration needed on Swamp Creek. Based on the information provided it appears that this is the last major area of the property that would need restoration and site stabilization work completed. All other areas of the proposed easement zone appear to have well-functioning restoration projects (based on application information and site visit).

Without seeing the final management plan it is hard to evaluate in detail the extent of ecological benefits achieved; however, the application provides assurance that the WRLT and partners will work intentionally to develop a plan that is achievable, enforceable and aligns with the ecological goals for the property.

Invasive plant species are the primary threats to the composition of the plant communities and will continue to be a management issue.

The inclusion of additional information would make the application stronger. For example, quantify what it means that the area's "rugged beauty attracts new recreation and home site developers annually," and give specifics when mentioning that two of the ten "dark coast" ranches are in the process of converting to other uses. While properties don't need to be named, it would help to understand what specifically is driving these conversions, how many acres are involved, where are these conversions relative to the Project, and how will these conversions affect ecological outcomes?

Other areas where additional detail would be helpful center around Swamp Creek. How does Swamp Creek compare to other winter rearing habitat within the watershed in terms of size and habitat quality? A bit more context, even at the sub-watershed scale, would be helpful. How does Swamp Creek restoration actions align with the long-term ecological goals of the property. Additional information on the dams on the creek and details regarding how they will be addressed would be helpful because although there are fish passage measures in place at the Swamp Creek dams, ideally if protected in perpetuity the dams would be eliminated to restore Swamp Creek to its natural state. If the dams remain in place it could pose management challenges in the future for the landowner and the land trust if it impacts the desired ecological outcomes. It would be helpful to have more information on the scope of work proposed for the 2021-2022 Swamp Creek project that is referenced in the application.

The potential for discovery of cultural resources would have benefitted from a detailed process discussion in the application.

Concluding Ecological Analysis

The Project overlaps many of the South Coast Basin's priority ecological systems in an area that sees a growing threat of development.

The property is situated in an area of coast with several distinct habitat types including coastal headland, estuary, wetland, riparian forest, and tributary streams. Protecting this diversity is a significant need in a region that is facing increased development pressures. The easement would protect these benefits in perpetuity which is a critical need in the face of ESA-listed species declines, climate change, and development pressures in the area.

This property showcases the compatibility of working lands and conservation. The property has had several successful restoration projects and the landowners are committed to sustainable and ecologically sound agricultural practices. Protecting this property with an easement will bring great ecological benefits to this area for high priority species including salmon and lamprey, native birds, mammals such as beaver, and native plant communities. The current management of the property is highly beneficial for water quality, fish and wildlife. This demonstrates that working lands and conservation can be complementary on a ranch property. Moreover, if not protected the potential risk for diminished ecological function is high due to development pressures in the area or a change in agricultural practices when landownership changes.

The current state of the property indicates that conservation is a recognized important aspect of this landscape by the landowners. Prior utilization of conservation programs on the ranch property, as well as their approach to working land and livestock management, show that they are heavily invested in protecting important ecological communities. The projected benefits to both aquatic and terrestrial communities are extremely likely in this scenario, and much needed on the southern coast.

Ensuring that the management plan strikes the balance of having flexibility for the landowner and maintaining all ecological outcomes. This is especially critical for the areas that will remain in agriculture. The easement will not provide the long term ecological and carbon sequestration benefits if the agricultural management practices diminish from the current state. Current practices are excellent and yield strong ecological outcomes, thus it is key that the management plan captures the goals and strategies clearly to ensure the integrity of the easement is maintained in perpetuity over the course of landownership changes. Overall, there are several well implemented and maintained projects on the property that contribute significantly to ecological function. It will be imperative that the WRLT and landowners work collaboratively to adaptively manage the property to sustain these current and future ecological outcomes.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

The application and review process identified significant soundness challenges that would need to be addressed to meet OWEB's due diligence requirements and achieve the long-term outcomes of the proposed project.

The project application's soundness challenges include:

- i) differences in owner information between the application and title materials;
- ii) a lack of an articulated structure and process for inclusive landowner decision-making during due diligence and under the easement;
- iii) a lack of a well-developed easement purchase price estimate;
- iv) a lack of preparedness to mesh NRCS and OWEB requirements such as requirements for a grazing plan and completion of the baseline and management plan before closing;
- v)a relative lack of easement drafting and management planning work specific to the property;
- vi) a lack of clear ecological goals and monitoring plans for the property's agricultural areas;
- vii) uncertainty about the intended easement zones and the amount of the property that will be dedicated to the purpose of OWEB's land acquisition program;
- viii) an inadequate budget for management plan development for a working lands easement, which must include a grazing plan component;
- ix) potentially complex and expensive survey work necessary to create the legal description for the conservation easement;
- x) public rights to portions of the property, including the beach and cemetery and difficulties in achieving easement protections in those areas;
- xi) uncertainty regarding future plans for the property's water rights;
- xii) uncertainties around title encumbrances, which are often incomplete in a status of record title such as the one included in the application;
- xiii) a windfarm lease that, if not able to be removed from title, must be allowed to expire before the conservation easement is granted; and
- xiv) a proposal in the application to establish separate tracts of record for gravel resources and the beach is unclear.

Reviewers identified long-term soundness concerns related to WRLT's plans for a stewardship fund and easement monitoring, with inadequate funds based on standard stewardship fund analytical tools and a frequency of monitoring that is likely too low to ensure high-quality outcomes under a working lands easement.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states the project will help achieve community benefits described in the Elk River Strategic Action Plan for Coho Salmon Recovery, including: self-sustaining habitats and fish and wildlife populations; healthy forests, streams, ranches, farms, and fisheries; a high quality of life for residents, workers, and visitors; a diverse economy anchored in the sustainable use of natural resources, which can adapt to 21st

century needs and opportunities; a community in which families can make a living, children do not have to leave to find jobs, and elders can enjoy a fulfilling life; and a culture that embraces the interdependence of ecology, economy, and community.

While the project is likely to contribute to many of the non-habitat benefits listed above, there is concern among some members of the community, as expressed in written comments from Curry County and the Curry County Farm Bureau, that the project could drive up the cost of farmland, making it more challenging for new farmers or those who would like to expand operations. This perception, however, is based on the estimated cost of the easement included in the application. Since OWEB can only fund an easement that follows strict appraisal guidelines, the purchase price would simply reflect market value. There may be a need for community engagement around succession planning issues faced by agricultural operators in the region and the state.

A public hearing was held July 9 to provide an opportunity for public comment on the application. Seven members of the public attended, with one providing verbal comments/questions that centered on how a conservation easement will impact neighboring properties and whether the conservation organizations planned to acquire additional easements. Representatives of WRLT and The Conservation Fund responded that the current landowners would continue to interact with neighbors as they have in the past and that WRLT would have limited contact with neighbors. The Conservation Fund indicated that the South Coast is a priority area for conservation, and that they only work with willing sellers.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

WRLT received its accreditation in 2019 and is following best management practices in accordance with the accreditation. The organization's portfolio includes 6 easements and two fee properties totaling just under 600 acres. The organization has completed one previous OWEB acquisition and is currently up to date with OWEB acquisition related reporting requirements. The proposed property aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy. The acquisition project team seems sufficient to accomplish the complex transaction. The team includes WRLT staff, Conservation Fund staff and consultants.

WRLT Conservation Director will be the lead on the long-term stewardship and management of the property and will work in partnership with the Curry Watersheds Partnership (CWP). The addition of this property to the organization's portfolio might be challenging given the complexity of this property and the other stewardship and management responsibilities of the organization. However, the proposed partnership with CWP, which has significant restoration and monitoring expertise, would increase the likelihood of the long-term successful stewardship, management and monitoring of the property. The application does not clearly articulate the on-going stewardship costs for this site. Additional information is needed on how WRLT plans on budgeting for annual stewardship and securing the funds to fulfill its responsibilities.

SUMMARY

The Wahl Ranch has demonstrated effective practices to improve long-term soil health on sheep pastures resulting in increased productivity while at the same time reducing or eliminating the need for artificial inputs. The property includes a small portion of the Elk River as well as two tributaries that provide significant coho and Chinook habitat.

Grassland is not a native habitat type for this area, which, while not insurmountable, presents challenges for OWEB to invest in a conservation easement for the purpose of habitat protection and restoration, particularly where the larger portion of the property appears to be pasture rather than proposed conservation zones. This makes the partnership with other, agriculturally focused funders critical. Up front

clarity in roles of all parties (funders, CWP, WRLT, landowners) and funding requirements will be key to making this project a success.

If ownership structure and other soundness issues identified in the evaluation can be addressed, the applicant is encouraged to more fully develop a proposal to mesh funder priorities with proposed easements, providing distinction between agricultural areas subject to a conservation easement to protect and sustain agricultural conservation and areas subject to a conservation easement for habitat purposes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the evaluation above, staff do not recommend the board award funding for the Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement.

SPRING 2021 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	221-9903-19500		
Project Name:	Siuslaw (Large)		
Applicant:	The Nature Conservancy	Region:	North Coast
Basin:	North Coast	County:	Lane
OWEB Request:	\$433,673 Lottery and \$490,000 Coastal Wetlands		
Total Cost:	\$1,320,243		

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

The subject property sits on the North Fork Siuslaw River approximately three to five miles from the confluence with the main Siuslaw. The property is 247 acres in size and is bordered by the North Fork of the Siuslaw River along approximately 2.6 miles of the western edge. It is the second largest unprotected property remaining in the Siuslaw estuary, and the largest remaining diked pasture in the estuary.

The property is disconnected from the river by a series of levees and tide gates and has been maintained for agriculture for most of the last century. Agricultural management, levee maintenance and the resulting land subsidence will continue if no action is taken.

The acquisition represents an opportunity to radically change the ecological trajectory of the property. Once acquired, the McKenzie River Trust, with the assistance of TNC and members of the Siuslaw Coho Partnership, will immediately begin working to realize the vision outlined in the Restoration Feasibility Assessment. This includes re-creating tidal hydrology on a majority of the property and will result in lateral connection of approximately 236 acres. As lateral floodplain connectivity is restored and secondary channels reform, habitat complexity and diversity will increase - creating conditions for diverse estuarine flora and fauna including critical juvenile nursery habitat benefitting multiple anadromous species.

There is broad support for the project among conservation partners in the area. IN addition to TNC, the core partners for the project include those participating in the Siuslaw Coho Partnership:

- Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Siuslaw SWCD
- USFS
- BLM
- Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
- MRT
- ODFW

REVIEW

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

The Siuslaw (Large) project will protect and restore an array of diverse estuarine habitats, including critical habitat for juvenile salmon. Estuaries are one of the most ecologically rich and important habitat types in Oregon and have been significantly impacted through historical land use practices. The Siuslaw estuary has lost nearly 67% of its tidal wetlands over the last century, and this project represents a unique opportunity to return tidal influence and estuarine function to a relatively large area. The property is notable for its size, its location within an existing network of conserved lands, and its restoration potential.

Priority Location and Habitat

The parcel has been identified by numerous local and regional assessments as a high priority for acquisition and restoration. The site is located within a larger complex of conserved properties, and its acquisition will tie together a network of high-quality estuarine habitat that will add to the overall health and resilience of the Siuslaw estuary. The property itself constitutes a significant portion of the estuary on the North Fork Siuslaw and is a collaboration with a willing landowner who recognizes the challenges of continuing agriculture activities in a rapidly subsiding former tidal wetland. Physical processes will be restored in this tidal system among an atmosphere of local cooperation and support.

Restoration of estuarine habitat is an identified priority by restoration practitioners and conservation planners along the coast. There are limited sites of this size available in Oregon estuaries that are suitable for habitat restoration. Restoration of both this specific site and the proposed habitat type is an identified priority by the Siuslaw Coho Partnership. The site was also highlighted as a priority for restoration by recent technical assistance work on landward migration zones that was partly funded by OWEB.

Restoration Opportunity

Restoration of this property will restore tidally influenced habitat managed to preserve and improve natural habitat function. Site conditions at this property were identified by the landowner to be unsuitable for agriculture, presenting an opportunity to restore high priority estuarine habitat with a willing landowner. Dike and tide gate removal are proposed and will be among the most beneficial restoration actions for the site. The applicants are proposing significant increase to tidal exchange in both the northern and southern portions of the property and habitat quality is likely to be immediately improved as a result. The desired marsh surface elevation and channel network formation may take a long time to develop, but the information in the application provides confidence that the project team aims to restore hydrologic processes to the greatest extent possible. Restoration of tidal flows will allow the site to begin accumulating sediment that will help buffer the effects of sea level rise on estuarine habitat.

The preliminary restoration approach is appropriate for the site and is likely to achieve the desired future conditions. The conceptual design is informed by site specific data and hydrologic modeling that was completed as part of a 2018 Restoration Feasibility Study, which was a comprehensive effort that included a study of the trajectory of habitat function in recently restored properties nearby. The study indicates that restoration on the site is feasible given the site constraints and outlines the key habitat types that can be restored.

Some concerns with the proposed restoration were identified during review. The description of expected changes to the existing dike footprint lacked detail, especially how the project partners might address stabilizing the locations where the length of dike will remain after restoration. The proposed timeline in the application also may be overambitious for a complex estuarine restoration project of this nature, given that similar restoration efforts have taken extended periods of time to implement and stabilize. Despite these concerns, the application provided evidence that the project team has conducted appropriate due diligence, understands the complexities involved, and is poised to design and implement a successful restoration project.

Benefits to Fish, Wildlife, and Watershed Function

The ecological benefit possible with this project is contingent on the successful restoration of tidal hydrology. Restoration of the proposed 236 acres of estuarine habitat, once completed, could provide immediate benefits to a large variety of fish and wildlife species, water quality parameters, and native wetland plant communities. The trajectory in the estuary will also be improved for long term ecological benefits such as carbon sequestration, flood storage, and combatting sea level rise. Restoration of tidal connectivity will result in the proliferation of tidal marsh and swamp plant communities, which will contribute to increased biodiversity and foster the growth of native plants with valuable cultural impact.

The habitat improvements that will result from the successful restoration will increase winter rearing habitat within the Siuslaw estuary, which is a primary limiting factor to ESA-listed Oregon Coast coho salmon. The expected ecological benefits will also be significant to a wide variety of other aquatic species, including Chinook salmon and steelhead.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

The acquisition is a complex transaction that involves, among other things, the proposed use of USFWS Coastal Wetlands funds. Coastal Wetlands funds require:

- i) MRT to be added to the OWEB-TNC grant agreement;
- ii) OWEB to obtain USFWS approvals including approval of the appraisal and a notice of federal participation; and
- iii) TNC to comply with USFWS's due diligence timing requirements which are more stringent than OWEB's.

Additional transactional matters that will need to be addressed if the project is funded include:

- i) the transfer of title from TNC to MRT, necessitating a conveyance agreement, an additional deed, and additional title insurance;
- ii) land use approval necessary to separate the property being purchased from land being retained by the seller;
- iii) the need to confirm that existing utility lines and utility easements will be addressed in a manner that allows for the restoration described in the grant application;
- iv) unclear access rights and obligations of the party that owns the property, other parties, and the public;
- v) the need to confirm that all adjacent property owners, including all parties that have rights to use access roads on the property, support the restoration described in the grant application, including road relocation, if any, necessary to accomplish the restoration; and
- vi) intended access rights of the seller to land the seller is retaining.

The application reasonably demonstrates, despite the transaction's complexities, that the acquisition team has the requisite experience to complete the acquisition in a sound and timely manner; however, the application did not provide clear information about team member roles. If the application is awarded funding, an MOU will be necessary to establish roles and responsibilities for the transaction, property transfer, restoration, and long-term management phases of the project. There is also a need to establish an understanding about MRT's intentions to be the long-term owner of the property.

The application states that TNC intends to purchase the property before the end of OWEB's due diligence period. If the application is awarded funds, it will be important to establish an understanding with TNC that if it closes the transaction without OWEB funds, it will:

- i) coordinate with OWEB to ensure approval of certain transaction items in advance; and
- ii) not transfer the property to MRT until TNC and OWEB are ready to proceed with the grant funds as a reimbursement, at which time TNC will grant OWEB the conservation easement, record the notice

of federal participation, and convey the property to MRT. TNC will also need to understand that closing in advance of receiving OWEB's funds does not guarantee OWEB's funds will later be released.

Reviewers identified long-term soundness concerns related to MRT's plans for a stewardship fund. The stewardship fund appears to not be secured and the application does not indicate what amount needs to be secured to return enough income each year to cover the estimated stewardship expenses. If the application is awarded funding, this information should be required, along with evidence that the fund will be in place by closing or a specific timeframe soon after.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states that acquisition and subsequent restoration will provide permanent protection to a critical piece of Siuslaw River estuary ecosystem and will contribute to the recovery of Chinook, Oregon coast Coho and the health of other native salmonid populations. This will benefit recreational and commercial anglers and the local economy as a result. Tidal restoration will help slow velocities and reduce downstream flooding. In addition, MRT has memoranda of agreement with both the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, and protection and restoration of the property will benefit several culturally significant species for the Tribes.

A public hearing was held July 13 to provide an opportunity for public comment on the application. Four members of the public attended, with one, the current landowner, providing comment, stating that when he bought the property 15 years ago, he did not envision restoring wetlands. He found that the property is challenging to work for agricultural purposes and is best suited to being wetlands.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The Nature Conservancy has the necessary expertise to complete this transaction and the staff will work closely with MRT staff throughout the process. After the completion of the purchase the property will be transferred to MRT. MRT, accredited since 2015, is following best management practices in accordance with the accreditation. The proposed property aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy. MRT does have several outstanding reports associated with the Waite Ranch property.

MRT is a member of the Siuslaw Coho Partnership, which has been involved in the development of the project and will be involved in the long-term stewardship of the property. The application indicates the intent to hire a Central Coast Conservation Program Manager; follow-up information indicates this position has been hired. The addition of this position will increase the capacity of MRT and enable the organization to provide for the long-term stewardship and management of this property. The application clearly articulates the proposed stewardship costs and but does not provide information on how the organization will secure and maintain an adequate stewardship fund.

SUMMARY

In a previous application submitted by MRT for this project, the evaluation noted that uncertainty regarding the hydrologic impacts of needed restoration on neighboring properties, and therefore the potential to achieve restoration, rendered the application premature. In this application, TNC has partnered with MRT, who led a comprehensive feasibility study that answers the questions posed in the previous evaluation and determined that restoration of tidal wetlands is feasible at the site. Opportunities for tidal restoration at this scale are rare and worthy of OWEB investment. TNC has been a leader in tidal restoration on the Oregon Coast and MRT has extensive habitat restoration experience. If the project is funded, it will be important for TNC and MRT to clearly delineate the roles of each organization in a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the proposed restoration.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the Board award \$923,673 pending receipt of \$490,000 in Coastal Wetlands funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, or, if the Coastal Wetlands application is unsuccessful, receipt of secured match funds from another eligible source, for the project in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with TNC to finalize project-specific conditions, which will be provided to the Board at its October 2021 meeting.

**221-9900-19489 Oak Creek Preserve
Funding Conditions****Initial Funding Conditions:**

The following Initial Funding Conditions must be satisfied before OWEB will review due diligence items or reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above or the Secondary Funding Conditions below.

- A. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- B. Grantee obtains confirmation from the City of Corvallis that the Transportation System Plan road described in the Property appraisal will not be constructed on the Property. If Grantee determines, and OWEB agrees, that such confirmation cannot be obtained, Grantee demonstrates, to OWEB's satisfaction, that the risk of the road being constructed on the Property is negligible.
- C. Grantee clarifies intentions regarding the Property's agricultural rental agreement dated November 1, 2020 and confirms that: i) the agreement will not be terminated before the end of the term specified in the agreement; and ii) if the term of the agreement is extended, the Owner will subsequently terminate the agreement only in consultation with OWEB and in a manner that does not result in Uniform Relocation Act compliance concerns.
- D. Grantee describes its rationale for the expected rate of return on the Property stewardship fund, including the performance of Grantee's existing stewardship funds.
- E. Grantee completes a staff workload analysis of restoration and long-term stewardship for the Property. The analysis must demonstrate that Grantee has the capacity to add the Project to its operating budget and the existing workload of its staff.

Secondary Funding Conditions:

OWEB will review due diligence items and reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above and the following Secondary Funding Conditions only after Grantee has satisfied the Initial Funding Conditions above.

- A. Grantee obtains OWEB's approval on all significant project documents prior to signature, including, but not limited to the warranty deed.
- B. If Grantee's due diligence will entail any ground disturbing activities, Grantee completes a consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office prior to undertaking the activities.
- C. Grantee maps (where possible) and analyzes the exceptions in the preliminary title report (PTR) for the Property, including Exceptions 8-14 contained in the PTR submitted with the grant application. The analysis must demonstrate, to OWEB's satisfaction, that the encumbrances that are expected to remain in the title insurance policy pertain to the Property and will not materially affect Grantee's ability to restore and protect the Property's Conservation Values.
- D. Grantee works with the title company to prevent Exception 15 of the PTR from being included in the title policy for the Property.

**221-9900-19489 Oak Creek Preserve
Funding Conditions**

- E. Grantee confirms with the Office of the Secretary of State that it does not have any financing statements on file for the Property.
- F. Grantee obtains: i) OWEB's approval on the scope of work for the Property's boundary survey prior to signing a contract with the surveyor; and ii) OWEB's review and approval of the draft survey.
- G. Grantee confirms completion of fundraising for the Property's stewardship fund at or before Closing.
- H. Grantee agrees that the management plan required by OWEB's standard form conservation easement will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - i. Removal of all grazing-related infrastructure and debris from the Property in a manner that minimizes impacts to water courses and other sensitive areas.
 - ii. A detailed plan and schedule for restoration of the Property, including obtaining all permits and consultations required by law.
 - iii. A chemical/pesticide use plan that accounts for the intended public use of the Property.
 - iv. A detailed plan for intended recreational use of the Property, including:
 - a. An infrastructure development plan that minimizes impacts to the Property's Conservation Values, including any revisions of the draft trail plan determined to be necessary to minimize impacts;
 - b. A monitoring plan that includes a minimum of quarterly inspections of the Property, and adequate staffing, funding, and actions to detect and respond to impacts to the Property's Conservation Values, including but not limited to public use impacts;
 - c. An adaptive management plan for responding to impacts to the Property's Conservation Values, including but not limited to restricting recreational access to the Property as necessary to protect the Conservation Values;
 - d. A communications plan for ensuring that the public is aware of recreational use restrictions; and
 - e. Safeguards for protecting minors while interacting with Grantee and while on the Property without Grantee oversight.
 - v. Steps for reviewing, and if necessary updating, the management plan every five years in accordance with OWEB's management plan guidance.
- I. Grantee agrees that the Project Progress Report will include but not be limited to a log of Grantee's quarterly Property inspections and a description of the actions Grantee took to resolve any Property impacts documented in the inspections.

**221-9901-19497 Mt. Ashland
Funding Conditions**

Initial Funding Conditions:

The following Initial Funding Conditions must be satisfied before OWEB will review due diligence items or reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above or the Secondary Funding Conditions below.

- A. Grantee agrees that: (i) the level of timber harvest described in the management plan outline submitted with the Grant Application will not be included in the management plan required by OWEB's standard form conservation easement; and (ii) forest management actions on the Property, including but not limited to the level of timber harvest, will be informed by goals for protecting and enhancing the Property's Conservation Values and not by unrelated considerations such as revenue generation.
- B. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- C. Grantee completes a budgetary and staff workload analysis of stewardship for the Property, including maintenance activities and travel time. The analysis must demonstrate that Grantee has the capacity to add the Project to its operating budget and the existing workload of its staff.
- D. Grantee clarifies its plan for securing an adequate stewardship fund for the Property, including: i) the amount of funds that will be secured; ii) the source of the funds; iii) confirmation that the stewardship fund will generate adequate interest to pay for annual stewardship costs including maintenance activities; iv) the rationale for the expected rate of return on the stewardship fund, including the performance of Grantee's existing stewardship funds; and v) confirmation that the stewardship fund will be secured by the Closing Date or a specific date shortly thereafter.
- E. Grantee provides an explanation for, and receives OWEB approval of, the assignment of easements the grant application indicates will be completed as a work element of the Project.
- F. Grantee confirms with the U.S. Forest Service ("USFS") that it will accept fee title ownership of the Tolman parcel encumbered with the OWEB-required title restriction that ensures the property will be protected and managed for the purpose of maintaining or restoring watersheds and habitat for native fish or wildlife. If USFS will not accept the Tolman parcel encumbered by the title restriction, Grantee retains ownership of the Tolman parcel or does not use the property as Match.
- G. Grantee obtains OWEB and seller approval of the warranty deed.

Secondary Funding Conditions

OWEB will review due diligence items and reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above and the following Secondary Funding Conditions only after Grantee has satisfied the Initial Funding Conditions above.

- A. Grantee obtains OWEB's approval on all significant Project documents prior to signature.

**221-9901-19497 Mt. Ashland
Funding Conditions**

- B. Grantee obtains an appraisal update that complies with OWEB’s appraisal guidance and establishes discrete values for the Property and for the Tolman parcel if it will be used as Match.
- C. Grantee maps (where possible) and analyzes the exceptions in the preliminary title report (PTR) submitted with the Grant Application, including Exceptions 10, and 14 – 21. The analysis must demonstrate, to OWEB’s satisfaction, that the encumbrances that are expected to remain in the title insurance policy pertain to the Property and will not materially affect Grantee’s ability to protect the Property’s Conservation Values.
- D. Grantee removes title exceptions that do not pertain to the Property including, but not necessarily limited to, Exception 23 in the PTR.
- E. Grantee works with the title company to document and insure legal access to the Property and remove Exceptions 12 and 13 from the PTR.
- F. Grantee works with the title company to prevent an “unrecorded leases” exception from being included in the title policy for the Property, using a seller affidavit, if needed, to satisfy this condition.
- G. Grantee confirms with the Office of the Secretary of State that it does not have any financing statements on file for the Property.
- H. Grantee obtains an updated Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA). The ESA must distinguish the Property from any other property in the report, including but not limited to clearly depicting the Property boundary on maps.
- I. Grantee agrees that the management plan required by OWEB’s standard form conservation easement will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - i. A detailed plan and schedule for forest management actions that protect and enhance the Property’s Conservation Values, including accelerating the restoration of late-seral forest conditions.
 - ii. A written analysis establishing that the forest management actions, including but not limited to the planned level of timber harvest, will protect and enhance the Property’s Conservation Values as required by Secondary Funding Condition I(i).
 - iii. Review and confirmation of the appropriateness of the forest management actions and analysis by a knowledgeable independent party approved by OWEB.
 - iv. Adaptive management actions that will appropriately account for the Property’s changing ecological conditions over time.
 - v. A detailed plan and schedule for routine maintenance of the Property, including but not limited to weed surveys, mapping, and control.
 - vi. A plan to monitor, maintain, and where feasible, decommission, the Property’s roads to prevent erosion and other impacts to the Property’s Conservation Values.
 - vii. A plan for any public use of the Property, including:
 - a. A commitment of staffing and funding necessary to inform and monitor use activities for the purpose of preventing impacts to the Property’s Conservation Values; and
 - b. A chemical/pesticide use plan that accounts for the intended public use of the Property.

**221-9901-19497 Mt. Ashland
Funding Conditions**

- viii. Plans for construction of any low-impact lodging or other structures on the Property.
- ix. Steps for reviewing and, if necessary, updating the management plan at least once every five years in accordance with OWEB's management plan guidance.
- x. A plan for addressing the legal rights of others to cross the Property (e.g., monitoring and enforcement of easement and maintenance agreement terms and conditions).

221-9903-19500 Siuslaw Funding Conditions

Initial Funding Conditions:

The following Initial Funding Conditions must be satisfied before OWEB will review due diligence items or reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above or the Secondary Funding Conditions below.

- A. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- B. Grantee submits a MRT workload analysis for restoration and stewardship of the Property, including but not limited to travel time and routine maintenance activities. The analysis must demonstrate that MRT's staff have the capacity to add the Project to their existing workload.
- C. Grantee submits a plan from MRT for securing an adequate stewardship fund for the Property, including: i) the amount of funds that will be secured; ii) the source of the funds; iii) confirmation that the stewardship fund will generate adequate interest to pay for the annual stewardship costs described in the Grant Application; iv) the rationale for the expected rate of return on the stewardship fund, including the performance of MRT's existing stewardship funds; and v) confirmation that the stewardship fund will be secured by the Closing Date or a specific date shortly thereafter.
- D. Grantee submits a statement from MRT that clarifies its intention to own the property permanently. The statement must acknowledge in writing that any future transfer of ownership from MRT to another party: i) will be conducted under OAR 695-045-0210 and OWEB's established procedures for property transfers; ii) must be determined by OWEB to be sound; iii) must include a determination by OWEB that the proposed owner has the capacity to own and manage the Property in a manner that is consistent with the Project Purpose; and iv) will include any restrictions or conditions determined by OWEB to be necessary to maintain its interest in the Property if the Property is transferred to a tribe.
- E. Grantee provides written confirmation from the holder(s) of the Property's utility easements that it is willing to cooperate in relocating or burying the utility lines built on the Property or, Grantee demonstrates to OWEB's satisfaction that relocating or burying the utility lines is not necessary to accomplish the restoration described in the Grant Application.
- F. Grantee provides written confirmation from the holder(s) of the Property's utility easements that it does not intend to exercise other rights, if any, to install utilities on the Property. If the holder(s) of the Property's utility easements indicate that certain title or survey work must be completed before they provide such confirmation, this funding condition will become a Secondary Funding Condition and Grantee will prioritize the work necessary to obtain the required confirmation.
- G. Grantee provides written confirmation from all adjacent property owners, including all parties known by Grantee to have rights to use access roads on the Property, that they support the restoration described in the Grant Application, including road relocation, if any, necessary to accomplish the restoration. If title or survey work determines that additional parties have rights to use access roads on the Property, Grantee will, upon

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Funding Conditions

completion of the title and survey work, provide written confirmation that the additional parties support the restoration described in the Grant Application, including road relocation, if any, necessary to accomplish the restoration.

- H. Grantee clarifies with the seller of the Property that an appraisal will be prepared in compliance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions (UASFLA) and amends the Property purchase agreement to include this information and the precise purchase price when it has been determined.
- I. Grantee describes the process, requirements, and timeline for accomplishing the lot line adjustment or partition that is necessary to separate the Property from property being retained by the seller, and keeps OWEB informed of developments.

Secondary Funding Conditions

OWEB will review due diligence items and reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above and the following Secondary Funding Conditions only after Grantee has satisfied the Initial Funding Conditions above.

- A. Grantee obtains OWEB's approval on all significant project documents prior to signature, including, but not limited to the partnership agreement, survey, warranty deeds, access easement for the parcel retained by the seller, and any road maintenance agreements.
- B. Grantee enters into a binding partnership agreement with MRT that clearly delineates the acquisition, restoration and stewardship roles and responsibilities of the parties.
- C. 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 and its successors to certain Project outcomes required by USFWS in exchange for National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant Program ("Coastal Wetlands") funds.
- D. Grantee signs, and obtains MRT's signature on, an OWEB-prepared conveyance agreement for the purpose of authorizing the transfer of the Property from Grantee to MRT and committing MRT to ongoing obligations under the OWEB Grant Agreement.
- E. Grantee agrees, and obtains MRT's agreement, to meet all Coastal Wetlands funding and reporting requirements.
- F. If Grantee purchases the Property prior to the release of the Grant Funds, Grantee: i) complies with Secondary Funding Condition A; and ii) agrees that it will not transfer the Property to MRT until OWEB is ready to release the Grant Funds, at which point Grantee will grant OWEB a conservation easement prepared by OWEB, record the NOFP, and convey the property to MRT.
- G. Grantee obtains the services of a professional land surveyor to: i) determine whether the survey of the property completed in 1999 aligns with the legal description in the PTR; and ii) prepare a survey necessary for the seller-retained parcel.
- H. Grantee obtains: i) OWEB's approval on the scope of work for the survey prior to signing a contract with the surveyor; and ii) OWEB's review and approval of the draft survey.
- I. Grantee provides OWEB with a copy of the adjoining landowner map referenced in the Grant Application.

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Funding Conditions

- J. Grantee addresses the following items included in the preliminary title report (PTR) submitted with the Grant Application:
- i. Grantee ensures that taxes (Exceptions 7-13) are paid at Closing;
 - ii. Grantee works with the title company to remove the mobile home exception (Exception 14) from the PTR if a mobile home is not present on the Property;
 - iii. Grantee provides OWEB with MRT's plan for future property tax payments, including how it will not incur tax penalties from changed use of the Property (Exception 15);
 - iv. Grantee analyzes, and maps where possible, the rights of the public and governmental bodies to the Property (Exceptions 16 and 18), including government and public rights to areas of the Property that will be below the highwater mark after completion of the restoration described in the Grant Application;
 - v. Grantee maps (where possible) and analyzes Exceptions 19 – 22. The analysis must demonstrate, to OWEB's satisfaction, that the encumbrances that are expected to remain in the title insurance policy will not materially affect MRT's ability to complete the restoration described in the Grant Application and protect the Property's Conservation Values;
 - vi. Grantee determines which title encumbrance(s) will provide access to Grantee and MRT as owners of the Property and confirms the sufficiency of the access to OWEB's satisfaction.
 - vii. Grantee: i) maps and analyzes all existing rights of other parties to access the Property, including Exceptions 23-26; ii) provides OWEB with a copy of the legal agreement pertaining to the bridge over the North Fork Siuslaw River and any other access documents that may be unrecorded; iii) seeks the termination of any access easements that are no longer needed; and iv) demonstrates to OWEB's satisfaction that the rights of access will not materially affect MRT's ability to complete the restoration described in the Grant Application and protect the Property's Conservation Values;
 - viii. Grantee ensures the deed of trust and its modification are removed from the Property's title at or before Closing (Exception 27);
 - ix. Grantee works with the title company to prevent an unrecorded leases or periodic tenancies exception (Exception 28) from being included in the title policies for the Property, using a seller affidavit, if needed, to satisfy this condition; and
 - x. Grantee confirms with the Office of the Secretary of State that it does not have any financing statements on file for the Property.
- K. Grantee provides OWEB with a PTR that pertains only to the Property after the intended lot line adjustment or partition is complete and addresses any items in the PTR that are of concern to OWEB.
- L. Grantee provides OWEB with a draft of the access document that will benefit the parcel being retained by the seller. The terms and conditions of the access document must be

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Funding Conditions**

clearly consistent with the protection and restoration of the Property's Conservation Values and should address shared maintenance costs.

- M. Grantee obtains proforma title insurance policies that are acceptable to OWEB and obtains insurance for Grantee and MRT consistent with the policies.
- N. Grantee prepares baseline inventory documentation that includes, among other items required by OWEB, a description of future restored conditions on the Property that reflect the restoration described in the Grant Application including high-quality tidal wetlands to the maximum extent feasible ("Description of Restored Conditions").
- O. Grantee agrees that the management plan required by OWEB's standard form conservation easement will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - i. A detailed plan and schedule for restoring the Property to conditions that are consistent with the Description of Restored Conditions.
 - ii. A detailed plan and schedule for routine maintenance of the Property, including but not limited to road maintenance and weed control.
 - iii. A plan for any public use of the Property, including:
 - a. A commitment of staffing and funding necessary to inform and monitor use activities for the purpose of preventing impacts to the Property's Conservation Values; and
 - b. A chemical/pesticide use plan that accounts for use of the Property by the public.
 - iv. A plan for addressing the legal rights of others to use the Property (e.g., monitoring and enforcement of access and maintenance agreement terms and conditions).
 - v. Steps for reviewing and updating the management plan at least every five years in accordance with OWEB's management plan guidance.



Agenda Item J supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 6: Coordinated Monitoring and Shared Learning.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – *Telling the Restoration Story* Grants Update
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Telling the Restoration Story is a targeted grant offering that helps OWEB and grantees better communicate the ecological outcomes of restoration funded by the agency. At the October 2021 board meeting, staff will share information about Horsetail Creek restoration to learn what emerged from the board's investment in that effort. This is an information item.

II. Background

Telling the Restoration Story grants support compilation, analysis, and/or interpretation of existing data from a watershed restoration project or projects, and production of outreach materials that describe outcomes from that work. Outreach products aim to reach a broad audience, including board members and legislators. Grantees also identify specific audiences, so the materials developed can be used to communicate with landowners, restoration practitioners, and natural resource managers working to restore similar landscapes in Oregon.

Nine projects have been completed under this offering so far. An [online map](#) provides short summaries and links to completed products as they become available. Additional information is available on OWEB's [Highlighted Projects webpage](#).

III. *Telling the Restoration Story*: Horsetail Creek Restoration

Horsetail Creek is a small tributary of the lower Columbia River, located eight miles downstream of Bonneville Dam within the U.S. Forest Service's Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area lands. Horsetail, and nearby Oneonta, creek had problems due to the creation of a gravel pit turned pond during the construction of Interstate 84 (I-84). Oneonta Creek's flow was diverted through the pond, raising its water temperature to at/above the temperature of the Columbia mainstem. The culvert connecting Horsetail Creek to the Columbia River under I-84 was impassable to fish at a variety of stream flows. Instream habitat complexity in the creek was low and lacked beneficial riparian vegetation.

The Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration Project Phase 1 was undertaken by Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) in 2013. A second phase of restoration was recently initiated, and a third phase of restoration is now in the planning process. Restoration activities focused on

improving fish access to the site, increasing the quality and quantity of instream habitat, restoring riparian vegetation, and reunifying Oneonta Creek to its natural course along the floodplain. Restoration activities in the Horsetail Creek floodplain are helping to maintain summer site water temperatures below levels that can be dangerous to salmonids, in contrast to the Columbia River mainstem where summer temperatures often exceed these levels.

With *Telling the Restoration Story* funds, LCEP was able to compile, analyze and report the existing water temperature and fish monitoring data to create a technical report that includes conclusions and recommendations for future monitoring efforts. The resulting outreach products were highlighted on the LCEP website and through other community communications.

Telling the Restoration Story products for Horsetail Creek Restoration include 1) a GIS Story Map describing the historic impacts to the creek and the subsequent restoration efforts, including a summary of monitoring results; 2) a technical report including additional detail about methodologies and data collected (see Attachment A); and 3) a short video summarizing the restoration project, monitoring results, and plans for future restoration efforts.

The technical report is available at [OWEB's highlighted projects page](#). GIS story map is available online at [Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration](#) and the short video is available at: [Horsetail Creek Restoration Project](#).

More information about this project and the LCEP is available on the [project website](#).

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachment

A. Executive Summary: Water Temperature and Fish Monitoring Summary Report

Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration: Water Temperature and Fish Monitoring Summary Report



Technical Contact: Sneha Rao
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Executive Summary

The Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration Project was undertaken by Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership in 2013 in partnership with the US Forest Service Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and Oregon Department of Transportation, and with funding from Bonneville Power Administration, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, US Forest Service, Oregon Community Foundation and East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. The Horsetail Creek floodplain had undergone severe anthropogenic modifications throughout the past century (Figure 3) which had negatively impacted ecological functions at the site. Several studies in the Lower Columbia indicate that this site is frequently used by Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmon, lamprey and other non-salmonid species as migration and rearing habitat. Restoration activities were focused on:

- Improving access to the site for all life stages of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead and lamprey over a wide range of hydrologic conditions by modifying passage through a highway culvert.
- Increasing the diversity, quality, and quantity of instream habitat by adding large wood structures.
- Reducing stream temperatures by restoring riparian habitats and eliminating the diversion of Oneonta Creek through the gravel pond.

The project was the first phase of a multi-phased restoration project. Restoration activities included restoring the historic alignment of Oneonta Creek (Figure 2), converting an existing gravel pond into an emergent wetland with a network of open water channels, and adding native vegetation and large woody debris to improve habitat complexity. The culvert beneath I-84 was also modified to improve fish and lamprey passage (Figure 4). This report presents findings of pre- and post-restoration temperature and fish use monitoring at the site undertaken to determine the effectiveness of the restoration project. The goal of this summary to provide a brief overview of the study and results.

Stream temperature

We collected hourly water temperature data by deploying Hobo dataloggers at seven monitoring stations (Figure 5) at the Horsetail Creek restoration site from 2010 and 2014-2016 and again between 2018 and 2019. Loggers were placed at stream junctions to evaluate the temperature influence of various flow inputs, at the beginning and ends of stream reaches to evaluate heating through these sections, and in the gravel pond/wetland complex. No temperature data was collected in 2017 as the site was inaccessible due to high water levels throughout most of the summer of that year. 7-day average daily maximum (7-DADM) temperatures were calculated for each monitoring station between June to September or over the available time-period. These were summarized as yearly maximum and average 7-DADM temperatures.

Pre-restoration monitoring data are very limited. Due to this and other factors discussed below, the results of our study into whether restoration actions were effective at cooling site temperatures are inconclusive. Pre-restoration monitoring was performed in one year only, 2010, whose summer months were notably cooler and wetter relative to both historical conditions and post-construction monitoring years. Post-restoration 7-DADM summer water temperatures at the site were seen to frequently exceed 16°C, an optimal temperature threshold defined by both Oregon and Washington state water quality

standards (Core Coldwater Habitat: [OR DEG Water Quality Standard Implementation IMD, April 2008, Table 3-2](#); Core Summer Salmonid Habitat: [Washington Administrative Code 173-201A-210, Table 200 \(1\)\(c\)](#)), for all years monitored. We observed the highest post-restoration summer water temperatures in 2015 and 2019, and the lowest in 2016. In 2014, 2015, and 2019, 7-DADM water temperatures throughout the site frequently exceeded the adult migration and juvenile rearing temperature threshold of 18°C (same standards as cited above for OR and WA) throughout the summer. When summer ambient air temperature and precipitation data were compared to site water temperatures, we observed that while the ambient air conditions varied widely on a year-to-year basis, water temperatures at the site remained within a narrower range (12.7°C – 20°C), suggesting that the resiliency of the site may be improving. The native vegetation planting and large wood placements helped encourage beaver activity and improve habitat quality. Post-restoration monitoring indicates that Oneonta Creek was successfully realigned during construction and while average summer water temperatures remain within a constant range (12.7°C – 20°C), it is expected that temperatures throughout the site will decrease as plantings mature. Restoration activities in the Horsetail Creek floodplain may also be helping to maintain summer site water temperatures below levels that can be dangerous to salmonids, in contrast to the Columbia River mainstem where summer temperatures often exceed these levels.

While the study was able to determine the general summer water temperature characteristics of the site after restoration, several questions remain unanswered and certain patterns observed at some of the monitoring stations could not be resolved. To assess the complete temperature evolution of the site since restoration, year-round temperature and flow data are required. However, temperature data is available only for the summer (June–September) for most monitoring years and flow measurements were made only instantaneously between 2010 and 2014–2016. These measurements do not allow us to draw conclusions on the current flow patterns of the site, which are ever changing due to increased beaver activity after restoration. The study also does not consider the effect of several groundwater seeps that were discovered during restoration and year one post-restoration monitoring.

It is recommended that future monitoring efforts include regular flow measurements at the monitoring stations and collection of year-round temperature and water surface elevation data to provide an in-depth analysis of temperature reduction efforts. A comprehensive study will help in understanding other potential areas for future restoration at the site and provide insight into thermal assessments for potential cold water refugia in the area.

Fish Monitoring

We collected fish presence data for five years post-restoration (2014–2019) using a passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag detection system installed at both ends of the culvert that carries Horsetail and Oneonta creeks beneath I-84, installed after construction in 2013 (Figure 8). Each year the array was operational from late March or April to October or November.

Salmon from throughout the Columbia River Basin were detected at the Horsetail PIT array. Chinook salmon were the most numerous species detected of juvenile fish and coho were the most numerous species detected of adult/jacks. The mid-Columbia Basin was the origin of the largest number of PIT tagged salmon detected at Horsetail. Juvenile residence times were relatively short with most lasting

less than one day and in most cases less than one minute. However, steelhead, spring/summer run and fall run Chinook showed greater variability in residence times with several fish residing five or more days. For adult/jack salmon detected at the Horsetail array, residence times did not have the same range as for juveniles. Coho salmon had the longest residence times with a maximum of 18 days followed by steelhead with a maximum of 12 days. Residence times were impacted by whether salmon successfully navigated the culvert. Combining juveniles and adults, the median residence time for salmon that did not pass the culvert was 5 minutes, whereas the median residence time for salmon that did pass the culvert was 33 hours. In summary, juvenile and adult salmon have the potential to access and benefit from the cold water refugia at the Horsetail Creek restoration site. Whether a salmon can access the site depends on the time of year and water levels, as the culvert may block access during times of low water levels.



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Agenda Item K supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 1: Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – 2019-2021 Oregon Plan Biennial Report: Update and Approval of Board Recommendations
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update about the agency's development of the 2019-2021 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The board will be asked to approve recommendations to include in the report, which will be submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office by January 15, 2022.

II. Background

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. The report must address each drainage basin in the state and include information about watershed and habitat conditions, voluntary restoration activities, board investments, and recommendations from the board for enhancing effectiveness of the Oregon Plan, among other topics. Attachment A provides the executive summary of the 2017-2019 biennial report, including the board recommendations. Staff are currently working with partner agencies in developing the content to be included in the biennial report.

III. OWEB Board Recommendations

The board has developed a robust committee structure over the past two years. Staff have been working with the board climate, water, focused investments, and monitoring committees to each develop one brief theme to include in the board recommendations piece of the biennial report. The theme on diversity, equity, and inclusion was addressed by the board coordinating committee, which is composed of the co-chairs and the chairs of the other committees. The themes developed by each committee are included in Attachment B for full board consideration at the October meeting.

Upon board approval of theme content, staff will work with the co-chairs on weaving together the themes and the final text for inclusion in the 2019-2021 biennial report.

IV. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the recommendations found in Attachment B for inclusion in the 2019-2021 Biennial Report for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

Attachments

- A. 2017-2019 Oregon Plan Biennial Report Executive Summary
- B. Proposed Committee Themes for the 2019-2021 Oregon Plan Biennial Report



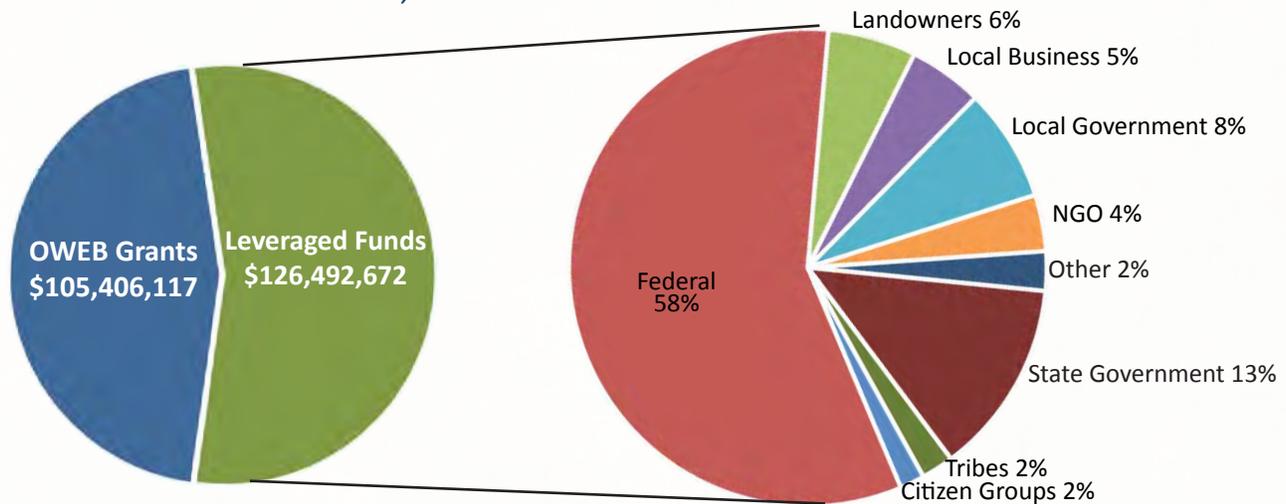
2017-2019 BIENNIAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

Since 1997, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds has provided a framework for grass-roots stewardship enhancing water quality and restoring habitat for the state's native fish and wildlife. The Oregon Plan supports diverse local economies and enriches communities through local, voluntary restoration.

The Oregon Plan Biennial Report describes activities implemented under the plan for the 2017-2019 biennium (per Oregon Revised Statute 541.972). This Executive Summary highlights key investments and accomplishments; coordinated actions among Oregon Plan partners; and recommendations from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). The full report can be found online (<https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Documents/OPSW-BR-2017-19.aspx>) and includes specific information about each of the fifteen Oregon Plan Reporting Basins. Additional examples of quantified restoration success are available through OWEB's new grant offering, Telling the Restoration Story (<https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7bc381f4422944778431a65f2b9b7fd6>).

OWEB Awarded Grants, 2017-2019



Grants awarded by OWEB, the amount of matching funds leveraged by grant participants, and the percentage of leveraged funds contributed by different partners (from 7/1/17 through 6/30/19).

Watershed Metric	OWRI	BLM	USFS	Total
Riparian Miles (e.g., streamside plantings)	291	36	189	517
Instream Habitat Miles (e.g., wood placement)	89	56	114.5	260
Miles of Fish Habitat Made Accessible	86	36	198	320
Stream Crossings Improved for Fish Passage	62	22	62	146
Push-up Dams Retired to Improve Fish Passage	4	-	-	4
Fish Screens Installed on Water Diversions	37	-	-	37
Upland Acres (e.g., juniper thinning, seeding)	71,196	3,049	-	74,245
Wetland Acres (e.g., wetland habitat created)	1,325	-	1,244	2,569
Miles of Road Closures and Decommissionings	11	5	47.2	64
Miles of Road Improvements (e.g., erosion control)	37	8	59.3	134
Miles of Riparian Invasive Treatments	291.2	-	-	291

Watershed restoration activities completed from 1/1/17 to 12/31/18 as reported to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI), maintained by OWEB; U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and U.S. Forest Service (USFS).



2017-2019 Investments and Accomplishments

During the 2017-2019 biennium, OWEB invested over \$105 million for watershed enhancement projects throughout the state. This total includes funding from the Oregon Lottery, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, salmon license plate revenues, and other sources. These dollars leverage significant funding that is provided by other agencies and partner organizations, increasing the impact of OWEB funding. Oregon Plan partners include landowners, non-profit organizations, local businesses, tribes, and all levels of government.

Coordinated Agency Actions

Collaboration is the heart of the Oregon Plan, and coordinated efforts across the state's natural resources agencies continued throughout the 2017-2019 biennium. Highlights include:

- ◆ Launching Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision, an ambitious approach to prepare a secure, safe, and resilient water future for all Oregonians
- ◆ Updating Oregon's climate change adaptation framework
- ◆ Implementing the Greater Sage-Grouse Action Plan
- ◆ Addressing challenges with tide gates along the coast
- ◆ Identifying efficiencies in water monitoring through interagency teams

OWEB Board Recommendations

Oregonians have chosen to permanently invest in healthy watersheds, which allow local partners to test bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds. In 2018, the OWEB Board adopted a strategic plan that celebrates all that OWEB and its partners have accomplished over the past twenty years, and sets a course for the next ten. OWEB's investments support non-profits, tribal nations, local governments, universities, and others to work with farmers, ranchers, forestland owners, and local contractors to provide clean water for Oregonians and healthy habitat for our fish and wildlife and benefits to local economies.

Looking ahead to the next ten years, the board recommends focusing efforts on strategic priorities:

- ◆ Working with partners we will continue to 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 landowner access to funding and technical support for conservation on their lands.
- ◆ 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 grants.



Proposed Committee Themes for the 2019-2021 Oregon Plan Biennial Report

Focused Investments Committee Theme:

Large-scale conservation efforts implemented by high performing partnerships are vital to addressing the various environmental challenges impacting our watersheds. The Focused Investment Partnership program is unique in Oregon, as it funds restoration at a landscape-scale for multiple years. Long-term restoration investments in communities also may have impacts beyond environmental, and further monitoring may explore the socio-economic benefits of landscape restoration.

Monitoring Committee Theme:

Collaborative monitoring and shared learning continue to inform watershed restoration. Climate change and wildfires pose new challenges and opportunities for those that study the science behind these issues, and for the restoration practitioners implementing projects in a changing world. It is critical for experts to share and translate knowledge in a manner that benefits all communities, as they work to address both long-standing restoration needs and emerging issues that face watershed restoration.

Water Committee Theme:

Cool, clean water and healthy forests, wetlands, riparian areas, streams, and estuaries provide essential natural processes that maintain and enhance water quality for fish and wildlife. These systems are fundamental to OWEB's Mission and the wellbeing of Oregonians. Through consultation with traditional and non-traditional partners, OWEB will encourage cross-agency decision-making in funding water projects, consider adopting ecological priorities related to water, identify investment gaps related to water quantity, water quality, and habitat, and promote natural infrastructure and processes as a critical focus of Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision and Oregon's update of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

DEI Theme (by Coordinating Committee):

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will be integrated throughout OWEB's operations and grant programs. Board and staff members will model diversity, equity, and inclusivity while ensuring that stakeholders and all potential partners are heard and engaged. OWEB will reach diverse audiences so that they are aware of the agency's grant programs, how they can participate, and to increase OWEB's understanding of the barriers to their participation. Within OWEB's granting programs, consideration needs to be given to how to incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice into how and where the agency provides grant funding.

Climate Committee Theme:

The impacts of climate change are being felt across Oregon. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is exploring how considerations associated with climate mitigation and climate-smart adaptation can be fully integrated into the agency's operations and grant-making. At the same time, it is vital to continue to provide stakeholders with the technical resources and guidance to view watershed conservation efforts through a climate-lens.



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Agenda Item L supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – Water Committee Objectives
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

As referenced in the water committee report, below are a set of objectives that the water committee has developed for board consideration as areas of focus for the committee moving forward. The committee recommends approval of these objectives, and requests the board designate the water committee as a standing committee to address these objectives.

II. Background

The water committee was established as an ad hoc committee at the October 2019 board meeting. The committee has met on a semi-quarterly basis since that time. The committee has developed a set of objectives for focus, and based on the long-term nature of the objectives, proposes to the board that the committee be moved from an ad hoc committee to a standing board committee.

Since the development of the committee, much of the work outlined in Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision was funded in the 2021 Legislative Session. This reinforces the need to have a standing committee that can engage with staff to ensure that OWEB's resources are appropriately reflected in conversations about Oregon's water future.

III. Objectives

Below are the objectives proposed for the water committee to tackle as a part of their work. These objectives may give rise to other important areas of focus as the state's water future conversations and Integrated Water Resources Strategy move forward.

- a. Providing encouragement to the state agencies to consider cross-agency decision-making structures when funding water projects.
- b. Providing examples of what the agency already does/funds that supports Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision.

- c. Thinking through whether the board might want to consider any ecological priorities related to water for project proposals based on input from the Vision.
- d. Identifying water investment gaps related to water quantity/habitat and water quality and how those gaps could be filled – either through OWEB funding or a different approach.
- e. Supporting the state’s update of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy and ensuring that both nature and natural infrastructure are top priorities for planning, investment, and management of the state’s water resources.

IV. Recommendation

The committee recommends the board approve the water committee as a standing committee and approve the set of objectives developed by the committee for future focus.



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Agenda Item M-1 supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Business Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M-1– DEI Discussion with OWEB Grantees
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

At the October meeting, board members will hear from OWEB grantees on their diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts. This is an informational item.

II. Background

Since the adoption of OWEB's strategic plan in June 2018, staff have been working to implement Priority #2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians. Strategy 2.1 is to listen and learn, which includes hearing from current grantees. At the October meeting, OWEB grantees will participate in a discussion with the board about their organizational DEI efforts and how they are incorporating these principles into their watershed conservation activities.

III. The Panelists

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will facilitate a discussion with Clinton Bagley, Executive Director, Long Tom Watershed Council and Kristen Larson, Executive Director, Luckiamute Watershed Council.

The panelists will provide a summary of the DEI efforts the councils have done with their staff and boards and how they are working to incorporate these practices into the activities they do in their watersheds.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item.



Kate Brown, Governor



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Agenda Item M-2 supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Business Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M-2– Agency and Board DEI Updates
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the process to hire a consultant for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) work with board and staff and initiates a discussion with the board on the future status of the ad-hoc board DEI committee.

II. DEI Consultant for Board and Staff

In June 2021 staff posted a request for proposals (RFP) for a DEI consultant to work with staff and board. The RFP included the following tasks:

1. Develop and deliver DEI training and coaching for staff and board;
2. Guide board and staff in the development of an OWEB Equity Statement;
3. Develop recommendations for increasing engagement of under-represented communities in OWEB grant programs; and
4. Guide OWEB in development of equity lens for grant making.

Staff received 14 proposals in response to the RFP. Staff will update the board on the selection process at the October board meeting and discuss next steps.

III. Board DEI Committee

In October 2019 the board adopted a new committee structure including the creation of an ad-hoc DEI committee. With recent board member retirements this committee has been reduced to one board member. At the August coordinating committee meeting, members discussed the importance of this committee in relation to future work with the DEI contractor and its role in keeping DEI topics on board meeting and coordinating committee meeting agendas. The coordinating committee decided to recruit for membership of the DEI committee and recommended the board discuss making it a standing committee. Staff will initiate a discussion with the board in October.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item.



Agenda Item N supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan Priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Update about Climate Related Technical Resources
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will update the board about climate-related technical resources that were developed to assist applicants to OWEB grant types. This is an information item only.

II. Background

In response to growing interest in climate resilience, OWEB formed a Climate Committee in 2020. That same year, Governor Brown's Executive Order on Climate Action (20-04) directed state natural resources agencies, including OWEB, to implement climate-friendly practices and to account for the climate benefits resulting more clearly from their work. For example, OWEB funded projects contribute to carbon sequestration and adaptation, but these benefits currently are not quantified or described in detail.

The Climate Committee indicated their intent to help the board understand how effective restoration investments contribute to climate resilience, and potentially to ask the board to define climate goals for OWEB, in alignment with the agency's current Strategic Plan. The committee began by focusing on how to account for climate benefits more directly through OWEB's existing grant-making processes. To inform this work, the committee recommended the addition of several new questions to a subset of OWEB application types in the fall 2021 grant cycle (Attachment A). These questions are informational only and not used in project evaluation.

Staff compiled [Climate-Related Technical Resources](#) as a starting point to help applicants answer these questions. Many online planning tools have been developed by universities, governments, non-profits, and other organizations to bring together data about current and future climate impacts in searchable geographic format. The purpose of the Climate-Related Technical Resources document is to summarize information about climate impacts in Oregon and to provide some selected online climate planning tools.

III. Next steps

Following the fall 2021 Open Solicitation application deadline of November 1, staff will summarize information provided by applicants in their responses and provide this

information for consideration by the board. Information will also be summarized following the Spring 2022 Open Solicitation submissions.

Potential next steps for OWEB may include:

- Assess the climate benefits and begin to qualitatively understand emissions impacts of proposed restoration and conservation projects, as identified in applicants' responses.
- Consider adding new technical resources to an updated version of the document.
- Explore gaps in technical information needed to help applicants plan for climate impacts.
- Share and discuss the results with partners, applicants, and stakeholders.

While the questions added are informational only, the board may consider adding evaluative questions in the future, after necessary rulemaking processes. Ultimately, these steps will help OWEB more clearly demonstrate how its project activities contribute to climate resilience.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachment

A. Climate questions added to Fall 2021 OWEB applications

Climate questions added to Fall 2021 OWEB applications

The following questions were added to OWEB application types including Restoration; Water Acquisitions; Technical Assistance; Partnership Technical Assistance; Monitoring; and ODA Noxious Weed Grants.

Climate Considerations

OWEB is working with state agencies to comply with and implement Governor Brown's 2020 Executive Order on Climate Action (20-04). In addition, the OWEB board has indicated its intent to account for climate adaptation, mitigation, and co-benefits more directly in grant-making. To support these efforts, OWEB is beginning to gather information about climate impacts and proposed projects at the application stage and is providing a new Technical Resources document to assist applicants.

Your responses to these climate questions will be used for informational purposes only, not for project evaluation and ranking. OWEB will use the information to understand how project activities are already contributing to the state's climate goals, and to continue to develop technical resources for applicants. In the future, OWEB may refine and expand climate related questions and, after any necessary administrative rulemaking, use climate information as part of its grant evaluation process.

Briefly describe your understanding of how the characteristics and functions of the watershed where the proposed project will occur are anticipated to change due to climate impacts in the future. In particular, describe how species, habitat, and/or water quality variables relevant to the project site location are expected to be affected. (2000-character limit)

How have you accounted for these climate-impact considerations in your project planning, design, or implementation? Please describe briefly. (1000-character limit)

Are there any constraints on your ability to incorporate climate considerations into project planning? For example: Lack of information about climate impacts at the project planning scale; Gaps in understanding what nursery or seed stock to use given potential climate impacts; Gaps in accessing these stocks; Lack of methods to quantify climate benefits; Uncertainty about how to define a baseline for assessing potential change; Metrics for understanding climate resilience are not well-defined.

Yes

No

If Yes, then please briefly describe the specific constraints relevant to the proposed project activities (native species, habitat, water quality). (1000-character limit)

The State of Oregon is committed to identifying ways it can reduce impacts from harmful emissions. While the overall outcomes of OWEB funded projects may have many climate benefits, some necessary activities that occur during projects will result in increased emissions. To help us understand the current situation, please check all of the following that might apply to your project:

- Driving gas-powered automobiles, including trucks and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

- Operating gas-powered machinery other than automobiles (for example, chainsaws or other hand-held equipment)
- Operating gas-powered machinery larger than automobiles (for example, excavators)

Boats

Other

Please describe: (250-character limit)

Not applicable to project activities

Optional: Please explain (250-character limit)

Are you considering alternative approaches that could reduce emissions (e.g., use of electric chainsaws or motors)?

Yes

No

If Yes, Optional: Please explain (1000-character limit)

The following question was also added to the Restoration and Water Acquisition grant applications:

Climate benefits from OWEB project activities can broadly be categorized into three types: (1) Carbon sequestration benefits (2) Mitigation benefits and (3) Adaptation benefits. Project activities may offer multiple climate benefits. Please review these categories below, select all the apply, and provide specific examples where possible:

Carbon sequestration (Capturing, securing, and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere), including:

Sequestration benefits from habitats: Project activities that avoid natural habitat conversion, or increase plant biomass within the habitat area, may contribute sequestration benefits. Select any that apply:

Upland forest

Riparian

Grassland

Wetland

Estuary

Other habitat

Please describe: (250-character limit)

Sequestration benefit through fire management/fuels reduction. Activities that help manage fire frequency and severity will help provide sequestration benefits, because catastrophic wildfires reduce the sequestration potential of upland habitats.

Other sequestration benefit

Please describe: (500-character limit)

Mitigation through reduced emissions

Yes

No

Please describe climate mitigation benefit: (500-character limit)

Adaptation Benefits. Project activities may offer multiple climate adaptation benefits for species, habitats and communities, and there may be some overlap in the terminology used to describe these benefits. Check all that apply below and provide additional and more specific description if possible.

Fish passage

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Instream flow

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Irrigation efficiency

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Wildfire risk reduction

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Forest-health treatments

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Wildlife habitat connectivity

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Wetland/floodplain reconnection

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Water temperature mitigation through shading, removal of inline ponds or other action

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Protection or creation of cold-water refugia for aquatic species

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Aquifer recharge

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Drinking water security

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Food system resilience, including activities that maintain abundance of tribal first foods

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Other Benefit

Please describe: (25-character limit)



Kate Brown, Governor



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Ken Fetcho, OWEB Tribal Liaison
Alli Miller, Portland State University, Master's of Public Policy Candidate
SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Results of OWEB's Assessment of Grant Practices' Impacts to Tribes
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the recent assessment that was completed to better understand how OWEB's grant practices impact federally recognized Tribes' ability to apply for and receive agency grants. At the October board meeting, staff, and our partner from Portland State University (PSU) for this project will present the quantitative results from an analysis of information from the OWEB Grant Management System (OGMS) and a qualitative analysis of subsequent interviews with Tribal staff. This presentation will summarize findings from this assessment, describe barriers for Tribes applying for and receiving OWEB funds, and recommendations from PSU about how OWEB may work with Tribes to address these barriers in the future.

II. Background

In July 2020, board members expressed interest in better understanding how OWEB can support federally recognized Tribes' ability to apply for and receive grant funding to meet their watershed enhancement goals and objectives. In response to this interest, staff initiated a partnership with a PSU graduate student to assist OWEB in performing a third-party review of its granting practices. Graduate student Alli Miller, a Master's of Public Policy Candidate from PSU, began work on this project in November 2020. OWEB's Tribal Liaison and former Executive Director assisted with project planning and support.

III. Assessment Process and Findings

The assessment focused on three OWEB grant programs and considered the level of engagement in these offerings by each Tribe. The three grant programs examined are Open Solicitation (also known in OGMS as Regular), Small Grant, and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP). By looking at which Tribes participate in each grant program, we can better understand how they choose to engage in OWEB's different programs. Since each grant program has its own unique features and requirements to access OWEB grant funds,

it was important to consider participation and level of engagement in these three programs by different Tribes.

The first task was to query OGMS to quantify the following components:

- Tribe's success rate when applying for funds, compared to other applicants, such as watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts and universities.
- The number of grant applications that Tribes submitted as the applicant.
- The number of grant applications that Tribes partnered on but were not the applicant.

Following this quantitative analysis, Tribal staff who are familiar with OWEB grant programs were interviewed by the PSU student to ask more detailed questions about OWEB's grant practices. The intent of these interviews was to better understand if aspects of OWEB's grant-making may create a disadvantage for tribes when applying for or receiving OWEB funding.

Results from this assessment are summarized in Attachment A. The findings were developed directly from the quantitative analysis of OGMS and the qualitative assessment of shared themes from interviews conducted with staff from each of the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, as well as the Nez Perce Tribe, which also operates in the state. The report's appendix includes information from the interviews but does not attribute comments to individuals or Tribes to maintain confidentiality. Using these quantitative and qualitative findings, the PSU student developed recommendations that OWEB may use to address barriers identified through the assessment. The recommendations from the PSU student vary from relatively simple and straightforward to those that may include fiscal and/or legal considerations. An overview of the findings and recommendations will be presented at the October 2021 board meeting.

IV. Next Steps

Following presentation of the assessment results at the board meeting, staff will work with the board's coordinating committee to discuss the findings from the assessment and determine options for next steps.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachment

A. Granting Practices Impacts on Tribes Report

2021

Granting Practices Impacts to Tribes

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT
BOARD

ALLI MILLER, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY, MASTERS OF PUBLIC POLICY

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Executive Summary

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands, and natural areas. OWEB's primary focus when administering grants is to fund grant projects that restore, conserve, and sustain healthy watersheds that best serve all Oregonians. Effective and equitable grant-making is difficult to achieve and is an ongoing, ever-adapting process. The watershed ecosystems of the land that is now Oregon has been stewarded and cared for by Native Americans since time immemorial. As a state agency, OWEB is responsible for creating inclusive opportunities for the community to support their watersheds using the best available science supported by local knowledge and involving Tribes and stakeholders broadly and in partnership.

The staff who participated in this assessment and were interviewed from the ten federally recognized Tribes that are eligible for OWEB grants had positive feedback for OWEB's current granting practices. For most, OWEB was consistently meeting and exceeding expectations as a funding agency. Interviewees said, "OWEB's continuous improvement mentality is wonderful and we really appreciate it.", and, "Overall, I have been satisfied with OWEB as an agency, and appreciate their work and hope they continue to be clear and transparent."

While there was positive feedback and insightful data captured from OWEB's internal database in regards to OWEB's granting practices, there are still certain challenges and barriers facing Tribes.

Background

In 2018, OWEB's strategic plan asserted that their mission is "to help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies". One of the agency priorities used to achieve this mission is to have a "broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds". This priority complements one of the many principles that make up traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). TEK is part of the worldview that indigenous people and Native American Tribes have been practicing for millennia. This body of knowledge, practice, spiritual belief system is a way of understanding the environment that is passed down through generations via cultural transmission about the relationships between humans and non-humans within ecosystems.

Partnering with Tribes goes beyond justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives. OWEB's Tribal Policy "recognizes and respects the sovereign status of the Tribes and their respective authorities on reservation, Tribal, ceded lands and established usual and accustomed areas and their co-management authorities over certain resources on non-Tribal lands." Interest in this assessment is motivated by OWEB's ongoing commitment to this policy and the agency's recognition of the importance of equity, inclusion, diversity, and justice in natural resource management.

Legally, OWEB as a state agency is required to work with Tribes. In 1996 Executive Order 96-30, established a process for state agencies to "assist in resolving potential conflicts, maximize key inter-governmental relations, and enhance an exchange of ideas and resources for the greater

good of all of Oregon's citizens.” In 2001, the Oregon Legislature institutionalized this Executive Order by enacting SB 770 (ORS 182.162-168) to formalize the government-to-government relationship that exists between federally recognized Native American Tribes in Oregon and the State of Oregon. This bill mandates that state agencies develop and implement policies on tribal relations.

It is important that OWEB staff and board acknowledge the individual and unique circumstances each Tribe has as a sovereign nation. As sovereign nations, all Tribes’ have a key role in co-managing land and watershed stewardship and conservation with regional partners. Each Tribe that works with OWEB also differ in their internal capacity to oversee or implement grant projects, and these differences between Tribes can help OWEB understand how to improve their granting practices towards each Tribe. Some Tribes have protected Treaty Rights, rights that are guaranteed in the establishment of their reservations, access to resources, protected hunting and fishing rights, religious freedom, and other qualities inherent to a sovereign nation, while other Tribes do not. These differences impact the ways in which Tribes can access, use, develop, steward, and protect their traditional and culturally significant homelands.

Collaboration is a key component of natural resource and watershed management. OWEB recognizes that through harmonious partnerships and cooperation sustaining healthy and resilient watersheds can be possible.

This assessment intends to review the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)’s granting practices to understand if there are existing barriers that impact federally recognized Tribes’ ability to apply for and receive funds that meet their watershed enhancement goals and objectives.

Assessment Process and Findings

To approach this research, a new framework for understanding tribal engagement in OWEB grant programs was developed: The Tiers of Engagement Model. This model challenges the conventional understanding of grantee engagement. In the Tiers of Engagement Model, receiving grants directly is only one type of engagement. Tribes can engage with OWEB in the following ways: as a grant applicant and recipient, a grant partner, as a grant technical review team member, or some combination of these. The assessment focused on three OWEB grant programs and considered the level of engagement in these offerings by each Tribe. The three grant programs examined are Open Solicitation (also known in OGMS as Regular), Small Grant, and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP). Using the OWEB Grant Management System (OGMS) database, every single grant on the systems dating back as far as 1996 through March 2021 was analyzed.

The data showed that Tribes as an aggregate have a success rate greater than the mean success rate between all grantee types for the Open Solicitation grant program. Watershed Councils, Soil and Watershed Conservation Districts, and Tribes all have a 66% success rate. The average success rate for OWEB grant applications across all grantees is 65%. Counties have submitted the same number of applications as Tribes (83) and have a slightly lower success rate (64%),

while Universities have submitted 68 applications and have a 57% success rate when applying for Open Solicitation grants.

When looking at the data in OGMS it became apparent that there are drastic and distinct differences between which grant programs Tribes chose to pursue OWEB funding. It is critical to not consolidate all ten of the Tribes into one entity. Some Tribes have not applied for any OWEB grants directly. There are some Tribes who have only applied for Small Grants, and there are Tribes who have been involved in FIPs and Tribes that have not. By looking at the OGMS data alone, it is difficult to determine if barriers are coming from OWEB grant practices because of the differences between how each Tribe pursues grant funding. Review teams offer another way for Tribes to engage with OWEB grants. All Tribes participate on Small Grant review teams and some Tribes participate in FIP and Open Solicitation technical review teams. Therefore, additional information was needed to better understand the differences between the Tribes to explain why some Tribes engage more frequently with OWEB than other Tribes.

This realization led to the development of a qualitative data collection component. Tribal staff who are familiar with OWEB grant programs were interviewed to ask more detailed questions about OWEB's grant practices. The intent of these interviews was to better understand if aspects of OWEB's grant-making may create a disadvantage for tribes when applying for or receiving OWEB funding and to learn if there are any recommendations to address them.

The report's appendix includes responses from the interviews but does not attribute comments to individuals or Tribes to maintain confidentiality. Interviews with Tribes offered insight into how Tribes manage internal capacity capabilities, strategize about how they pursue grant funding, manage regional partnerships, utilize other funding resources, and the importance of history and geography.

Key themes that emerged from the interviews included the following:

- **Quantity is not an indicator of grant practices quality.** Infrequent engagement as a lead applicant is not indicative of barriers within OWEB's granting practices. Tribes are more selective about the frequency with which they apply for grant funding.
- **Each Tribe is selective about the type of OWEB grant they pursue.** The process to apply for and receive OWEB grants can be rigorous with stringent requirements. For Tribes with a smaller staff, this additional work is challenging to complete, and because the grant process is competitive, there is no guarantee that the time and effort put into the application will deliver a desirable outcome.
- **Each Tribe is selective about the source of funding they pursue.** The overall consensus is that even if they are not utilizing OWEB funds directly, OWEB funding impacts the funding field available for watershed enhancement projects and helps Tribes collaborate on larger projects with more partners. As describe by one of the interviewees, *"OWEB funds work to complement federal or BPA funding and OWEB funding helps to increase the scale and scope of projects."*
- **Strategize first, then find grant funding- it's primarily about location.** Strategy alignment, relationship to existing work, tribal leadership prioritization, and timing are common factors for pursuing a grant program and project. This is usually predetermined

by each Tribe's government or council's strategic direction and priorities. One interviewee responded, *"I would say the majority of project proposals are not opportunistic."*

- **Collaboration rather than competition.** Many interviewees expressed that by limiting their applications for OWEB grants, they create opportunities for their partners and other organizations to pursue a much-needed funding source without creating competition. All Tribes are represented in engaging and accessing OWEB grant funds when taking a closer look at the partners involved in Open Solicitation grant projects. One interviewee stated, *"We feel OWEB is one of the more progressive state agencies. Yes, we feel involved in other organizations' projects funded by OWEB and we think other organizations reach out to work with us. Our region's projects are strong and well-developed because we are selective about which grant applications are submitted to OWEB."*
- **Resilient partnerships develop through reciprocity and early engagement.** There have also been some partnerships that can feel forced or mandated due to the partner's efforts to push for justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI), but the JEDI push has helped keep Tribes involved. Most Tribes said that they do not feel as though they are regarded as a second thought or hindrance to projects, their partners respect and appreciate the knowledge and information they have. Participants in the interviews, felt as though the Tribes have a considerable influence in their region, and the overall consensus is that efforts to improve JEDI have been astoundingly beneficial for each Tribe.
- **Time, effort, and organizational capacity is needed to apply for OWEB grants.** Partners that Tribes collaborate with on OWEB funded projects often have more time and infrastructure devoted to grant-writing than they do. Interviewees believed tribal contribution comes in the form of technical expertise, setting overall strategic goals, writing letters of support, and reviewing and improving existing grant applications.
- **Influence and oversight as powerful ways to shape projects and goals.** Each of the interviewees considers their physical and spiritual connection to a project location, and their Tribes' capability to successfully executive deliverables within a project scope. Interviewees said that there are times where the best organization to carry out the work is not them, and they will work to support another organization's leadership if their strengths are best suited for implementing the project.
- **History and geography matter.** The ceded lands and retained rights from treaties are binding, but often difficult for non-tribal partners to grasp and comprehend the significance of these treaties and the importance of the Tribes' spiritual and moral commitment to care for the water, land, plants, and animals. Tribes have to educate landowners, organizations, state and federal agencies about their historical claims to ceded lands, clarify their reserved and protected rights, and ensure minimum instream flows. It can be difficult to ensure that Tribes are included in areas where they are not always physically present.
- **The impact of termination.** The impacts of The Western Oregon Termination Act are visible in the data. Tribes that went through termination and restoration of federal

recognition faced difficulties that have altered their Tribes' internal capacity to execute natural resource management. Many of these Tribes, in addition to losing federal recognition, lost access and control of their treaty protected lands and access to their ceded lands and reserved treaty rights including where they were allowed to gather foods, hunt, fish, and access water. During the time between losing federal status and regaining it, many Tribes either sold their land to help their economies or their land was once again taken, making their current land base noncontiguous.

- **Geography can lead to differences in available funding opportunities.** Due to various funding opportunities, Tribes with land within the Columbia River Basin have access to additional funding sources helping to enhance their Tribes' influence in their region. Additionally, there are Tribes closer to public lands and are able to co-manage watershed projects with federal agencies and these opportunities lead to consistent partnerships and project continuity. One interviewee commented that, "Along the Columbia River using a combination of OWEB and BPA funding ensures projects can be well managed and well executed. OWEB funds are a significant help. They help to scale and enhance the scope of projects."
- **Resource distribution and regional population impact potential for watershed management.** Tribes within largely populated areas have unique watershed challenges when it comes to finding the space to accomplish project work as well as potential contamination and pollution. While Tribes in more rural parts of the state may have difficulties recruiting or retaining qualified staff, but they also have closer access to public lands managed by Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service or other federal or state agencies.

Challenges and Barriers

The interviews also provided Tribes the opportunity to describe challenges and barriers they face when applying for or pursuing OWEB grants. The following challenges and barriers were collated based on their feedback:

1. Some Tribes are hesitant to pursue land acquisition grants for habitat protection because of language in OWEB conservation easements.
2. Match funding requirements can be challenging and burdensome to meet.
3. There is confusion and uncertainty about applying the federally negotiated indirect rate to estimate grant administration expenses when developing budgets in grant applications.
4. Reporting on projects that are jointly funded by OWEB and Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) can be confusing and cumbersome.
5. There are Measure 76 requirements that have not been well articulated to Tribes, and it can be difficult to get a complete and accurate understanding of the State's constitutional requirements and definitions of what can and cannot be funded regarding natural resource management and cultural preservation.

Recommendations

Recommendations to improve OWEB's granting practices emerged from these interviews and fell into four broad categories:

Administrative

- Clarify eligible expenses included in grant funds and clarify that staff time is allowed to be included in grants.
- Incorporate tribal participation in evaluation and project ranking criteria.
- Include project ranking criteria that is meaningful to the Tribes and honors tribal knowledge and expertise
- Increase the amount of funds that can be requested in the Small Grant Program.

Communication

- Host and fund more opportunities for staff from both Tribes and OWEB at all levels to connect and have discussions together at annual meetings.
- Pursue opportunities to help OWEB staff and review team members be aware there are locations that hold significance to multiple Tribes.
- Reflect upon and recognize the impacts of history and geography on federally recognized Tribes' strategic plans.
- Utilize OWEB's position, influence, and resources to discuss re-occurring natural resources and watershed issues that are important to Tribes with other state agencies.
- Provide regular communication with OWEB staff and Tribes to discuss grant program eligibility and application timelines.
- Look to other states for ideas about innovative ways of offering grants.

Legal

- Make a portion of the grant funds available specifically for Tribes.
- Provide funding opportunities specifically encouraging the use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge to help revive and continue cultural connection to specific locations.
- Include language in the grant agreements that is specific for Tribes to make it easier for Tribal council and leadership to confidently sign the agreement.

Capacity

- Provide grant writing training for the Tribes specifically or pay for staff to attend training sessions on grant writing and using specific systems like OGMS.
- Provide staff from Tribes additional time to work with their leadership to approve grant applications before being submitted.

Opportunities for Future Investigation

Throughout this project additional ideas surfaced that were outside the scope of this project and were not pursued. Below is a list of recommendations for additional opportunities to investigate in the future:

- Develop a place in the grant application to identify a tribal partner on a project so it can be easily queried in the database.
- Examine match, both cash and in-kind, that Tribes contribute to OWEB grants to better understand how Tribes participate as partners on grants that other grantees manage.
- Further explore the discrepancies of tribal participation in OWEB grant programs to understand how they are related to capacity of all partners and how that varies across OWEB's six regions.

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for everyone who helped with this assessment. I truly value and appreciate the time and effort you all took to support this work. Foremost, thank you, Ken Fetcho, for leading and developing this project, providing me with access and data from the OGMS database, guiding and overseeing my progress throughout the duration of the project, and for your excellent management.

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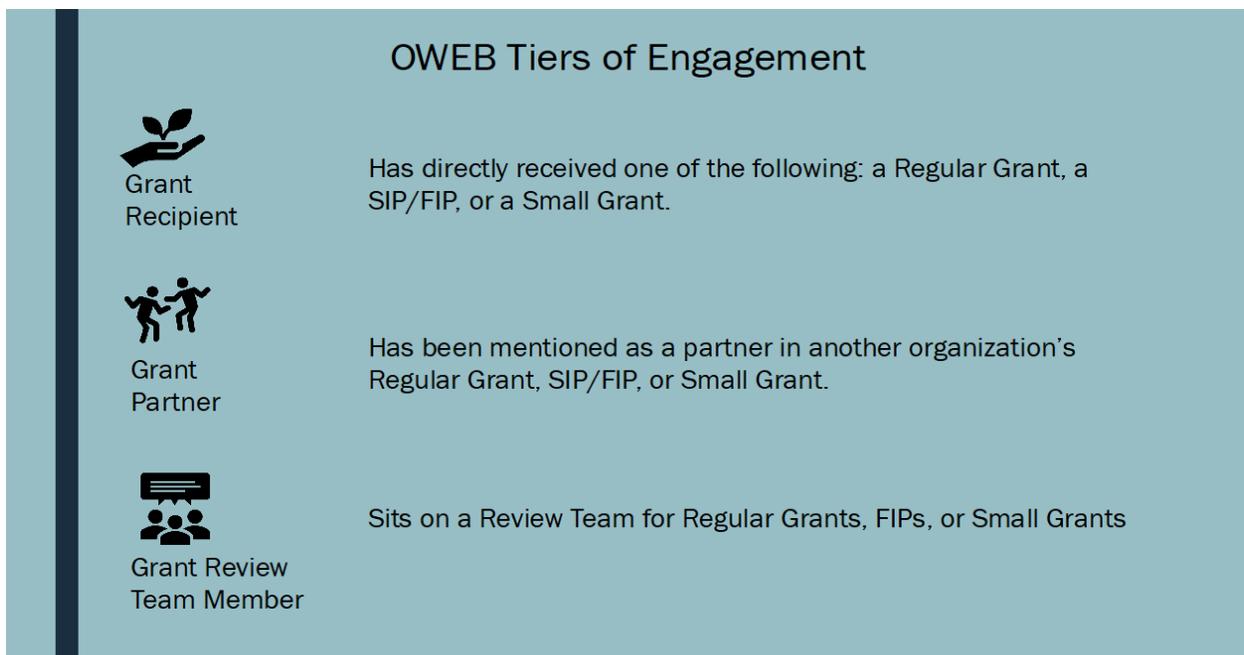
I appreciate everyone who participated in these interviews: Roselynn Lwyena, Brandy Humphreys, Lawrence Schwabe, Lindsay McClary, Stan Van de Wetering, Margaret Corvi, Jason Robison, Kelly Coates, Travis Mackie, Helena Linnell, Darin Jarnaghan, Kathryn Frenyea, Emmitt Taylor, Carter Crouch, Jason Fenton, Amy Charette, Scott Turo, Mike Lambert, Allen Childs, and Mark Buettner. Each of you provided valuable information for this assessment, but I personally learned and grew through my conversations with you all. Thank you. Additionally, several people I interviewed went above and beyond in sending me more detailed insights and additional resources after we spoke. I also want to recognize the folks who provided their edits, comments, and feedback when reviewing the draft report. To these individuals, thank you, I am so grateful for the help you provided.

Introduction

This assessment intends to review the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)'s granting practices to understand if there are existing barriers that impact federally recognized Tribes' ability to apply for and receive funds that meet their watershed enhancement goals and objectives.

To help guide this research, three broad categories of tribal engagement with OWEB grants have been identified:

1. Tribes directly receiving an OWEB grant as the primary applicant.
 - a. OWEB grants are further categorized into Open Solicitation (also known in OGMS as Regular), Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) previously known as Special Investment Partnerships (SIPs), and Small Grants.
2. Tribes specifically mentioned as a contributing partner on another organization's grant project.
3. Tribes participating on a technical review team that reviews and makes recommendations regarding grant applications.



By looking at how Tribes participate in each of the various opportunities OWEB offers, OWEB can identify and learn how each Tribe participates in their program. Additionally, representatives from the Tribes can participate on grant review teams for each grant program, offering the Tribes an opportunity to influence and oversee their region's overall watershed restoration strategy.

Table 1. Tiers of Tribal engagement in OWEB grant programs and processes

Tiers of OWEB Engagement										
Tribes	OWEB Region	Received Open Solicitation Grant	Received FIP Grant	Participate in Partnership Technical Assistance (TA) Grant	Received Small Grant	Partner on Open Solicitation Grants	Partner on FIP Grants	Partner on Small Grants	Small Grant Review Team (currently)	FIP/Open Solicitation Grant Review Team Member (currently)
Burns Paiute Tribe	3, 4, 5, & 6	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, Siuslaw Indians	1 & 2			✓		✓			✓	
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	2,3,& 4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	1, 2, & 3	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	5 & 6	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	3, 4, & 6	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coquille Indian Tribe	2				✓	✓			✓	
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	2	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Nez Perce Tribe	5	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓
The Klamath Tribes	4	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
TOTAL		8	4	7	5	10	5	3	10	6

Purpose

Through this assessment, OWEB will be able to understand where there are leverage points in their grantmaking to be more inclusive of Tribes, how to better support tribal grant applications, and in what ways Tribes want to utilize OWEB funding to meet their overall watershed enhancement needs.

As a result of this assessment, the intentionality and strategy behind how federally recognized Tribes apply for funding are articulated and demonstrated.

Background

Agency Information

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency that provides grants towards the conservation, restoration, protection, and enhancement of Oregon’s natural areas, streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands to support local communities and economies. In 1996 Executive Order EO-96-30, established a process for state agencies to “assist in resolving potential conflicts, maximize key inter-governmental relations, and enhance an exchange of ideas and resources for the greater good of all of Oregon's citizens.” In 2001, the Oregon Legislature institutionalized this Executive Order by enacting SB 770 (ORS 182.162-168) to

formalize the government-to-government relationship that exists between federally recognized Native American Tribes in Oregon and the State of Oregon. This bill mandates that state agencies develop and implement policies on tribal relations. Agency managers and other staff who communicate with the Tribes are to be trained in tribal matters, participate in annual meetings, and prepare annual reports.

OWEB revised their Tribal Relations Policy in 2018 which “recognizes and respects the sovereign status of the Tribes and their respective authorities on reservation, Tribal, ceded lands and established usual and accustomed areas and their co-management authorities over certain resources on non- Tribal lands.” The interest in this assessment is motivated by OWEB’s ongoing commitment to this policy and the agency’s recognition of the importance of equity, inclusion, diversity, and justice in natural resource management.

Tribes Eligible for OWEB Grants

OWEB consults and engages with Oregon State’s nine federally recognized Tribes:

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

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

Assessment Approach

To better understand how to better serve and collaborate with Tribes, OWEB began in late 2020, the recruitment process of a third-party research coordinator to lead this assessment. A number of graduate student candidates from Portland State University were interviewed for this position. A successful candidate was selected to carry out this assessment and who is utilizing this research experience as part of the required capstone project for the Masters of Public Policy program. The qualifications of the selected candidate include: previous experience reviewing and managing philanthropic private foundation grants and other non-profit grants, a strong commitment towards supporting the development of policies that are more inclusive of indigenous voices, particularly in the policy arena of sustainable ecosystems and natural resource management. Also, the candidate is interested in better understanding how groups of people can work in cooperation to reach political compromise, ecosystem protection and conservation, and ensure that there is equity in the distribution of and access to natural resources.

Methods

Beginning in early 2021, Ken Fetcho, OWEB's Tribal Liaison, assisted in the development of a two-part research plan consisting of quantitative and qualitative assessments to gather and analyze granting data.

Quantitative Portion

The first part of the assessment utilized OWEB's Grant Management System (OGMS) to gather grantmaking data that counted the number of grants Tribes have participated in either as a lead applicant or as a partner. The data captured from OGMS spans from 1996 until March 2021.

This data was collected across all grantee types, different grant programs, and grant types. The assessment broadens the definitions of engagement to include the various ways Tribes can indirectly shape the stakeholder network through review team participation. Grant types refer to the specific nature of the proposed grant project and includes:

- Land Acquisition
- Monitoring
- Restoration
- Stakeholder Engagement (formerly known as Outreach)
- Technical Assistance
- Water Acquisition

Data Management and Analysis

The data gathered from OGMS was organized to follow the first two tiers of engagement identified in the introduction: grant recipient and grant partner. The quantitative portion did a deep dive into what grant programs Tribes apply for: Open Solicitation, FIP/SIP grants, or Small Grants.

To sort, organize, and analyze the data, Microsoft Excel was used to create a series of Pivot tables. The total number of grants Tribes submitted as lead for Open Solicitation Grants, FIP/SIP grants, and Small Grants were calculated and compared to the quantity of grants other types of OWEB grantees submitted. Part of the OGMS search involved the number of grants submitted by individual Tribes. To find information about partnerships, an OGMS search was conducted for the word "Tribes" in the summary field as a way to identify Tribes that were mentioned as a partner in another applicant's grant application. This information was tallied, and other Pivot tables analyzed the relationship between Tribes and types of grants.

The success rate for all grant applications was calculated by filtering the grant status across all grantee types. Grants that had a status listed in OGMS as complete, open, and monitoring, are considered to be successful, while grants that have a status of not awarded, withdrawn, cancelled, ineligible were considered to be unsuccessful. For some of the searches there were a small number of grants in the pending status and these were not counted as either successful or unsuccessful.

The number of times Tribes were mentioned in a grant project summary, and which Tribe was mentioned were disaggregated and calculated. It was during this process it became clear that level of Tribal participation and engagement with OWEB grants could not be extracted from just the OGMS database. Through interviews we learned more about how Tribes choose to participate and engage with OWEB funding opportunities. Indirect involvement with OWEB grants is difficult to capture in the current database, applicants and recipients do not have a universally standardized way of describing the work Tribes do before, during, and after a grant project. This was noticeable while reviewing data about contributing or match funds Tribes made towards grant projects. However, due to time limitations, matching funds that were contributed by Tribes was not quantified to describe additional projects where they were a contributing partner on a grant.

In addition to the quantitative data, qualitative data was collected in order to have a better, more accurate sense of how OWEB funding and grant practices impacts Tribes.

Qualitative Portion

In the qualitative component of the assessment, targeted questions were developed to allow OWEB staff and Tribes the opportunity to speak confidentially and openly about their experiences with OWEB grants, articulate the strategies and conditions that impact how they pursue grants, and allow Tribes the opportunity to offer suggestions on how OWEB can make improvements that will better support the Tribes. One-on-one interviews with OWEB staff and tribal staff were performed to better understand the following:

- if there is anything inherent in OWEB's granting practices (applicant eligibility, application review process, grant administration and reporting requirements) that creates a disadvantage for Tribes to receive OWEB funding
- the approach taken to decide if they should pursue OWEB funding
- if they prefer to be the lead applicant or partner with another organization when applying for OWEB funds.
- how the different OWEB grant program influences the decisions to participate based on the role the Tribes want to have (Open Solicitation grant, Small Grant and FIPs)
- additional administrative or technical obstacles that create barriers or challenges to apply for and receive OWEB funds.

Interviews were conducted either by Zoom meeting or phone call and lasted approximately one hour. From the interview notes, a number of themes and findings were developed. Dispersed throughout the report are quotes from the interviews with Tribal staff. The questions and the responses gathered from Tribes are outlined in the appendix. It is important to note that while the report's appendix includes information from the interviews it does not attribute comments to individuals or Tribes to maintain confidentiality.

Interviews with OWEB Staff

The first part of the qualitative portion of the assessment began with OWEB staff interviews. I spoke with OWEB staff who oversee Open Solicitation, FIP, and Small Grant programs.

The answers provided by OWEB staff contained invaluable information, and educated me about the terminology and language used in watershed management, foundational concepts in natural resource management, clarity around state specific and regional watershed concerns and goals, and provided me with an overview of the other types of project funding available for tribal governments, non-profits, local governments, and institutes for higher learning. From OWEB staff, I gained insight into possible and potential regional differences as well as learned how each grant program operates. These interviews served as a means to provide in-depth context around how the grant-making process at OWEB is conducted and gave me the chance to learn who would be the best point of contact from Tribes to speak with regarding OWEB grants.

Once the OWEB staff interviews were completed, I conducted interviews with the recommended contacts of people who work for the Tribes and are familiar with OWEB grants. For some Tribes I was able to speak with multiple staff whereas for others, I was only able to speak with one staff member. Speaking with staff from the Tribes provided a more complete understanding of how Tribes choose to engage with OWEB, rather than the focus of OWEB's granting practices impacting Tribes in a one-way manner, the answers I received from staff clarified how autonomous the Tribes are and how their participation and engagement with OWEB is deliberate and methodical.

Interviews with Staff from the Tribes

After receiving the contact information for various staff from the Tribes familiar with OWEB grants, I had all interviewees interested in participating sign a consent form as part of the Portland State University student research guidelines to ensure their responses would remain confidential and non-attributable. I also received permission from the interviewees to record the conversation before conducting the interview, allowing me the ability to listen to their responses and accurately document and capture their responses.

A PowerPoint displaying the Excel pivot tables and some early observational notes from the quantitative portion of the assessment were shared with Tribes prior to their interviews. This data helped to shape and direct the conversation. This information provided a framework allowing participants to understand the goals of this assessment and allow them the opportunity to share their thoughts and reflections on the data and use their experiences and the data to guide their responses.

To analyze the responses from Tribes, OWEB staff shared the training they received from Steve Patty Ph.D. and his consulting firm, Dialogues in Action, titled "Project Impact", to develop a technique for consolidating, categorizing, and interpreting the qualitative and quantitative data. This training is designed to help execute practical program evaluation strategy and design.



During each interview, all responses were documented. All respondents answered nine interview questions. After conducting the final interview, the responses for each question were organized by common trends, pervasive qualities, patterns, and differences. These answers were coded on a continuum of similarity and the answer themes that were most commonly expressed were considered significant. This data was mapped based on what from the data appeared to be significant, how issues were discussed, and why there are certain elements enhancing or preventing engagement with OWEB grants.

Listed in the Appendix of the report are the nine questions asked during the interviews and the summarized responses from each interviewee. These responses in the appendix have been randomized to ensure integrity and maintain confidentiality.



The response data was synthesized and sorted into technical, descriptive themes that unified respondents' answers for each question. The themes were generated based upon the dominant features, ideas, and patterns that emerged during the interviews. Themes are considered to be pervasive qualities that tend to permeate and unify situations and objects. However, the representatives from the various Tribes articulated and described their own experiences, which varied dramatically based on their Tribe's watershed management priorities, geographic location, and overall organizational capacity to carry out grant projects. It is important that OWEB staff and board acknowledge individual and unique circumstances each Tribes has as a sovereign nation. A range of two to six themes were developed for each of the questions in the qualitative assessment.



Themes were then synthesized into findings, going from a technical scientific description towards more evocative, memorable lessons, that OWEB staff and board will hopefully be able to utilize in their work moving forward.



The last phase involves incorporating the findings from this assessment into recommendations for OWEB to change or alter their granting practices, or hone in on specific findings and continue to investigate if these are leverage points to improve grant practices or what type of accommodations can be made to avoid, or minimize any difficulties that the Tribes described.

Results

The driving question behind this assessment is to see if there are specific challenges and barriers in OWEB's granting practices that disproportionately prevent Tribes from applying for and receiving grant funds. The first step in the evaluation was to see if there are any

discernable patterns, discrepancies, or irregularities with the amount of grants federally recognized Tribes receive through the OGMS grant database.

The findings below were developed directly from the data gathered from the OGMS database and the shared themes found across the interviews conducted with staff from each of the ten Tribes OWEB works with.

It is important to emphasize that each Tribe has their own perspective and their own unique relationship with OWEB. During this assessment, each tribe's unique thoughts were expressed and recorded accurately, and these results are categorized by similar ideas and themes. These similarities are noted within the findings described below, and they are intended to reflect the individual perspectives of the tribal staff interviewed. In the appendix, all interviewee responses have been documented, and are organized by question.

NOTE: All quotes used in this report came directly from the tribal interviewees and are not directly attributed to the individual or Tribe to retain confidentiality. These quotes are shared in this report to reinforce what was learned and can better articulate what was heard rather than summarizing their words.

Quantity is Not Necessarily an Indicator of Granting Practices Quality



Grant
Recipient

As part of OWEB's granting practices, all applications are reviewed in a highly competitive process that include a large field of eligible applicants: local governments, institutions for higher education, non-profit organizations, city, county and tribal governments. Combing through and analyzing the OGMS data did not reveal conclusive information about specific barriers that impacted

Tribes more than other grantee applicants. Instead, data showed that **Tribes as an aggregate entity have a success rate greater than the mean success rate between all grantee types for the Open Solicitation grant program (see table 2 below).**

- Success is defined as the status = complete, awarded, monitoring, open
- Not successful is defined as the status = cancelled, not awarded or withdrawn
- Watershed Councils, Soil and Watershed Conservation Districts, and Tribes all have a **66% success rate**
- The average success rate for OWEB grant applications is **65%**
- Counties have submitted the same number of applications as Tribes (83) and have a slightly lower success rate (64%)

Rather than viewing infrequent or less engagement as a lead applicant for grants to be indicative of barriers within OWEB's granting practices, it appears as though Tribes as grantees are more selective about the frequency with which they apply for grant funding. It is critical to not consolidate all ten of these Tribes into one entity. Each Tribe is a sovereign, indigenous nation with their own government, and their own strategies and plans for natural resource management and protecting and enhancing water ecosystems.

Table 2. Tribes' success rate when lead applicant for Open Solicitation Grants compared to other OWEB grantee types

Grantee	Complete	Funded	Monitoring	Open	Pending	Not Awarded	Withdrawn	Cancelled	Ineligible	Total Grant Applications	Successful Grants	Success Rate
City	45		11	4		39	6	3	1	109	60	55%
Corporation / Partnership	423	1	126	111	4	337	41	16	9	1068	661	62%
County	42		8	3		24	2	4		83	53	64%
Soil & Water Conservation Districts	945		101	119		542	22	44	3	1776	1165	66%
Special District	40		7	4		41	2	1		95	51	54%
Tribes	35		11	9		23	1	4		83	55	66%
University / School District	35		3	1		29				68	39	57%
Watershed Council	1599		159	288		1004	25	30	8	3113	2046	66%
Total	3164	1	426	538	4	2040	99	102	21	6395	4129	65%

From looking at this data alone it is difficult to say if barriers towards grants funds are coming from OWEB procedures and requirements. Therefore, using the information from this table, interviewees were asked to think of reasons why Tribes choose to participate or engage with OWEB with less frequency than other grantee types.

Each Tribe is Selective about the Type of OWEB Grants they Pursue

When considering the Tribes individually, there are very stark contrasts between the ten federally recognized Tribes OWEB works with regarding the number of applications submitted and the types of grant programs of interest to Tribes. Noticeably, there have not been any grants where the ***Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians*** or the ***Coquille Indian Nation*** were the lead applicant for an Open Solicitation grant because they have never applied to be the lead for these types of grants. The process for OWEB grants can be rigorous with stringent guidelines. For Tribes with a smaller staff, this additional work is challenging to complete, and because the grant process is competitive, there is no guarantee that the time and effort put into the application will deliver a desirable outcome and get awarded the grant.

Another pattern revealed while analyzing the OGMS data was that Tribes who have applied as the lead applicant for Small Grants are not applying as frequently for Open Solicitation grants, and the Tribes applying for open solicitation grants are not always the same that are applying for small grants, see tables 3 and 5. For example, the Coquille Indian Tribe did not apply as a lead applicant for Open Solicitation grants, but have applied for Small Grants and received that funding. The Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians have only received funding when applying as the lead applicant for Small Grants across all types of grant opportunities, as they were not successful when they applied once for an Open Solicitation Grant. Interestingly, all the Tribes that applied as the lead applicant for a FIP (formerly SIP) Grant, have also applied as a lead applicant for an Open Solicitation Grant, see tables 3 and 7, which may demonstrate a need for increased capacity to pursue these grants.

Technical assistance, monitoring and restoration are the most pursued grant types in the Open Solicitation Grant Program, see table 3. It is important to note that to date, none of the Tribes have applied for water acquisition or stakeholder engagement (formerly known as outreach) grants. Some interviewees noted that land acquisitions would be more appealing without conservation easements as that would provide Tribes more autonomy and self-determination to have the opportunity to convert this land from “fee” to “trust” status with the federal government.

Table 3. The number of Open Solicitation grant applications that Tribes have submitted as the lead applicant by grant type

Grantee	Type of Grant				Total
	Land Acquisition	Monitoring	Restoration	Technical Assistance	
Burns Paiute Tribe		1	4	2	7
Confederated Tribes Warm Springs		2	27	2	31
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	3		3	2	8
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	1	1	2	2	6
Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation		1	8	4	13
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians				1	1
Nez Perce Tribe		3	4	4	11
The Klamath Tribes	1	4	1		6
Grand Total	5	12	49	17	83

Based on the interviews some Tribes stated that Small Grants may not be worth the administrative requirements for limited funds, but these grants can be useful if there is a very specific project and no other funding available. Small Grants can be easier to handle and implement. A salient proposal from Tribes about the Small Grants program was to increase the amount of funding for this category so that it can be worthwhile for Tribes to apply to Small Grants to implement identified projects or supplement funding from other sources for restoration efforts.

Table 4. Grantee types as the lead applicant for Small Grants

Grantee Type	Cancelled	Complete	Monitoring	Open	Pending	Total
City		2				2
Corporation / Partnership	1	73		1		75
County		6				6
Landowner	6	392				398
Soil and Water Conservation District	160	1232	136	87	1	1617
Special District		10				10
Tribe		12		3		15
University / School District		7				7
Watershed Council	66	927	103	78		1174
Grand Total	234	2661	239	167	1	3304

Table 5. Specific Tribes that have applied for Small Grants as the lead applicant

Tribe	Complete	Open	Total
Burns Paiute Tribe	1		1
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	1	3	4
Coquille Indian Tribe	4		4
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	5		5
The Klamath Tribes	1		1
Grand Total	12	3	15

Conversely, Tribes noted that FIPs are attractive because of the size and scale of the projects and how great the impact can be. FIPs can be difficult to manage and have all the partners cooperate, but if facilitated correctly, they are a great funding opportunity. FIP grants can help to build engagement with stakeholders from the ground up.

Table 6. Grantee Types that have submitted applications as the lead applicant in a FIP/SIP

Grantee Type	Complete	Funded	Monitoring	Open	Not Awarded	Pending	Withdrawn	Cancelled	Total
City Corporation / Partnership	3			5				2	10
County	61	3	33	60		3	2	32	193
Individual Soil and Water Conservation District	1		1					1	3
Special District	13		9	38		1		5	66
Tribe	3			4		1		2	10
University / School District Watershed Council	1							1	2
	104	1	17	73	2	3		43	243
Grand Total	186	4	60	184	2	8	2	89	535

Table 7. Specific Tribes that have applied for a grant as the lead applicant in a FIP/SIP

Tribe	Cancelled	Complete	Open	Pending	Total
Confederated Tribes Warm Springs	1		3	1	5
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	1				1
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation			1		1
The Klamath Tribes		3			3
Grand Total	2	3	4	1	10

Each Tribe is Selective about the Source of Funding they Pursue

In both the quantitative and qualitative portions of the assessment, the emphasis of strategic, thoughtful, and deliberate funding strategies was emphasized. OWEB funding is pursued when it aligns with Tribes' strategic goals, if there are no other funding opportunities available, or if administrative capacities are not well-suited for pursuing OWEB grant funding. Federal funds and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funds that Tribes are eligible to receive are generally thought to be more consistent, less competitive, award larger dollar amounts, be less onerous, and these funds are more readily available for Tribes than OWEB funds.

All interviewees reported that OWEB funding fills a variety of important needs in the watershed restoration funding field, even if they are not directly applying to OWEB for grants.

Interviewees states that OWEB funding helps provide for match funds for larger projects. OWEB funding is critical towards supporting regional partnerships that Tribes enter by directly funding watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and other stakeholders. Interviewees believe OWEB funds supplement niche strategy goals especially when federal funding opportunities are tied to specific species, habitats, or geographic location.

Many interviewees felt that working with OWEB helps to establish relationships with private landowners, and allows for greater collaboration in the field with other watershed partners. OWEB is also one of the few non-federal grant programs available, which is important for ensuring that there are a variety of funding sources available to help with watershed enhancement projects across the state.

"OWEB funds work to complement federal or BPA funding and OWEB funding helps to increase the scale and scope of projects."

Tribes reported they often write letters of support for OWEB grant applications that their partners apply for and these grants allow for partners to be in ongoing communication with Tribes.

The overall consensus is that even if they are not utilizing OWEB funds directly, OWEB funding impacts the funding field available for watershed enhancement projects and helps Tribes collaborate on larger projects with more partners.

Strategize First, then Find Grant Funding - It's Primarily about Location

Between all participating Tribes the desire to be the lead applicant on a grant is dependent on where the project is located- if it is on tribal lands or if the area has a high cultural or historical significance to them, they will try to be the lead applicant. A fundamental factor in determining whether Tribes applied as lead applicant is dependent upon where the project is located. If the project is located on tribal land, ceded lands, or any land that has a particular cultural or spiritual significance to the Tribe, each Tribe will be the lead applicant and take on the administrative and technical work to oversee the project.

Another key factor is if the project has a high likelihood of success. Each Tribe has their own unique watershed enhancement strategic plans, goals, and priorities and if the project is critical to those pre-determined strategies, they will apply for the funding and the grant type that best suits their needs.

Other key factors that determine if a Tribe will be the lead applicant for an OWEB grant include:

- Staff time,
- Organizational capacity,
- Project fit,
- Direction from Tribal leadership,
- Species or groups of species involved,
- Ecosystem or habitat of intended project
- and the ability for smooth coordination between collaborators and partners

Throughout the state, Tribes participate with regional stakeholders to plan and conceptualize watershed enhancement framework, goals, and projects. Some Tribes lead these efforts to convene interested stakeholders and others mention actively being recruited to participate in regional planning efforts. Once this happens, different organizations determine and assign projects leads and supporting roles at this early stage of conception and strategy development.

"I would say the majority of project proposals are not opportunistic."

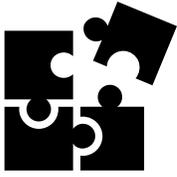
Strategy alignment, relationship to existing work, tribal leadership prioritization, and timing are common factors for pursuing a grant program and project, and this too is usually predetermined by each Tribe's government or council's strategic direction and priorities.

Collaboration Rather than Competition



Grant Partner

As part of the strategic grant-seeking approach, the staff working for the Tribes recognize that there are funding sources from federal agencies that better suit their needs and are less competitive. Interviewees stated that BPA funding, Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery (PCSRF) funds and other Tribe-specific grant opportunities are often more enticing, consistent, and the application process for these funds is not as onerous on Tribes. Therefore, many interviewees expressed that by limiting their applications for OWEB grants, they create opportunities for their partners and other organizations to pursue a much-needed funding source without creating competition. This allows for regional partners to plan out and align which proposed project ideas should seek out a particular funding source, creating a dynamic and interactive network of projects, partners, and funders.



“We feel OWEB is one of the more progressive state agencies. Yes, we feel involved in other organizations’ projects funded by OWEB and we think other organizations reach out to work with us. Our region’s projects are strong and well-developed because we are selective about which grant applications are submitted to OWEB.”

Another tier of engagement is reflected in how Tribes’ partner with other OWEB grantees. **All Tribes are represented in engaging and accessing OWEB grant funds when taking a closer look at the partners involved in grant projects.** Tribes are mentioned as partners on Open Solicitation grants, Small Grants, and FIP grants. There is full representation of all federally recognized Tribes eligible for OWEB grants when looking into the occurrences where Tribes are specifically mentioned in the Project Summary. However, there is a wide range in the number of grants each Tribe is mentioned.

Table 8. Grant applications where Tribes are listed as a partner in the project summary of another organization’s Open Solicitation Grant application

Tribes Mentioned as Partners	Count of Project ID
Burns Paiute Tribe	6
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	106
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians	18
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	16
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	22
Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation	44
Coquille Indian Tribe	4
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	4
Nez Perce Tribe	35
No Specific Tribe Named	14
The Klamath Tribes	11
Grand Total	280

Partnerships are essential in watershed and natural resource management, and strong collaboration and coordination between stakeholder and user groups are necessary for impactful projects. Generally, Tribes will encourage or support other partners to apply for OWEB funds for a variety of reasons. Responses from Tribes described that the applications

deadlines are hard to meet, the grant programs are highly competitive, and this is not guaranteed, and Tribes have limited staff capacity to prepare a competitive grant application. These funds increase engagement, involvement, and collaboration across their regions. OWEB funds encourage other organizations to reach out to Tribes earlier in the project development phase and it serves as an opportunity for Tribes to understand big picture projects happening in their region. OWEB applicants are required in the grant application to indicate when and how they plan to reach out to a partner on a project. This also provides Tribes the opportunity to teach their partners about the importance of cultural resources and culturally significant areas.

“There are very few funding sources outside of federal funds and BPA grants, so OWEB serves as such an asset to provide additional funds for partners like Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Councils. Plus, OWEB offers grants for certain opportunities that we might also be interested in and then we will apply for the grants directly.”

Resilient Partnerships Develop through Reciprocity and Early Engagement

Most Tribes responded they feel involved to some extent in OWEB projects and feel that other organizations reach out to include them. The engagement from partners works best when it occurs at the onset of a project idea, not part-way through implementation. Partnership engagement that is reciprocal works best. Other organizations need to support the Tribes in their region with their endeavors: offer letters of support, staff time, knowledge, and cash and in-kind match. These high-quality partnerships take time to develop. The ability to collaborate, and co-manage projects are related to being influential in the direction of their region’s watershed management plans.

Engagement can be a double-sided sword. Sometimes partners reach out too frequently and do not recognize that many of the Tribes do not have the capacity or ability to be highly involved in every project, but they also still appreciate being informed. Many Tribes that participated in the interviews felt that it could be difficult to convey to partners the spiritual or cultural meaning behind certain motivations or interests.

There have also been some partnerships that can feel forced or mandated due to the push for justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI), but the JEDI push has helped keep Tribes involved. From the responses during the interview process, most Tribes do not feel as though they are regarded as a second thought or hindrance to projects, but feels as though their partners respect and appreciate the knowledge and information they have. Participants in the interviews, felt as though the Tribes have a considerable influence in their region, and the overall consensus is that efforts to improve JEDI have been astoundingly beneficial for each Tribe.

Time, Effort, and Organizational Capacity is Needed to Apply for OWEB Grants

Applying for and managing grants can be time consuming. Many interviewees stated the partners they collaborate with on grant projects often have more time and infrastructure devoted to the act of grant-writing than their Tribe does. Interviewees said that partner

organizations have the resources and have staff dedicated to apply for and secure grant funds. Interviewees also felt that their project partners had the ability to apply and acquire the additional permits needed for large watershed restoration projects.

Interviewees believed their contribution to their partners comes in the form of technical expertise, setting overall strategic goals, writing letters of support, and reviewing and improving existing grant applications.

Influence and Oversight as Powerful Ways to Shape Projects and Goals



Grant Review Team Member

While speaking with staff from the Tribes, they enthusiastically felt their Tribe’s influence in their region came from their leadership and ability to review other grant proposals, applications, and work collaboratively with partners in an advisory role. There is full representation of all ten Tribes as part of the Small Grants Review Teams. This type of leadership allows each Tribe to offer their opinions, share their knowledge and expertise with others, and understand the full scope of their region’s shared water and ecosystem goals without having to be responsible for the day-to-day management.

Tribal participation is strongly promoted in OWEB’s administrative rules. For example, the Small Grant Program Oregon State Administrative Rules, 695-035-0020 (4), states that “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, and the Nez Perce Tribe, with reservation, tribal, ceded lands, or usual and accustom areas located partially or entirely within the Small Grant Area to appoint one representative to a Small Grant Team. Participation on a Team is voluntary.”

This advisory and consulting capability is seen as a more ubiquitous influence, and allows Tribes to engage with OWEB and other stakeholders in a more powerful way.

Many of the interviewees felt that their Tribe’s involvement in shaping ideas, guiding and directing regional goals, and agenda setting helped to off-set some of the limitations their Tribe may have in implementing projects such as limited staff capacity, a lack of financial resources to commit to projects, and other perceived hindrances.

“We are knowledgeable leaders in our region and help design, strategize, and prioritize region-wide projects. We review and oversee projects as well. It feels as though the tribal perspective is embedded across projects throughout the region.”

Building resilient and adaptive networks is tantamount for collective action and cooperation. Engagement with OWEB grants can be viewed in a more holistic manner, rather than solely seeing engagement with OWEB through the lens of applying directly for and receiving grants. Engagement is also linked to how OWEB helps facilitate partnerships and maximize resource distribution and access. After speaking with Tribes, each of the interviewees considers their

Tribes' positionality, meaning their Tribes physical and spiritual connection to the project location, and their Tribes' capability to successfully execute deliverables within a project scope. Interviewees said that there are times where the best organization to carry out the work is not them, and they will work to support another organization's leadership if their strengths are best suited for implementing the project.

By strengthening networks, working in partnerships, and considering their strengths and the strengths of their partners, each Tribe serves as regional leaders and conveners while strategically utilizing their funds and funding sources. There is an incentive towards allowing partners to access OWEB as a funding source and for Tribes to help oversee and contribute towards OWEB projects through writing letters of support and offering match contributions, technical assistance and expertise, and other types work.

This does not, however, eliminate OWEB's responsibility to proactively engage with Tribes and continue to improve internal grant making processes and change practices. There are still leverage points in OWEB's granting practice to be more inclusive of Tribes, and ensure that when Tribes submit grant proposals, they are competitive.

History and Geography Matter

The most predominant and pervasive theme from the interview discussions with Tribal staff was how critical it is that history and geography be considered in watershed and natural resource management work. Environmental justice needs to be at the center of this work. The impact of history and geography is constantly being felt and is always relevant in the context of watershed management. The ceded lands and retained rights from the treaties are binding, but often difficult for non-tribal partners to grasp and comprehend the significance of these treaties and the importance of the Tribes' spiritual and moral commitment to care for the water, land, plants and animals. Treaties are not upheld if Tribes are unable to hunt, gather foods, and fish as specified in the treaties, which includes ensuring the ecosystems are supported and healthy in perpetuity.

The history of genocide and displacement is felt and acknowledged by all of the staff working for the ten Tribes eligible for OWEB grants. Many federally recognized Tribes are composed of different bands of people who were displaced and relocated. The genocide of indigenous people has led to a loss of cultural knowledge and connection to the places from where they originally came from. Place based trauma impacts how traditional ecological knowledge is practiced which directly affects conservation and protection.

Tribes have to educate landowners, organizations, state and federal agencies about their historical claims to ceded lands, clarify their reserved and protected rights, and ensure minimum instream flows. This justification can be an additional hurdle and impede field work and prevent projects being done on time. It can be difficult to ensure that Tribes are included in regions where they are not always physically present. There is a strong desire shared between respondents for their Tribe to have a pulse on key areas outside of reservation on ceded lands or just lands with historical significance.

Interviewees note that there has been improvement over the past several years to be more open-minded and understanding about cultural preservation, but it can still be difficult for

Tribes to convince partners to support land acquisitions or other types of water and land management for primarily cultural reasons rather than straightforward restoration and/or conservation.

Compared to other types of OWEB grantees, Tribes have an additional need for due diligence to inspect properties and land that falls outside of their immediate purview and require additional consultation during the grant proposal process to their Tribal councils and government leaders. While this is not necessarily a limitation for Tribes, many interviewees felt this aspect differentiated them from other grantee types and impacts the speed and manner Tribes implement watershed projects.

Part of the services Tribes offer their members, includes participating in cultural practices and events. People can be affiliated with multiple Tribes and be living all across the state and still need to access critical areas for cultural ceremonies and activities and the Tribes utilize and need resources to provide these members with access to particular places and overcome certain restrictions by federal, state or private owners. Many Tribes' historical and cultural heritage sites might span across jurisdictions adding complexity around the availability and ease of access. These additional responsibilities are not typical of other OWEB grantee types, such as watershed councils, but they are significant land management considerations interviewees stated directly impact their internal land management plans, budgets, and bandwidth to carry out other watershed management work.

The Impact of Termination

The ramifications of the Western Oregon Termination Act are ongoing and directly impact the ability of the Tribes that went through termination the ability to influence, manage, and steward lands. Several participants noted during the interview that the granting data that was shared with them was fascinating but not terribly surprising. When probed as to why this data was not revelatory, respondents noted that the impacts of The Western Oregon Termination Act are visible in the data. Tribes that went through termination and restoration of federal recognition faced difficulties that have altered their Tribes' internal capacity to execute natural resource management. Many of these Tribes, in addition to losing federal recognition, lost access and control of their treaty protected lands and access to their ceded lands and reserved treaty rights including where they were allowed to gather foods, hunt, fish, and access water. During the time between losing federal status and regaining it, many Tribes either sold their land to help their economies or their land was once again taken, making their current land base noncontiguous.

It is difficult to manage noncontiguous lands and have the same impact as watershed projects on contiguous lands. Within divided land parcels there may be upstream issues that can lead to more issues downstream and Tribes on noncontiguous land may be unable to access headwaters for conservation work. Termination of federal recognition left some Tribes without their reservation lands and had to gain them back, leading to burdensome controversies with private landowners or other federal entities when trying to hunt, fish, and gather foods in traditional and accustomed ways.

When working with Tribes, OWEB staff need to be aware that there are places that hold deep, spiritual connections for more than one Tribe. Boundaries regarding notable cultural places are not always clear. There are certain areas that hold significance to multiple Tribes and it is often difficult to agree on who gets to steward and manage watersheds in these regions. This knowledge can help ensure OWEB staff and review team members engage in conversations with Tribes across regions before awarding a grant to fund a project that may impact the management of a culturally significant site.

Geography Can Lead to Differences in Available Funding Opportunities

Due to various funding opportunities, Tribes with land along the Columbia River Basin have access to additional funding sources helping to enhance their Tribes' influence in their region. The Tribes who live in the Columbia River Basin have additional capacity because of BPA funding, in coastal basins, and other locations where there are salmon. Locations further away from the Columbia River Basin and areas without salmon runs are not able to access the same types of federal grants.

"Access to BPA dollars can be tricky, but through tributaries we can make it work, but due to the geographic boundaries it can be tricky to find funders for specific work"

"Along the Columbia River using a combination of OWEB and BPA funding ensures projects can be well managed and well executed. OWEB funds are a significant help. They help to scale and enhance the scope of projects."

Additionally, there are Tribes closer to public lands and are able to co-manage watershed projects with federal agencies and these opportunities lead to consistent partnerships and project continuity.

Resource Distribution and Regional Population Impact Potential for Watershed Management

The intersection of geography and history is felt regularly, but hard to capture through quantitative data. For some tribes their office location and field offices may be very far from area of cultural and historical significance because they are located on ceded lands. The drive time and capacity needed to properly oversee certain properties can be taxing on staff. Even though it is part of their cultural and historical territories, Tribes may not be able to directly manage those lands because of logistics.

Tribes within largely populated areas have unique watershed challenges when it comes to finding the space to accomplish project work as well as potential contamination and pollution, but with more people comes additional opportunities for partnerships, financial resources, and staffing availability. Tribes in more rural parts of the state may have difficulties recruiting or retaining qualified staff, having the financial resources available on hand to address complex issues, and encounter challenges with consumptive water or vegetation issues. Tribes in more rural regions have closer access to public lands managed by BLM, the National Forest Service or other federal or state agencies.

Opportunities for Future Investigation

While conducting the quantitative portion of this research, the tiers of engagement model challenged the conventional approach OWEB had for assessing their granting practices impacts on Tribes. In trying to gather data around ways the Tribes participate as partners, it was difficult to pull reports that showed partnerships; for example, details of the grant summaries were inconsistent. The word “Tribe” was sometimes mentioned in a project summary, but there was no specific Tribe listed as a partner. It was also challenging to query the OGMS database to find information regarding the frequency with which Tribes contribute or serve as a match for project funds.

Capturing this type of data could be useful for future research to see the partnerships formed within OWEB’s grantee network. Tracking the way partners write letters of support or match funds would allow there to be more data on how reciprocal the partnerships between organizations are. Additionally, OWEB could examine match, both cash and in-kind, and have this information documented on grants in OGMS so that the contributions Tribes make towards other grantee projects can be documented and this type of Tribal participation can be added as another tier of engagement.

Another avenue to explore around the discrepancies in tribal participation in OWEB grant programs would be to examine how Tribal capacity and other grantees’ capacity varies across each of the six OWEB regions.

Existing Barriers on Tribes’ Engagement with OWEB Grants

During the interview, when asked about specific barriers or challenges, interviewees expressed several concerns about where there are issues in OWEB’s current granting practices:

1. OWEB’s language used in conservation easements can hinder placing land from “fee” into federal “trust” status. Which would allow greater sovereign management of a parcel of land. This language can signal a lack of confidence towards the Tribes to manage these lands over the long term and can feel paternalistic. Tribes would like to access land acquisition funds for habitat protection without OWEB holding a conservation easement on those lands.
2. Match funding requirements can be challenging and burdensome to meet.
3. There is confusion and uncertainty about applying the federally negotiated indirect rate to estimate grant administration expenses when developing budgets in grant applications. Some Tribes are under the impression that federally negotiated indirect rates for Tribes are above what OWEB allows for grant agreements. OWEB can’t accept outdated indirect rates and it takes time for Tribes to negotiate a new indirect rate with the federal government, so many Tribes have an outdated indirect rate.
4. Reporting on OWEB, PCSRF, and ODFW funds can be confusing and cumbersome.
 - a. When issues have occurred, Tribes impacted by this dilemma felt that OWEB had unduly placed the responsibility onto Tribes to revise the reporting metrics despite Tribes not being aware of the specific reporting issues.

5. There are Measure 76 requirements that have not been well articulated to Tribes, and it can be difficult to get a complete and accurate understanding of the State's constitutional requirements and definitions of what can and cannot be funded regarding natural resource management and cultural preservation.
6. Staff from Tribes need additional time to work with their leadership. Interviewees are uncertain if OWEB staff factor this consideration into their work.

These six areas warrant additional investigation and ongoing conversation between OWEB and Tribal staff and leadership.

Recommendations from the Staff Working at the Tribes Eligible for Funding on Ways to Improve

Below are the most salient recommendations from the qualitative interviews with Tribes:



Administrative

- Clarify eligible expenses included in grant funds and clarify that staff time is allowed to be included in grants.
- Incorporate tribal participation in grant application evaluation and project ranking criteria.
- Include project ranking criteria that is meaningful to the Tribes and honors tribal knowledge and expertise.
- Increase the amount of funds that can be requested in the Small Grant Program.



Communication

- Host and fund more opportunities for staff from both Tribes and OWEB at all levels to connect and have discussions together at annual meetings.
- Pursue opportunities to help OWEB staff and review team members be aware there are locations that hold significance to multiple Tribes.
- Reflect upon and recognize the impacts of history and geography on federally recognized Tribes' strategic plans.
- Utilize OWEB's position, influence, and resources to discuss re-occurring natural resources and watershed issues that are important to Tribes with other state agencies.
- Provide regular communication with OWEB staff and Tribes to discuss grant program eligibility and application timelines.
- Look to other states for ideas about innovative ways of offering grants.



Legal

- Make a portion of the grant funds available specifically for Tribes
- Provide funding opportunities specifically encouraging the use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge to help revive and continue cultural connection to specific locations.
- Include language in the grant agreements that is specific for Tribes to make it easier for Tribal council and leadership to confidently sign the agreement.



Capacity

- Provide grant writing training for the Tribes specifically or pay for staff to attend training sessions on grant writing and using specific systems like OGMS.
- Provide staff from Tribes additional time to work with their leadership to approve grant applications before being submitted.

These recommendations provide ample opportunity for OWEB to consider how they might modify their granting practices to be more inclusive of Tribes. One to consider is the possibility of Tribe-specific grant opportunities. While speaking with staff from Tribes, many interviewees reiterated that the OWEB grant process is highly competitive. Tribes do not want to jeopardize partnerships with other organizations to pursue the same grant funding. Tribes with smaller staff felt pursuing OWEB grants was not the most effective use of their limited resources. As they could directly and indirectly benefit from allocating their time, knowledge, and resources elsewhere and better support their partners.

Interviewees felt that if OWEB were to evaluate and re-examine the laws and policies concerning conservation easements and Measure 76 funding limitations it would help to incentivize more participation from Tribes who are not capable or interested in navigating those legal hurdles. If the practice and implementation of these laws and policies cannot be changed, OWEB could provide at a minimum easy to access information listing how to best support Tribes encountering these challenges and work together closely to find a way to move forward on grants or projects.

Lastly, investigating possible solutions for match funding and federally indirect cost rate requirements could provide an opportunity for OWEB to be a more equitable funder. This is also an opportunity for OWEB to continue to discuss various federal reporting challenges and the best way to work around these reporting requirements.

Final Notes

Throughout the interviews, participants each expressed positive experiences working with OWEB and for staff that have been working in their position for many years. All noted that there have been improvements made over the years. They also noted that OWEB staff is accessible and available for conversations and questions.

“OWEB’s continuous improvement mentality is wonderful and we really appreciate it.”

“Overall, I have been satisfied with OWEB as an agency, and appreciate their work and hope they continue to be clear and transparent.”

Appendix

Below are the questions and responses from the interviews held with staff representatives from the ten Tribes who work with OWEB. All identifiers have been removed to ensure tribal anonymity. All responses will remain anonymous to as part of a confidentiality agreement established with all participants, and any information that would identify either a specific person or Tribe has been redacted. It is important to clarify that each of the ten Tribes interviewed is unique in their watershed restoration management and while similarities have been organized together to develop the themes and guide the results, the goal of this assessment is not to group each Tribe together, this assessment recognizes that no one Tribe can speak for another.

Question 1- How would you characterize your Tribe's and other Tribes' influence in your region?

Tribe	Responses (summarized)
1.	I think our influence is pretty extensive, it is important that you understand the history and there is a significant impact if you are part of a treaty tribe vs an executive order tribe. Treaty Tribes have protected access to ceded lands to practice traditional ceremonies and hunt and gather in usual and accustomed manners. The reservation and the ceded lands offer us to have influence over this region and there is a lot of collaboration between partners in this area. Being along the Columbia River we are eligible to access to BPA which helps us do large scale restoration work with partners. There are lots of partnerships in the region with districts and councils.
2.	I would say we are influential because we focus on land restoration. We have a long history of managing and stewarding these lands, but the loss of federal recognition impacted our ability to manage the land and access parts of the watershed. We have regained the rights from the original treaty, but it can be difficult to ensure it is upheld and honored. We have reservation lands where our influence is the greatest and we are once again present on the ceded lands and with the re-recognition many partners and other leaders are becoming more and more aware of the knowledge we have and our influence has grown.
3.	The Tribes are an influential partner with land and water management in this basin. We co-manage and work closely with the federal government on federal lands, we receive federal grants that allow this work to move forward. The Tribe was terminated but has since been restored and treaty rights are recognized, this has been hard to overcome but overtime we have developed strong partnerships.
4.	Our influence can be seen in the quality of our partnerships and committee involvements. We work closely with the watershed districts. We are knowledgeable leaders in our region and help design, strategize, and prioritize region-wide projects. We review and oversee projects as well. It feels as though the tribal perspective is embedded across projects throughout the region.

5.	I think the Tribe has a huge influence, especially on the reservation and the ceded lands. The Tribe's historical territory is throughout the Columbia Basin. I also feel as though the Tribe is heavily involved in partnership projects, not just collaborating, but helping to shape ideas early on. We are also part of review teams.
6.	The first treaty reduced the land base followed by another treaty that also diminished and reduced the Tribes' land, but now there is a process to submit claims and access exclusive use area and retain the fishing and hunting rights outlined in the original treaty. The Tribe has a strong partnership with the Forest Service and have a strong influence as co-managers with lots of partners and other Tribes.
7.	The Tribes have ancestral territory in a basin that is not near our reservation, where we are allowed to oversee and help with managing the area by sitting on boards and through strong partnerships with others in the field like NGOs, federal and state agencies. We get to do work in two basins that are very important for cultural reasons.
8.	We always have a seat at the table when it is time to plan upcoming projects, but we can't always take advantage of that offer. We rely on our partners to keep us aware of things that are happening when we can't be there, but our influence in the region is really strong, it is just we can't always be the ones doing the work.
9.	When the tribe was terminated, our influence in the was small and so was our department of natural resources. Our ancestral lands overlap with other Tribes and when many bands of other Tribes were being re-located, they became part of our nation so there are many folks who have historical ties to land on the other side of the state. We have strong ties to a basin that is not part of our reservation and we have noncontiguous lands which make our influence dispersed, and we rely on our partners to keep us included in the regions where we are not always physically present for, and the partners do an excellent job. Our treaty rights were not consistently recognized for many years, we were terminated and there were issues with restoration of our rights, but we are working to become more active in the region. We have done incredible work and have a lot of knowledge and people in our region respect what we have to say and the direction we may want certain projects to go in.
10.	We have lots of watershed partners and I would say that we are influential in the region along with other Tribes. Culture is so important to how the land is managed. Water is life and I believe that all of us have the same goals, which is to protect and preserve these important places and resources. Deliberate and inclusive measures and efforts are made by our partners but we are small and can't always participate in all of the watershed councils, but federal and state agencies come to Tribes to seek input in planning, sometimes it may be a little, but as people begin to think more about diversity and inclusion, we become more involved earlier on in the process, which is beneficial to everyone.

Question 2- How do you pursue or utilize OWEB funding to accomplish their long-term watershed restoration strategies?

Tribe	Response
1.	OWEB is a true competitive grant. BPA grants, PCSRF grants are more consistent for us. We are part of a FIP review team and help with strategy development. We need to balance the quantity and the quality of the grant projects we take on. We also want to support other organizations in our region to understand what’s going on in the field. We try to apply for grants that fit with our strategy. BPA funds and Forest Service funds are larger than OWEB funding, but OWEB dollars can be used to tie projects together in the region and spread out the scope of work. Working with partners leads to better projects and OWEB funds help those partners. OWEB could also maybe help work with private landowner cooperation.
2.	Yes, OWEB funding helps with collaboration in the region and can fit into our overall strategy for management plans. We typically support other entities with their OWEB grants. The process can be onerous and if our partners are able to do that work, we can focus on other projects and support their projects as needed and offer counsel. OWEB is an important state agency able to disperse resources, so I would hate to see BPA funding always be used in lieu of BPA funding or something like that.
3.	OWEB is an important source of match funding for other programs like BPA, Fish and Wildlife Services, Bureau of Reclamation. One of the few non-federal grants available. But it’s very competitive with NGOs and other partners.
4.	OWEB funding can help advance goals and help with the goal of having functional floodplains at a technical and program level. The FIP includes monitoring and technical assistance and evaluation work. We fit in OWEB funding based on our need and are not opportunistic when applying for grants.
5.	We use NOAA and PCSRF for the subbasin as a top priority, so OWEB is not our main priority, but being involved at the technical advisory level, the review team, and board levels is more important to us than receiving an OWEB grant directly. We can use the time to write letters of support for partners, contract with the watershed council so they can do the work to get the permits, grants, other logistics and then we can focus on specific projects.
6.	The Tribe has a Department of Natural Resources plan for strategy and implementation funds. OWEB has diverse funding options and a can help with a wide array of projects and very detailed fisheries plan. We use OWEB funds when we need to address all of the fish in the area, right now only some species are tied to funding.
7.	We receive project funding through PCSRF and NOAA. OWEB funds we hope go to our partners and we work with our partners to develop comprehensive strategies early on and try to work together to enhance projects. Tribes in the Western part of the state have a

	smaller land base and so I think we work with more partners and have more partners available. There are differences between treaty and restored Tribes that impacted how we can access important lands. OWEB funds are limited and competitive. PCSRF dollars are easier, so we think it is more strategic and we get a larger return on investment. We are often used as a match for partnership projects with OWEB funding.
8.	OWEB grants help with upland management. BPA funding helps with habitat work, Natural Resources Conservation Service helps to support with properties and we often partner with the National Forest Service for other funds.
9.	More money is available through federal agencies. All grants that we apply for are based on our internal capacity to apply for grants as well as carry the projects. Monitoring money from OWEB is important and we often work with partners to write proposals so they can receive the funds.
10.	We work with watershed councils and help them receive OWEB funds through our letters of support and stay engaged in the FIP. OWEB funds can be utilized for riparian fish restoration and this fulfills an important need.

Question 3- How do OWEB grants impact the funding field available for Tribes? Does it help implement larger projects or help Tribes collaborate with a larger group of partners?

Tribe	Response
1.	Yes, OWEB offers additional funds for partnership projects, but OWEB grant applications are more competitive. Along the Columbia River using a combination of OWEB and BPA funding ensures projects can be well managed and well executed. OWEB funds are a significant help. They help to scale and enhance the scope of projects. Our FIP is a great example of this and it has unified partners in our region. Really great for restoration.
2.	Yes, existing partnerships are enhanced and applications are done together and planned ahead of time. OWEB applications help build Tribes into the planning process. This can sometimes feel like a checkbox that folks must do, but when partners are engaging sincerely it increases how our region improves. If we give a letter of support, we expect to have ongoing communication regarding the project post award, but it has helped with critical cultural area protection, In the past, organizations didn't reach out to us ahead of time and it cost them.
3.	As our capacity for grant writing increases, we hope to use more OWEB funding. projects. OWEB is one of the few non-federal sources available. Right now, OWEB grants are a little too competitive and we would rather our partners work and apply for them and provide support to their grant projects. When we don't apply for OWEB grants, we are not

	competing with our partners for the same grant funds. OWEB funding helps to prioritize basin-wide work.
4.	OWEB funds help leverage large scale restoration work and can work alongside BPA funding to fill in gaps and have flexibility for meeting budget needs on individual Cost share outside of BPA, especially for projects outside of BPA's interests.
5.	Yes, there is an emphasis on partnerships. OWEB assists with getting to work with private land owners involved with monitoring and restoration. Monitoring is an important part of OWEB funds. It adds another funding source to consider. Funding for technical assistance and restoration can be hard to find. We track all funding sources available and match them to our upcoming, potential projects. Uplands restoration money is hard to find
6.	For ambitious plans there needs to be a whole suite of efforts and funding sources available to do that.
7.	Yes, definitely a core funding source that leverages projects for partners and they are critical funds for drawing in other funds into larger projects. It solidifies the base of partners for example we may use federal funds and partners use OWEB funding.
8.	Yes, for watershed restoration work having more funds and more reasons to work collectively has no downsides. We work often with the Bureau of Land Management and on state lands (cattle rights) through ODFW to re-vegetate and these partnerships are possible through funding options.
9.	Yes, OWEB funding helps partnerships because it adds to the pot available. Funding natural resource work is tough and any funds dedicated to this work is needed.
10.	Yes, I think it helps in the field. The Small Grants help with specific, targeted projects but we generally pursue federal funding because it is more cyclical, consistent and less competitive, but OWEB grants can be used to help build up Tribes' internal capacity.

Question 4- How are you involved in other grantee projects funded by OWEB? Do you think other grantee organizations are reaching out to Tribes when developing projects- why or why not?

Tribe	Response
1.	We feel OWEB is one of the more progressive state agencies. Yes, we feel involved in other organizations' projects funded by OWEB and we think other organizations reach out to work with us. Our region's projects are strong and well-developed because we are selective about which grant applications are submitted to OWEB.
2.	Yes, and yes, other organizations reach out to work with us and we reach out to other organizations.

3.	We write letters of support and I feel like we have other organizations reach out to us for good reasons.
4.	OWEB FIPs have helped the sub basin develop strong partnerships. Sometimes lots of partners can be a mixed bag when coming together for a project but generally it provides good structure for long-lasting relationships. We have strict standards for giving out letters of support to ensure the other projects align with spiritual mission of protecting the landscape and the purpose is holistic. Sometimes the spiritual significance can be hard to convey to partners.
5.	Yes, the watersheds in our region engage frequently and meaningfully. We can't always be a partner or involved due to limitations on our side with internal capacity or not enough staff, etc.
6.	Yes, we feel very involved in other grantee's projects. We try not to be in direct competition with our partners which is why we don't always apply for OWEB funds. However, sometimes the engagement from partners can be inauthentic.
7.	Yes, I feel like there is genuine outreach from other OWEB grantee organizations. Sometimes though we wish they would reach out sooner or contact us in the initial stages, but sometimes we are not available to be involved.
8.	Our partners depend on OWEB funds and there is an uphill curve for understanding quality partnerships- they take time. Partners need to reciprocate and allocate their funds and money when we need assistance. However, DEI efforts are working and it is good but sometimes the Tribe's capacity is not always considered.
9.	We have excellent partners and we feel involved them and aware of OWEB projects. We partner primarily with BLM and the Forest Service and they are great about getting us involved early.
10.	We participate and feel involved with OWEB through working with the watershed councils and partners are very eager to work with us. Sometimes the relationship with OWEB feels paternalistic and we feel like there is not always true co-management. There's a power imbalance between partners and it can be frustrating to have them dictate how Tribes manage land and use money. We are less likely to apply and receive OWEB funds directly because they're competitive and our partners will also apply for them.

Question 5- What are the factors you consider when determining if your Tribe should be a lead applicant or a partner on an application to pursue OWEB funds (i.e., Open Solicitation grants, FIPS, Small grants)?

Tribe	Response
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1.	The biggest factor is if it is a project on our lands and we will be the lead then, and if there are projects where we want more control.
2.	Small Grants can support large projects. We will take the lead on a grant application if it is on tribal land or if the area is culturally significant. It can be an administrative burden to be the lead on a grant project if the parcel of land is not culturally significant or if it not on tribal lands.
3.	We are the lead applicant in areas significant to the Tribe and as a partner we look at the letter of support requests. We like to consider if the area is critical and if there is no one else there doing work. Monitoring responsibilities can also influence if we are the lead or not depending on what we have going on. The Tribe has its own priorities and if the project is on reservation land, we would take the lead. Throughout the basin we partner well with other organizations and have close coordination. We also like to consider the likelihood of success and if it looks likely, we will be the lead. The Tribe would like to be more active in land acquisition projects of properties they'd like to own. We also consider the Tribal council's strategic goals and how well a grant project aligns with it or not.
4.	With our core partners and long-term collaborators, we build in who leads a specific effort/project. We choose to be the lead if it is critical to our internal goals otherwise, we leverage partnerships and offer to help others. We try to be judicious about our applications.
5.	Our region plans early on with all of the stakeholders about taking the lead on various efforts. We do it when it is the most logical.
6.	We consider project location, staff time, capacity, project fit, direction from tribal leadership before applying for a grant. Small Grants are easier to handle and implement.
7.	It depends on what tribal leadership would like to see happen, our ability as a limited staff to do the work, other projects we are currently involved with and leading. Tribes are sovereign nations and have their own governments and the priorities for the DNR are high, but everything is taken into consideration.
8.	The size of the grant is not a factor for us we primarily don't want to compete with watershed councils. OWEB seems to offer limited funds outside of monitoring and restoration.
9.	It depends on the scenario what the project involves dictates if we are the lead or not. For example- it is easier to plan for a project where there are annual or consistent things done so we can better predict the cost of the project or what staffing requirements or overhead costs are involved. Time to do the project work as well as the administrative work is another factor. We have limited staff and resources so we try to be selective. If the project is happening on land valuable to the Tribe that would take priority.

10.	We consider where the project will happen then the ecosystem relationship- how does this project impact the ecosystem it is in and how can we understand the impacts of the project down the road or on other habitats? Project coordination capabilities, cost, and capacity are also very important considerations as well as tribal council and the pace the project needs to be.
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Question 6- What are the factors you consider when deciding which OWEB grant programs (i.e., Open Solicitation grants, FIPS, Small grants) to pursue?

Tribe	Response
1.	FIPs are attractive because of the size and scale of projects, as well as the chance to work with so many partners and develop regional clarity and goals. Everyone starts from the ground up and it builds engagement.
2.	When invited, we enjoy being part of FIPs. I also discuss with tribal leadership and my team the Open Solicitation options as a group and see if any of those funds make sense for a project we have in mind, but this is not done too often
3.	Out of the options we focus on the Open Solicitation grants like monitoring and restoration to avoid working with private landowners
4.	We think about our grant writing capacity as the main factor with OWEB grant programs and think if there is a partner who could do the work. Our agency can't do it all.
5.	If the grant program looks like it fits with our current strategy and we have a project in mind that isn't already paired or part of a federally funded project we would consider Open Solicitation or Small Grants. Timing is also a big factor.
6.	(During the interview, this question was combined with question #5 due to meeting time constraints)
7.	(During the interview, this question was combined with question #5 due to meeting time constraints)
8.	Location is a big consideration for us as a factor and the type of project we want to do will impact the size and the type of collaboration needed. Sometimes the feedback on OWEB grant applications can be surprising. The biggest factor for any of the projects we do or grants we apply for come down to the Tribes' interests and moves from there.
9.	For us we develop the project after we think of big picture goals then we think of the grant we need to get it done. We also consider how it relates to existing work.

10.	(During the interview, this question was combined with question #5 due to meeting time constraints)
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Question 7- How does history and/or geography impact your tribe’s capacity to implement watershed restoration? [This question is intentionally open-ended, feel free to describe your Tribe’s capacity and how that may be based on where they are located or what has happened historically.]

Tribe	Response
1.	<p>We are immensely impacted by geography. The Tribe covers important grounds in the state connected to the Cascades and the Columbia River. When there is drought, we are heavily impacted. Our community has aging infrastructure that becomes hard to use and repair which affects fisheries’ success. The reason new infrastructure or better repairs on infrastructure aren’t happening is because of the high costs and also the Tribe has so many priorities- while everyone agrees the fishery is important, so is having clean water and that takes precedence. These conversations are difficult to have and it takes time to build trust. There is a long history of state agency’s ignoring treaties and reserved rights, and the federal gov agencies say we’re equal but there’s a huge power imbalance. We are invited to tables but we don’t get to set them. There is tension over ceded lands in the basin. This area is huge and requires all partners to cooperate and participate. Some counties are harder to work with than others but all users care about these issues- it’s all very personal. Building trust with organizations and private landowners is hard, and their private landowners can have anti-government feelings with other agencies or not want to work with us because of discrimination. The discrimination is part of the history but also still exists.</p>
2.	<p>Geography and history impact everything. A small example is our office location and proximity to projects- it can be tough to do the work we want to see happen on ceded lands that are far from our offices on the reservation because our staff needs the resources to be able to go to these places and do work, and that’s additional money. The cultural and spiritual significance of many places is not just history but something always present and it is difficult to be removed from those places and have to advocate for access or get permits. We have interest in areas that may not be obvious but because of our history there, we are invested in its protection but we don’t have the ability to do the work because of capacity restraints. We want to make sure that even if a property is far away that we will manage it well and not have it wither away. Access to BPA dollars can be tricky but through tributaries we can make it work, but due to the geographic boundaries it can be tricky to find funders for specific work. This area is very populated and this means more organizations and funders available, but also tougher issues.</p>

<p>3.</p>	<p>The Tribes historically had the Reservation in the basin which gave them control over land and water management. That went away when the reservation was lost. However, the Tribes retained their water rights associated with hunting, fishing, and gathering on the historic reservation. The Tribes have a responsibility to protect, restore, and steward tribal treaty resources including plants, wildlife, and fisheries. The Tribes have good working relationships with the state and federal agencies and have input on watershed restoration on state and federal lands and water projects. We do not have good relations with private landowners that have been impacted by the Tribes water calls. Our habitat restoration program is small (one restoration project manager) and only existed for a few years. Now there are several other restoration entities to help coordinate the work and serve as a cooperative type of leadership, but the Tribes have had to handle other government issues before DNR. The Tribes’ attuned to protect and enhance health of watershed. We have influence over the management of restoration, but the history of the region can’t be overlooked or forgotten.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>The Tribes have the ceded areas and the reservation within the Columbia River basin and we have access to BPA dollars which brings flexibility with agreements, salmon policy levels, and this area is protected and co-managed with the federal government. This gives us the capacity from a funding side to hire and have highly technical people hired by tribe so we have the ability to complete solid applications and great work. There’s difficulty in other locations is due to capacity funding. If you can’t support staff hard to get a volunteer to write application to get project on the ground. Our DNR admin ability is strong- The Tribe did not go through termination and the tribal government capacity is somewhat strong and a large governmental staff.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>All of the areas we oversee are equally important. We were displaced in the 1860s through forced removal and onto reservation lands. This greatly shapes where our influence has been over time. In addition to working towards accessing lands and doing grant projects, we also have to educate folks, our own people and others about the history and connection and spiritual essence to these places. It’s extra work. We have multiple offices and it can feel disjointed. Water is huge and there are lots of irrigators that impact fisheries. Using a science-based approach rooted in traditional knowledge is critical, especially during monitoring and the landscape shows that our knowledge has been missing, but it is returning.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Historically the treaty was signed in the 1850s and then about 100 years later the Western Oregon Indian Termination act was signed and federal recognition was lost and even more resources were lost it wasn’t until more recently did the Tribe regain federal recognition. This directly impacted our ability to oversee and manage lands and fundamentally have an identity as a people. The land base in not contiguous, Congress has had to return land that was previously BLM land and logistically difficult to take on big restoration projects without the internal staff and resources. Because</p>

	<p>the land is non-contiguous we are not always at the headwaters and being downstream of structures has downstream impacts. We have an additional level of due diligence when working on certain parcels. Could not do Stage 0 work because there wasn't a large enough parcel and in populated area.</p>
7.	<p>Historically, the Tribe used to own and manager more land than they do now. The landscape would look differently if tribe owned what they once did- extrapolating that out to contracts would be more money coming in to do more work, geography might impact staff ability and cost of gas amount of driving of living in rural area. However, we have access to larger parcels of land and that helps us and most landowners are cooperate and we partner regularly with BLM or the Forest Service. Stage zero work- fewer people may make it easier.</p>
8.	<p>In terms of geography, it can be a challenge having all the members of the Tribe be together and take part in culturally important events like hunting, fishing, gathering foods. The DNR ensures that the culture is preserved through these traditions and practices. Our department needs assistance with cultural preservation and make sure people across the state access these activities and traditional knowledge. The ability to access culturally important resources, specifically accessing natural resources is very important and that importance is difficult to explain because it goes into the realm of spiritual. It is easier to have people come onto properties to gather food and that's less controversial than hunting, and whenever we bring people out and they're excited to step on acquired land. We are interested in acquiring land and restoration for cultural resources that not may be an interest of our partners. Review teams want to know if there are things like Coho there, etc., but that may not always be our top priority. For areas that we are not physically close to but have a historical and cultural legacy in the area we want to keep a pulse on the activities there and usually offer letters of support and speak with other natural resource teams to know what is happening there.</p>
9.	<p>For geography, we manage non-contiguous parcels and it can be difficult to manage and the reason we have non-contiguous land access is because of past policies and history. National forests lands in our region also protect riparian areas but they are able to generate revenue from their services per capita, and for us we have to provide service for the Tribe without the same type of revenue. The impact of genocide and forced removal and combining disparate bands of Tribes from across the state and lots of history has been lost overtime. Place-based trauma has repercussions and the way we move past it is through re-connecting with our history and culture and the way we do that is through activities like gathering basket materials. These events are healing for us and allow us to practice ecological restoration as well. When we gather materials to make baskets it is done in reciprocal, ecologically beneficial ways.</p>

10.	A lot to say- historically this community has had its land taken and was then abandoned when the treaty rights were ignored and because a lot of the land was taken away it caused problems. The tribe had trouble continuing their way of life. This is why environmental justice is so important it is about restoring the ecosystem, including the people who live here. Geographically, there is a lot of land we have ancestral ties to, alongside neighboring Tribes, that we are all interested in using. There are many people in this region affiliated with more than one Tribe and the physical boundaries we have now are not the same as they used to be, but it is hard to go back. Working with agency partners like the Forest Service and BLM to access public lands and we are working with them and other entities to talk about issues like damming and dredging.
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Question 8- Are there are any administrative or technical obstacles that create barriers that prevents you from applying for OWEB grants? If so, do you have any recommended solutions to address these barriers? [Hoping to develop recommendations about where the weight points are in process for grants]

Tribe	Response
1.	An administrative obstacle for us is the rule about the indirect rate- we've had trouble with the federally negotiated indirect rate so we have to handle and incur administrative charge to have additional help with processing and can't get funds from OWEB right now because there is no current indirect rate.
2.	Funds get dispersed widely throughout the Columbia Basin and not targeted to all the habitat components downstream of the dams. Fish passage in our region is still a primary goal and sometimes that is hard to do when piecing together the puzzle piece of grants. If there was a way grants could be less competitive that would help significantly.
3.	I have only applied a couple times- not very experienced for doing OWEB grants, I usually apply for federal grants. Tribal specific programs are easier and more successful to apply for those- less competition. Some people are very savvy and experienced at applying for grants and are more successful at preparing proposals. It takes a lot of time and energy can be put into grant proposal prep work. OWEB does not have any tribe-specific prioritizations. OWEB applications are more onerous in terms of requirements and the review process is more rigorous than other grant programs, which is understandable when so many potential parties are interested in the funds. OWEB's process is transparent and well documented, they give good guidance, I would like to see opportunity for tribal specific grants funds. Sovereign immunity and the state does have tribal trust obligations and make it more unique as a state stakeholder. More state provided training on how to put successful application together. When asked, OWEB always offers help and they are very accessible and provide feedback. OWEB could support through advocacy and political means.

4.	<p>Largest hurdle- meeting the indirect rate for OWEB – right now there’s no solution but we’ve created our own solution. Most Open Solicitation grants are contract related- funding portions/parts of sub contracts to avoid overhead and indirect costs otherwise we couldn’t compete. More clarity around reporting requirements. We use to go after more grants (pre FIP) but got tired of hurdles and the time it took to apply. Still onerous compared for federal programs and the Columbia basin fish program- theirs is automated and easier to prepare and keep track of. The large projects in FIP make administrative hurdles worth it, but it wouldn’t be worth it for smaller grant amounts. It is wonderful that OWEB has specific monitoring grants- not many programs fund monitoring- even BPA has cut back on those funds. So, OWEB grants have been worth the effort. Sometimes it feels like being an employee, when we fill out applications and reports, sometimes the way OWEB asks for things like how to report metrics, can be frustrating. It’s tricky because if we don’t fix things as OWEB wants, there’s the expectation that if you don’t do what they ask you may lose your funding. OWEB could assign line items for billing for records or how to report temperatures in a monitoring project, knowing the formatting requirements ahead of time would be useful and save us time, cost, and aggravation.</p>
5.	<p>OWEB applications can be time consuming. It would be easier if OWEB streamlined the process for Tribes or organizations that have applied for multiple grants, but even though they’re lengthy they’ve improved and changed over time. They’re approaching the balance between thorough and concise. If there could be simpler ways to report for OWEB grants that overlap with PCSRF and NOAA funding that would be wonderful.</p>
6.	<p>It would be nice if there were a pot of money for just Tribes- it is difficult to be competing with partners. Our experience with Small Grants has been positive. An issue has happened regarding the federally negotiated indirect costs rate- max at 10% with OWEB. Grants and finance staff navigated this. Measure 76 requirements and reporting are difficult</p>
7.	<p>OWEB grants are competitive and they take time funding opportunities for the Tribes specifically or region-specific grants could help ease the burden.</p>
8.	<p>More feedback for restoration grants, and specific language in the grant agreements done for Tribes would be helpful.</p>
9.	<p>Match grants are a struggle, staff could charge time and materials w/ other funding, funders have restrictions on funding staff. The Indirect rate requirement is an issue- federally negotiated indirect cost rate- preferred rate rather than 10%</p> <p>Depending on the grant it can be difficult to know what you can apply for or if the only funding source and can’t get another (for land acquisition their own rate could make it difficult and we would need additional funding)</p>
10.	<p>OWEB gives equal opportunities to anyone who qualifies which is good. Some limiting factors- the administrative burden of the grants, difficult to know when or how the grants</p>

	are announced, it is very competitive process so the lengthy applications make me hesitant- what if I do the work and not receive the funding?
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Question 9- What can OWEB do more to help you pursue OWEB funds?

Tribe	Response
1.	OWEB can leverage their position as a state agency and maybe try involving other agencies like ODOT or something into projects and think big picture about climate change. Keep these conversations going and try to help connect Tribes with each other. OWEB could actively seek out grants from Tribes- not sure about Open Solicitation since it is so competitive. Set up regular meetings with tribal leaders, resource staff and OWEB staff.
2.	In our region doing work along one mile is huge and so are the costs for restoration. grants have become less onerous overtime so that's good. (Had to end the meeting, due to time constraints).
3.	Offer training for effective grant proposals. Having a FIP or other funded opportunity for this region. It would be nice if there were funds for Tribes so that we did not have to compete with other groups; OWEB grants are extremely competitive and some groups are much more proficient in preparing successful proposals. The State of Oregon has tribal trust obligations because we are a Sovereign Entity. Make a portion of the funds available specifically for Tribes. Provide additional points in the ranking if the lead agency is a Tribe; provide grant writing training for the Tribes.
4.	OWEB right now I don't have anything negative to say. They've made program changes and do trainings and send emails to improve communications. Good relationship as an agency. OWEB does a good job of trying to help and distribute funds we would love to have another local FIP- we need all the help to keep moving needle. An OWEB pro and con on the Open Solicitation grants is the qualitative way of evaluations- I feel they're not super open- quantifiable in a sense regional directors do a great job of input for groups to be more competitive. But I feel it all depends on review team with lots of biases. In SE WA the Snake River salmon recovery board-- each region has quantifiable way to select proposals different resource needs. This model could be utilized. Thank you, OWEB, for doing this! Trying to get tribal input is great and we really appreciate your sincere efforts.
5.	Stay communicative and fair and transparent!
6.	Develop a specific grant opportunity for the pacific lamprey like PLCI another way to balance BPA funds and fish habitat funding.

	Score higher with Tribes in established partnerships or try to involve the Tribes early in process- weary as a requirement- groups that don't understand the process will take time and then they will check the process and say we are a partner without hearing our concerns about their project. We can't always say yes. OWEB funds use by watershed councils/partners help to keep their doors open.
7.	Pretty satisfied with the work OWEB is doing and I feel comfortable reaching out to their staff.
8.	Continue working to improve relationships and stay flexible and receptive.
9.	Recommended for the watershed councils too, but OWEB should have a meeting where all recent recipients of OWEB funding to have annual meetings with Tribes they serve or are in the same area- gets everyone on board and meeting each other
10.	I would like if there was more coordination from OWEB on training like on how to understand what all of the expectations are clarification about what OWEB asking for in applications or projects to avoid redundancy in the application. Overall OWEB is good funding agencies and they work hard to try to involve everyone in participating in public sessions and with their grant peer review process.



Agenda Item P supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 1: Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item P – Board Meeting Format: In-person and Virtual
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update about in-person and virtual options for future board meetings. The board will be asked to approve a format that includes meeting in-person either two or three times per year once it is safe to do so.

II. Background

The board generally meets quarterly. Prior to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, meetings were all held in-person, and were rotated across the OWEB regions. With the onset of the pandemic, the board transitioned to virtual meetings exclusively. Virtual meetings have been an effective means to conduct board business, and all future meetings will have the option for board members to participate remotely.

The OWEB executive team has determined that in addition to offering a virtual option for board member attendance, that all January board meetings should be held virtually as the weather and travel at that time can be hazardous.

Along with the January virtual meeting, there is also an opportunity to hold another regularly scheduled board meeting as virtual-only. One option for a second virtual-only board meeting is for the meeting typically held in July.

III. Discussion

There are several potential benefits of having the July board meeting as virtual-only, including:

- Reduce climate/environmental impacts of travel. This is also consistent with Executive Order 20-04, which directs agencies to prioritize actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Reduce agency travel/lodging expenses during the peak vacation/travel season.

- Due to board member vacations, meeting quorum has occasionally been an issue for the July meetings. An all-virtual meeting may alleviate that concern; however, the virtual option for each meeting also may address the issue.

There are also potential benefits of having the July board meeting in-person, including:

- Summer is a good time to hold field tours with local partners, which is an opportunity for board/staff members to learn about local conservation efforts and to engage with the community.
- Opportunities to meet in person build board/staff camaraderie, through formal and informal avenues.
- With appropriate van/carpooling to the meeting locations and tours, the carbon footprint associated with meetings may be lowered, which is also consistent with Executive Order 20-04.

IV. Staff Recommendation

Staff feel that the benefits associated with a virtual-only July board meeting outweigh the benefits of holding it in person, and recommend the board approve a meeting format that includes in-person meetings (with a virtual option) in October and April, and virtual-only meetings in January and July.



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD



Virtual Meeting
Oct 26-27, 2021



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Agenda

October 26 & 27, 2021

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the October 26 & 27 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Phone:**
 - **Oct. 26:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 851 5089 1153 and passcode: 145130
 - **Oct 27:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 893 0633 8398 and passcode: 072101
- The board book (eBook) is available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/about-us/Pages/board/meetings.aspx>
- For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

Written and verbal public comment

OWEB encourages public comment on any agenda item.

Written Comments

Written comments should be sent to April Mack at April.mack@oregon.gov. Written comments received by Thursday, Oct 21 at 4:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Items C, F, H, and I). To provide verbal comment, you must contact April Mack at April.mack@oregon.gov, by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, and provide the following information:

- Your first and last name,
- The topic of your comment, and
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

Tuesday, October 26, 2021**A. Board Member Comments (8:30 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 (9:30 a.m.)

The minutes of the July 27-28, 2021 virtual meeting will be presented for board approval. *Action item.*

C. Public Comment (9:35 a.m.)

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

D. Committee Updates (10:00 a.m.)

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

E. Director's Updates (10:45 a.m.)

Executive Director Lisa Charpillioz Hanson and OWEB staff will update the board on agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information item.*

F. Spring Open Solicitation Grant Offering Board Awards (11:05 a.m.)

NOTE: Verbal public comment specific for this agenda item will be heard at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Introduction

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives will provide background information on the Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering and funding recommendations.

Public Comment [approximately 12:45 p.m.]

This time is reserved for public comment on pending 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 applications must be received by OWEB staff by the **October 21, 2021 deadline** to be provided to the board in advance of the meeting. **Verbal comments should be limited to three minutes.**

Board Consideration of Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications

The board will consider grant applications submitted through the Spring 2021 Open Solicitation grant offering. Applications, supporting materials, and funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the board. *Action item.*

G. Post-Fire Recovery Funding (2:00 p.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis will provide an overview of the General Fund appropriations to OWEB during the 2021-2023 biennium in support of post-fire natural resources recovery in 2020 fire impacted areas. The board will be asked to approve receipt of these

General Funds for the purposes outlined in House Bill (5006 and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through appropriate agreements. *Action item.*

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the October 26 & 27 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Phone:**
 - **Oct. 26:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 851 5089 1153 and passcode: 145130
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Written Comments

Written comments should be sent to April Mack at April.mack@oregon.gov Written comments received by Thursday, Oct 21 at 4:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Item C) at approximately 9:35 am. on October 26 and (Agenda item H) at approximately 8:05 a.m. on October 27. To provide verbal comment, you must contact April Mack at April.mack@oregon.gov, by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, and provide the following information:

- Your first and last name,
- The topic of your comment, and
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

Wednesday, October 27, 2021**H. Public Comment (8:05 a.m.)**

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

I. Land Acquisitions Awards (8:20 a.m.)

NOTE: Verbal public comment specific for this agenda item will be heard at approximately 8:40 a.m.

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Acquisitions Coordinator Miriam Forney will provide an overview of the April 2021 land acquisition grant offering and outline staff recommendations for grant awards. *Action item.*

J. Telling the Restoration Story (9:30 a.m.)

Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho will provide an update to the board on the 'Telling the Restoration Story' targeted grant offering and provide an example from restoration efforts at Horsetail Creek. *Information item.*

K. Oregon Plan Biennial Report (9:45 a.m.)

Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide an update about the agency's development of the 2019-2021 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The board will be asked to approve recommendations to include in the report, which will be submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office. *Action item.*

L. Water Committee (10:15 a.m.)

Board and Legislative Coordinator Eric Hartstein will introduce the objectives the water committee has developed for board consideration as areas of focus for the committee moving forward. The board will be asked to approve these objectives. *Action item.*

M. DEI Update (10:55 a.m.)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will facilitate a discussion with OWEB grantees on their diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts and how they are incorporating these principles into watershed conservation activities. Courtney Shaff will then provide an overview of the process to hire a consultant for (DEI) to work with the board and staff and discuss the creation of a permanent board DEI committee. *Information item.*

N. Climate Resources (11:55 a.m.)

Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch will update the board about climate-related technical resources developed to assist OWEB grant applicants. *Information item.*

O. Granting Practices (12:55 p.m.)

Tribal Liaison Ken Fetcho and Portland State University graduate student Alli Miller will summarize findings from a recent assessment conducted to better understand how OWEB's grant practices impact federally recognized Tribes' ability to apply for and receive agency grants. *Information item.*

P. 2022 In-Person and Virtual Board Meeting Dates and Format (1:25 p.m.)

Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide an update about in-person and virtual options for future board meetings. The board will be asked to approve a format that includes meeting in-person either two or three times per year once it is safe to do so. *Action item.*

Q. Other Business (1:40 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 when OWEB meetings convene.

Voting Rules

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

General Business

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

Action on Grant Awards

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

Executive Session

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

session, the presiding board member will make a public announcement and explain necessary procedures.

More Information

If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call April Mack, OWEB Board Assistant, at 971-345-7001 or send an e-mail to april.mack@oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise April Mack as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Barbara Boyer, *Board Co-Chair, Board of Agriculture*
Molly Kile, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Mark Labhart, *Fish and Wildlife Commission*
Brenda McComb, *Board of Forestry*
Meg Reeves, *Water Resources Commission*
Vacant, *Public (Tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Jamie McLeod-Skinner, *Public*
Randy Labbe, *Public*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *Board Co-Chair, Public*

Non-voting Members

Eric Murray, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Vacant, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Cory Owens, *U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service*
Dan Brown, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Paul Henson, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
Dan Shively, *U.S Forest Service*

Contact Information

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Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
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Fax: 503-986-0199
www.oregon.gov/OWEB

OWEB Executive Director – Lisa Charpilloz Hanson
lisa.charpilloz-hanson@oregon.gov
OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board – April Mack
april.mack@oregon.gov
971-345-7001

2022 Board Meeting Schedule

Jan 25 & 26, Virtual
April 26 & 27 TBD
July 26 & 27 TBD

October 25 & 26 TBD

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

www.oregon.gov/OWEB.

The Approach We Take

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

Our work is characterized by...

Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership

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

Using best available science supported by local knowledge

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

Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

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

Demonstrating impact through meaningful monitoring and evaluation

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

Reaching and involving underrepresented populations

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



OWEB Staff Culture Statement

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

2021-2023 SPENDING PLAN for M76, GF & PCSRF Funds	2021 Spending Plan	TOTAL Awards To- Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To- Date	Other Funding Received & Delegated
Open Solicitation:				
Restoration	32.000		32.000	0.460
Fire Recovery & Restoration				
Riparian/upland rest. & water quality	10.750		10.750	
Floodplain restoration & reconnection	5.000		5.000	
Technical Assistance				
Restoration TA	3.000	0.000	3.000	
CREP TA	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.400
Stakeholder Engagement	2.250	0.000	2.250	0.000
Monitoring grants	4.250	0.000	4.250	0.000
Land and Water Acquisition				
Acquisition	9.000	0.000	9.000	0.000
Weed Grants	3.250	3.250	0.000	0.000
Small Grants	2.800	2.800	0.000	0.000
Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	1.000	0.150	0.850	0.000
TOTAL	74.500	7.400	67.100	0.860
% of assumed Total Budget				
Focused Investments:				
Deschutes	1.915	1.915	0.000	0.000
Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat	1.400	1.400	0.000	0.000
Harney Basin Wetlands	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000
Upper Grande Ronde	0.466	0.466	0.000	0.000
John Day Partnership	4.000	4.000	0.000	0.000
Baker Sage Grouse	2.435	2.435	0.000	0.000
Warner Aquatic Habitat	2.293	2.293	0.000	0.000
Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp	2.700	2.700	0.000	0.000
Clackamas Partnership	3.082	3.082	0.000	0.000
New FIP Solicitation	10.000	0.000	10.000	0.000
FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.750	0.000	0.750	0.000
TOTAL	29.141	18.391	10.750	0.000
% of assumed Total Budget				
Operating Capacity:				
Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	15.121	15.121	0.000	0.000
Statewide org partnership support	0.225	0.225	0.000	0.000
Organizational Collaboration	0.500	0.130	0.370	0.000
Partnership Technical Assistance	1.500	0.000	1.500	0.000
TOTAL	17.346	15.476	1.870	0.000
% of assumed Total Budget				
Other:				
CREP	0.750	0.750	0.000	0.000
Governor's Priorities	1.000	0.800	0.200	0.000
Strategic Implementation Areas	1.500	1.500	0.000	0.000
Gov. directed - Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000
Gov. directed - Sage Grouse Conservation Partnership	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000
TOTAL	3.930	3.730	0.200	0.000
% of assumed Total Budget				
TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	124.918	44.997	79.921	0.860
Funds transferred from/to other agencies				
Transfer to ODFW - PCSRF	12.884	12.884	0.000	0.000
Transfer to Eugene Water & Electric Board - GF	4.000	0.000	4.000	0.000
Transfer from ODF for Forest Health Collaboratives - OF	0.500	0.000	0.500	0.500
Transfer from PSMFC - IMW - OF	0.600	0.000	0.600	0.600
transfer from NRCS - Farm Bill technical support - FF				
TOTAL	17.984	12.884	5.100	1.100
TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds	142.902	57.881	85.021	1.960

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

July 27 & 28, 2021 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting

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

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT

Alvarado, Ron
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Hatch, Audrey
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHER

Brink, Steve
Creager, Clayton
Creutzburg, Megan
Devos, Al
Jeans, Jason
Lightcap, Scott
Lorion, Chris
Mork, Lauren
Owens, Cory
Placido, Elaine
Weybright, Jared

ABSENT

Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
Shively, Dan

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

Co-Chair Appointment (Audio = 1:30)

Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister announced the need to elect a new co-chair as Jason Robison is stepping down. *Action item.*

Jamie McLeod-Skinner nominated Barbara Boyer. Jason Robison motioned to elect Barbara as co-chair, Randy Labbe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:04:35)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies provided 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 (Audio = 1:05:17)

The minutes of the March 9 & 10, 2021 virtual meetings were presented for board approval. *Action item.*

Liza Jane McAlister made the motion the board approve the minutes from the March 9 & 10, 2021 virtual meeting. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment (Audio = 1:05:58)

Vanessa Green from Network of Oregon Watershed Councils shared ways that the organization networked community-building strategy over the past year has served watershed councils. Vanessa also highlighted the new Affinity Groups, which is an initiative launched this year by the Oregon Conservation Partnership.

Kelley Beamer of Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts shared Information on the organization's new State of the Lands Report. Kelley also discussed the upcoming Oregon Conservation Partnership's summer tours and recent success they've with earned media.

D. Committee Updates (Audio = 1:21:36)

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

E. Director's Updates (Audio = 1:48:44)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and OWEB staff updated the board on agency business and late-breaking issues. These included updates on Wildfire Response Grants, Legislative and Budget, and OWEB's Online Systems. *Information item.*

F. Spending Plan (Audio =2:46:26)

After presentations by Elaine Placido of Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, Megan Creutzburg of Sage-Grouse Conservation Partnership, and Chris Lorion of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided the 2021-23 Spending Plan for board review and approval. *Action item.*

Spending Plan Public Comment (Audio = 4:08:51)

Jan Lee from Oregon Association of Conservation Districts supports the spending plan changes in the climate area under the Governor's Priorities portion of the spending plan.

Kelley Beamer of Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts referenced the importance of land acquisitions in the spending plan.

1. Molly Kile made the motion to approve the request in the 'Other Funding Received and Delegated' and '2021 Spending Plan' columns of Attachment B: Proposed OWEB 2021-2023 Spending Plan. Jason Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Molly Kile made the motion to approve table 1-3 of Attachment D regarding spending plan policy decisions, carry forward, and delegation authorities for the 2021-2023 spending plan. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion with the adjustment to the July date of July 27 to July 1 for Weed grants. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Molly Kile made the motion that all funds recaptured from grants in the weed grant, small grant and FIP initiatives line items remain in those programs for future granting using policies established for the program. Jason Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. OWEB's Role in Managing Funds (Audio =4:56:48)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams facilitated a board discussion with Steve Brink of Idaho Power, Scott Lightcap of Bureau of Land Management, Al Devos of Oregon Department of Forestry, Jason Jeans of Natural Resources Conservation Service and Clayton Creager of California Water Boards, on grant programs OWEB is, or will be, administering on behalf of those organizations. *Information item.*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 by Co-Chair Barbara Boyer.

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

H. Public Comment (Audio =0:1:16)

Jan Lee from Oregon Association of Conservation Districts testified on behalf of Oregon Conservation Partnership on the recent success with earned media on projects. *Information item.*

I. Council Operating Capacity Grant Awards (Audio =0:5:00)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff provided an overview of the 2021-2023 Council Capacity grant cycle process and outlined staff recommended grant awards. *Action item.*

Meg Reeves made the motion the board award the 2021-2023 Council Capacity grants as described in Attachment C with an award date of July 1, 2021. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Organizational Collaborations Grants (Audio =1:06:04)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff provided an overview of the 2021 Organization Collaboration grant offering and staff funding recommendations. *Action item.*

Barbara Boyer made the motion the board award the Organization Collaboration Partnership Technical Assistance Project grants consistent with the staff recommendations in Attachment A. Meg Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

K. Update on Stage 0 Monitoring Investments (Audio =1:55:03)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho, Lauren Mork of Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, and Jared Weybright from the McKenzie Watershed Alliance provided updates on the progress made to date to implement a multi-pronged approach to address monitoring and information needs for Stage 0 restoration. *Information item.*

L. Conveyance of Willamette Confluence Property from The Nature Conservancy to McKenzie River Trust (Audio =1:41:40)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams discussed a request from The Nature Conservancy to convey the OWEB land acquisition project at the Willamette Confluence Preserve to McKenzie River Trust. *Action item.*

Randy Labbe made the motion for the board to approve the conveyance of the Willamette Confluence Preserve (OWEB Grant No. 208-3090-8358) from The Nature Conservancy to McKenzie River Trust, conditioned on staff and Oregon Department of Justice approval of the final form of all conveyance-related circumstances and documents. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

M. Willanch Telling the Restoration Story (Audio =3:20:52)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, and Conservations Outcome Coordinator Audrey Hatch shared information about Willanch Creek Telling the Restoration Story project, and what emerged from the board's investment in that effort. *Information item.*

N. Rogue Forest Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Geography Change Request (Audio =3:30:55)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer discussed the Rogue Forest Partners request to adjust their FIP initiative geography to include the West Bear area and remove the Middle Applegate area. *Action item*

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved the board approve the proposed change for the Rogue Forest Partners to include the West Bear area and remove the Middle Applegate area in their FIP initiative geography. Jason Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

O. Updates on Climate Executive Order Activities (Audio =3:44:25)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch updated the board about implementation activities for Governor Brown's Executive Order (EO) 20-04, issued in March of 2020 and focused on climate. *Information Item*

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 by Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

October 26 & 27 2021 OWEB Board

Meeting Agenda Item C

Written Public Comment



Curry Watersheds Partnership

Post Office Box 666 - Gold Beach, OR 97444 - Phone (541)247-2755 - Fax (541)247-0408 - info@currywatersheds.org

September 22, 2021

Eric Williams
Grant Program Manager
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Dear Mr. Williams:

We are writing to provide clarification for the Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement grant application (#221-9902-19498). While Curry Watersheds Partnership certainly appreciates the value of the project and is interested in partnering with the Wild Rivers Land Trust (WRLT) to assist with the various elements in the application that mention our organization, we want to clarify that we have not at this time entered into any formal agreements with WRLT relating to this project, and we are unable to assume in perpetuity any responsibilities pertaining to this project.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Liesl Coleman in blue ink.

Liesl Coleman, Curry SWCD Manager

Handwritten signature of Kelly Timchak in blue ink.

Kelly Timchak, LRWC Coordinator

Handwritten signature of Miranda Gray in blue ink.

Miranda Gray, SCWC Coordinator

Curry Soil & Water Conservation District | South Coast and Lower Rogue Watershed Councils

Supporting our communities to care for our lands and waters, now and into the future.

Committee Members

Stephen Brandt (chair), Dan Brown, Molly Kile, Brenda McComb

Background

The Monitoring Committee met on September 2, 2021 to: welcome new committee member, Dan Brown; discuss the committee's themes for inclusion in the OWEB board recommendations section of the 2019-21 Oregon Plan Biennial Report for Salmon and Watersheds; an update about the coordinating committee process for vetting new ideas from board members and committees; debrief from the Stage 0 monitoring item at the July board meeting; provide feedback regarding metrics for measuring success in stakeholder engagement grants; discuss monitoring related agenda items for the October board meeting; and briefly discuss upcoming committee topics.

Key Points from the Committee's Discussion

The committee welcomed Dan Brown, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Dan shared background about himself and areas of overlapping interest and opportunity with EPA related monitoring and granting initiatives.

The committee then discussed monitoring themes for inclusion in the biennial report. Discussion focused on emphasizing the strong monitoring foundation provided by the strategic plan and ongoing monitoring programs and investments—including use of evidence-based decision-making, shared monitoring learnings, and adaptive management. In addition, the committee expressed interest in highlighting the importance of potential new areas of focus, including post-fire impacts and climate related monitoring.

The committee reviewed the proposed process for 'vetting' new ideas that emerge from board members or committee processes, to ensure consistent and comprehensive consideration of new activities while being mindful of OWEB's statutory structure and staff capacity. Committee members noted that some ideas may be less formal and simpler follow up on, so that a threshold for use of this process would be helpful. There also was discussion about the timeframe for running ideas through such a process, acknowledging the interest in timely consideration of new ideas while ensuring a deliberate process.

Committee members and staff debriefed from the Stage 0 monitoring presentation at the July meeting. Discussion focused on follow-up with grantees about feedback from the board about several questions and areas of interest, with the intent of exploring what work to address these could be folded into Phase 2 funding requests to the board this biennium.

Staff updated the committee about a discussion that occurred at the DEI committee regarding metrics for measuring success in stakeholder engagement grants (see July 2021 DEI committee update for details). Monitoring committee members indicated agreement with the DEI committee's direction, along with raising interesting considerations about how OWEB helps to ensure various communities have equitable access to granting opportunities.

The committee briefly touched on monitoring related agenda items at the October meeting, including a Telling the Restoration Story report. In the interest of time, staff invited committee members to follow up by email or phone with any questions about the written status updates for ongoing projects. Staff noted that in December, the monitoring and focused investment committees will meet jointly to detail out the structure for piloting post-FIP reporting investments beginning this biennium.

To Be Presented at the October 2021 Board Meeting by:

Stephen Brandt

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director
renee.davis@oregon.gov or 971-345-7231

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Water Committee Update

Committee Members

Jamie McLeod Skinner (chair), Barbara Boyer, Molly Kile, Meg Reeves, Gary Marshall, Eric Murray

Background

The Water committee met on September 22, 2021. The committee discussed their biennial report recommendations (see Agenda Item K), received an update on the water and climate policy coordinator position and finalized a suite of objectives for the committee to focus on for board approval at the October meeting (see Agenda Item L).

Water and Climate Policy Coordinator

In addition to a brief discussion of the leadership transition at OWEB, staff updated the committee about the results of the recruitment for the new, limited duration Water and Climate Programs Coordination position at OWEB and discussed some of the initial work involving interagency and legislative coordination that the position will entail.

To Be Presented at the October 2021 Board Meeting by:

Jamie McLeod-Skinner

Staff Contact

Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Coordinator
Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-910-6201

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Acquisitions Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Meg Reeves (Chair), Barbara Boyer, Randy Labbe, Mark Labhart

Background

The Acquisitions Committee was reconstituted by the board in April 2020 to include both review of annual land and water acquisition applications as well as regular policy meetings covering both programs. The committee met September 30, 2021 for a briefing on land acquisition applications that will be addressed at the October board meeting.

2021 Land Acquisition Applications

Staff briefed the committee on the content and draft evaluations for each of the land acquisition applications received in the 2021 solicitation. The following applications were reviewed:

- Oak Creek Preserve – Greenbelt Land Trust
- Mt Ashland Forest Climate Resilience – Pacific Forest Trust
- Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement – Wild Rivers Land Trust
- Siuslaw North Fork – The Nature Conservancy.

Committee members asked clarifying questions on the content of the applications and evaluations in preparation for discussion at the October board meeting.

To Be Presented at the October 2021 Board Meeting by:

Meg Reeves, Committee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 971-345-7014

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Focused Investment Committee Update

Committee Members

Bruce Buckmaster (chair), Randy Labbe, Mark Labhart, Gary Marshall, Dan Shively

Background

The Focused Investment Committee met on September 8, 2021 to discuss: a Committee theme for the Oregon Plan Biennial Report, post-FIP reporting, the FIP solicitation timeline, and Cohort 1 Progress Tracking Reports.

Oregon Plan Biennial Report Theme

The committee reviewed Strategic Plan Priority 7 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds as a starting point for discussion. The theme could blend all three strategies under this priority: invest in landscape restoration over the long term; develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies; and foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission. The committee recommended blending the three strategies with an emphasis on inclusive partnerships operating at a landscape scale over a long period of time through an adaptive management approach based on monitoring. The committee also emphasized the importance of socio-economic outcomes resulting from FIP implementation. Eric Hartstein will draft a theme paragraph for committee review by the end of September.

Post-FIP Reporting

In preparation for a December 8 joint meeting with the Monitoring Committee, staff will reach out to FIPs who may be ready to pilot post-FIP reporting, including Ashland and Grande Ronde. The Monitoring Committee requested that the pilots include a river FIP in addition to an upland FIP. Staff outreach will ground truth necessary funding for post-FIP reporting.

Regarding format, the committee discussed that Progress Tracking Reports (PTRs) will be used as a starting point, with a shift to outcomes vs outputs. It was also noted that Progress Monitoring Frameworks include mid- and long-term outcomes.

FIP and Partnership TA Solicitation Schedule

Staff briefed the committee on interest to date in consultations, which are required in the solicitation process. Consultations will occur this fall, providing eligibility and application guidance ahead of the January application deadline. Based on available dates, committee interviews with applicant partnerships will be held June 14-15, 2022, with funding recommendations provided to the board for awards at the July 2022 meeting.

Cohort 1 Progress Tracking Reports

The final PTRs from Cohort 1 FIPs will be submitted this fall and shared with the board at the January meeting. Each PTR will be a 2-page report featuring near and mid-term outcomes and a section on climate. The committee discussed formatting and content of a questionnaire that will go to each FIP, the responses to which will inform the adaptive management table.

To Be Presented at the October 2021 Board Meeting by:

Bruce Buckmaster

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 971-345-7014

Committee Members

Bruce Buckmaster (Chair), Stephen Brandt, Paul Henson, Brenda McComb, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Eric Murray

Background

The Climate Committee met on September 16, 2021 to discuss a range of topics, including staffing updates; proposed process for board coordinating committee to vet new ideas; proposal from committee members McComb and McLeod-Skinner and Chair Buckmaster for discussion by the committee; and committee themes for inclusion in the OWEB board recommendations section of the 2019-21 Oregon Plan Biennial Report for Salmon and Watersheds. The committee met again on September 21 to further refine a proposed OWEB statement of purpose about climate.

Staffing Updates

In addition to a brief discussion of the leadership transition at OWEB, staff updated the committee about the results of the recruitment for the new, limited duration Water and Climate Programs Coordination position at OWEB, along with transitions occurring in the Governor's Office.

Coordinating Committee Vetting Process

The committee reviewed the proposed process for 'vetting' new ideas that emerge from board members or committee processes, to ensure consistent and comprehensive consideration of new activities while being mindful of OWEB's statutory structure and staff capacity. Committee members expressed some concerns that the process should not stifle robust conversation and brainstorming. Staff noted the responsibility of the agency is to be transparent and accountable. Committee members expressed general support for this process, underscoring the particular importance of consistency and written documentation as OWEB is going through staffing transitions. They noted that the decision-making process is inherently subjective, and each suggestion or new idea will be open to some level of interpretation. Committee members stressed the importance of continuing to use good judgement and build upon the trust that currently exists among board members and staff.

Climate Purpose Statement Proposal from Subset of Committee Members

A sub-set of committee members introduced a draft proposal to the committee. The proposal recommends a statement of OWEB's purpose regarding climate impacts. They also noted the strong urging of partners and stakeholders including Oregon Association of Conservation Districts' interest in carbon sequestration and the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts' support for climate action. The intention is to recognize the impact of climate change on OWEB's mission, and to outline specific actions towards addressing and accounting for climate impacts. The committee and staff agreed there is value to proposing a short, clear, and definitive OWEB Statement of Purpose on Climate Impacts, and including relevant and measurable goals.

The committee discussed how the specific actions recommended to accomplish the Purpose statement need further development. Specifically, there is strong interest in refining the proposal to better articulate adaptation and resilience goals, along with biodiversity considerations. The committee discussed referencing Executive Order 20-04 and the work of the Oregon Global Warming Commission, along with ensuring efforts build climate-resilient communities. They also discussed the importance of considering different climate related objectives—for example, sequestration through replanting projects vs. resilience through dam

removal projects—and the importance of considering timeframes over which carbon emissions impacts vs. sequestration benefits will occur.

The committee had a robust discussion about the importance of ensuring that all potential grantees have the information and capacity to contribute towards the climate goals. Part of this discussion focused on the role of OWEB as a funder being able to foster capacity and knowledge for grantees to plan projects with measurable climate benefits and being mindful of how to ensure under-represented communities have access to such information and planning resources. Additional capacity and tools may be needed, especially as it relates to highly technical measurement and quantification processes, such as emissions and sequestration estimates. New approaches to capacity, such as providing applicants with access to centralized climate expertise, may need to be considered.

The committee discussed whether the climate impacts criteria are intended to be additive (on top of existing OWEB criteria) or an entirely new framework. The committee may choose to propose a “pilot” effort, investing a specific amount of funding to accomplish climate goals, and measure the outcomes of the investment. While Executive Order (EO) 20-04 clearly directs climate action and integration of climate benefits throughout agency processes, it will be important to consider existing resources, programs, and processes. New or shifting investments in climate benefits would need to be reconciled with the intent of existing fund sources, including Constitutionally dedicated Lottery funds and Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funding. Climate related funding criteria may need to be specified; if so, rulemaking will be needed to incorporate these into OWEB’s grant-making. The ultimate intent is not to use emissions impacts or carbon sequestration as sole criteria, but rather to foster a broad array of climate adaptation and resilience benefits while fulfilling our mandate. Work should proceed at the state enterprise level, in close collaboration with other state agencies and the Governor’s Office to share expertise and capacity among the natural resource agencies and appropriately utilize the roles and responsibilities of different agencies, including regulatory and granting agencies, among others.

The committee agreed to meet again to discuss the development of an OWEB statement of purpose on climate impacts (see ‘Summary of 9/21/21 Committee Meeting’ below and Attachment A to this committee report for the proposed revised OWEB statement of purpose for climate).

Committee Themes for Oregon Plan Biennial Report

Staff discussed the process for each board committee developing themes for inclusion in the biennial report, along with ideas prepared by staff based on EO 20-04. The committee determined that their recommendation could build from the process above regarding a statement of purpose on climate impacts and will be finalized in parallel with that process.

Summary of 9/21/21 Committee Meeting

As follow-up to the discussion at the 9/16 committee meeting regarding the proposal for a climate purpose statement, the committee reconvened on 9/21/21 to discuss and refine the proposal. Attachment A of this committee report outlines discussion and products from the 9/21/21 meeting, including a proposed Statement of Purpose for climate that the committee will share with the OWEB board at its October meeting and request feedback. Following the October 2021 board meeting, the proposed statement, along with feedback from the full board, will be considered by the coordinating committee at their November meeting, anticipating a request for the full Board to vote on approving the final statement at the January 2022 board meeting.

To Be Presented at the October 2021 Board Meeting by:

Bruce Buckmaster

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 971-345-7014

Attachment

- A. Proposed OWEB Climate Statement of Purpose and Climate Lens

Proposed OWEB Climate Statement of Purpose and Climate Lens.

I. Preamble

Oregon State Agencies have been directed by Governor Brown (Executive Order 20-04) to address climate change in a comprehensive and urgent manner. Among many actions required in the order, agency decision-making is specifically cited.

“Agency Decisions. To the full extent allowed by law, agencies shall consider and integrate climate change, climate change impacts, and the state's GHG emissions reduction goals into their planning, budgets, investments, and policy making decisions. While carrying out that directive, agencies are directed to:

- (1) Prioritize actions that reduce GHG emissions in a cost-effective manner.
- (2) Prioritize actions that will help vulnerable populations and impacted communities adapt to climate change impacts; and
- (3) Consult with the Environmental Justice Task Force when evaluating climate change mitigation and adaptation priorities and actions.”

II. Statement of Purpose

Consistent with its Mission and statutory framework, and in response to the ever-increasing impacts of global climate change on Oregon’s watersheds, including wildfire, extreme weather events, and loss of biodiversity, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board will add climate action criteria to its operations and funding decision process. OWEB funded projects will contribute measurably to climate-smart adaptation, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and reducing vulnerability.

Desired outcomes

Near term outcomes (measurable, actionable):

- Reduce emissions
- Increase carbon sequestration
- Protect carbon storage
- Take actions that address climate related proximal risks and consequences to biodiversity
- Reduce vulnerability of plant, human, animal communities to the consequences of climate impacts
- Provide for climate adaptation into the future

Long term outcomes (aspirational, bold):

- Enhance resilience: Capacity to recover in the future
- Reduce climate vulnerability

Actions, “How to get there”:

OWEB will continue to assist all grantees with technical resources and guidance.

Pursue rulemaking processes as necessary.

Develop climate criteria: Begin with review of existing criteria within administrative rules.

Continue to measure/account for climate benefits from project activities.

III. Climate Lens Definition

Climate Lens- a project ranking tool designed to determine the relative value of proposals according to how they meet OWEB’s established standards of climate action. OWEB climate standards generally follow IUCN Global Standards, but these may be modified to incorporate specific criteria determined to best fulfill the OWEB Mission.

The climate committee expects the climate lens to address the following:

- Climate Mitigation GHG reductions through emission reductions & carbon sequestration (NbS/NCS)
- Climate Adaptation & Resilience – through the use of NbS for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of biodiversity & ecosystem services (incl. carbon storage)
- Co-benefits of climate action [ecosystem services, biodiversity, and societal (equity being key)]
- Areas of highest vulnerability to impact (short-, mid- and long-term)
- DEI and environmental justice
- Encouragement and support of best practices by all stakeholders
- Collaboration with climate-focused partners and staff in other agencies to share the load
- Incorporating ecological approaches in fulfillment of project goals
- Consideration of short-term impacts for achievement of long-term net gains to ecosystems & biodiversity
- Establishment and use of quantifiable goals – for example, emissions baselines and reductions, monitoring of sequestration and storage, prioritization of species anticipated for future carbon sequestration, timelines for progress based on accounting

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update E-1 Strategic Plan Update

This report provides the board updates on progress implementation of the 2018 strategic plan.

Background

In June 2018, the board approved a new strategic plan. Beginning with the October 2018 board meeting, staff developed a template to track quarterly progress on strategic plan priorities.

Attached is the latest update of actions related to the strategic plan between August 2021 and October 2021. Other information on the strategic plan is also contained in the committee updates as well as other staff reports.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager, at Eric.Williams@oregon.gov or 971-345-7014.

Attachments

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Progress Report, August 2021—October 2021

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Strategic Plan Progress

QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE: August 2021-October 2021

Priority 1 – Board awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

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

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Presented to the OWEB board about the Willanch 'telling the restoration story' in the Coos Watershed – July 2021
- ✓ Updated OWEB website to add the Horsetail Creek Telling the Restoration Story work products and developed a presentation to report this information to the OWEB Board at the October 2021 meeting

Strategy: Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- Oregon Lottery media campaigns have new stories every year of watershed work and progress.
- 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 Strategy that reach non-traditional audiences.

To Make This Difference: (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;
 - understand why healthy watersheds matter to their family and community;

- o understand their role in keeping their watershed healthy.
- Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches.

Near-Term Measure:

- Fall 2018 Oregon Lottery campaign featured 6 partners from 5 OWEB regions with cumulative reach of 2,347 YouTube views, 30-second feature on watershed restoration has 2,003 YouTube views (accessed 12/10/2019).
- 54 articles featured partners and OWEB in the news (January -November 2019).

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

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

Strategy: Listen, learn, and gather Information about diverse populations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Participated in coordination meetings with federally recognized Tribes in 2020 fire impacted areas regarding use of cultural resources assessment funding through Oregon Department of transportation (ODOT) via House Bill (HB) 5006
- ✓ .

Strategy: Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop funding strategy with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Released a Request for Proposals to hire a contractor to facilitate board and staff diversity, equity, and inclusion training.

So That: (Outputs)

- OWEB board and staff have been trained in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
- OWEB has DEI capacity.
- 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.
- OWEB grantees and partners have access to DEI tools and resources.
- DEI are incorporated into OWEB grant programs, as appropriate.
- Board and staff regularly engage with underrepresented partnerships and stakeholder groups to support DEI work.

To Make This Difference: (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.

Near-Term Measure:

- Staff has participated in 365 hours of training (July 2018-August 2020).

Potential Impact Measure:

- ✓ 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.

Priority 3 – Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

Strategy: Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB’s past capacity funding

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Champion best approaches to build organizational, community and partnership capacity

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- 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.
- Local capacity strengths and gaps are identified to address and implement large-scale conservation solutions.
- 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 implement restoration projects more effectively.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Partner’s access best community capacity and strategic practices and approaches.
- OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds.

- Lessons learned from past capacity investments inform funding decisions.
- Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity.
- Restoration projects involving multiple agencies are implemented more efficiently and effectively.
- State-federal agencies increase participation in strategic partnerships.

Near-Term Measure:

- Under Development.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

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

Strategy: Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Engaged in discussions among agency water infrastructure funding agencies, legislators, and organizations representing community infrastructure providers to determine specific ways to coordinate water infrastructure funding.

Strategy: Align common investment areas with private foundations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Engaged in meetings with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and World Resources Institute about coordinated investment opportunities to address post-fire recovery and watershed health needs.

Strategy: Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Received approval in OWEB's Legislatively Adopted Budget for 2021-23 to administer funding from PacifiCorp and Idaho Power Company for targeted restoration work, should that funding be made available.

Strategy: Partner to design strategy for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Coordinated with DEQ and ODF to lead conversations across state and federal agencies related to post-fire recovery in natural and cultural resources. This work resulted in \$26 million in post-fire recovery investments through OWEB, ODF, and ODOT via HB 5006.
- ✓ Engaged in discussions with Governor's Office and affected groups about potential use of disaster funding in HB 5006 to address needs related to drought and post-fire recovery.

- ✓ Coordinated with ODF about the potential for local partners to strategically utilize both post-fire recovery funding through HB 5006 and funding for fire resilience activities through Senate Bill 762.

- -

So That: (Outputs)

- 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.

To Make This Difference: (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.

Near-Term Measure:

- Increase in the use of new and diverse funding sources by grantees.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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 Strategy.
- 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

Strategy: Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

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

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop engagement Strategy for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- 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.
- Strategy and stories are being utilized to reach owners and managers of working lands who are not currently working with local organizations.
- Landowner engagement Strategy and tools are developed and used by local conservation organizations.
- 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.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Generations of landowners continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability.
- Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands.
- Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future.
- Sustained vitality of Oregon's natural resources industries.

Near-Term Measure:

- Percentage of landowners identified within Strategic Implementation Areas that receive technical assistance.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

Priority 6 – Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategy: Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Updated OWEB website to add the Horsetail Creek Telling the Restoration Story work products and developed a presentation to report this information to the OWEB Board at the October 2021 meeting
- ✓ Began outreach to recruit new Telling the Restoration Story applicants for OWEB's targeted grant program intended to assist restorationists develop outreach materials using monitoring data to communicate restoration outcomes and impacts

Strategy: Invest in monitoring over the long term

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Began outreach with the second cohort of Implementation FIPs to scope monitoring projects to pursue OWEB supplemental funds for restoration effectiveness monitoring that is guided by their theory of change

Strategy: Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Developed a scope of work and grant application process so tide gate practitioners can access OWEB funds to develop a scalable tide gate monitoring protocol
- ✓ Worked with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to complete monitoring plan guidance for FIP restoration initiatives

Strategy: Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Worked with the Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitoring Watershed Working Group to prepare a collective response to the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) survey that summarized their findings and lessons learned to inform future restoration actions across the PNW
- ✓ Developed Climate Related Technical Resources to assist OWEB applicants with integrating scientific information about climate impacts in Oregon for their projects

Strategy: Define monitoring priorities

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop and promote a monitoring framework

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- Additional technical resources—such as guidance and tools—are developed and/or made accessible to monitoring practitioners.
- A network of experts is available to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects.
- A dedicated process exists for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described.
- Strategic monitoring projects receive long-term funding.
- Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level.
- 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.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Partners are using results-based restoration ‘stories’ to share conservation successes and lessons learned.
- Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs.

- Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning.
- Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring.
- 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.
- Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared.
- Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed and regional scales.
- Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results

Near-Term Measure:

- 14 outreach products were developed through staff, grants, or partnerships (January-December 2019)

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

Priority 7 – Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon’s watersheds

Strategy: Invest in landscape restoration over the long term

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB’s mission

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ Incorporated questions in OWEB grant applications to help better understand how grantees are connecting their work to climate adaption and sequestration

So That: (Outputs)

- OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community.
- OWEB’s landscape-scale granting involves effective partnerships around the state.
- OWEB and partners have a better understanding of how restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway.
- 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 in not demonstrated based on demonstrated past performance.
- OWEB encourages a culture of innovation.

- OWEB 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.
- OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk.

Near-Term Measure:

- 16.98% of Oregon is covered by a Strategic Action Plan associated with a FIP or Coho Business Plan.

Potential Impact Measure:

- 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.

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update E-2: Key Performance Measures Reporting

This update describes this year's Key Performance Measures (KPM) reporting.

Background

As part of the agency's Annual Performance Progress Report (APPR) to the Oregon Legislature, OWEB reports on several KPMs. These metrics are part of an approach to measure performance and outcomes of state government. Measures must: gauge progress toward agency's goals and mission; identify performance targets to be achieved during the two-year budget cycle; use accurate and reliable data sources; and measure customer satisfaction.

Results from 2021 APPR

KPM results submitted in the 2021 APPR are listed below, with comparisons to 2020 shown in parentheses.

Operations – Percentage of total funding used in agency operations, with a target of 11%

- **2021 result = 7.70% (2020 = 8.79%)**

Payments – Percentage of complete grant payment requests paid within 24 days, with a target of 100%

- **2021 result = 100% (2020 = 100%)**

Customer Service – Percent of customers rating their satisfaction with the agency's customer service as "good" or "excellent": overall customer service, timeliness, accuracy (provide information correctly the first time), helpfulness, knowledge and expertise of employees, and availability of information, with a target of 91% for each measure

- **2021 results: Overall = 95.6% (2020 = 91.8%); Timeliness = 90.3% (2020 = 89.0%); Accuracy = 96.7% (2020 = 94.0%); Helpfulness = 96.7% (2020 = 94.5%); Expertise = 95.6% (2020 = 91.8%); Availability of Information = 90.2% (2020 = 81.3%)**

Funding from Other Sources – Percent of funds contributed from other sources on OWEB-funded restoration projects, with a target of 50%

- **2021 result = 59.3% (2020 = 62.74.8%)**

Grant-Making Across Oregon – Percent of Oregon's 76 sub-basins (defined as 8-digit hydrologic unit code areas) within which Oregonians benefit from OWEB's grant programs, with a target of 90%

- **2021 result = 94.7% (2020 = 93.42%)**

Timeliness of Grant-Making – Percent of open solicitation grant agreements executed within one month after board award, with a target of 75%

- **2021 result = 45% (2020 = 16.18%)**

Watershed Council Governance – Percent of OWEB funded watershed councils that demonstrate effective organizational governance and management using OWEB merit criteria, with a target of 100%

- **2021 result = 100% (2020 = not reported due to timing of funding cycle)**

Fish Populations – Percentage of monitored native fish species that exhibit increasing or stable levels of abundance, with a target of 75%

- **2021 result = 71% (2020 = 84%)**

Streamside Habitat – Number of riparian miles restored or enhanced as a result of OWEB-funded grants, with a target of 203.9 miles

- **2021 result = 165.7 miles (2020 = 300.65 miles)**

Native Fish Habitat Quantity – Miles of fish habitat opened as a result of OWEB-funded grants, with a target of 113.9 miles

- **2021 result = 113.12 miles (2020 = 73.17 miles)**

Upland Habitat – Acres of upland habitat restored or enhanced as a result of OWEB-funded grants, with a target of 50,015 acres

- **2021 result = 36,317 acres (2020 = 44,685 acres)**

Native Species Habitat and Water Quality – Percent of restoration, acquisition or technical assistance funding invested to address habitat for threatened, endangered or species of concern, or water-quality concerns identified on 303(d) listed streams, with a target of 90%

- **2021 result = 90.2% (2020 = 92.3%)**

The FY 2020-21 APPR, including full descriptions about this year's results, is available [on OWEB's Performance Measures webpage](#).

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 971-345-7231.

October 26-27, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-3: 2021 Wildfire Recovery Immediate Response Grants

This report provides the board an update about the 2021 offering for OWEB's Wildfire Recovery Immediate Response Grants.

Background

In October of 2020, the OWEB Board awarded \$1 million in funding to support emergency wildfire response grants, following the devastating 2020 fire season. At the July 2021, the board received a status update about the 2020 wildfire response grants that were awarded. In addition, the board approved an allocation of \$300,000 under the Governor's Priorities line item in the 2021-2023 OWEB spending plan for wildfire recovery immediate response grants this biennium. These grants will use experience gained by OWEB in 2020, to make available a limited grant offering to respond to gaps in wildfire recovery funding in the short term. The funding objectives include:

- Investing in local organizations to respond to short-term fire recovery needs in a way that benefits long-term restoration; and
- Filling priority short-term gaps by supporting early recovery activities for which other funding sources are limited or unavailable.

2021 Wildfire Recovery Immediate Response Grant Offering

The structure of the grant offering was refined to reflect the different nature of the 2021 fire season and the lower funding amount available for the 2021 grants. The 2021 fire season has begun to slow, with ongoing fires mostly holding steady in size. As of 9/13/21 and per data from the Oregon Department of Forestry, over 750,000 acres in Oregon have been impacted by wildfires, with the majority of this footprint being in the Bootleg Fire area. This differs from the 2020 fire season, which saw 1.2 million acres burned across several very large fires (for example, the Holiday Farm and Beachie Creek fires) and a few smaller, but incredibly destructive fires in more developed areas, such as the Alameda Fire.

Being mindful of the differences between the 2020 and 2021 offerings, staff have adhered to parameters from the 2020 fires for minimum total fire size of 2,500 acres and size of non-federal acres impacted of 1,950 acres, when determining which fires were eligible for the 2021 offering. The four fires that met these criteria are:

- Bootleg Fire (Region 4)
- Cougar Peak Fire (Region 4)
- Elbow Creek Fire (Region 5)
- Skyline Ridge Fire Complex (Region 2)

Given the lower funding amount available for 2021 wildfire response grants, staff established a sliding scale for funding, based on the number of non-federal acres impacted by each fire. This approach will ensure that funding is available for high-priority, immediate response activities in areas most impacted areas by the 2021 fires, while reserving some of the \$300,000 for wildfire recovery immediate response grants in the Governor's Priorities line item of the spending plan for use following the 2022 fire season. Funding levels based on non-federal acres impacted are:

- \$25,000 for 1,950-25,000 acres of non-federal lands impacted – Elbow Creek and Skyline Ridge
- \$50,000 for 25,001-100,000 acres of non-federal lands impacted – Cougar Peak
- \$75,000 for over 100,000 acres of non-federal lands impacted – Bootleg

OWEB-funded work will focus on addressing short-term needs through September 2022 on tribal or private lands (not including industrial forestlands) that have been identified as areas of high impact by wildfire in a federally led assessment, such as those through U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management, or other assessments with approval from OWEB. Eligible activities under the OWEB wildfire recovery immediate response grants include:

- A limited suite of conservation practices that Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and/or Farm Services Agency likely will fund in wildfire impacted areas including conservation cover, cover crop, herbaceous weed treatment, mulching, range planting, woody residue treatment and fencing. Applicants will need to confirm in OWEB grant applications that funding requested from OWEB for these practices does not duplicate other funding opportunities (e.g., federal Farm Bill programs). OWEB funding should focus on areas where these on-the-ground activities are not eligible for other funding. Proposed activities must comply with specifications in accepted manuals of practice, such as the NRCS Field Guide.
- Other stabilization practices designed to protect or restore habitat or water quality that are specified in a qualifying assessment and discussed in advance with OWEB.
- Log transport and stockpiling for future restoration.
- Technical assistance to participate on local assessment teams and, to select and plan restoration practices.
- Stakeholder engagement to secure landowner involvement in immediate recovery activities and coordinate post-fire restoration actions.

Applicants will use a streamlined online application to apply for the funding. Organizations in each fire area work together to determine a single lead entity to apply for and administer the OWEB funds. OWEB staff, including the appropriate Region Program Representative, will complete application review.

The grant offering was made available on October 1, 2021 with applications accepted on a rolling basis through January 31, 2022 with funds required to be spent by September 30, 2022.

At the conclusion of the grant, grantees will be asked to report on the following in their project completion reports: How funds were used; Feedback about whether/how funds were beneficial to addressing near-term post-wildfire risk to native fish and wildlife habitat and/or water quality; How work completed supported disproportionately impacted communities; and If/how the project utilized minority and women-owned contractors/businesses.

At future meetings, staff will update the board about awards made under the 2021 Wildfire Recovery Immediate Response Grants offering, which will total an amount of up to \$175,000.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 971-345-7231.



Kate Brown, Governor



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Spring 2021 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 42 restoration grants, 18 technical assistance grants, 18 monitoring grants, and 10 stakeholder engagement grants.

II. Spring 2021 Grant Offering Background and Summary

A total of 144 applications were received requesting nearly \$19 million. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

III. Review Process

Staff continued to use a virtual review process where all eligible grant applications were reviewed by the agency's six Regional Review Teams (RRTs). Staff scheduled virtual site visits for as many proposed projects as possible, with all RRT members invited to the 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, which are provided in Attachment B. After classifying applications as "Fund," "Fund with Conditions," or "Do Not Fund," the RRTs then prioritized the projects recommended for funding by application type.

The RRT evaluations and recommendations, along with staff recommendations, were distributed to all applicants. Attachment C includes the number of applications recommended by RRTs and staff for each region by project type, as well as staff-recommended award totals by application type and region. Prior to the board meeting, staff will forward to the board any written comments received from applicants regarding the RRT and staff recommendations.

IV. 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 that improve greater sage-grouse habitat. The recommended Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant awards include three projects that meet the criteria, shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Sage-grouse Projects

Project Number and Name	Recommended Award
221-5037 “Watering Juniper Chapter 2”	\$106,861
221-5039 “Poison Creek Wet Meadow Rehab: Stop the Invasion”	\$155,265
221-5052 “We Ain’t Greenhorns but We Need Help Fixin’ Willow Creek”	\$62,701
Total	\$324,827

The three sage-grouse projects, if awarded, will bring the total since 2015 to \$10,842,695.

V. Funding Recommendation

Staff considered the RRT recommendations and funding availability in developing the staff funding recommendations provided in Attachment D, which includes the number of applications recommended for funding by RRTs and staff by region and grant type. The funding recommendations for the Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Spending Plan and Funding Recommendations for Spring 2021 Grant Offering

Grant Type	Current Spending Plan Balance	Previous Awards	Staff Recommendation	Remaining Spending Plan Balance
Restoration	\$33,500,000	\$0	\$7,987,705	\$25,512,295
Technical Assistance	\$4,500,000	\$0	\$1,116,398	\$3,383,602
Monitoring	\$4,250,000	\$0	\$1,837,110	\$2,412,990
Stakeholder Engagement	\$2,250,000	\$0	\$556,881	\$1,693,119
TOTAL	\$44,500,000	\$0	\$11,497,994	\$33,002,006

Staff recommend the board award funds for the staff-recommended projects listed in Attachment D.

Attachments

- A. Grant Applications Submitted
- B. Evaluation Criteria
- C. RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations
- D. Regions 1-6 Funding Recommendations

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Offering

Applications Received by Type

	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	4	0	8	7	19
Region 2	6	4	11	11	32
Region 3	6	1	1	9	17
Region 4	3	3	7	9	22
Region 5	5	0	6	18	29
Region 6	5	2	5	13	25
Totals	29	10	38	67	144

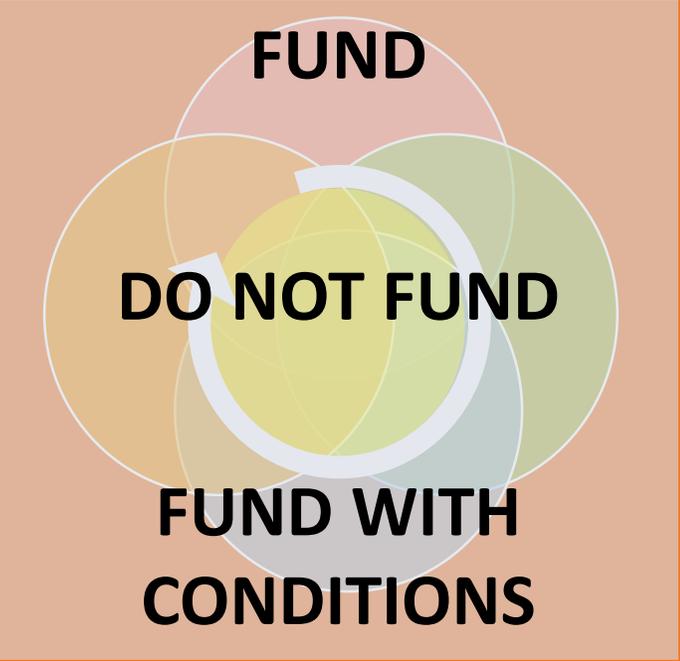
Dollar Amounts by Application Type

	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	214,543	0	478,084	1,636,201	\$2,328,828
Region 2	567,161	242,389	723,077	3,364,036	\$4,896,663
Region 3	828,965	27,293	51,740	2,540,392	\$3,448,390
Region 4	434,814	213,984	498,065	1,809,663	\$2,956,526
Region 5	514,720	0	281,075	1,794,250	\$2,590,045
Region 6	578,788	73,215	265,804	1,842,933	\$2,760,740
Totals	\$3,138,991	\$556,881	\$2,297,845	\$12,987,475	\$18,981,192

Open Solicitation – Restoration Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Recommend



Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize



CRITERIA

How well project meets criteria for project evaluation & preferences, including:

- Causes over symptoms of disturbance
- Whole watershed approach over site-specific
- Collaboration over single-party



CERTAINTY OF SUCCESS

Certainty of success, based on the organizational capacity of the applicant & the likelihood the project will meet its ecological objectives



BENEFIT TO OREGON PLAN

Benefit to the Oregon Plan for Salmon & Watersheds, as evidenced by its expected benefits to watershed functions, fish habitat or water quality



COST BENEFIT

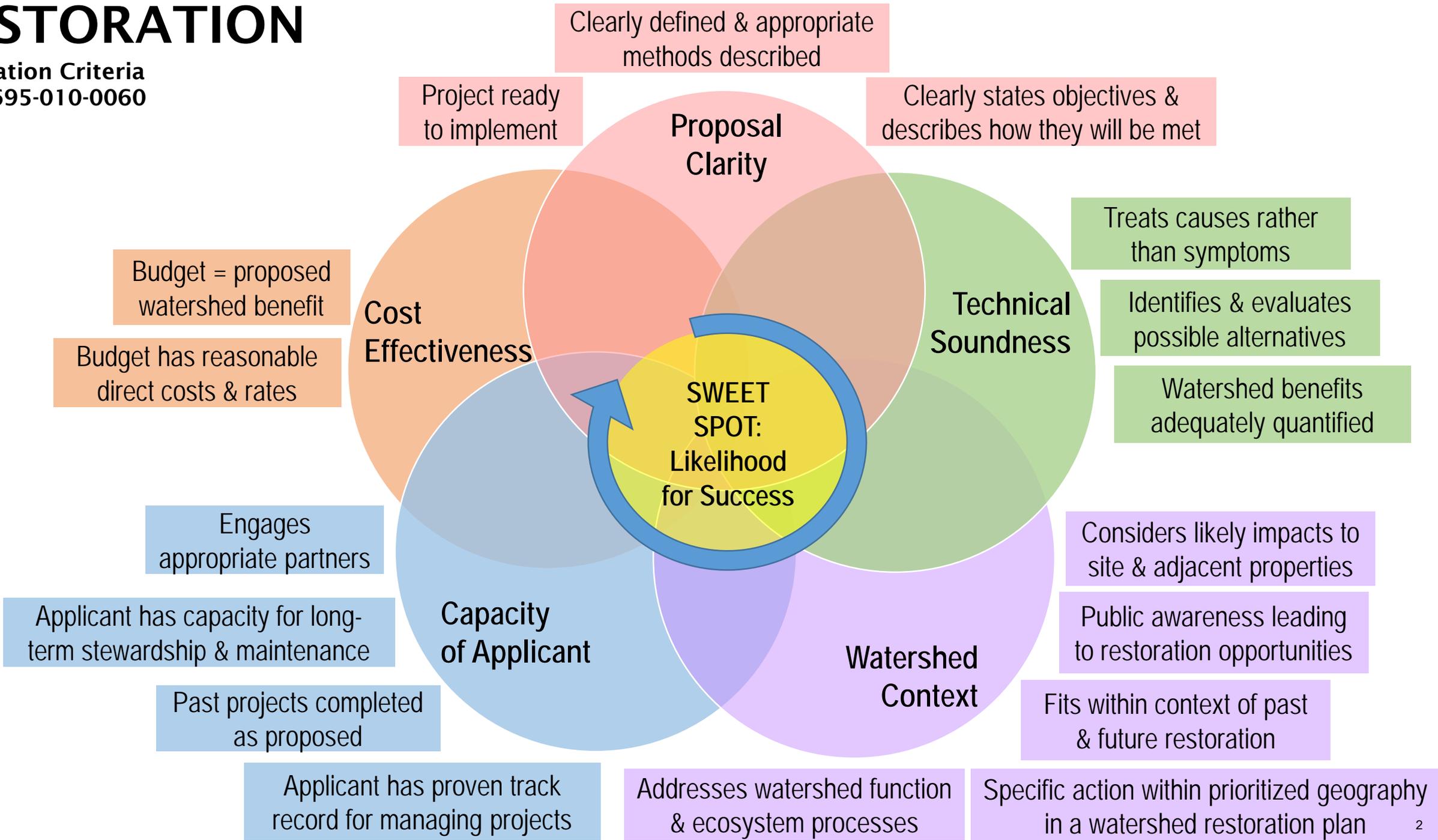
Project costs relative to the anticipated watershed health benefits

Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

RESTORATION

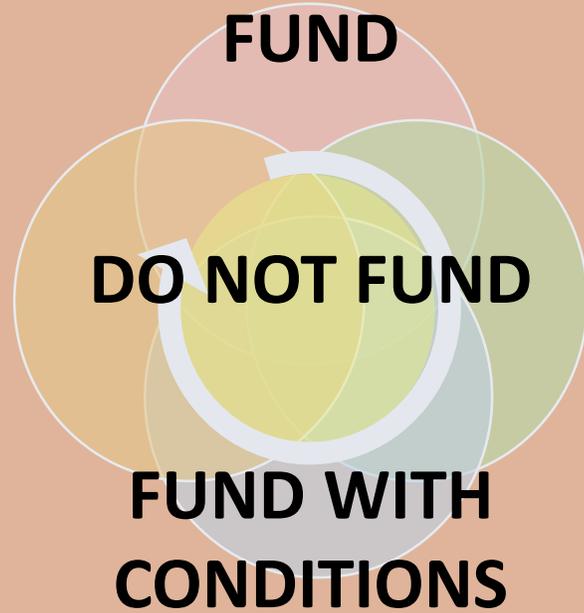
Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-010-0060



Open Solicitation – Technical Assistance Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Recommend



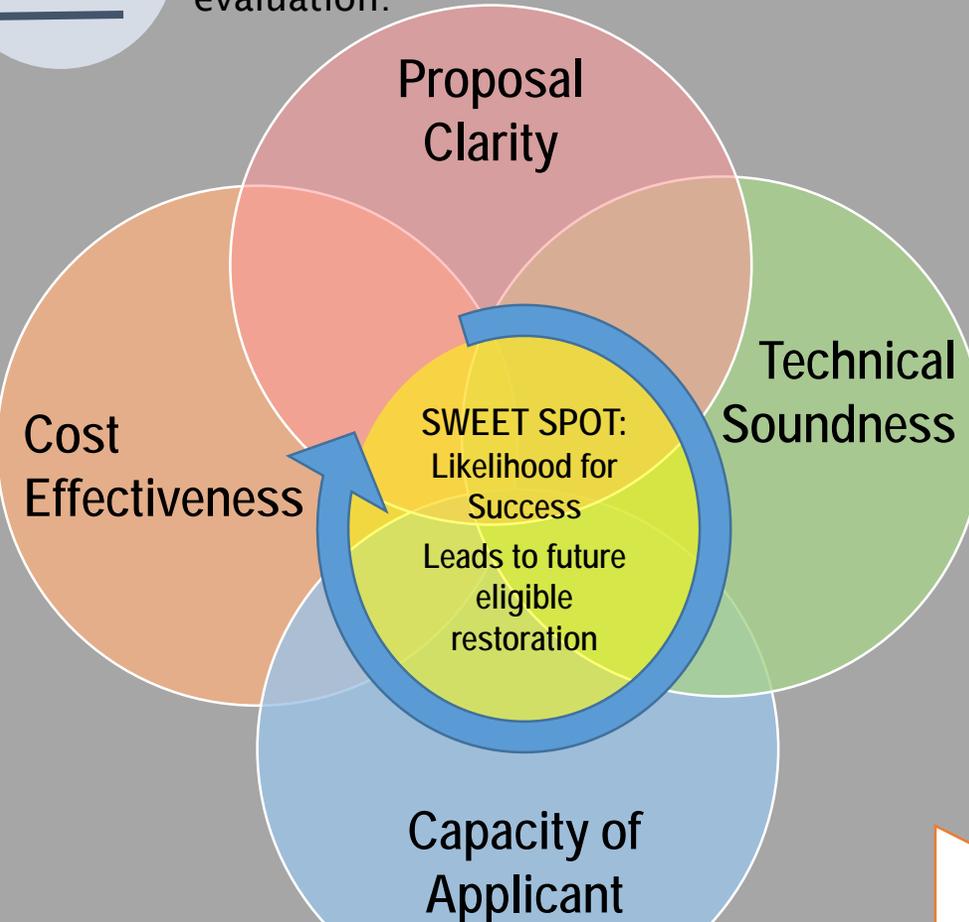
Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize



CRITERIA

How well project meets criteria for project evaluation:



Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-030-0045

Technical Design & Engineering = project feasibility reports, designs, or engineering materials that directly lead to site-specific restoration or acquisition projects within a specified timeframe

Resource Assessment & Planning = 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

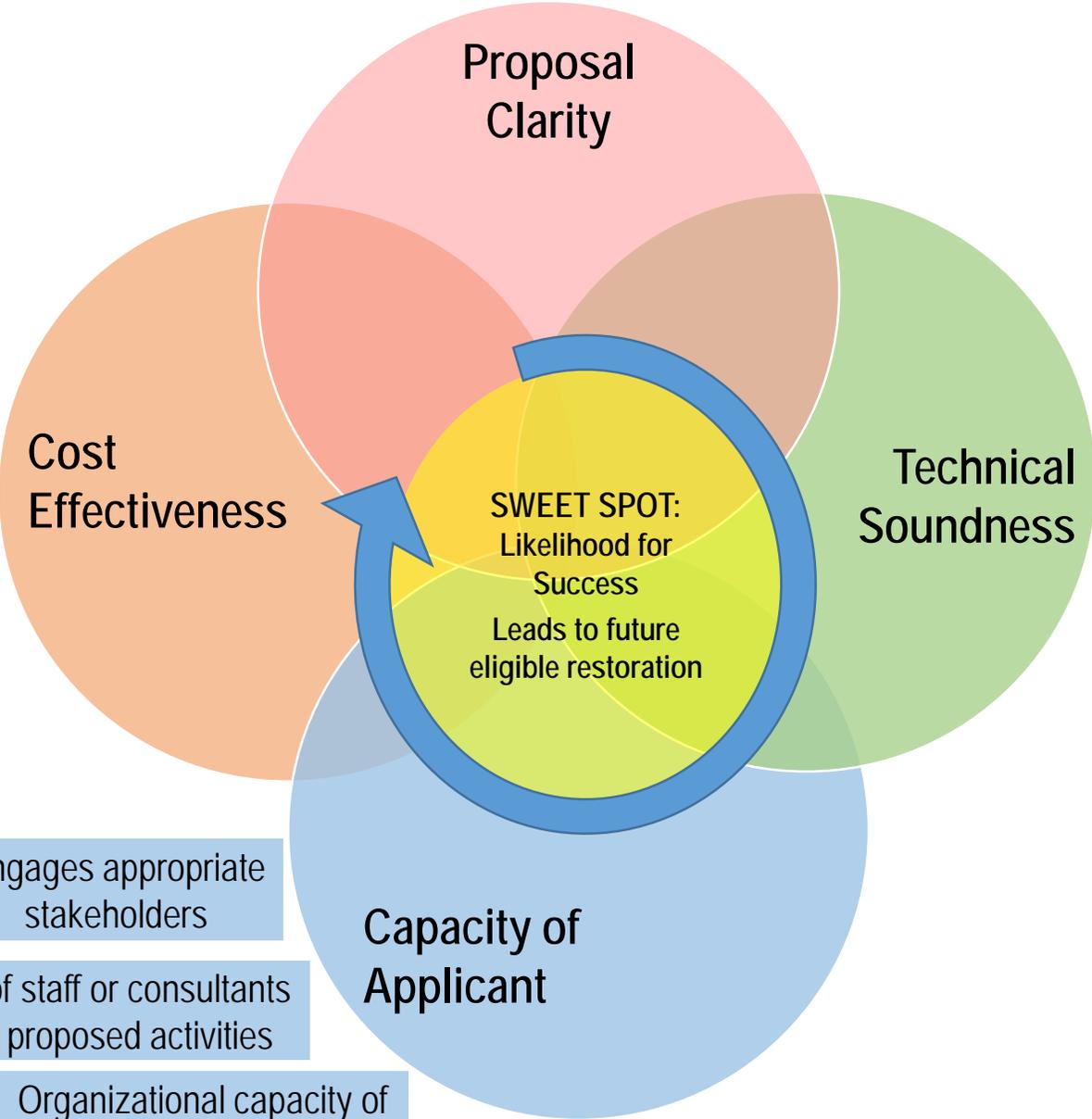
Describes a clear need

Cost aligns with work necessary to accomplish project objectives

Engages appropriate stakeholders

Qualifications of staff or consultants to accomplish proposed activities

Organizational capacity of applicant



Technical Design & Engineering

- Addresses limiting factors in existing conservation or recovery plan
- Describes alternative analysis that demonstrates a range of options were considered
- Appropriate data will be collected to inform designs
- Professionally accepted technical or engineering approaches will be used

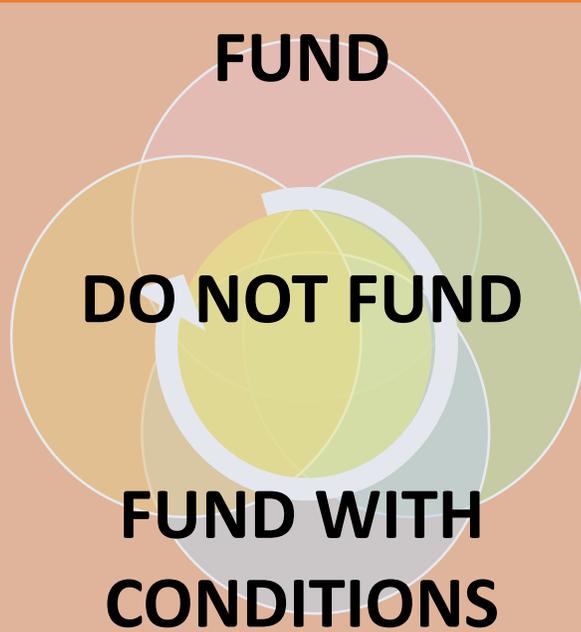
Resource Assessment & Planning

- Scope & scale is feasible, & partners have demonstrated ability in collaborative work at this scale
- Process by which data will be managed & shared with partners
- Professionally accepted methods & parameters will be used

Open Solicitation – Stakeholder Engagement Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Recommend



Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize



CRITERIA

How well project meets criteria for project evaluation:



CERTAINTY OF SUCCESS

Based on the organizational capacity of the applicant & likelihood the project will meet its stakeholder engagement objectives

Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

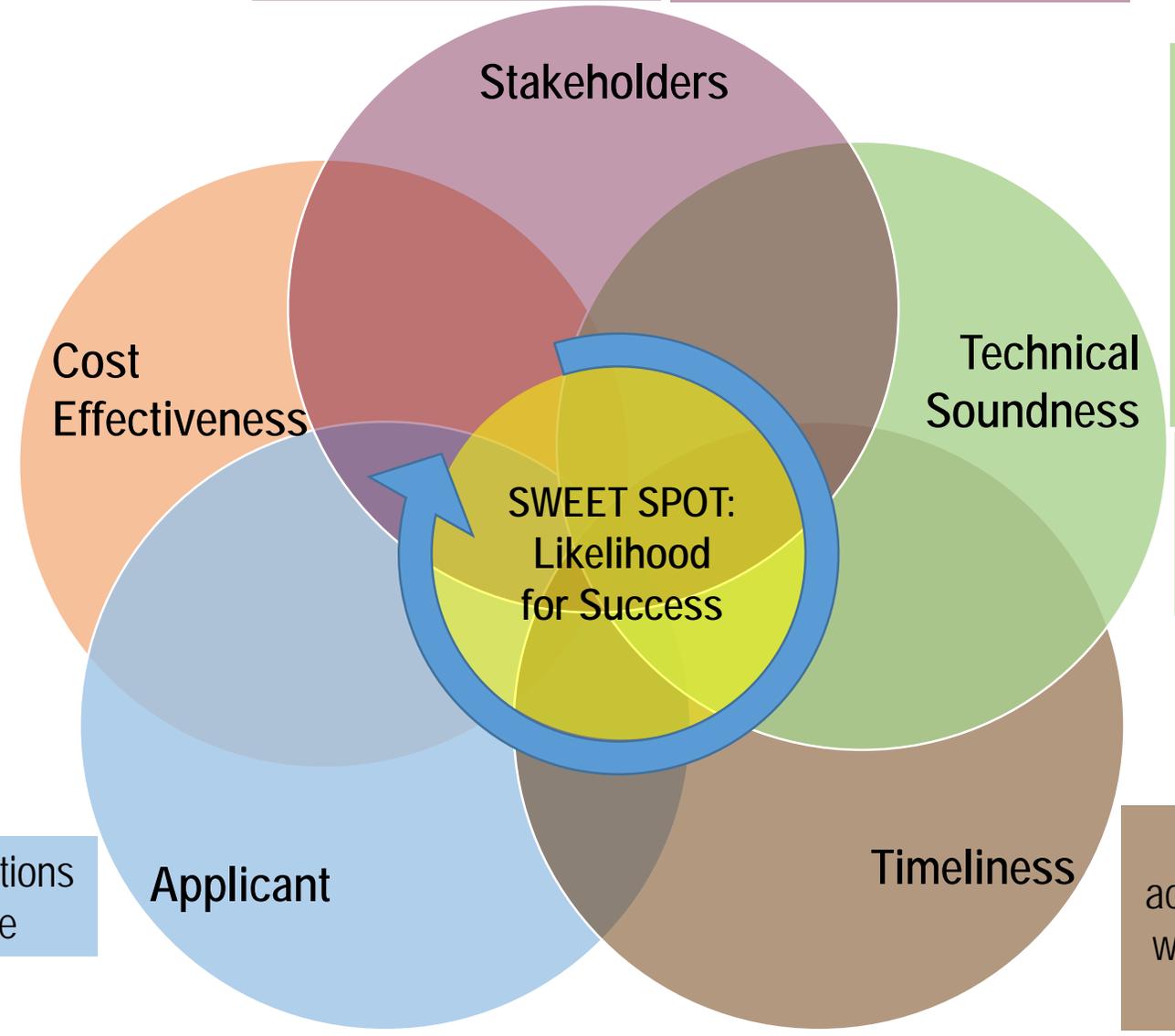
Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-015-0070

“Stakeholder Engagement Project” means a project whose purpose is to communicate and engage with landowners, organizations and the community about the need for, feasibility, and benefit of a specific eligible restoration or acquisitions project or program that leads to development of eligible projects within an identified geography.

Projects whose primary purpose is education are  NOT ELIGIBLE

Applicants engage with appropriate stakeholders in the appropriate geography

Likely effectiveness of multidirectional communication among the applicant & stakeholder



Shows qualifications & experience

Expected outcomes of resulting restoration or acquisitions include protecting or restoring fish or wildlife habitat, watershed function, and or water quality or quantity

Evidence base linking engagement to eligible project types

Resulting restoration or acquisition projects, or program will lead to timely development of eligible projects

RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations for the Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering

Restoration

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	6	6	100%
2	9	5	56%
3	8	8	100%
4	8	5	63%
5	13	10	77%
6	9	8	89%
Total	53	42	79%

Technical Assistance

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	5	2	40%
2	10	4	40%
3	1	1	100%
4	7	5	71%
5	6	3	50%
6	3	3	100%
Total	32	18	56%

Monitoring

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	2	2	100%
2	4	4	100%
3	3	3	100%
4	2	2	100%
5	3	3	100%
6	4	4	100%
Total	18	18	100%

Stakeholder Engagement

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	0	0	n/a
2	4	4	100%
3	1	1	100%
4	3	3	100%
5	0	0	n/a
6	2	2	100%
Total	10	10	100%

Totals by Region

Region	Restoration	Technical Assistance	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement
1	\$1,417,979	\$133,795	\$112,498	\$0
2	\$2,091,461	\$299,995	\$374,643	\$242,389
3	\$1,940,519	\$51,740	\$290,978	\$27,293
4	\$790,717	\$348,169	\$263,856	\$213,984
5	\$639,527	\$166,895	\$297,479	\$0
6	\$1,107,502	\$115,804	\$497,556	\$73,215
Total	\$7,987,705	\$1,116,398	\$1,837,010	\$556,881

Item F Att D
Regions 1-6 Funding
Recommendations

North Coast - Region 1 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2020

- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 1 Cities
- Region 1 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 1 Boundary



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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
221-1029	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	Sand Lake Habitat Enhancement Project: Large Wood Placements	Large wood structures will be placed instream in partnership with private landowners to restore spawning and rearing habitat for native fish, including Oregon coast coho salmon, on three high priority Sand Lake Basin tributaries north of Pacific City.	84,573	Tillamook
221-1031	Trout Unlimited Inc	Green Creek Priority Fish Passage Project	A fish passage barrier will be replaced with a new structure designed to provide full passage for native migratory fish on Green Creek, a tributary of the Trask River. The project is a high priority for the Salmon SuperHwy partnership in Tillamook County.	549,866	Tillamook
221-1032	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	The Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP)- a proposal for sustainable program development	High quality and genetically appropriate plant material will be propagated and distributed to over 30 local partnering organizations for restoration projects in NW Oregon.	204,149	Tillamook
221-1030	Scappoose Bay WC	South Scappoose Reach F Construction	Instream and streamside habitat will be restored and enhanced on South Scappoose Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay. The project is located on a highly visible stream reach within a city-owned park and supports habitat for Lower Columbia salmon.	170,677	Columbia
221-1027	North Coast WS Assn	North North Fork Klaskanine Fish Passage Project	Fish passage will be restored at a hatchery on the North North Fork of the Klaskanine River to improve access to nearly five miles of habitat for native fish, including endangered coho salmon populations.	274,078	Clatsop
221-1033	CREST	West Sand Island Prairie Restoration	Rare coastal dune habitat will be restored on West Sand Island, an island near the mouth of the Columbia River. Several endangered species that frequent coastal prairie will benefit, including streaked horned lark and western snowy plover.	134,636	Clatsop
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,417,979	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-1028	Lower Nehalem WC	Jetty Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project	218,222	Tillamook	

Region 1 - North Coast Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-1036	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	North Coast Watershed Councils Restoration Assistance 2021	A coalition of north coast watershed councils will collaborate to share the resources of a highly qualified consultant to plan and develop watershed restoration that benefit salmon, lamprey, steelhead, and trout.	73,240	Tillamook
221-1037	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	Siletz Tribe's Lower Fivemile Wetlands Restoration Planning CLONE	Stream restoration will be designed by an experienced technical team to restore stream channels and native plant communities on a property in the Tahkenitch Lake watershed in Douglas County.	60,555	Douglas
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				133,795	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-1034	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	Sitka Sedge Tidal Wetland Project (SSTW): Alternatives Evaluation & Preliminary Design	Design alternatives will be evaluated to restore tidal hydrology and estuary habitat at the southern extent of the Sand Lake estuary in Tillamook County.	74,976	Tillamook
221-1041	City of Newport	Big Creek Watershed Forest Resource Assessment	A forest resource assessment will be conducted to inform the development of a land management plan and acquisition strategy for lands in the City of Newport's Big Creek watershed, the primary source of drinking water for the City.	49,445	Lincoln
221-1035	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	Tillamook Bay Watershed Coho Strategic Action Plan	Regional partners will convene to develop a Strategic Action Plan for the Tillamook Bay watershed to coordinate and accelerate habitat protection and restoration for Oregon coast coho salmon.	74,971	Tillamook

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-1038	CREST	South Tongue Point Restoration Designs	29,387	Clatsop	
221-1039	Columbia SWCD	Clatskanie Floodplain-Confluence Strategy	59,400	Columbia	
221-1040	Columbia SWCD	Page Creek, Fish Passage and Habitat Complexity Design 3	56,100	Columbia	

Region 1 - North Coast Stakeholder Engagement

Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
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None

Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff	
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Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
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None

Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
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None

Region 1 - North Coast Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-1044	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	2021-2022 Continuing Columbia SWCD Water Quality Monitoring Program	Water quality will be monitored by a group of partners in the lower Columbia watershed to build on an extensive existing dataset and inform future watershed restoration.	25,094	Columbia
221-1043	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	TEP 2021 Bacteria Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program	Citizen scientists will collect water samples at established monitoring locations on a year-round basis to continue a long-term bacteria monitoring effort within Tillamook County watersheds.	87,404	Tillamook
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				112,498	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-1045	Upper Nehalem WC	Coho Response to Beaver Dam Analogues	91,278	Washington	
221-1046	Salmon Drift Cr WC	Echo Mountain Fire and Ocean Tributaries Water Quality Surveillance	37,767	Lincoln	

Region 1 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	1,664,272
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1027-19510

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North North Fork Klaskanine Fish Passage Project

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$274,078

Total Cost: \$508,555

Application Description

The North Fork Klaskanine is a major tributary to Young's Bay and the first major watershed that ocean-returning fish encounter in the Lower Columbia River. It has low gradient habitat, good canopy cover, intermittent sections of wide valley that provide high intrinsic potential habitat for ESA listed coho, and ample beaver activity. The North Fork has received limited attention for habitat restoration due to passage impediments from ODFW's Klaskanine Fish Hatchery. Recently ODFW and USFWS partnered to complete survey and passage assessments on the North Fork Klaskanine and its tributaries to maximize wild fish passage and stream connectivity while maintaining hatchery management. This led to a 2020 removal of one hatchery dam on the North Fork Klaskanine. In this proposal, OWEB funding is requested to restore passage at a second hatchery dam on the North North Fork Klaskanine at Intake 3 to improve access to 4.7 miles of habitat. The project will build a roughened channel to backwater the dam and provide full fish passage through the constructed riffle and over the dam. The roughened channel will extend ~260 feet downstream from the dam-crest at a 3.5% slope. The crest of the constructed riffle will provide fish passage throughout the full range of flows for all native species. The base of the dam will be buried, but not removed. The diversion will continue to meet hatchery needs, the fish screen will meet regulatory requirements, and the associated fish bypass and sediment sluice pipes will be reconfigured to fully function while meeting the new downstream channel alignment. ODFW is coordinating with ODOT on reviewing, approving and funding some structural protection to the Hwy 202 bridge located upstream of the dam. Project partners include ODFW, USFWS, North Coast Watershed Association, Oregon Department of Transportation and Resources Legacy Fund.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal thoroughly describes the complex site conditions associated with the stream dynamics around the hatchery facilities.
- Implementation of the project has a degree of urgency as matching funds have been secured.
- Similar roughened channel designs have been successful in the South Fork Klaskanine and the South Fork Necanicum rivers. There is high confidence that the project team will implement a similar successful project.
- The project will have a near immediate benefit to Pacific lamprey, providing passage and making overwintering habitat available.
- Construction of the roughened channel will improve fish access to 4.7 miles of stream habitat.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1028-19512

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Jetty Creek Fish Passage and
Habitat Enhancement Project

Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$218,222

Total Cost: \$425,591

Application Description

Jetty Creek is located just upstream of the mouth of the Nehalem River, 3 miles north of the City of Rockaway Beach in Tillamook County. The stream supports ESA listed coho salmon, chum salmon and coastal cutthroat trout. Most of the Jetty Creek watershed is managed for private timber and it serves as the primary surface water source for the City of Rockaway Beach. Jetty Creek is currently below the ODFW benchmarks for instream large wood. Juvenile fish also struggle to overwinter in Jetty Creek due to the simplified channel and gradient. Several road-stream crossings in Jetty Creek do not meet the federal fish passage standard of 1.5 times active channel width. This project is partnering with private landowner, GreenWood Resources to improve stream function and enhance salmonid habitat quality by implementing the following: install 7 full channel spanning large wood structures, construct 5 alcoves and upgrade 2 undersized culvert crossings with bridges that meet the federal fish passage standard. The Lower Nehalem Watershed Council will provide project management, coordinate partner communication, contract for the LW placements/alcove implementation oversight and construction, contribute to the cost of bridges, and manage the project grants and schedule. GreenWood Resources will provide all the wood needed for the project, construction contracting for the implementation and engineering review for the culvert upgrades. Forest engineering firm McGee Engineering is providing the culvert replacement designs. Experienced natural resources professional, Steve Trask, will be contracted by LNWC to provide on the ground guidance to the construction contractor installing the large wood structures and alcoves. Because the project is on industrial timber land, the only permits required are the Oregon Department of Forestry Notification of Operations and Tillamook County sign off on the Land Use Compatibility Statement form.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will improve habitat complexity, a known limiting factor for Oregon coast coho salmon, within Jetty Creek. The creek provides important overwintering habitat for juvenile fish.
- The partners involved have a proven track record of success and demonstrated ability to complete these types of projects.
- Costs for materials and supplies, particularly the bridges, are reasonable.

Concerns

- The application lacks detail on the placement and design of the proposed alcoves. Similar alcoves constructed in the past have had limited success. It is unclear how the location for the alcoves was selected and proposed hydrologic information would be particularly useful in evaluating durability of the alcoves by predicting the potential for them to fill in with sediment. Additional information describing the basis of designs for the alcoves is needed to evaluate technical soundness of the approach.
- One of the proposed alcove locations may disrupt a functioning wetland that fringes the stream.
- The culverts slated for replacement are not fish passage barriers at low flows. They are undersized and sediment-filled, but are likely not posing immediate passage issues.
- The proposed excavation work has the potential to negatively impact stream temperature.
- The bridge design is over-spanned for the active channel width. This may be a positive project element, but there is not enough information on the project design in the application to determine the suitability of this approach.
- Jetty Creek is a drinking water source for the community of Rockaway Beach. It is important to carefully consider sedimentation potential of any restoration project that could impact water quality.

Concluding Analysis

Jetty Creek is an important place to work to improve fish habitat and the stream will benefit from the addition of large wood. This project will build on previous restoration work downstream at the City of Rockaway Beach's water facility that improved upstream passage for fish. The plan for the alcoves, however, lacks important details that are needed for determining the 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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1029-19538

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Sand Lake Habitat Enhancement
Project: Large Wood Placements

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds
Council

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$84,573

Total Cost: \$132,037

Application Description

Sand Creek, Jewel Creek and Andy Creek are three high priority Sand Lake Basin tributary streams located on Oregon's coast, 5 miles north of Pacific City in Tillamook County. These streams were selected based on recommendations in the NNSL's 2019 Sand Lake Basin Limiting Factors Analysis (LFA) that identified stream reaches where restoration activities would have the greatest positive impact for coho salmon. The LFA builds on recommended on-the-ground restoration components included in the NOAA Fisheries Final ESA Recovery Plan for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon (2016). Home to ESA listed coho, Chinook, chum, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey, these low-gradient streams with good spawning gravels lack channel complexity, pools and floodplain connectivity due to historic land management practices that have led to the absence of instream large wood. The project proposes to partner with industrial timber landowner Stimson and private landowners to place 47 large wood structures in 2.69 miles (3,876 meters) of stream. Each large wood structure will be comprised of 5-7 logs with a minimum of three of the logs having rootwads attached. ODFW and USFS provided support to NNSL to conduct field visits to each tributary and identify LW placement locations and staging areas. Stimson Lumber will supply the wood for the projects on their ownership. USFS will supply the wood for the private landowner projects via the Siletz Tribe through the USFS Tribal Wood Donation Program. Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watersheds Council will provide project management, secure the wood, manage the contracts, contract with a habitat restoration specialist to provide construction oversight and contract with a contractor for all project implementation. USFS will provide federal permitting support for the LW placements on private lands. OWEB funds will be used to support: project management, habitat specialist for project implementation and construction actions.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides a clear rationale for the importance of working in the proposed location of the Sand Lake watershed.
- The proposed work is the result of a recently completed Limiting Factors Analysis completed by the applicant.
- The project builds on past restoration work, there has been riparian planting and fencing downstream along with numerous fish passage projects completed in the watershed.

- Landowner engagement within the watershed has been positive and there is stakeholder support for the project.
- The design is technically sound, with wood appropriately sized and slated to meet ODFW benchmarks for key pieces per mile.
- Existing monitoring efforts in the basin may complement the restoration work by providing data as to how instream complexity affects water quality parameters.
- The applicant has a proven track record of success implementing similar types of projects.
- There is an effective partnership behind the project that brings technical resources to the work.

Concerns

- No significant concerns are identified.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project will increase habitat complexity at priority locations in the Sand Lake watershed identified during a recent strategic planning process. While the Sand Lake coho populations are considered dependent and a lower priority for restoration actions, the project is targeting key watershed limiting factors and is likely to have a positive benefit on life history diversity of coho. The design is technically sound and the partners are ready to implement a successful project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$84,573

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$84,573

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1030-19574

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: South Scappoose Reach F Construction

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$170,677

Total Cost: \$216,178

Application Description

This project is located in Columbia County in the City of Scappoose on South Scappoose Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay, 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), and the Scappoose Creek Limiting Factor Analysis (SBWC, 2012): 1) lack of physical habitat quality and complexity, including loss of floodplain connectivity and 2) the loss of complex riparian vegetative function and stream shading. Project will complete construction of Phase 3 of the South Scappoose Restoration Project to restore natural habitats on 0.2 miles of South Scappoose Creek. This project supports restoration actions on 0.7 miles directly upstream, where construction in 2019 completed a stream bank layback, floodplain benches and additional side-channel reconnections. Partners include Scappoose Bay Watershed Council, City of Scappoose, Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project expands on previous restoration efforts on South Scappoose Creek.
- Technical assistance work has been completed in the past and the results were utilized to prioritize and plan the proposed restoration.
- The designs are technically sound and rely on data and modeling that has proven effective.
- The project has a strong community nexus with a City of Scappoose partnership and will serve as a positive landowner engagement tool.
- The proposed alcoves are designed with a basis in hydrologic modeling that is technically sound.
- The planting effort is comprehensive and includes appropriate site preparation techniques and planned maintenance.
- The species selected for the riparian planting are appropriate for the site.
- The project location is a priority in which to work for Lower Columbia River fish species.
- The proposed restoration will help to address ongoing temperature issues in the Scappoose watershed.

- The proposed timing of the work at the onset of the City's planning process will result in cost efficiencies.
- The applicant and project partners have a proven track record with this type of project.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the proposed white oak listed in the planting section of the application is applicable to the project site.

Concluding Analysis

The project represents an opportunity to continue highly successful restoration work on South Scappoose Creek within a popular city park. The City has been working with the watershed council and other partners to improve aquatic and riparian habitat along the creek, and Reach F will build on those highly visible successes. The restoration work is likely to achieve the stated objectives.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$170,677

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$170,677

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1031-19586

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Green Creek Priority Fish Passage Project

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$549,866

Total Cost: \$879,376

Application Description

The Green Creek fish passage restoration project is located on Tillamook County owned Trask River Road just east of the town of Tillamook. Green Creek drains a 0.74 square mile watershed, flowing from the headwaters and upper reaches in State Forest, through a rural residential area, entering agricultural land in the lower reaches, to its confluence with the Trask River. Green Creek provides 1.7 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed coho salmon, as well as, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. Resident brook and/or Pacific lamprey likely occur in the watershed but are not well-documented. In April 2020, ODFW determined the active channel width of Green Creek to be 10-ft. The current culvert is a circular, corrugated metal pipe, approximately 50-ft in length and 4-ft 5-in in diameter. Replacing the undersized, deteriorated, and perched culvert with a 25-ft bridge will restore full passage for native migratory fish, improve stream function, and decrease County road maintenance while allowing for large wood and streambed material to move through the system. Project partners include: Tillamook County, Trout Unlimited (TU), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Forest Service (USFS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). Bridge designs, hydraulic analysis, and geotechnical report were provided by a private engineering firm in cooperation and consultation with the County and Trout Unlimited. USFWS is covering federal ESA compliance under PROJECTS and Section 106/ SHPO cultural consultation. NOAA is completing NEPA compliance. Trout Unlimited will submit the ACOE/ DSL Joint Permit application, ODFW fish passage approval, fish salvage permit, and County permits. Tillamook County Public works provided design review and will provide construction oversight and temporary construction easements with affected landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is clear and articulates the need and urgency for the proposed work.
- The crossing is prioritized for replacement within a larger strategic framework.
- Restoring fish passage at the project location builds on previous restoration work in the Tillamook Bay watershed.
- The project is partly the result of an OWEB-funded Technical Assistance grant which produced technically sound designs in a timely manner.

- Site specific constraints necessitating the chosen alternative are well-described within the application narrative.
- Green Creek is a high priority for fish passage restoration due to the need for more temperature refugia in the watershed.
- The project addresses limiting factors in the watershed and will restore access to 1.7 miles of aquatic habitat for ESA listed coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout.
- There is an effective partnership behind the project as the work is part of the Salmon SuperHwy strategic effort to restore fish passage in the Tillamook-Nestucca watersheds.
- The applicant has a proven track record of successfully implementing projects of this scope and scale.
- The site conditions, constraints, and expected ecological benefit all justify the cost of the project.

Concerns

- No significant concerns are identified.

Concluding Analysis

The partnership behind the Salmon Super Hwy continues their systematic work addressing fish passage and watershed connectivity with this project at Green Creek. The application clearly presents technically sound designs to restore passage at a priority location.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$549,866

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$549,866

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1032-19618

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: The Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP)- a proposal for sustainable program development

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$204,149

Total Cost: \$361,759

Application Description

The Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP), a Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) program, is an integral part of the conservation community in Northwest Oregon (NWOR). Locally adapted, genetically appropriate native plant material is critical for ensuring success in watershed scale restoration projects. TEP's Native Plant Nursery (NPN) supports >30 organizations annually by propagating and distributing >50,000 affordable, high quality, ethically sourced plants which would otherwise be unavailable to NORP partners. TEP supplies this essential material at 25% of its current value to NORP partners, thereby allowing partners of varying capacities to utilize the remaining 75% of the plant value as match to leverage additional funds needed for the success of restoration projects. As a result, landscape-scale watershed restoration projects are being implemented by NORP partners on private and public lands in seven counties (Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln, Lane, Columbia, Washington, and Yamhill). Due to this unique partnership, every dollar invested in NORP has an exponential benefit in terms of on-the-ground restoration in the watersheds of the Lower Columbia, Upper Willamette, North, and Mid-Oregon coast. NORP Partners include the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State Parks, the National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Soil & Water Conservation Districts, watershed councils, land trusts, the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), and local youth programs. Discounted plant material is not essential to all of NORP partners, therefore TEP intends to develop and implement a new fiscal model over the next three years. NORP is ongoing and reevaluation of it is critical to ensure its longevity and sustainability as a program. In order to securely move through the fiscal planning and implementation process, the partnership is requesting \$205,149 in program management funds from OWEB to assist with NORP personnel costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application presents a clear approach and timeline to accomplish the work.
- The partnership is looking at the development of a new funding model that will help alleviate the need for a focus on grant opportunities.
- NORP is a critical facet of restoration within the North Coast region. The demand for plants and nursery services continues to grow and NORP has continually stepped up to meet the needs.
- The work that NORP proposes to continue addresses several limiting factors within north coast watersheds, including the lack of native species diversity, temperature issues, and canopy cover.

- Projects that utilize NORP plant stock typically have an improved rate of success over projects that utilize other plant materials with genetics from outside of the coastal region.
- The applicant has a long history of successful project implementation, and this effort will allow an increased focus on improving the capacity of the partnership.
- A long-standing partnership with the Oregon Youth Authority provides ancillary community benefits to the work.
- The applicant has a track record of managing complex budgets and funding portfolios.

Concerns

- The application is unclear as to what specific experience the project manager has in fiscal planning of the nature proposed.

Concluding Analysis

Throughout northwest Oregon, non-profit organizations, agencies, and municipalities have come to rely on NORP to produce high quality, genetically appropriate plant material for restoration projects. This application represents a pivotal step in the development of the partnership. It will continue to support the distribution of plant material to restoration projects throughout the region, but also enable NORP staff to spend much-needed time on the development of a sustainable funding plan for the work. The partnership's track record indicates a likelihood for success in accomplishing the ecological objectives of the work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$204,149

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$204,149

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1033-19643

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: West Sand Island Prairie Restoration

Applicant: CREST

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$134,636

Total Cost: \$212,086

Application Description

The coastal dune prairie restoration will occur on approximately 48 acres of the southern end of West Sand Island, located in Clatsop County, Oregon, within Baker Bay near the mouth of the Columbia River. [Note: OWEB's mapping tool does not allow accurate pin placement - please ignore and see uploaded map]. The island is a former shifting sand shoal that has been expanded by dredge spoil deposits and stabilized by the property owner, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project area is rare coastal dune habitat that has been largely lost in Oregon and Washington. This prairie offers potential habitat to several ESA-listed species, including streaked horned lark and western snowy plover. Recent invasion by nonnative species has severely degraded the habitat quality by changing the vegetation community structure and function. The primary culprit species include gorse, Scotch broom, and European beachgrass. Scattered coniferous trees throughout the site discourage use by larks and plovers, who avoid tall woody vegetation and European beachgrass. Without intensive restoration, the remaining native prairie will be lost. A separate, current restoration project in 2020 masticated mature Scotch broom and gorse on the east shore and southern tip of the project site. Follow-up herbicide treatments and native plantings will occur in 2021-2023. As part of this grant, approximately 40 acres will be burned in 2022 to remove mature European beachgrass, gorse, and Scotch broom through the majority of the site. Foliar treatments of herbicide in subsequent years will prevent recolonization. Native seed and plugs will be used sparingly, to add diversity but maintain desirable bare ground. The project is a partnership between CREST and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with logistical and technical support from the National Parks Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, North Coast Land Conservancy, and Eco Studies Institute.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The restoration proposal is thorough and well-considered. The selected approach to preserve the existing high value plant communities and remove encroaching invasives is appropriate for the site.
- West Sand Island provides a unique opportunity to restore coastal prairie, an imperiled habitat type within the region. The habitat present on the island represents some of the best available remaining examples of these rare plant communities.
- Opportunities to restore coastal prairie habitat are limited and this project could benefit numerous pollinators and streaked horned larks, as well as provide overwintering habitat for western snowy plovers.

- The application builds on a previous OWEB-funded Technical Assistance grant that produced a sound action plan for site restoration.
- The applicant addressed concerns identified in a previous application submission and presented a much clearer path of action.
- There is urgent need for this project as encroachment by invasive species on the rare plant communities continues at a rapid pace.
- The approach incorporates adaptive management to ensure continued success throughout the duration of the site preparation, planting, and maintenance.
- The applicant has developed partnerships with relevant entities interested in restoring the habitat on the island and continues to engage with local stakeholders.
- The approach is cost-effective at the scope and scale of restoration proposed.

Concerns

- Limited information is provided about how the success of the project will be tracked.
- There is limited detail on the plan to conduct burning on the island as a site preparation technique.
- The long-term sustainability of this type of restoration in the absence of natural disturbance regimes is unclear.

Concluding Analysis

Coastal prairie habitat is a priority for restoration and West Sand Island represents a unique opportunity to enhance conditions for several rare and listed plant and wildlife species. This project is a resubmittal, and the applicant clearly addressed the previous concerns around the scope and scale of the work. This approach to coastal prairie restoration is well-balanced and works with the natural systems on the island and aims to achieve realistic ecological objectives that are likely to succeed. Site preparation work on the island has already commenced and the applicant has high capacity to implement the work proposed. A newly formed Friends of West Sand Island group is engaged and committed to supporting the long-term sustainability of the restoration work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$134,636

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$134,636

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1034-19520

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Sitka Sedge Tidal Wetland Project (SSTW): Alternatives Evaluation & Preliminary Design

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$74,976

Total Cost: \$228,816

Application Description

“Sitka Sedge Tidal Wetland” project (SSTW), is a significant opportunity to improve tidal wetland function, habitat complexity, species diversity, and water quality in the Sand Lake estuary. TEP in partnership with OPRD, proposes a \$228,816 project (\$74,976 OWEB request) to evaluate dike breach and setback flood protection alternatives key to restoration of Beltz Marsh. SSTW concludes with preferred preliminary restoration design for Beltz Marsh enabling restoration of 68-acres of tidal habitat. SSTW, is a unincorporated portion of Tillamook County on Oregon’s north coast. SSTW comprises the southern extent of Sand Lake Estuary nested within the 357-acre Sitka Sedge State Natural Area (SSSNA). Tidal wetland access is a critical limiting factor in pursuit of healthy coastal watersheds. Over 70% of Oregon’s estuarine wetlands have been lost to conversion. Sand Lake loss is due to levee construction and draining that altered tidal wetland function and quality resulting in significant impact to sensitive species and habitats. Sand Lake is critical habitat for ESA threatened Oregon Coast Coho salmon (ESU) and NOAA’s recovery plan states the primary limiting factor for recovery is access to intact rearing habitat in tidal wetland. Sand Lake, one of Oregon’s least developed estuaries, is located along the Pacific Flyway, providing indispensable habitat for diverse migratory bird species. The project area supports 17 federal and/or state species of concern, nine of which are OWEB North Coast priority species. Establishing a dike alternative that provides uninhibited tidal connectivity to Beltz Marsh including comprehensive tidal wetland design is the first step in a larger project that includes upstream fish passage improvements on three salmon streams, floodplain wetland restoration, and large wood placement on Beltz and Reneke Creeks. Additionally, SSTW evaluates setback flood protection alternatives for the Tierra Del Mar community to mitigate impacts of Sea Level .

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting restoration project will restore tidal marsh habitat to the Sitka Sedge Natural Area. Estuarine habitat is a priority for restoration along the Oregon coast.
- The proposed 2D modeling will help communicate with stakeholders in the watershed and is a critical step to completing a restoration design.
- An increased understanding of the storm water interactions within the neighboring community of Tierra del Mar will improve project soundness.
- The temporal scale on which the data is proposed for collection is appropriate and relevant.

- The project engages the appropriate partners and the project manager is highly experienced with similar work.
- The design approach aims to restore natural processes by removing a portion of the Beltz dike, which is an ecologically sound and more cost-effective approach than other alternatives considered.

Concerns

- It is unclear from the application what the alternatives analysis process will be moving forward and what other alternatives were considered to the setback levee.
- The application lacks some detail on the selected alternative. More information on the location of the proposed setback levee, the degree to which the existing levee will be removed, expected levee maintenance, and expected public use would have been helpful to understand the design approach.
- The proposed construction of a setback levee has the potential to hold water and may counteract its intended purpose of flood reduction. Hydrologic modeling to date has not shown a strong need for the setback levee and has indicated the community is not at risk of flooding from reconnecting tidal hydrology to the marsh.
- The modeling does not consider potential sediment issues.
- Previous technical and modeling work has been completed for the project but is not well-summarized in the application. Information on how that work will inform this next technical phase would have been helpful in evaluating the proposal.

Concluding Analysis

The technical approach to the design work is sound and builds upon many years of community engagement and previous hydrologic modeling by project partners. The landowner, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, has committed to an ecological outcome that will restore a greater degree of tidal connectivity than other restoration alternatives previously considered. This technical assistance effort proposed is critical for continuing momentum for restoration of this high priority estuarine site.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,976

Review Team Conditions

n/a

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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1035-19537

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Tillamook Bay Watershed Coho Strategic Action Plan

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$74,971

Total Cost: \$129,159

Application Description

Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP), in cooperation with Wild Salmon Center (WSC), proposes to facilitate development of a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for Tillamook Bay Watershed. The SAP will convene regional natural resource professionals and land managers to collaborate on a detailed restoration plan addressing limiting factors related to spawning and rearing habitat for the Tillamook Bay population of Oregon Coast (OC) coho. Oregon Coast coho are a federally-listed species; their recovery is a priority for both federal (NOAA Fisheries) and state (ODFW) agencies. No coho-specific comprehensive plan incorporating both the estuary and contributing watershed exists. Loss and degradation of key habitats and ecological processes have contributed to declines in OC coho (and other salmonids) and the ecologic, economic, and cultural systems that rely upon them. Dedicated to improving and conserving these habitats and processes as a means of restoring salmon populations, TEP seeks to develop a two-phase SAP project to clarify both long-term habitat restoration priorities and to coordinate and accelerate short-term project implementation. Phase 1, presented in this application, encompasses goal setting, habitat assessments, and several data and expert-driven spatial analyses, which result in the “strategic framework”. A future Phase 2 will initiate stakeholder outreach and finalize planning process steps. Partners committed to participating: US Fish & Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, Bureau of Land Management, OR Dept of Forestry, OR Dept of Fish & Wildlife, OR Dept of Environmental Quality, The Nature Conservancy, Tillamook Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Stimson Lumber, Tillamook Creamery, Trout Unlimited and Tillamook Bay Watershed Council. OWEB funds will be used to contract WSC to facilitate SAP development and a graphic artist and document preparation specialist to assist in preparing the SAP report.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The chosen approach to strategic planning is effective and focuses on specific limiting factors to Oregon coast coho recovery.
- The applicant clearly describes the process that will be undertaken, and the proposal indicates that the cost and effort necessary to produce the deliverables is well-understood.
- The products from other similar planning processes along the coast have been high quality and useful for restoration practitioners focused on Oregon coast coho recovery.
- The selected consultant is highly qualified and experienced with similar planning efforts in the Nehalem, Siletz, Siuslaw, Elk, Umpqua, and Rogue rivers.

- Preliminary stakeholder engagement has already occurred, and an appropriate assemblage of partners are interested in participating in the planning process.
- The two-phased approach outlined in the application is appropriate given the expected level of detail to be included in the strategic action plan.

Concerns

- The application is unclear as to whether the proposed phase of the project will result in a Strategic Action Plan.
- The project may result in generating a need for more stakeholder engagement work and not immediately result in restoration.
- The original Coho Business Plan applicant has had challenges meeting deliverables of past grants.
- The cost for the SAP is high given that another phase will be necessary to complete the SAP. Similar single-species strategic planning efforts on the coast have recently been completed for significantly less cost.
- The cost for the graphic designer for the document seems high and it is unclear why a graphic designer is included at this phase of the project given that another phase is necessary to produce the final document.

Concluding Analysis

The Tillamook Bay watershed would greatly benefit from the development of a strategic action plan for Oregon coast coho salmon. The planning process selected will serve as a catalyst for engaging partners in the watershed around coho recovery and is likely to produce a useful document for restoration planning. While the past similar “Coho Business Plan” efforts have been slow to produce deliverables, the partnership approach taken by this application may help to broaden responsibilities around the planning process and lead to a successful outcome.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,971

Review Team Conditions

n/a

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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1036-19539

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: North Coast Watershed Councils
Restoration Assistance 2021

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds
Council

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$73,240

Total Cost: \$91,749

Application Description

Since 2012, a coalition of North Coast watershed councils has collaborated to increase the collective number of grant applications submitted for restoration projects. This coalition encompasses watersheds from Nicolai-Wickiup on the lower Columbia River all the way south to Neskowin Creek, all of which are within Clatsop and Tillamook Counties. This proposal is intended to continue this very successful collaboration. With the assistance of OWEB funding, these councils share the resources of a highly qualified consultant for pre-project field work, project design solicitation, proposal drafting, and contract preparation. Each Council's needs are similar, so sharing the services of a highly qualified contractor effectively leverages each organization's ability to secure funding and move high-priority projects forward. This has resulted in a proven model that takes advantage of economies of scale with only one contract. Partners US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) support this program, seeing the value in hiring a "third arm" for the participating Councils. The partners increase that value by providing additional match. This cooperative effort has demonstrated the efficiencies that can be created by sharing resources among Councils, and it is more important than ever considering the ongoing reductions in ODFW and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) staffing and budgets. The best way to maintain or increase restoration is to find efficiencies through contracting. Participating councils include: North Coast Watershed Association (NCWA), Necanicum Watershed Council (NWC), Lower Nehalem Watershed Council (LNWC) and Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watersheds Council (NNSL). Deliverables include 8 submitted grant applications.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal is clear and identifies watershed limiting factors and solutions.
- The deliverables expected from the technical assistance work are clearly identified and quantified.
- The project has a long track record of success and has shown to be a model of collaboration for the region.
- Resulting restoration projects developed through previous iterations of this project have been technically sound and of high quality.
- Engaging a technical provider long-term who is knowledgeable in the region continues to help provide support and consistency during organizational staff transitions.

- The approach to collaboration around technical assistance is cost-effective.

Concerns

- No significant concerns are identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a continuation of a long-running technical assistance effort that serves multiple watershed councils in the north coast. The quantity and quality of successful projects developed through this effort have been impressive. Resulting restoration projects target limiting factors within the watersheds encompassed by the work and often build on previously implemented work. This project has a high likelihood of success with an engaged technical provider continuing to deliver collaboration and consistency to the partnering organizations.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$73,240

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$73,240

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1037-19603

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Siletz Tribe's Lower Fivemile Wetlands Restoration Planning_CLONE

Applicant: Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Region: North Coast

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$60,555

Total Cost: \$85,035

Application Description

The Lower Fivemile Wetlands property, herein after referred to as the Property, was purchased in 2015 with OWEB funding. OWEB holds a conservation easement on the Property. The occurrence of the property's conservation status has created a unique opportunity to retain (in perpetuity) diverse aquatic habitats that will continue to assist with conservation of one of the most productive salmonid rearing watersheds in the state of Oregon. More broadly, the conservation status of the 125 acre Property will continue to contribute to the basin-wide conservation complex composed of additional Tribal lands (6,500 acres with 17 miles of lake shoreline) and additional USFS Fivemile-Bell Landscape Management Project properties (5,000 acres). The Property is located in Douglas County and is the first private property located upstream of Tahkenitch Lake on Fivemile Creek (43°49'35.17"N 124° 3'48.47"W). The forest properties immediately upland of the Property to the East and West are owned and managed by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI). The Tribe completed a management Plan that was approved by OWEB this past year (see Appendix 2). The main purpose of the project is to carry out an assessment of existing conditions specific to the seasonal hydrology and the marsh surface and channel flow path elevation patterns. This work will then be used to generate a 2D model to allow for consideration of regrading of the marsh's surface, relocation of the channel network, and development of site appropriate plant community restoration objectives. Project tasks include seasonal water table assessment, Geomorphic Grade Line Modeling (Powers et al; River Res. Applic. 2018;1–11; John Wiley and Sons; A process-based approach to restoring depositional river valleys to Stage 0, an anastomosing channel network), and plant community restoration design. Project partners include CTSI, USFS Siuslaw National Forest, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes the need for the technical assistance work.
- The scale of the restoration work will be landscape-level. The project site is adjacent to the Fivemile-Bell restoration project and the proposed work will have outsized ecological benefits because of this connectivity.
- The project builds on previous conservation investments. The lower Fivemile site is in tribal ownership and was purchased in part with an OWEB Acquisition grant. The work proposed is consistent with the draft management plan for the property.
- The landowner is considering levee removal which is likely to have a high benefit to aquatic habitat.

- The partners involved with the project are experienced, highly qualified, and have the capacity to complete the proposed work.

Concerns

- The reed canary grass infestation on the property is significant and it will be challenging to develop effective site preparation techniques. More information on design alternatives in the application related to the reed canary grass would have been beneficial.
- The restoration design will need to consider sediment transport before proceeding along a design pathway, and the application is limited on detail in how this will be assessed.
- The future conditions at the site are challenging to design for, given the expected continued water fluctuations driven by the downstream lake levels affecting site hydrology.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance proposal represents an important opportunity to continue watershed-level work in a priority location that addresses key limiting factors for Oregon coast coho salmon and other fish and wildlife. The plan to pursue a process-based approach is technically sound for the site and the assembled team of partners is among the most highly qualified in the Pacific Northwest to design and implement this type of restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$60,555

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$60,555

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1038-19604

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Tongue Point Restoration Designs

Applicant: CREST

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$29,387

Total Cost: \$41,939

Application Description

The South Tongue Point Restoration project is located on the Columbia River's Cathlamet Bay on the edge of the town of Astoria, Oregon. Located just south of the Tongue Point port, the site is part of a landform that was built up out of the river with dredge spoils in the 1940s-1950s during the ship building boom. That landform buried natural channel and bank habitat, and was constructed with a simplified structure that offers limited aquatic habitat for ESA-listed salmonids and other aquatic species of interest. The project's location - adjacent to the outlets of two salmon-bearing streams (Mill Creek and John Day River) - means that holding sites for spawning salmonids and rearing/feeding sites for juvenile salmonids would be particularly valuable and likely highly utilized. This project will excavate tidal channel complexes into the site's interior from the eastern and southern shores and grade channel banks to maximize aquatic food webs. The project will provide rearing and feeding habitat for ESA-listed salmonid species in addition to numerous other aquatic species, and will provide macrodetritus and food resource inputs to the Columbia River Estuary. Channel formation will include the placement of slash and large woody debris, further enhancing food web productivity. Following excavation, the site will be revegetated with a diverse mix of native species that includes high structural diversity. CREST is working closely with the soon-to-be landowner (Clatsop Community College), who plans to use the site as a living laboratory for their nascent Environmental Studies program. CREST is also working with Columbia Land Trust, which led the acquisition of the site from the Department of State Lands and the transfer to the College with an appropriate easement. The design and engineering consultant for conceptual design and alternative analysis is Stillwater Sciences, and Stillwater will likely conduct the full design process.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The need for the project is clearly articulated within the application.
- The conceptual design is technically sound.
- The partnership surrounding the project is cohesive and the involvement of the Clatsop Community College will generate additional outreach benefits within the community.
- The applicant is highly experienced with this type of project and has a proven track record of success.
- The cost of the technical assistance work is reasonable for the proposed phase of design.
- A successful design and restoration effort at South Tongue Point could inform future work addressing dredge spoil locations.

- The project builds on previous conservation investments with acquisition of the site funded by a USFWS Coastal Wetlands grant.

Concerns

- The application is unclear about the distinct acreage that is involved with this design effort.
- There is potential for contaminants to be present at this site due to the many years of accumulated dredge spoils, and the application does not address this design consideration in a substantive way. No contingencies are provided for the potential discovery of contaminants.
- The resulting restoration project may be prohibitively expensive for the expected ecological benefit.

Concluding Analysis

The project provides opportunity to develop a restoration design that increases ecological benefit on a priority site within the Youngs Bay estuary. The application, however, does not consider potential contaminant concerns for this location. The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment conducted for the purposes of the initial land acquisition identified contaminants as a concern and recommended testing prior to any ground disturbance. Sediment testing is not identified within this application and it is recommended that it be included at this stage of design or addressed with a discussion within the narrative. Contingencies for other design alternatives should be identified if contaminants are discovered during the planning 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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1039-19616

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Clatskanie Floodplain-Confluence Strategy

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$59,400

Total Cost: \$77,400

Application Description

The project area is located along Keystone Creek tributary-confluence area of the lower Clatskanie Floodplain area (approximately RM 5-6). Spanning 2 river miles, these areas represent the intersection of low gradient tributary systems with the broader floodplain of mainstem Clatskanie river. This proposal seeks technical assistance to better understand broader hydro-geomorphic processes supportive of habitat restoration and flood hazard mitigation opportunities identified along this reach. A multi-partner working group will be established to scope and solicit technical services for organizing these opportunities into a coherent strategy for future project design and implementation. Services will include design support for selected projects to be used for initial permitting needs and implementation applications for funding. This effort expands upon geomorphic assessment information being conducted by local partners and completed projects in the area. Resources will be dedicated to collecting additional topographic and hydrologic information to understand range of hydrologic patterns for determining relative benefit and risk of existing opportunities. Project partners include private landowners, Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District, Columbia County Public Works department.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location is identified through the watershed council's strategic action planning process.
- The technical assistance work may help prioritize future restoration work within the Clatskanie floodplain.
- The appropriate partners are engaged with the project.

Concerns

- The deliverables of the technical assistance work are unclear. It is unknown whether the work will result in future technical assistance requests or serve to facilitate restoration projects.
- The stated deliverables and products developed through the technical assistance work do not align with the proposed budget. The budget may not reflect the resources required to complete the work.
- There is no map provided within the application that clearly demonstrates what the geography of the technical assistance work will be.

- The scope of the project described in the application is unclear and provides limited detail. The project aims to complete a body of work at very different scales. It will be challenging to complete both conceptual designs for a specific location but also broader landscape planning for an unidentified geography.

Concluding Analysis

The project will endeavor to continue restoration in the Clatskanie floodplain, a priority location for addressing limiting factors for several listed fish species. Previous work has been done in the area and this work will build on those efforts. The application, however, is lacking key detail around what deliverables can be expected and where the project will take place. From the information provided, it is challenging to understand how the products can be distilled into a manageable scope for a technical assistance provider. The application narrative indicates there are willing landowners already on board to implement restoration on their properties, but those properties are not described clearly in the materials submitted. Separate projects to pursue these specific landowner sites may be more effective than combining them with an overarching technical assistance effort that may detract from accomplishing an effective design for those sites.

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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1040-19617

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Page Creek, Fish Passage and Habitat Complexity Design_3

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$56,100

Total Cost: \$71,100

Application Description

The proposal solicits resources to expound upon the success of previous restoration efforts to maximize the ecological potential of the Page Creek subwatershed in the Clatskanie Basin (RM 8.8). Funds will be used to procure technical services related to removal of the final fish barrier 2 miles from its confluence with the Clatskanie river. This will re-establish access to 1 mile of spawning habitat. Scope of effort also includes design elements that contribute to instream habitat complexity. Pre-design information in the form of topographic and geotechnical surveys will inform existing condition as well and serve as a platform for developing design alternatives. Technical services will also include geomorphic, hydrologic and hydraulic investigation as part of alternative analysis conducted in collaboration with Technical Advisory Committee. Information will be important to determining the type of structure required that is consistent with underlying geology while maximizing needs for migrating fish populations. Design sets for preferred alternative will be developed to level of detail necessary to engaging feedback from regulatory community and along with preliminary cost estimates. This feedback will be important to scoping final design process, regulatory requirements and implementation proposals. Selected firm will work collaboratively with the watershed council and project partners to developing design concepts that will be sustainable in light of elevated coastal storm events from climate change.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Clatskanie basin is identified as a high priority for habitat restoration by ODFW for lower Columbia fish species.
- The proposed technical assistance work will lead to the replacement of the last remaining barrier on Page Creek and complement previous fish passage investments downstream.
- The landowner is highly supportive and engaged in the project.
- Technical assistance work upfront is important for a successful restoration project at this site. The culvert is in a stream reach with a steep gradient and replacement of the structure may be complex. The geotechnical work will be important to ensure the technical soundness of the design approach.

Concerns

- The application provides limited detail on the overall importance of Page Creek relative to fish populations in the watershed.

- There is no clear plan to move this project from technical assistance work to restoration with only 30% designs proposed.
- The cost for technical work may be high for only achieving 30% designs.
- A significant portion of the budget is directed toward assessments. Directing these funds toward design instead may produce a higher level of design.
- The project would benefit from more partnerships, including with ODFW and other organizations conducting strategic fish passage restoration in the Columbia County.

Concluding Analysis

The technical assistance project is a resubmittal and several previous concerns with the project continue to be unresolved. The site is complex and likely to need additional design work beyond what is proposed, but a pathway to bring the designs up to a permitting or implementation level is still not described. There are still questions as to why the project location is a priority for the overall watershed as the application lacks details on fish populations in Page Creek itself. Since other strategic fish passage efforts in the area have not identified this location as a priority, the proposed project may be more of an opportunistic effort that is not likely to produce significant ecological benefit.

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-2021 Spring Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1041-19638

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Big Creek Watershed Forest Resource Assessment

Applicant: City of Newport

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$49,445

Total Cost: \$66,245

Application Description

The City of Newport owns a substantial amount of property in and around its municipal raw water storage reservoirs in the Big Creek Watershed, which is partially within and just east of the city limits. These lands were purchased to address the City's domestic water supply needs and they have significant habitat value. The Greater Newport Vision 2040 encourages watershed conservation and habitat protection/restoration through strategic partnerships (Strategy B6) and the City's Comprehensive Plan calls for acquisition of land within the watershed when available or necessary to protect water quality (Water Policy 4, Public Facilities Element). While the City controls a significant amount of property within the watershed, it does not have a plan for how those lands should be managed nor has it taken steps to identify how best to prioritize future acquisitions. This forest resource assessment will address both of these needs by (a) assessing the forest resources on public and private lands within the Big Creek Watershed; and (b) identifying management strategies for publicly owned lands that achieve high quality habitat and improve water quality; and (c) developing a strategic action plan to inform implementation of management strategies and future land purchases; and (d) conducting outreach to landowners in the watershed to develop relationships and a mutual understanding of short- and long-term property management goals. A consulting forester will be hired to conduct a timber inventory on public lands and develop a high-level strategic forest management plan within the watershed. Findings and recommendations will be vetted with key stakeholders and agency topic area experts. Information related to the City's plans for rebuilding the reservoir will be factored into the plan as well. Project partners include the Oregon Coast Community Forest Association, Oregon State University Extension Services, Sustainable Northwest, area landowners, and partner agencies.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project approach is proactive and indicates the City is committed to water quality and watershed health in the Big Creek watershed.
- The technical assistance work adopts a whole watershed approach that will provide information to help land managers protect public drinking water as well as fish and wildlife habitat.
- The plan for the survey work is appropriate for the parameters of interest. It looks at other forest attributes beyond solely timber.
- The proposed timber inventories will be helpful to understand future restoration opportunities.

- The project team has an effective partnership with many community stakeholders represented.
- The work is cost-effective for the expected ecological benefit.

Concerns

- Opportunities for fish habitat restoration are limited due to the presence of the Big Creek dam blocking fish access to the project area.
- The application would benefit from more detail on the other types of natural resource assessments that will be accomplished beyond timber inventories.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed technical assistance work will help inform critical land management decisions by the City of Newport. The City emphasizes its commitment to managing the property for watershed health throughout the application narrative and indicates a desire to expand City ownership in the watershed. The assessment work and deliverables completed with this project will allow for an informed process for partners to expand conservation opportunities in the watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,445

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

b/a

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1043-19493

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: TEP 2021 Bacteria Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$87,404

Total Cost: \$127,940

Application Description Bacteria concentrations in many streams, bays, and beaches in Tillamook County are at levels that exceed the State standards for recreational contact and shellfish harvest. These waterbodies usually occur lower in the watersheds and are associated with urban and agricultural landscapes. DEQ developed three Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in the north coast of Oregon to address this problem: the North Coast Subbasins, Tillamook Bay Watershed, and Nestucca Bay Watershed.

Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) monitors E. coli and enterococcus bacteria concentrations in Tillamook County as a part of its Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program (VWQMP). The goal of the VWQMP is to evaluate the status and trends for bacteria levels in the streams, sloughs and bays throughout Tillamook County. The ongoing monitoring effort includes 73 sites throughout Tillamook County.

TEP uses citizen scientist volunteers to collect water sample at established monitoring locations throughout Tillamook County. Approximately eight volunteers collect water samples for TEP twice a month on a year-round basis. VWQMP water samples are brought to the TEP office where they are processed and analyzed for bacteria using IDEXX equipment and methods.

Sample results are recorded by TEP staff and entered into an online database. Recent results are available to the public through an interactive map on TEP's website. Every two years, TEP compiles, formats, and rates all data per DEQ protocols for accuracy. Bacteria data are forwarded to DEQ, which compares the most recent two years' of data to the appropriate State water quality standards to determine the status of the streams, sloughs, and bays. DEQ also performs regression analysis for each site to determine if statistically significant changes (trends) in bacteria concentrations are present. TEP and DEQ use this information to inform partners and the general public about water quality improvements.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This monitoring project will leverage the historic bacteria data the applicant has collected since 1997

to understand bacteria trends.

- The applicant will continue to follow professionally approved sampling methods to collect the water samples.
- The applicant will work with DEQ to perform the trend analysis.
- The applicant will make the data immediately available on their website so that the data are accessible to the public and other interested parties.
- The applicant will submit their data to DEQ to be incorporated into the statewide water quality database.
- The applicant will write a two-year summary report to identify trends at the different sites.
- The applicant performs outreach to communicate the results to local watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts through a variety of venues.
- The applicant is experienced at collecting these data, with an established history of collecting and reporting this information over many years.
- The costs proposed in the application are appropriate for the work necessary over two years and include staff time and supplies and materials needed for sample processing.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The applicant does not describe how this project complements other current or planned water quality monitoring efforts across the watersheds being monitored.
- The application does not include monitoring questions, which makes it difficult to review the application relative to specific evaluation criteria.
- The Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) referenced in the application is outdated from 2002 and does not include the majority of the sites in the application. It also lacks a description of the QA/QC procedures for processing water samples at the applicant organization's office for presence of E. coli and enterococcus.
- While the applicant proposes to use approved methods, the application does not describe the methods, or the QA/QC procedures followed to process water samples for presence of E. coli and enterococcus at their office. The study design generally explains where sites are located within the impaired listing locations but does not explain how the sites are distributed across the watershed and into the estuaries.
- The design also does not describe the sampling frequency or provide a justification about why water samples should be collected twice a month, 12 months a year. This information would justify need for this intensity of sampling, given the extensive data record that already exists.
- The application does not provide a description of QA/QC procedures to train and oversee the volunteers that collect the water samples and transport them to the applicant's office for sample processing.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendations

Require applicant to write a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and have it approved by DEQ to reflect current sampling sites and the lab procedures that will be used to handle and process water samples.

Ensure consistent submittal of data to DEQ every two years.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is a long-term monitoring effort that has amassed a valuable data set that is utilized by restoration practitioners in the Tillamook Bay watershed.
- Monitoring techniques approved by DEQ will be used.
- Data collected from the project is used to validate the success of restoration projects and prioritize locations for additional work.
- The applicant has a long history of success with this type of work.
- The project exhibits a model of collaboration with citizen scientists that continues to be successful.
- The quality of the data is consistent.
- The project thoroughly spans a large geography and is cost-effective for the scope and scale of the project.

Concerns

- The overarching goals of the ongoing monitoring effort are not well-described in the application.
- It is unclear how the work fits in with the current EPA monitoring.
- The applicant organization has experienced a high rate of staff turnover that could impact capacity for the proposed work.

Concluding Analysis

This long-running bacteria monitoring project in the Tillamook watershed has continually produced high quality data used by restoration practitioners and other community stakeholders to track water quality. The application would have benefited from more details on the long-term vision for the work and how the project directly connects to future restoration. The extensive track record of restoration success in the watershed indicates the monitoring work is likely to continue to providing critical data to inform restoration planning.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$87,404

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$87,404

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1044-19511

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: 2021-2022 Continuing Columbia SWCD Water Quality Monitoring Program

Applicant: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$25,094

Total Cost: \$47,594

Application Description The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP), the Columbia SWCD and partners request \$25,094 to continue water quality monitoring in four key subbasins in Columbia County. We have been collecting these data since 2017, and this grant will support the FIFTH AND FINAL YEAR of planned data collection. Monitored watersheds include: Clatskanie River and Beaver Creek, which drain to the lower Columbia River (LCR) and Scappoose and Milton Creeks which drain into the Multnomah Channel and then to the LCR. These important watersheds provide spawning, rearing and refugia habitat for state and federally listed threatened species of salmon and steelhead. The LCR Conservation and Recovery Plan lists degraded water quality- elevated temperatures and excessive fine sediments- as limiting factors to coho, Chinook, steelhead and chum species using these watersheds. This project will collect and analyze comprehensive and scientifically sound water quality data that will be used to fill data gaps, build a dataset that provides an understanding of ambient conditions and potential problems. This understanding will allow us to address limiting factors to improve watershed conditions.

This project will build on existing data from 2008-2010 (Scappoose/Milton) and 2017-2020 (all subbasins) and collect samples in discrete upper and lower watershed locations to measure bacteria, temperature, turbidity, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and pH. Results will be used to analyze watershed status and trends, detect changes, identify water quality issues and potential sources, and determine priority stream reaches for restoration. We will produce a water quality report, and information will be distributed to Columbia SWCD's community members to educate and engage them in conservation, restoration, and best management practices. Project partners include: Columbia SWCD, Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, Scappoose Bay Watershed Council, and Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application references several plans to identify the need for ongoing data collection in water quality impaired waterbodies.
- The application describes the existing water quality data collected with OWEB and DEQ funding, including a single ambient water quality site that DEQ maintains. The study design complements the existing data and monitoring sites.
- The applicant will collect water quality data year-round and the sampling sites are distributed across various land uses in the watersheds.
- The applicant will follow professionally accepted methods and has an updated and approved sampling and analysis plan with DEQ.
- The applicant will submit the water quality data to DEQ and make the data available to the public by producing an annual report and posting it on multiple websites.
- Staff from the applicant organization who are working on this project have technical experience collecting and reporting water quality data and have provided high quality work on past monitoring.
- The applicant has communicated in the past with DEQ to obtain technical assistance for this monitoring project.
- The applicant is working with the local SWCD and watershed councils to communicate the results to community stakeholders and landowners.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- While the application notes the importance of fish habitat in this area, the application does not mention if fish and habitat data are being collected in these watersheds by other partners and if and/or how the proposed water quality data can complement those efforts.
- The trend analysis could benefit from more than 5 years of data being collected.
- The application did not clearly describe the analysis procedures needed to answer the following questions: "Do water quality trends relate to land-use patterns, riparian stream shade, or known watershed issues? What are the mitigation measures that can be recommended?"
- The current SAP does not include the discrete water quality parameters that the application proposes to measure.
- The budget did not include maintenance of monitoring equipment for discrete water quality parameter measurements.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

Coordinate with DEQ to update the SAP to include the discrete water quality parameters.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on previous status and trend monitoring in the lower Columbia River watershed and represents the fifth year of ongoing monitoring work. Previous years of data collection have resulted in a quality dataset.

- The proposed monitoring work fills a known data gap and is one of the only water quality monitoring efforts occurring in the area.
- Summer sampling is proposed to be increased, which is an appropriate change based on the long-term trends identified to date. This will also allow for secondary analysis of the information.
- The partnership around the data collection is cohesive and represents many stakeholders in the county. The involvement of a multi-faceted team in the work has increased the quality and cost-efficiency of the information collected.
- The project team has a long track record of running successful monitoring projects.
- The lab identified for bacteria analysis is experienced and produces high quality work.
- Combining some of the monitoring sites as proposed demonstrates increased efficiency and adaptive management.

Concerns

- Enhanced collaboration with DEQ on data analysis would benefit the project.
- The proposed frequency of the turbidity and dissolved oxygen data collected may not fully characterize the status and trend of these water quality parameters.
- The plan for turbidity monitoring is unclear in the application, with both summer and year-round mentioned as possibilities.

Concluding Analysis

The monitoring effort is backed by an effective partnership in Columbia County and has produced high quality data to date that is utilized by watershed and community stakeholders. The project team continues to be adaptive with the monitoring design, as evidenced by plans to consolidate some of the monitoring sites and increase or decrease sampling as needed to better capture watershed trends. This effort is described in the application as the last and final year of a five-year effort, although the applicant is encouraged to consider continuing the monitoring for an additional three years to meet an eight year long-term dataset threshold important for a status and trends analysis.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$25,094

Review Team Conditions

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

n/a

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$25,094

Staff Conditions

n/a

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1045-19595

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Coho Response to Beaver Dam Analogues

Applicant: Upper Nehalem WC

Region: North Coast

County: Washington

OWEB Request: \$91,278

Total Cost: \$115,678

Application Description 1) The Pilot Beaver Dam Analog Pilot Study project is located in the upper Nehalem watershed on public lands managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry and private lands managed by OSU Blogett Tract and Olympic Resource Management. See attached Maps depicting BDA locations.

2) The project needs to gain funding support to continue long-term landscape scale effectiveness monitoring of the BDA Pilot Study project to determine their effectiveness in creating critical over-winter rearing habitat for ESA-listed OC Coho Salmon on the Oregon Coast. The BDAs have been implemented and 3 years of monitoring have been completed, funding is needed for 7 additional years to complete the study.

3) The field work includes biological survey by RBA summer / winter snorkel surveys for juvenile presence to compare changes in over winter retention rates at each site (27) and physical attribute survey to measure effects of BDA design on beaver response and channel form at each site (57).

4) Project partners WSC, NOAA, ODF, ODFW, UNWC, Olympic Resource Management, OSU Blodgett Tract, and Trask Consulting

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application will build on initial monitoring efforts and would provide longer term data important to understanding the physical and biological outcomes of BDAs and the strengths and weaknesses of various designs and sites for placement.
- The restoration project being monitored and the data collected will inform a key limiting factor for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon, as previously specified in existing data and assessments.
- Monitoring overwinter Coho abundance and distribution is a reasonable approach to address the variability in adult returns from year to year.
- The consultants collecting the fish abundance and distribution data will be consistent throughout the project and have extensive experience doing this work.

- The applicant worked with NOAA and state resource agencies to develop the restoration and effectiveness monitoring study design.
- The applicant will share the project reports on their website and provide it to the partners involved, including state and federal agencies, timber companies, and other watershed councils and SWCDs in the area.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application proposes to produce exportable BDA designs to other coastal watersheds, but it was not clear if the characteristics of this watershed--where these designs are being piloted--can be applied to the diverse hydrologic and sediment conditions seen across the coast.
- The application did not provide a clear path to answer all of the monitoring questions or describe how the specified objectives link to each monitoring question listed in the study design section of the application.
- The application did not describe the data collection methods and analysis for all the parameters and objectives. It was not clear how “successful” BDAs would be determined.
- The application did not describe how fish passage will be monitored, yet this was described as a “success metric” in the study design.
- The description of quality assurance and quality control was somewhat limited and did not go into detail about what quality control measures were in place. This information is important to ensure repeatability, given the surveying needed to understand changes over time with sediment aggradation and other surface area and elevation related data.
- The applicant’s approach may over-estimate juvenile rearing capacity by simply applying a constant multiplier to the measured surface water area.
- It was not clear how NOAA and other technical staff with expertise about beaver are involved in the analysis of the data to inform future project development.
- The application lacks detail about how outreach will occur more broadly to reach restoration practitioners across the coastal watersheds. There is a brief mention of a BDA workshop in the project schedule table to occur in 2024 and in the budget narrative. The application, however, does not describe additional details that explain how this workshop will be planned and if adequate resources are budgeted for the event relative to its scope.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Monitoring beaver dam analogues (BDAs) will provide valuable information to assist with planning restoration projects that implement this technique.
- The applicant has a proven track record of implementing and managing projects in the Nehalem watershed.

Concerns

- The application lacks details needed to understand and evaluate the project.
- It may not be feasible to extrapolate results to other areas of the state with the selected monitoring design.
- A link to the limiting factors density model described in objective 4 in the application would have been helpful to understand the approach.
- It is unclear if the selected approach will effectively assess the efficacy of BDAs.
- There is a lack of detail in the proposal on metrics to be monitored, raising questions about the usefulness of the products that will be developed to measure success.
- The data collected and monitoring results have a high potential to be subjective with the monitoring techniques employed.
- There is an unclear connection between the objectives and monitoring questions described in the application.
- The applicant may have limited capacity for the proposed monitoring.
- The timeline stated in the application is confusing and there are inconsistencies between the timeline table and the narrative.

Concluding Analysis

Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs) are growing in popularity as a restoration technique throughout the state and monitoring their efficacy in a watershed where they are commonly utilized could provide helpful information. However, the application is limited in detail regarding data collection methods and analysis of the parameters. There is no description related to how success would be determined for BDAs nor how some of the chosen metrics would be monitored. There is a partnership with engaged stakeholders interested in this type of monitoring effort, but limited information as to how the technical experts would be engaged in the eventual data analysis or how the data would be used to inform future project development. The information contained in the application is not sufficient to evaluate likelihood of project 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-2021 Spring Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 221-1046-19613

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Echo Mountain Fire and Ocean
Tributaries Water Quality Surveillance

Applicant: Salmon Drift Cr WC

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$37,767

Total Cost: \$81,130

Application Description Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council (SDCWC) proposes collecting continuous dissolved oxygen and temperature data in a paired watershed.

Panther Creek was heavily impacted by the Echo Mountain Fire Complex in September 2020. Bear Creek also a tributary of the Salmon River was unaffected and is of similar size and landuse and will serve as a comparison.

In addition, we propose an extension of a baseline data collection of understudied ocean tributaries. Project will focus on Agnes, Baldy, and Logan Creeks in Lincoln City. Project addresses the need to better understand current water quality of these systems as they relate to federal and state water quality standards, including those directly related to salmonid life cycles.

Notably, our work has a statewide and international interest. Streams monitored discharge directly into the Cascade Head Marine Reserve and/or Protected Areas. These state designations are similarly also within the recently reauthorized UNESCO Cascade Head Biosphere Reserve.

Water quality data to be collected will include physical parameters of flow, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, temperature, and turbidity along with biological parameter of bacteria as indicator of fecal contamination. Data acquisition will include both routine and storm sampling to best characterize these lesser understood and potentially ecologically under-valued watersheds.

Data will be used to determine impairments, prioritize future restorations for anadromous fish migration, and be of value to recreational users of area beaches and harvesters of shellfish. In addition, the program addresses the need of additional outreach as we partner with a wider demographic of society, specifically local youth, to achieve our water quality monitoring objectives. Project partners include Oregon DEQ, Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, Career Tech, Robertson Environmental, and the City of Lincoln City.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the previous monitoring efforts in the streams where monitoring is proposed.

- The applicant has a DEQ approved sampling and analysis plan (SAP) and will update this document to include new project elements proposed in this application.
- The applicant will utilize Swim Guide to make the bacteria data available to the public in a timely manner.
- The applicant plans to submit the water quality data for upload to the DEQ database, and a final report will be written and made available to the public by posting this online.
- The applicant has experience collecting and reporting similar data and the capacity to implement this project as proposed.
- The applicant will work with community members and the local high school to recruit volunteers to participate in collecting and analyzing this water quality data.
- The costs are appropriate to support the proposed monitoring project and the applicant is leveraging several sources of funding to analyze the water samples for presence of bacteria and provide a variety of monitoring equipment.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application is difficult to follow, given that the applicant is combining two different monitoring efforts into one application.
- The application does not pose the monitoring questions in the objectives. Rather, it describes two broad monitoring questions in the problem statement, which makes it difficult to understand how monitoring questions pertain to objectives and apply the evaluation criteria.
- The study design also is difficult to follow. For example, the application includes an objective to measure streamflow, but it is not clear why these data are being collected and how they will be used to interpret the water quality data.
- The proposed parameters to be monitored to understand the fire's effects on water quality are not well described. For example, there is not a clear explanation about why turbidity is not proposed to be monitored.
- There is no monitoring question stated regarding storm sampling, and the application does not clarify if storm sampling will be done to measure fire effects in Bear and Panther Creeks.
- The application does not describe the methods or the QA/QC procedures they plan to follow to process water samples for presence of bacteria. The DEQ approved SAP states that these samples will be processed by the Surfrider and Blue Water Task Force lab.
- The application did not include a description about how the data will be analyzed to answer the two broad questions stated in the problem statement.
- The study design does not describe how the sampling frequency will address the project's monitoring questions.
- The application does not describe how the data will be interpreted and applied to inform future restoration projects.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation Strengths

- The monitoring effort fills a data gap by collecting data on smaller tributaries directly connected to the ocean.
- There is an opportunity to collect dissolved oxygen and other data from fire-impacted areas.
- The staff is very experienced with this type of monitoring and brings a track record of success.
- The in-house analysis provides an element of cost-effectiveness to the proposed project.

Concerns

- The proposal lacks clarity and details needed to understand and evaluate the project.
- Monitoring questions are not paired with the objectives.
- A more defined plan for bacteria monitoring would be helpful, including how the data will be utilized and communicated out to stakeholders.
- Details are lacking on some of the proposed methods and quality assurance and control procedures that will be followed.
- Targeted post-storm monitoring is not planned, which may be helpful in meeting the monitoring objectives of the proposal.
- There is no information on why flow data will be gathered.
- A larger group of partners with research experience may be needed to help with the data analysis.

Concluding Analysis

The project will benefit the community by addressing water quality in both direct ocean tributaries and fire-impacted areas and builds on partnerships cultivated by the applicant over many years of successful monitoring work. This monitoring application combines two different monitoring efforts with separate objectives and questions into one proposal without an explanation on how these efforts are related and will effectively be paired to inform future restoration projects.

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

- Partnerships are strong and ODFW has committed to both supporting this project and addressing the downstream barrier.
- The applicant has a proven track record implementing similar projects.
- The project is cost-effective for the expected ecological benefit.

Concerns

- The application would have benefited from a more thorough discussion of alternatives that were considered.
- The ecological benefit of this project is dependent on addressing the downstream fish passage barrier.
- According to the lower Columbia River Recovery Plan, the proposed restoration location may not be a high priority for contributing to recovery goals.
- There may be permitting costs that are not accounted for in the budget and project management time.

Concluding Analysis

The project is part of a multi-phased effort to improve fish passage at an ODFW hatchery. Restoring passage at this location with the construction of the proposed roughened channel will provide immediate benefits to wild fish and lamprey and eliminate the need to extensively transport wild fish past the hatchery facilities. The overall ecological benefit of this project is closely tied to the future replacement of another barrier associated with the hatchery downstream and the application includes evidence from ODFW indicating a commitment to address this downstream barrier. The partnership behind the project has strong technical and permitting expertise which leads to a high likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$274,078

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$274,078

Staff Conditions

N/A

South Coast - Region 2 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2021

- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 2 Cities
- Region 2 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 2 Boundary



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HARNEY BASIN
 County of Crook, State of Oregon
 Oregon GEO, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS
 Sources: Esri, USGS, Esri, USGS

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon Restoration					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-2038	Coos Watershed Association	Kentuck Creek Habitat Complexity and Stream Remeander Project	Stream channel re-meandering combined with streamside fencing and planting will help improve water quality and instream rearing habitat for salmon on Kentuck Creek, a tributary that drains to the Coos Estuary.	539,627	Coos
221-2030	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	West Fork Evans Creek Tributaries Enhancement Project	Large wood structures will be placed in Rock, Battle, and Salt Creeks, tributaries of the West Fork of Evans Creek, to improve spawning and rearing habitat for adult and juvenile salmon.	262,611	Jackson
221-2029	Coos SWCD	North Bank Working Landscape & Tidal Channel Restoration	A failing tide gate in the lower mainstem Coquille River will be replaced to restore fish passage and improve water quality and tidal floodplain habitat for over-wintering juvenile salmon.	372,664	Coos
221-2034	Elk Creek WC	Parker Creek Instream Restoration	Large wood structures will be placed over a two mile section of Parker Creek, a tributary to Elk Creek near Elkton, to improve instream habitat conditions for salmon spawning and rearing.	155,341	Douglas
221-2036	Coquille Watershed Association	Whole Watershed Restoration for the Dement Creek Subbasin	Stream conditions will be improved throughout the Dement Creek basin by implementing prioritized restoration actions, including constructing instream large wood structures, installing fence, and planting streamside areas to improve habitat conditions and water quality for salmon.	761,218	Coos
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				2,091,461	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-2035	Curry SWCD	Crook Creek Restoration Enhancement	Stream conditions will be improved on Crook Creek, a tributary to the Pistol River estuary, by widening the existing streamside plant buffers, replacing an existing undersized road crossing, and placing large wood structures instream to add habitat complexity for native fish.	93,389	Curry
221-2028	Elk Creek WC	Ellenburg Creek Instream Restoration (2021)	Natural stream functions will be restored on Ellenburg Creek, located in the Elk Creek watershed, by placing large wood structures instream to capture sediment and create pools that will improve spawning and rearing habitat for coho salmon and steelhead.	170,708	Douglas
221-2033	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Olalla Creek and Tributaries Fish Passage and Enhancement Project	Two culverts will be replaced to open fish access to two miles of stream habitat and large wood structures will be placed instream to improve habitat conditions for coho salmon.	204,535	Douglas

Region 2 - Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Cycle July 26, 2021

221-2037	Coos Watershed Association	Seelander Creek Habitat Restoration Project	Rearing and spawning habitat and water quality will be improved for salmon through streamside planting and fencing and fixing multiple road crossings impeding fish passage to provide fish access to additional miles of stream habitat on Seelander Creek, a tributary that flows into Catching Slough near Coos Bay.	449,139	Coos
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Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount Requested	County
221-2032	Coquille Watershed Association	Twelvemile Creek Basin Road Improvements for Fish Passage and Water Quality		300,190	Douglas
221-2039	Curry SWCD	Donaldson Ranch Gully Stabilization		54,614	Curry

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-2046	Coquille Watershed Association	Leslie Wetland Reserve Restoration Project: Phase 1 Alternatives Analysis	Design alternatives will be developed and assessed to determine the most effective and feasible restoration actions necessary to restore tidally influenced wetland habitat on a property near Bandon that will be protected for fish and wildlife in perpetuity.	74,997	Coos
221-2044	Coos Watershed Association	Palouse Tide Gate Upgrade Development: Final Design	Designs that address fish passage, water quality, and safety concerns for a failing tide gate structure will be created to increase coho productivity in Palouse Slough, which drains into Haynes Inlet in the Coos basin.	75,000	Coos
221-2040	Coos SWCD	Noble Creek Tidal Lands Restoration Phase I Technical Assistance	Designs will be developed to restore fish passage and access to tidal wetland habitats, implement agricultural Best Management Practices that improve water quality concerns, and address drainage and flood control concerns of a failing tide gate on Noble Creek, a tributary to the Coos River estuary.	75,000	Coos
221-2041	Coquille Watershed Association	The Coquille River Strategic Action Plan for Coho Salmon Recovery - Phase 1	A strategic action plan will be created to guide and prioritize coho salmon restoration efforts that will have the greatest impact on coho recovery and resilience in the Coquille River basin.	74,998	Coos
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				299,995	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-2045	Coos Watershed Association	Palouse Creek Restoration Project Development	Restoration actions will be designed to improve stream channel conditions, water quality, streamside habitat, flood conveyance, fish access to instream habitat, and pasture management along the mainstem and tributary streams in the Palouse subbasin.	74,995	Coos
221-2047	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Watts Toppin Dam Fish Passage Project	Fish passage design alternatives will be developed for the Watts Toppin Irrigation Dam located on Williams Creek, a tributary to the Applegate River near Provolt, along with an evaluation of opportunities to improve irrigation efficiency that will increase instream flows.	67,175	Josephine
221-2042	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Yellow Creek Instream Technical Assistance	A comprehensive plan will be developed for the Yellow Creek drainage, located near Elkton, to address watershed concerns impacting coho and enhance instream fish habitat, water quality, and streamside conditions.	42,875	Douglas
221-2049	Coos SWCD	Winter Lake Phase 3: Hydrologic Enhancement Design	Engineering and designs will be developed to replace undersized culverts and install grassed waterways on sections of the Beaver Slough Drainage District floodplain, which will improve pasture conditions and overwinter habitat for juvenile coho salmon.	56,523	Coos

221-2050	Curry SWCD	Indian Creek Sediment Reduction	Sediment impacts in Indian Creek, a tributary to the Rogue River near Gold Beach, will be addressed by designing two bridge crossings that will reduce sediment inputs that affect water quality and fish habitat.	34,986	Curry
221-2043	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Upper Umpqua Fish Passage Design	Fish passage designs will be developed at seven culverts in Upper Umpqua River tributaries to improve access to 37 miles of stream habitat.	71,898	Douglas

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT						
Project #	Grantee	Project Title			Amount Requested	County
221-2048	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Kennedy Slough Tidegate and Channel Design			74,630	Douglas

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon Stakeholder Engagement					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-2059	South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership	Highland Ditch Stakeholder Association	Landowners will be engaged to form an organization that will equitably and safely distribute irrigation water, eliminate fish kills, manage irrigation system maintenance, and remove fish barriers from Cow Creek, a major tributary of the South Umpqua River near Azalea.	10,417	Douglas
221-2060	Rogue River WC	Stakeholder Engagement along the Bear Creek Corridor	Stakeholders from law enforcement, public safety, fire prevention, advocates for the unhoused, government decision-makers, and the public will be engaged to collaboratively solve environmental, social, and health concerns impacting stream conditions in the Bear Creek watershed, a mostly urbanized watershed in southern Oregon that was recently affected by the 2020 Almeda Fire.	64,691	Jackson
221-2057	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Umpqua Oaks Partnership Landowner Outreach	Landowners in targeted areas of Douglas County will be engaged through surveys, workshops, and other outreach materials to identify opportunities to restore historic oak habitat and inform next steps for developing projects.	40,172	Douglas
221-2058	Illinois Valley SWCD	Illinois Valley Collective Mobilization for Fire and Fish	Stakeholders in the Illinois River valley will be convened to develop restoration projects with cooperative landowners to address stream habitat concerns and dangerous forest conditions on their properties that increase risk for catastrophic wildfire.	127,109	Josephine
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				242,389	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
None					

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-2054	Rogue Valley COG	Almeda Post Fire Monitoring	The magnitude and persistence of water quality impacts from the Almeda urban wildfire will be assessed to help allocate limited resources for the protection of aquatic life and inform response strategies in the event of future fires.	170,783	Jackson
221-2056	Curry SWCD	Temperature Monitoring of 3 High Priority Watersheds in the Sixes Subbasin	Summer water temperature will be monitored in the Elk and Sixes watersheds to better understand the status and trends of water temperature and inform restoration and conservation efforts by multiple local and state partners.	45,865	Curry
221-2053	Coos Watershed Association	Coos Watershed Real-time Hydrological and Meteorological Monitoring 2021-2023	Continued year-round hydrological and meteorological data will be collected at six stream gaging stations in the Coos River watershed to establish a long-term data set needed to understand water quality status and trends.	102,772	Coos
221-2052	The Understory Initiative	Baseline Vegetation and Surface Water Monitoring after Restoration Activities at Latgawa Creek	Stream and wet meadow restoration completed on Latgawa Creek, located in the Cascade Mountains of Jackson County, will be monitored to determine the effectiveness of these actions in restoring native vegetation and reversing stream down cutting and lowered water table.	55,223	Jackson
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				374,643	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-2051	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Archie Fire Post Restoration Project Effectiveness Monitoring	138,655	Douglas	
221-2055	Curry SWCD	Storm Chasers: Volunteer Storm Sampling on the South Coast	53,863	Curry	

Region 2 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	3,008,488
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2028-19492

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Ellenburg Creek Instream
Restoration (2021)

Applicant: Elk Creek WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$170,708

Total Cost: \$228,708

Application Description

Ellenburg Creek is a tributary to Sand Creek in the Lower Pass Creek sixth-field subwatershed. There are nearly three miles of high intrinsic potential coho spawning and rearing habitat in Ellenburg Creek. [ODFW maps] The lower part of the creek (0.4 miles) is managed for agriculture (grazing); the upper reaches are private and industrial forest land.

Past land management practices, such as stream cleaning, removed most of the large wood from the channel, increased water velocities, and eroded much of the streambed to bedrock. Though there is ample gravel, there are few pieces of large wood to retain gravel, aggrade the channel, or create deep pools, all essential for juvenile coho survival. [Ellenburg Creek Restoration Action Plan, Cascade Environmental Group/Elk Creek Watershed Council, 2016]

The Ellenburg Creek Instream Restoration project will place 213 key logs (all conforming to Guide to Placing Large Wood in Streams, ODFW, 1995) at 28 sites in 1.5 miles of Ellenburg Creek. LWD structures will slow water, capture bedload, and create complex pools that will improve both winter and summer rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids. In addition, approximately 100 whole trees with root wads will be used to augment these structures to create added complexity and trap sediment. 5,000 willow stakes will secure accumulated sediment and stabilize streambanks. Three cross sections will be established monitor project effectiveness.

Increased bedload retention will enhance hyporheic flows and improve both water quality (reducing summer water temperatures) and water quantity (increasing water storage and release into the summer).

Project partners include Eric Himmelreich, ODFW Habitat Biologist (project design), Jim Muck, NOAA Fisheries (design review), Aaron Beavers, Hydrologist, NOAA Fisheries (fish passage design), Seneca Jones Timber Company (whole tree donation), Roseburg BLM (funding for bioassessment and action planning), and two private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous project evaluation concerns related to project design and longevity of winter downed trees in the stream are addressed.
- The project approach is technically sound and will benefit habitat for ESA-listed coho.
- The Ellenburg Creek area is a restoration priority for BLM. The Elk Creek Watershed Council's Ellenburg Creek Assessment (2016) also indicates focus on upstream reaches, like the project area, is a priority.
- StreamNet data indicates fish spawning and rearing occurs in the project area.
- The applicant involved relevant agencies during the design process, including early coordination with NOAA for the boulder structures and ODFW for oversight of project installation.
- The project team has relevant experience implementing similar projects.

Concerns

- Additional information characterizing stream habitat and passage conditions below the project reach would provide helpful context to better understand current conditions in the project area.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a resubmit and previously fell below the staff recommended funding line. Ellenburg Creek contains ESA-listed coho habitat with a high intrinsic potential. This creek currently lacks large wood important for fish habitat, and stream reaches below the project site have water temperatures that exceed standards for salmonids. Large wood will be placed between stream miles 0.4 to 1.9 with the last structure designed to facilitate fish passage over a bedrock falls that is a barrier to salmonids.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$170,708

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2029-19496

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Bank Working Landscape &
Tidal Channel Restoration

Applicant: Coos SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$372,664

Total Cost: \$647,494

Application Description

The North Bank Working Landscapes (NBWL) project area consists of 30.0 acres of pasture located upstream from Randolph Island, River Mile (RM) 7.5 on the Coquille River, near Bandon, Coos County. The site was historically tidal saltmarsh prairie (Benner, 1992). Diking and draining to convert the site for agricultural use occurred in the early 1900s. This was facilitated by construction of a 0.5mi berm along the river, and installation of linear drainage channel network with 1ft diameter culvert and tide gate. Tidal influence on these channels is currently near zero as the single tide gate servicing the property is a top-hinged “flapper” gate which does not allow for tidal inflow. Flooding still occurs on the project area during winter or whenever the main Coquille River reaches flood stage. The dike has suffered from erosion in multiple locations. Site conditions currently result in poor water quality, little or no fish access to channels, and both ecological and agricultural productivity has been reduced.

Previously awarded OWEB technical assistance funds have been used to develop and refine a restoration proposal for this site. Restoration project actions include installation of a new culvert and Muted Tidal Regulator (MTR) tide gate to restore and maximize fish passage; reconstruction of 4,466 ft of sinuous, on-grade, tidal channel network to provide greatly improved tidal floodplain habitat and hay production; riparian fencing along both sides of the primary reconstructed channel; re-establishment of native riparian vegetation along the banks of the primary channel for direct improvements to water quality over current conditions; installation of large woody debris to increase hiding cover and complexity; and repair to damaged segments of the dike. This project is led by Coos SWCD in partnership with the Stalley/Young families and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and has received invaluable technical contributions from the Coquille Indian Tribe.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns are addressed regarding designs and providing a water management plan.
- The project is technically sound and ready for implementation with NOAA consultation already completed.

- The project compliments other working land projects occurring in the project area.
- The water management plan addresses previous concerns related to mosquitos.
- Springs located upland of the project site have cold water temperatures, so the project has potential to provide cold water refuge areas for fish.
- The landowner will be enrolling in CREP.
- The applicant has put in a lot of time in project development through an OWEB technical assistance grant and has been responsive to technical input from agencies and stakeholders. They have developed effective partnerships that will enhance their ability to carry out the project.

Concerns

- Currently the land is managed for hay but if livestock are allowed to graze, there will need to be measures developed and implemented to protect secondary stream channels.
- The application narrative lacks information describing the source of the large wood and it is unclear whether costs for the large wood is included in the application budget.
- The design approach seems to prioritize agricultural land uses over habitat enhancement. The project cost to benefit ratio could be improved with emphasis and focus on habitat enhancements over agricultural land uses.

Concluding Analysis

The lower Coquille River is listed for bacteria to meet shellfish criteria, developing larger buffers and plenty of channel sinuosity will be an important approach in this system to address bacteria concerns. The project will help restore fish access and habitat opportunities in a tidally influenced off channel area of salt marsh prairie that is critical to the recovery of ESA-listed coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$372,664

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$372,664

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2030-19499

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: West Fork Evans Creek Tributaries Enhancement Project

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$262,611

Total Cost: \$420,751

Application Description The West Fork Evans Watershed Tributary Enhancement Project seeks to expand the geographic scope of the West Fork Evans and Sand Creek LWD Project (OWEB grant #219-2032-16692) through additional LWD placements in tributaries to the West Fork Evans Creek sub-basin of the upper Rogue River. Specifically, we aim to improve spawning and rearing habitat for adult and juvenile salmonids along approximately 2.0 miles of Rock, Battle, and Salt Creeks. This project is proposed for lands owned and managed by Lone Rock Resources and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). West Fork Evans Creek and its tributaries are a component of the Upper Rogue SONCC population within the Interior Rogue stratum and are identified as high priority for restoration under NOAA's Final Recovery Plan for SONCC Coho Salmon. In addition to ESA-listed Coho Salmon, the project will benefit Summer and Winter Steelhead and Cutthroat Trout.

Historic land management practices in the watershed have led to simplified instream habitat. Biologists concur that a reduction in habitat quantity and quality across a variety of habitat types necessary to support salmonid life histories has limited recruitment and recruitment potential into the spawning population. To ameliorate this problem, APWC proposes to enhance instream habitat complexity through installation of approximately 40 large wood structures (reduced from original submission of 52 per RRT comments). Desired project outcomes include: 1) enhanced winter-rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids via improved floodplain connection and off-channel habitat development; 2) enhanced summer-rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids via increased pool development and hiding cover, and; 3) accrual of suitable substrate for adult salmonid spawning. These outcomes will increase spawning success and juvenile survival rates and contribute to long term viability of native fish populations. Project Partners include Lone Rock Resources, BLM, and Valleys of the Rogue WC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns regarding stream access and project design are addressed.
- The project will achieve ecological uplift by increasing spawning and rearing habitat opportunities.
- The applicant will be using equipment and placement techniques developed to minimize impacts to the resource.

- West Fork Evans Creek is a federally designated key watershed to recover ESA-listed coho and an important area to target restoration actions identified in the draft Upper Rogue Coho Strategic Action Plan. Both adult and juvenile coho use the area consistently and there is an increased frequency of fall chinook following removal of dams below the project area.
- West Fork Evans Creek is a major tributary for the Middle Rogue and is an important area for restoration working towards the recovery of Southern Oregon Northern California Evolutionarily Significant Unit coho.
- The project provides an opportunity to create habitat in a cold water refugia. It is critical to get streambed material aggrading to increase spawning habitat in the project reach, which is currently dominated by bedrock.
- The scope of work complements previous instream habitat work above and below the project sites.
- The BLM is an active project partner, which is demonstrated by a large wood contribution for the instream structures.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified in the review.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant is seeing positive results from earlier work to reduce ATV access and impacts to streams. The project builds on previous restoration efforts within the West Fork Evans Creek watershed and has a high likelihood to improve habitat for ESA-listed coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$262,611

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$262,611

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2032-19544

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Twelvemile Creek Basin Road
Improvements for Fish Passage and Water Quality

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$300,190

Total Cost: \$457,491

Application Description This project will address water quality and fish passage issues caused by poor road conditions in the Twelvemile Creek Basin, a 24,000-acre drainage to the Middle Fork Coquille River (MFCR) near Camas Valley, Douglas County. The MFCR has the potential to provide year-round rearing habitat for native salmonids and Pacific lamprey but lack of spawning habitat in tributaries continues to be a watershed issue. Primary limiting factors affecting spawning habitat in Twelvemile Creek include a lack of stream complexity and poor water quality. To address these limiting factors, CoqWA, Roseburg BLM, ODFW and Roseburg Resources Co. (RRC) are working towards a shared goal of improving habitat for native fish in the basin through instream restoration and sediment abatement. After completing a full watershed assessment using OWEB TA and BLM funds, restoration prioritization was developed for both instream habitat (Phase 1) and road improvements (Phase 2). Instream habitat restoration, was recently funded through OWEB and will be completed in 2021.

This grant application is for Phase 2 and will address the top priority candidates for road improvements that were identified during the assessment. Specifically, improvements will address fish barriers, maximize sediment abatement, and enhance natural flow regimes. If poor road conditions are left unaddressed, the unnatural transport of nonnative, fine sediment has the potential to impair water quality, decrease food sources, and fill interstitial spaces within gravel beds. Together with project partners, CoqWA will build on instream restoration work by improving water quality and fish passage by replacing 2 fish barriers (including the installation of a 45' bridge), replacing 3 non-fish bearing culverts, installing 30 drainage culverts, regrading 2.3 miles and decommissioning 0.5 miles of road. Both Roseburg BLM and RRC have provided engineering designs, cost estimates, and will be sharing implementation responsibilities.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous project evaluation concerns related to costs and culvert designs are addressed.
- The project will implement specific actions within a geography that is prioritized in a watershed restoration action plan.
- The project compliments recently completed instream work in the Twelvemile Creek system. The application provides a sound rationale for the need to address fish passage impediments at the stream crossings.

- The project is likely to provide water quality benefits by reducing sediment impacts to downstream locations where coho and other fish species are more abundant.
- The fish passage work will open access to a significant amount of quality habitat.

Concerns

- The bridge replacement designs are not included in the application and are not yet complete; however, there are funds in the budget to finish them. Bridge designs are needed to better understand the design solution and evaluate technical soundness.
- The project will not realize full fish passage benefits at this time because there is a barrier affecting passage for coho located on the mainstem Middle Fork Coquille just downstream of its junction with Twelvemile Creek.
- The application mistakenly identified a DEQ listing for sediment. Twelvemile Creek is only listed for temperature on the 303(d) list of water quality impaired waterbodies.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed restoration project resulted from an assessment and prioritization process that was funded by an OWEB Technical Assistance grant (#219-2013) to create a targeted approach for addressing instream, riparian, and sedimentation issues impacting Twelvemile Creek. The barrier below the confluence of Twelvemile Creek and the Middle Fork Coquille River prevents coho from accessing the habitat in Twelvemile Creek. ODFW plans to address this barrier in the future but has not determined an approach or timetable. Until there is a better understanding about how this downstream barrier will be addressed, it is difficult to determine the extent to which the proposed project will benefit fish.

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2033-19545

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Olalla Creek and Tributaries Fish Passage and Enhancement Project

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$204,535

Total Cost: \$334,635

Application Description Olalla Creek and three of its tributaries, located in the southern portion of the 103,000-acre Olalla-Lookingglass Creek Watershed, are identified as needing improved fish passage and fish habitat enhancement. According to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) High Intrinsic Potential (HIP) maps, Olalla Creek, Byron Creek and Bushnell Creek have high potential to provide quality spawning and rearing habitat for Coho salmon and steelhead. Old Lane Creek was not surveyed for HIP. It has spawning surveys that ODFW conducts. The ODFW Habitat Restoration Biologist confirmed that Old Lane Creek is suitable for Coho salmon. Gordon Hanek, Byron Creek Estates Road Master, identified two deteriorating culverts maintained by his rural homeowner's association. PUR and ODFW staff designed instream habitat enhancement and riparian enhancement on Gordon's property, while BLM staff designed enhancement work on Byron Creek. We have completed a Technical Assistance grant for the design of two culvert replacements and instream restoration. We are seeking a restoration grant to replace these culverts and implement the instream restoration on Olalla and Byron Creeks. Our project partners include Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Byron Creek Estates. This project is of high priority for PUR because of the fisheries value it offers and positive impact it will have on local businesses impacted by COVID. We were successful with Title II funds in acquiring \$97,642.00 in matching funds. However, these funds only have a 2-year lifespan and OWEB funds are needed to fill in the funding gaps. OWEB funds will be used to 1) replace two failing culverts (one on Old Lane Creek and one on Bushnell Creek) to re-open two miles of fish habitat, 2) place 36 logs and 25 trees into 0.5 miles of Byron Creek on private and BLM land, 3) plant wattles of willows along Olalla Creek on private property.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The work has potential to improve stream function and provide spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-listed coho. The fish passage work will provide access to two miles of cool water refugia in Byron Creek.
- The project addresses limiting factors identified in a watershed assessment.
- The restoration approach is built upon an OWEB technical assistance project.
- A qualified engineer designed the stream crossings that will replace the failing culverts.

- The applicant has relevant experience working with landowners and successfully developing and implementing similar type projects.

Concerns

- The use of alder trees for instream structures may have limited longevity because they will break down more quickly compared to other tree species.
- The design approach for a couple of the project sites with vertical streambanks may not be effective. Placing large wood into streambanks of incised channels and then planting willows is not likely to address the causes impacting stream conditions. Re-shaping streambanks of incised channels before planting is typically more effective. Additional design detail and examples demonstrating previous success with the proposed approach would be helpful in determining the likelihood the project will achieve restoration goals. More information illustrating streambank and site conditions throughout the project reaches where large wood will be placed would also be helpful to understand the design approach and evaluate technical soundness.
- The applicant provided active channel width information in response to previous evaluation concerns regarding the project design potentially not meeting NOAA fish passage criteria. However, there may be additional design considerations that need to be incorporated to meet NOAA fish passage requirements. The applicant is encouraged to engage with NOAA directly to ensure the project design meets their requirements.
- Match is limited to two years so there is time sensitivity to getting the project implemented.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a resubmit and the applicant provided additional information to clarify project elements. The proposed restoration activities are likely to improve water quality conditions and salmonid access to cool water refugia located upstream of the project site. The project demonstrates the applicant's thoughtful approach to achieve and maintain effective working relationships with landowners. The expected resulting ecological uplift from the project work is likely higher than the application narrative describes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$204,535

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2034-19548

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Parker Creek Instream Restoration

Applicant: Elk Creek WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$155,341

Total Cost: \$222,643

Application Description

Parker Creek is a tributary to Elk Creek in the Middle Elk Creek sixth-field subwatershed. There are nearly four miles of high intrinsic potential coho spawning and rearing habitat in Parker Creek and its two main tributaries. [ODFW maps] The lower part of the creek is managed for agriculture (grazing); the upper reaches are private and industrial forest and BLM land.

Past land management practices, such as stream cleaning, removed most of the large wood from the channel, increased water velocities, and eroded much of the streambed to bedrock. Though there is ample gravel, there are few pieces of large wood to retain gravel, aggrade the channel, or create deep pools, all essential for juvenile coho survival.

The Parker Creek Instream Restoration project will place 288 key logs (all conforming to Guide to Placing Large Wood in Streams, ODFW, 1995) at 29 sites in 2.0 miles of Parker Creek. LWD structures will slow water, capture and retain bedload, and create complex pools that will improve both winter and summer rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids. In addition, approximately 50 whole trees with root wads will be used to augment these structures to create added complexity and trap sediment. 5,000 willow stakes will secure accumulated sediment and stabilize streambanks.

Increased bedload retention will enhance hyporheic flows and improve both water quality (reducing summer water temperatures) and water quantity (increasing riparian water storage and release into the summer).

Project partners include Eric Himmelreich, ODFW Habitat Biologist (project design), Sunnydale Land Company (industrial timber landowner), and Roseburg BLM (funding for action planning and permitting).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A straightforward and technically sound approach to addressing resource concerns on Parker Creek is presented in the application.

- Four stream miles with high intrinsic potential for ESA-listed coho habitat will be restored.
- Parker Creek has been simplified, lacks large wood, and is scoured to bedrock. Adding large wood and planting willows will increase watershed function and improve fish habitat.
- Project is in priority restoration area for the applicant.
- ODFW will help oversee project implementation.

Concerns

- Project costs for project management, mileage, and willow planting are inconsistent with costs in similar project applications submitted by the same applicant. Additional information on how costs were calculated and why costs may be higher due to unique project conditions is needed to evaluate whether these costs are reasonable.
- It is difficult to understand the extent to which the project will improve water quality because current water quality conditions of the stream are unknown.
- A letter of support from the landowner would strengthen the application.

Concluding Analysis

The project involves a landowner who has partnered successfully on previous restoration work. The project location is well-suited for the proposed restoration approach because Parker Creek is a low gradient stream in a shaded valley bottom. The creek is likely to be responsive to large wood placement that will capture materials and form stream habitat features needed by coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$155,341

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$155,341

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2035-19553

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Crook Creek Restoration
Enhancement

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$93,389

Total Cost: \$139,654

Application Description Located near the central Curry County coast, Crook Creek is a tributary to the Pistol River estuary. In the proposed project reach, past land use activities resulted in channel incision, the simplification of instream habitat, and elevated stream temperatures. Restoration efforts were undertaken in the late 1990s and early 2000s in response to conditions at the time. Present conditions in the project reach reflect the impacts of past land use and subsequent efforts to restore stream function and habitats: the channel remains incised, but has developed some degree of sinuosity and a small floodplain inset within the high terraces that represent the historic floodplain; a narrow buffer of trees is established on the high terraces, providing shade to the stream and roughness to the channel through erosion of the terrace.

Although the early restoration efforts have had positive impacts (e.g., habitat is gaining complexity and stream temperatures were recently documented as cooling through the project reach), as Crook Creek has continued to evolve, it has exposed the frailties of those early restoration efforts. Most notable is the narrowness of the riparian buffer and the failure to address an access bridge that is confining the channel. The proposed project would expand the existing riparian buffer, replace the existing bridge with one appropriately sized to accommodate Crook Creek, and place large wood structures in the channel to add complex habitat in the near-term. These activities would promote the continued development of high-quality, self-sustaining habitat conditions in Crook Creek and its adjacent riparian area.

The proposed project was developed through activities associated with the Pistol River Strategic Implementation Area, an effort by ODA, ODFW, OWEB, DEQ, and Curry SWCD to generate ecologic uplift in the watershed. This project offers an opportunity to preserve the gains of past restoration while building on the successes of those efforts.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will build on past successful restoration on the property and presents a new opportunity to double the width of existing riparian buffers to allow for more natural stream process.
- The proposed work was developed as part of an ODA Strategic Implementation Area.

- Crook Creek is listed on the 303(d) list of water quality impaired waterbodies for temperature year-round, and the proposed restoration will contribute to addressing this issue.
- The stream has populations of chinook that will benefit from the project as well as lamprey. The work will address key threats to coho.
- The applicant has the capacity and experience to implement the project.

Concerns

- The application lacks information describing considerations incorporated into the project to address potential impacts to adjacent properties.
- The application includes a conceptual bridge design but lacks site specific bridge plans. The budget also has specific line items for the bridge; however, it is difficult to evaluate whether these costs are reasonable and necessary with only a conceptual design that is 30% complete. The application indicates an engineer will be hired to complete the design, but there is no clear timeline for this in the project schedule.
- Crook Creek goes sub-surface at the mouth with Pistol River, understanding the extent to which this may impact, and limit potential benefits of upstream restoration actions would be helpful to better understand the cost benefit of the proposed project.
- If the applicant intends to use the project to recruit additional restoration opportunities in the community, it would be helpful to learn how it will be incorporated into the applicant's outreach efforts.
- The current restoration approach is designed around an agricultural operation that currently does not employ livestock. It is uncertain if the property will be grazed in the future; therefore, establishing a contingency plan for grazing ahead of time with the landowner will be important to protecting restoration investments.

Concluding Analysis

The project provides an opportunity to expand the restoration footprint of earlier restoration work, which will have positive benefits to habitats important to ESA-listed coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$93,389

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2036-19584

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Whole Watershed Restoration for the Dement Creek Subbasin

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$761,218

Total Cost: \$951,615

Application Description Dement Creek is a 9,700-acre tributary to the South Fork Coquille River (SFCR) located near Broadbent, OR in Coos County. As one of the major tributaries to the SFCR, Dement Creek has been prioritized for restoration because it has reaches with high intrinsic potential for coho and provides spawning and rearing habitat for coho, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey. Currently, Dement Creek is impacted from the legacy of past land use practices such as splash dams, stream cleaning, timber harvesting in the riparian area, clear cutting, extensive road building, and conversion of the lower watershed to pastures for livestock grazing. These actions have exacerbated limiting factors including high levels of sediment loading, high summer water temperatures, and lack of habitat complexity for native fish. A watershed assessment was completed in 2020 and has allowed CoqWA to prioritize stream reaches, riparian reaches, road sections and failing infrastructure for effective habitat and sediment abatement restoration actions. Together with the BLM, ODFW, Coos Curry CREP technician, and private landowners, CoqWA will address all prioritized actions identified in the watershed assessment. Specifically, we will improve instream habitat by constructing 16 large woody debris (LWD) structures, 17 LWD and boulder structures, increase riparian buffers on pastures through planting 9.5 acres and fence setbacks (70 ft. average), and decrease sediment loading by installing over 50 cross drains with rock outfalls, cleaning ditches, installing a sediment trap, creating a stormwater swale, and creating berm notches and lead off ditches into the forest floor on 4.2 miles of roads in the basin. These whole watershed restoration actions will optimally address the site specific limiting factors identified in the basin, providing improved habitat complexity and water quality for anadromous fish in Dement Creek through a win-win approach.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns related to plant stewardship and watering are addressed.
- The South Fork Coquille Sediment Study indicated the most effective locations to address sediment issues is in main tributaries, like Dement Creek, to stop sediment inputs and channel degradation below on the mainstem.
- Dement Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-listed coho, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey.

- The road improvement actions will help reduce sediment inputs and address priority water quality concerns.
- The project is based on restoration priorities identified in a recently completed watershed assessment.
- Multiple state and federal agencies, Coos County, industrial timber, and the participating agricultural landowners were involved in developing the project.
- Water quality monitoring data is collected for turbidity and water temperature, and continued monitoring is likely to document sediment reduction after project implementation.
- The project will help the applicant to continue building relationships with agricultural producers, which could lead to additional restoration opportunities
- The applicant has experience implementing similar projects.

Concerns

- Understanding the extent of the watershed benefits from projects with multiple restoration components is challenging. Additional details in the application narrative describing the different approaches at each project site would be helpful to better understand the collective habitat benefit for the cost.
- The conceptual design schematic and project photos included in the application indicate some root wads may be pushed into incised streambanks. Normally root wads are placed facing out from the streambank with the trunk buried into the bank and the root wad extending into the stream channel. This protects the streambank and traps sediment. More detail on the design approach would be helpful to better understand proposed treatments across the range of site conditions.
- The archeologist cost is a lump sum in the budget, additional explanation in the budget narrative explaining how this line item was estimated would help in evaluating whether the cost is reasonable.

Concluding Analysis

Dement Creek has a history of splash dams, stream cleaning, and road building and the lower portion of the stream is significantly impacted by livestock grazing. The project will take a phased approach to address poor instream habitat conditions and impaired water quality. The applicant has developed a sound approach for conducting watershed assessments while working with landowners and stakeholders to implement prioritized on-the-ground projects. Project activities will address top watershed limiting factors in Dement Creek and improve water quality and habitat complexity for ESA-listed coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$761,218

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$761,218

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2037-19634

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Seelander Creek Habitat
Restoration Project

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$449,139

Total Cost: \$668,388

Application Description This project proposes to restore watershed function through riparian planting/fencing, improving fish passage, access to off-channel habitat and by addressing 10 fish passage crossings. Seelander Creek is a DEQ 303(d) listed stream that drains into Catching Slough near Coos Bay, and is situated along a narrow agricultural valley that's been heavily impacted by past land management practices, resulting in stream channelization, channel simplification, and removal of riparian trees and shrubs.

The project proposes to install 13,250' of livestock exclusion fencing along 1.9 miles of stream and wetland habitat and provide riparian setbacks ranging between 20' and 40'. These setbacks will create 10.3 acres of riparian buffers where we will plant native tree, shrub, and wetland species according to our planting plan. CoosWA will perform annual plant establishment activities for 5 years to insure a goal of 80% plant survival.

To address 10 failing and undersized (24-72") crossings we will partner with the Coos County Road Dept. to replace 2 crossings, work with lowland landowners to upgrade an Ag bridge and 2 culverts, fully decommission 2 Ag crossings and replace 3 outdated and failing culvert/tidegate structures with 2 fish friendly mitigator style gates. All crossings have been sized to meet NOAA fish passage criteria (1.5xACW and >20% embeddedness). These structures will improve access to key salmonid habitats and provide access to nearly 7 miles of critical spawning and rearing habitat (key limiting factors). Additionally, this section of Catching Slough ranked very high in our recent coho SAP.

OWEB funds will be used for project management, contracted services, designs, archeology, plant establishment, travel, project materials, and indirect costs. The landowners, County Road Department, CREP, Local Tribes, BLM, RMEF, OYC and ODFW will provide match contributions in the form of contracted services/labor, project supplies/materials, and technical assistance.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner has some portions of the property enrolled in CREP.

- Seelander Creek supports ESA-listed coho and is a lowland tributary to the Coos River estuary.
- The project work will address issues with stream channelization, loss in stream function, and simplified riparian areas.
- The project will improve rearing habitats for ESA-listed coho and help address water quality concerns. Catching Slough, located downstream of Seelander Creek, is listed on the 303(d) list of water quality impaired waterbodies for temperature and fecal coliform, which impacts shellfish in the estuary.
- There is a diverse array of partners supporting the project.
- New stream crossings will be sized to meet NMFS fish passage criteria.
- The project team has extensive experience engaging landowners and working on similar projects in the project area.

Concerns

- Designs included in the application are only examples from other restoration work because project designs are still in progress through an OWEB technical assistance project. This may indicate the restoration project is not ready for implementation.
- The project approach reestablishes buffers and protects mainstream areas but does not reintroduce more natural stream function like meandering that would increase habitat benefits. This approach emphasizes actions that address symptoms of watershed degradation over the cause, which is the historic practice of pushing streams against hillslopes and out of the valley. Adding channel re-meanders would restore historic stream features lost from this practice; however, the narrow valley may limit options to add meanders without compromising working lands.
- Additional information describing the proposed tide gates, including their placement, size, and purpose, would be helpful to better understand the project and determine whether management and maintenance plans for their operations are adequate to ensure ecological benefits from the investment.
- Additional site photos in the application would have provided helpful context to understand existing site conditions.
- The project schedule seems ambitious given the project is still in design phase and there may not leave enough time for regulatory review and permit acquisitions.
- It is unclear from the application if the small channels located in the fields will be protected from livestock using fencing.
- It is not clear if there is a grazing or water quality management plan associated with the application.
- It is uncertain whether there are coho in Seelander Creek according to the StreamNet database, which may indicate there is a downstream barrier.

Concluding Analysis

The project is in a lowland area that functions as a wetland supporting overwinter transitional habitat for juvenile ESA-listed coho. The importance of these areas has been highlighted in the draft Coos River Coho Strategic Action Plan.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$449,139

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2038-19636

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Kentuck Creek Habitat Complexity and Stream Remeander Project

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$539,627

Total Cost: \$1,127,078

Application Description This project will restore watershed function through riparian planting/fencing, improving fish passage, development of off-channel habitat, and address 4 fish passage crossings. The Kentuck Creek sub-basin is a DEQ 303(d) listed tributary that drains to the Coos Estuary, situated along a narrow agricultural valley that's been heavily impacted by past land management practices, resulting in stream channelization and removal of riparian trees and shrubs.

The project proposes to install 9,000' of livestock exclusion fencing along more than 1.6 miles of stream and provide riparian setbacks ranging between 35 and 180 feet. Buffers will be planted with a variety of native tree and shrub species according to existing planting plans. Prior to planting, small patches of invasive blackberry will be addressed throughout the project area. Plant establishment activities will occur for 5 years to ensure a goal of 80% plant survival.

We propose to remeander ~6,100 feet of stream in addition to addressing 4 failing and drastically undersized stream crossings (installing 1 railcar bridge & 3 culverts). These actions will improve hydrologic connectivity between mainstem and tributary habitats and provide access to ~6.5 miles of critical spawning and rearing habitat (key limiting factors) in Kentuck Creek. All crossings will meet NOAA fish passage criteria (1.5xACW and >20% embeddedness).

OWEB funds will be used for project management, contracted services, plant establishment, travel, project materials, and indirect costs. The USFWS and Wild Salmon Center (WSC) have contributed 100% of the funds required to complete designs, archeology assessments and full permitting. The Landowners, County Road Department, CREP, WSC and ODFW will also provide match contributions in the form of contracted services/labor, project supplies/materials, and technical expertise during the duration of the project. OYC match will fund an 8-member youth crew for plant stewardship activities.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is ready for implementation as indicated by the completed designs and permitting

underway.

- The project activities are high priorities in the draft Coos River Coho Strategic Action Plan.
- The proposed riparian buffer is very large and will provide significant space for potential stream re-meanders and expanded wetland areas.
- Two landowners are already enrolling in CREP.
- The work builds off momentum of previous projects in the Kentuck Creek area. For example, an upstream gravel pit related project created a settling pond that has contributed to significant improvements to water quality by capturing sediment and decreasing turbidity downstream.
- The project has a potential for outreach to neighboring landowners that could lead to future restoration projects.
- The stream has high intrinsic potential for ESA-listed coho habitat.
- Kentuck Creek is listed on the 303(d) list of water quality impaired waterbodies for temperature and fecal coliform.
- There is a diversity of partners involved in the project.
- The tide gate at the mouth of the stream has been recently replaced.

Concerns

- The budget includes only two culverts, but the application narrative identifies three to be replaced. Since the county is addressing one of the three culverts, it may be included as match in the budget.

Concluding Analysis

The project will restore watershed function through riparian planting and fencing, improving fish passage, developing off-channel habitat, and addressing multiple fish passage crossings. Landowner support and ownership in the project's outcomes is demonstrated by their willingness to set aside significant portions of pasture for wetland creation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$539,627

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$539,627

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2039-19637

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Donaldson Ranch Gully Stabilization

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$54,614

Total Cost: \$119,760

Application Description This project is located on the Donaldson's 582-acre ranch in the Floras Creek watershed, within the town of Langlois' municipal Source Water Protection Area (SWPA). Pasture gullies on the Donaldson Ranch deliver extremely turbid water and coarse sediment directly to Floras Creek, within a mile of Langlois' water intake. They are one of the largest sources of sediment within the SWPA, and they are increasing in size and severity. Sediment from these gullies impacts spawning and rearing habitat in Floras Creek; degrades the quality and subsequently increases the cost of Langlois' drinking water; and contributes to channel instability in lower Floras Creek and eutrophication in New River. This project will stabilize ~4,800 feet of gully channel and 21 isolated headcuts that were inventoried in 2020, using rock grade control structures and riparian fencing and planting. This work is part of an ongoing initiative to improve water quality and instream habitat within the SWPA, which began in 2010 with the completion of Langlois' Drinking Water Protection Plan. Project partners include the landowner, CREP, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Oregon-Washington Drinking Water Providers Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will improve rearing and spawning habitat conditions for ESA-listed coho.
- The proposed restoration work will help protect and improve water quality in the Floras Creek watershed, which is a drinking water source.
- The project area historically supported Fall chinook.
- The applicant has successfully completed gully restoration projects on the proposed project property and neighboring properties. The project will build upon these past efforts.

Concerns

- The project may be treating symptoms rather than causes of watershed degradation. If grazing practices remain unchanged, the proposed techniques are unlikely to achieve the stated restoration goals. Livestock are likely to return to restored areas because fencing will not be used to manage grazing, which will result in gullies reforming and loss of any long-term resource protection benefits expected from the investment.
- It is unclear how the proposed restoration actions will be protected without a grazing management plan included in the application that provides this information.

Concluding Analysis

Pasture gully erosion contributes significant sediment into Floras Creek, impacting fish habitat and drinking water for the community of Langlois. The project is built on previous successful actions to stop active gully erosion in the area. This is an ongoing problem and focusing only on arresting the impacts from gullies may not achieve long-term solutions that a more a holistic approach could provide by incorporating other restoration actions such as fencing, plantings, and grazing management.

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2040-19514

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Noble Creek Tidal Lands
Restoration Phase I Technical Assistance

Applicant: Coos SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$200,017

Application Description

Lack of slow-water refugia off-channel habitat has been identified as one of the major limiting factors affecting Oregon Coast ESU coho salmon recovery. In the Coos Estuary, these habitats, including tidal wetland habitats, have been converted to pasture using tidegate infrastructure to the extent that only a fraction of the historic acreage of tidally influenced wetlands currently exists. Restoration of floodplain tidal wetlands is a top priority for coho recovery in federal, state, and local action plans. The Noble Creek Tidal Lands Restoration Phase I Technical Assistance (TA) Project (Coos Bay, OR, Coos County) will address limiting factors by creating technical designs to implement restoration of functional fish passage to 6.4 miles of coho habitat and ~90 acres of critical off-channel wetland and tidal habitats. This project is the first step in implementing critical habitat restoration for coho and other anadromous fish while also providing improved pasture infrastructure and water management for the landowners in the Noble Creek Drainage. To achieve this, the Coos SWCD is partnering with ODFW, Coos Watershed Association and the landowners in the area. OWEB TA funds are needed at this phase to 1) complete the initial data collection, cultural resources and geotechnical investigations, and site surveys necessary to develop 1-3 restoration alternative scenarios, 2) Develop the selected restoration alternative to the 60% (structural and geotechnical engineering designs for tidegate replacement/removal to meet State and Federal fish passage requirements); 3) finalize designs for tidal channel restoration, wetland enhancement, and riparian fencing and planting plans to the 60%, 4) coordinate meetings between project partners and stakeholders to ensure adequate input at all stages of the process. Together these actions will result in a restoration project design that is 60% complete, and sufficiently developed to begin Phase II Technical Assistance.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns are addressed.
- The resulting project designs will incorporate floodplain habitat features including large wood placement, riparian revegetation, and fencing actions to address habitat and water quality issues impacting salmonids.
- The project area has a lot of potential for improving salmonid rearing habitat.

- The effort could lead to future work to address upstream habitat issues.
- Multiple watershed plans establish a clear need for the work, including the draft Coos River Coho Strategic Action Plan.
- The proposal includes consideration of eliminating the main tide gate at the mouth of the stream, which will improve fish passage and restore a more natural hydrologic regime. This will benefit both earlier and expected future restoration actions upstream by providing habitat connectivity.
- The effort engages a supportive landowner and the resulting project activities will improve their land management capabilities while also improving habitat for ESA-listed fish.
- The applicant is experienced with these types of projects and has assembled the right suite of partners to successfully undertake the technical assistance work.
- The expected project types resulting from the proposed design work are traditionally complex and costly making the investment of technical assistance a prudent course of action.

Concerns

- ODEQ is not listed as a technical reviewer. Given the water quality nexus, adding ODEQ technical expertise during project design is likely to improve the project outcomes.
- The ownership of the main tide gate is not clear and identifying this will be a critical component in moving forward.

Concluding Analysis

The project complements a stakeholder engagement effort currently underway in the watershed. Managing landowner expectations will be critical when examining new infrastructure alternatives. In this endeavor, the applicant will need to clearly lay out project alternatives with the landowners and clear messaging of expectations, looking at cost effectiveness and ecological values. There is potential for significant habitat benefits to result from this project, including protecting tidally influenced wetland areas and promoting restoration actions that improve water quality and habitat for ESA-listed coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2041-19521

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: The Coquille River Strategic Action Plan for Coho Salmon Recovery - Phase 1

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$74,998

Total Cost: \$156,818

Application Description This grant proposes to develop a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for Coho Recovery focused on the Coquille Basin. This plan is critical to develop to ensure that the watershed's limiting factors for coho recovery are assessed and addressed in a strategic, multi-decadal framework. Currently, Coquille watershed specific limiting factors have not been defined, there is a lack of a long term strategy for coho recovery in the watershed, and there is a lack of integration of climate change into project prioritization. The goal of the SAP is to develop a comprehensive restoration strategy prioritizing projects that have the greatest impact on coho recovery and resilience. Specifically, this plan will provide a slate of vetted projects that will result in targeted watershed enhancement focused on coho recovery/resiliency. The SAP development process, facilitated by the Wild Salmon Center (WSC), has been implemented in six other coastal watersheds to date. Activities include a data gathering phase, spatial analysis process and integration of local expert knowledge. This work then allows the team to identify priority sub-watersheds/anchor habitats to focus work in and identify what restoration strategies to implement. The team will create a list of near term high priority projects and identify implementation costs, ultimately leading to the completion of on-the-ground work. Phase 1 (funding requested in this application) will be focused on restoration prioritization, Phase 2 will be focused on finalizing the SAP and publishing, and Phase 3 will be the implementation of vetted projects. The SAP will be developed by the Coquille Coho Partnership, a diverse group of stakeholders that will include the Coquille Watershed Association (CoqWA) as the local convener and the Wild Salmon Center (WSC) who will provide SAP facilitation and additional technical resources. Several other agencies and stakeholders are participating in this partnership (noted in the Project Management table).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application demonstrates a clear need for the proposed activities designed to result in restoration that addresses coho limiting factors identified in the NOAA coho recovery plan.
- The approach steps down planning efforts into the sub-watershed scale. This level is consistent with BLM planning and will help focus restoration in the most strategic locations.
- The project will focus long-term project prioritization for the Coquille River basin.

- The effort builds on lessons learned from other Coho Strategic Action Plan (SAP) work in the region, including the upper Rogue River, Elk River, and Coos River SAPs. Incorporating these experiences helps define strategic work tasks and leads to the best use of funds.
- Project costs are commensurate with previous SAP development efforts.
- The products from SAPs provide an effective framework for engaging landowners and stakeholders to strategically address limiting factors for coho.
- The applicant engaged the right suite of project partners, including local, state, and federal agencies, tribes, land trusts, and other non-governmental organizations.
- The partnership with the Wild Salmon center is appropriate and will bring to this work their leadership and lessons learned from previous Coho SAP efforts.

Concerns

- The application lacks information on how industrial landowners within the project footprint will be engaged.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal represents the first of three phases that will result in the development of a Coho SAP for the Coquille River basin. The work has a high likelihood of resulting in a slate of projects targeted for coho recovery and improving their population resilience.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,998

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$74,998

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2042-19546

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Yellow Creek Instream Technical Assistance

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$42,875

Total Cost: \$98,441

Application Description Yellow Creek, located South of Elkton, Oregon, flows through a patchwork of private timber and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property. The Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR), Roseburg District BLM, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Roseburg Resources Company (RRCo) and Lone Rock Resources (LRR) are working together to restore the Yellow Creek drainage to benefit Oregon Coast (OC) Coho salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout and other aquatic species. According to ODFW High Intrinsic Potential Maps, Yellow Creek has the highest, high and medium potential areas throughout it and its major tributaries (Bear Creek and Doe Creek). In 2005 PUR and BLM placed structures in the lower reaches of Yellow Creek and Bear Creek. The structures coalesced into a few large jams that now form the most complex habitat in the system. We have learned from phase 1 and developed a lot of experience since this project was completed and want to design untreated reaches. The untreated reaches of all three creeks lack large wood and complexity. This project has become a priority at PUR not only for the amount of potential habitat we could restore but because BLM will be conducting a nearby timber sale. We plan to take advantage of being able to source wood from so close. Our BLM Partner has advised us that to take full advantage of this timber sale, we need to get trees marked and staged as soon as possible. To address the limiting factors in the Yellow Creek drainage we are seeking OWEB TA funds to 1) design instream fish habitat structures that will enhance the habitat in a total of 11 miles of the Yellow Creek drainage, 2) Assess invasive species in the riparian zones and create a plan of action for areas in need, 3) work with all the partners involved to produce an instream placement and funding strategy, 4) work with all the partners/landowners on selecting materials for the instream placement, 5) prepare an OWEB restoration grant application for submission.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant addressed previous evaluation concerns by providing a clear cost breakdown.
- The Yellow Creek sub-basin is a high priority restoration focus area for the BLM.
- The proposal clearly characterizes the historic land uses, such as splash damming and logging, that have impacted this watershed's function, highlighting the need for developing restorative actions.
- The resulting restoration work will be able to utilize planned BLM forest treatments as a source for large wood for instream projects.

- The project will help address water quality concerns, such as sediment and temperature, within the stream corridor.
- The design approaches will consider machine and helicopter placed options for wood installation.
- The project focuses work on a few large landowner's properties, making it easier to coordinate and execute activities.
- The applicant has a proven track record with turning instream and riparian design projects into on-the-ground work.
- All match funding sources have been secured, indicating the project is ready for implementation.

Concerns

- It is unclear how the invasive species data collection objective fits into the overall project plan and how this effort will be coordinated.
- Sediment transport resulting from road crossings is not addressed in the application and is a big issue affecting habitat suitability for fish.

Concluding Analysis

The project takes a comprehensive approach to developing a plan to improve aquatic and floodplain habitats over an eleven-mile section of stream that provides quality coho habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$42,875

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2043-19556

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Umpqua Fish Passage Design

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$71,898

Total Cost: \$175,600

Application Description The Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers is partnering with the Roseburg BLM and ODFW Fisheries Staffs to focus on seven (7) fish passage issues in a specific set of Upper Umpqua River tributaries. Wolf Creek, Powell Creek, Bottle Creek, Cougar Creek and Rock Creek all support Coho salmon and/or steelhead trout, along with Pacific Lamprey and cutthroat trout. These species, along with other important aquatic species, are what make the Umpqua so special. While this project is focused on fish passage specifically, the overall results of improved fish passage will significantly benefit the aquatic life and hydrologic function in these watersheds.

This project will consist of conducting outreach to Roseburg Resources and Douglas County. We have worked for many years with Roseburg Resources on various projects, but PUR has not worked with the County in over ten years. Reestablishing our working relationship with the County and continuing our relationship with Roseburg Resources has a strong potential to lead to many future restoration projects. The County owns 3 of the 7 culverts and were identified by our Umpqua Basin Fish Passage Team prioritization model and BLM project partner. The BLM owns 3 of the 7 culverts and Roseburg Resources owns 1 of the 7. The initial step in this project will be to reach out to the landowners where the culverts are located to make initial contact and get permission to proceed with culvert design alternatives. Once permission has been granted and the barriers have been confirmed, design alternatives will be created and then prioritized for replacement. This effort will be accomplished through the work of ODFW, BLM and PUR biologists and technicians and a contracted engineer. The outcome of this project will be design alternatives and prioritization for up to 7 known barriers in the Upper Umpqua River System, enabling the project team to apply for restoration funds to complete Fish Passage Restoration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal rationale links to survey work of barriers and stream systems in the Upper Umpqua River that identified issues impacting salmonid productivity, including culverts reducing habitat connectivity and limiting fish production.
- The Rock Creek culvert is a high-ranking barrier identified in the Umpqua Basin ODFW Priority barrier database.

- Addressing the barriers will improve instream processes, such as sediment transport and stream function.
- The project team is experienced in working on fish passage issues.
- The budget narrative clearly describes costs for the proposed project activities.

Concerns

- The coarse scale maps included in the application lack information needed to understand the quality of habitat in the project area, such as a characterization of aquatic habitats, fish habitat suitability, and fish presence.
- Additional information is needed to better understand potential benefits from improved passage. For example, the application lacks information describing current site conditions at each barrier, such as the extent to which each barrier is currently a complete or partial barrier to fish passage. Also, there are a couple of barriers located higher in the watershed that may limit habitat benefits for anadromous fish species. More discussion on each barrier and how they are related to other potential barriers would be helpful to better understand project benefits.
- Additional information describing upfront engagement with the three land managers is needed to better understand the viability of the partnerships to build the foundation necessary to get this work accomplished.
- One of the letters of support included in the application is for another project.
- The number of hours in the budget for coordination work seem high for a project with a few landowners involved.

Concluding Analysis

The project will develop designs to address seven fish passage barriers on five streams, which will result in a total of thirty-seven miles of improved access. Work is likely to benefit anadromous species, including coho and pacific lamprey; however, additional information is needed to understand the extent of the ecological benefits from this project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

10 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$71,898

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2044-19565

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Palouse Tide Gate Upgrade
Development: Final Design

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$181,276

Application Description Palouse Slough drains into Haynes Inlet in the Coos basin and is one of the highest producing coho anchor habitat streams on the Oregon Coast. Its primary tide gate consists of a collapsing, undersized tide box with two top-hinged wooden doors located under a county bridge, confounding the responsibilities for replacement and leading to a strong desire to decouple the structures. Upgrading the Palouse tide gate will improve hydrological function to mimic natural seasonal and tidal cycles, restoring the hydrology and water quality. Greater tidal connectivity to Haynes Inlet will improve estuarine water and habitat quality for juveniles as well as salmon forage species that accelerate juvenile survival rates. This tide gate upgrade is the first step toward the comprehensive basin scale restoration of Palouse Slough to protect and expand this critical area of Oregon Coast coho anchor habitat.

The proposed technical assistance project is the second & final development phase for the Palouse tide gate upgrade, building upon Phase 1's alternatives analysis study that investigated the best long-term solution for the Palouse tide gate design and the feasibility of decoupling the infrastructure. After a robust review by a team of local/regional experts, a preferred design alternative selected is a sheet pile structure with a 4-bay modular gate just upstream of the existing infrastructure. The main objectives for this proposed technical assistance project are to 1) take the preferred design alternative to 100% engineered designs, 2) develop a water management plan, 3) secure all necessary permits for construction, and 4) finalize the bidding documents for construction. CoosWA will continue to work with the technical team through the proposed phase of this tide gate upgrade project. The Coos Co Road Dept and the Haynes Drainage District are committed to providing technical assistance/review for this second phase and are renewing their MOUs with CoosWA for this upcoming phase.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project area contains great opportunities for building on the quality rearing and over-wintering habitat conditions that are present in the Palouse system.
- There is a lot of momentum at the local and state level for addressing failing tide gates. The proposed work capitalizes on stakeholder engagement the applicant has been implementing in the watershed around tide gates.

- The approach builds on previous tide gate design and replacement efforts, and the new tide gate will improve the tidal cycle exchange, salinity gradient, and fish access to habitat.
- The project is identified in the draft Coos River Coho Strategic Action Plan and will implement priority actions identified in the NOAA Coho Recovery Plan.
- The applicant has a lot of experience working in tidally influenced areas.
- There is a robust coho life cycle monitoring effort in the Coos basin area.
- The proposed project complements Technical Assistance application 221-2045, also submitted this cycle, that will identify and design habitat restoration opportunities above this project area.

Concerns

- It is unclear from the proposal whether there are interior gates located above the main gate that will be addressed, which could limit the effectiveness of the tide gate upgrade and restoration benefits.
- More characterization of habitat conditions found within the overall sub-watershed would be helpful to understand the greater project benefits.
- Additional detail on the longevity of the selected sheet pile structure design alternative is needed to better understand the life expectancy of the proposed tide gate replacement work.
- It is not clear from the application how the project will balance fisheries needs with agriculture land uses.
- The habitat directly above the tide gate is simplified, suffers from poor water quality, and is constrained by levees to protect agricultural areas. It is unclear how the channel meandering goal will be achieved without levee or dredged spoil pile removal to provide the greatest habitat benefits from the project.
- More description on landowner roles and time commitment is needed to better understand whether the in-kind match is a reasonable estimate.

Concluding Analysis

The Palouse Creek sub-basin is the biggest producer of coho in the Coos River watershed. The project is a high priority and is likely to succeed in expanding anchor habitat for Oregon Coast coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2045-19569

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Palouse Creek Restoration Project
Development

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$74,995

Total Cost: \$94,823

Application Description In the Palouse subbasin, the high quality spawning habitat seeds the productive estuarine Haynes Inlet system of Coos Bay, promoting the high potential coho productivity in this subbasin. The high quality marshland once present in lower Palouse has been heavily altered to create and sustain agricultural pastures, resulting in stream channelization, undersized infrastructure, and removal of riparian vegetation. These activities negatively impacted the water quality and instream habitat of the subbasin, resulting in the ODEQ 303(d) listing of Palouse Creek for bacteria, sediment, and stream temperatures.

This technical assistance project will develop restoration treatments to restore watershed function and critical lowland rearing habitat by improving stream complexity, floodplain connectivity, water quality, and flow conveyance across 1.3 stream miles and 45 acres in the Palouse subbasin. The main objectives of this project are to 1) develop a channel reconfiguration design, 2) develop a riparian planting plan, and 3) evaluate culvert conditions to meet the landowner's goal of creating a successful working landscape. CoosWA will work closely with NRCS, SWCD, and CREP to incorporate available resources into the proposed restoration treatments. Additionally, CoosWA will partner with the Coos County Road Department (CCRD) to evaluate and upgrade undersized or failing culverts that directly impact the project area. OWEB funds will be used for project management, mileage, contracted services, material and supplies, and indirect costs. CoosWA is providing water level and surveying materials, and the CCRD, ODFW, and BLM are providing in-kind match through technical assistance for design development. NRCS and CREP are invested to providing technical expertise and guidance to this project. The Granum family is committed to develop a comprehensive restoration plan that incorporates ranch productivity goals, water quality protection, and instream habitat improvements.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is upstream of a tide gate that is currently in a design process for replacement.

- The alternatives being considered are technically sound and appropriate. The approach is effective for establishing expectations regarding ecological and agricultural outcomes. The resulting project will benefit working lands and natural resources.
- The project will have high visibility that could lead to additional restoration opportunities in the community.
- The landowners are open to employing newer techniques with larger restoration footprints.
- The applicant has a proven track record at implementing similar type projects and moving them forward into restoration actions.
- Resulting restoration actions will benefit habitats important to ESA-listed coho and address water quality parameters, such as temperature on a stream listed on the 303(d) list of water quality impaired waterbodies.

Concerns

- More detail describing landowner roles and time commitment is needed to better understand whether the in-kind match is a reasonable estimate.
- The scope of the work will impact the current agricultural footprint, landowner communication to manage their expectations will be critical in building a foundation for a successful restoration project.
- Additional information describing the sequencing of the proposed project with the Palouse tide gate design technical assistance proposal, 221-2044, would be helpful to understand the timeliness of the proposed work. The tide gate design is a logical first step and can be a standalone project and does not appear to be tied to the products from this proposal.

Concluding Analysis

Palouse Creek is a highly productive coho stream that drains directly into the Coos River estuary. The project will treat 45 acres and improve habitat on 1.3 stream miles, improving water quality and habitats for salmonids.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,995

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering **Southwest Oregon (Region 2)**

Application Number: 221-2046-19577

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Leslie Wetland Reserve Restoration
Project: Phase 1 Alternatives Analysis

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$74,997

Total Cost: \$118,479

Application Description In the Coquille watershed, less than 5% of the historic acreage of tidal wetlands remain. Consequently, lack of slow-water refugia and off-channel habitat has been identified as a critical limiting factor affecting Oregon Coast ESU coho recovery. The Leslie Wetland Reserve is a 50 acres tidally influence wetland reserve protected under a NRCS conservation easement in perpetuity in Leneve, OR (Coos County). A restoration project in the 1990's attempted to revert the 50 acres of bottomland from pastureland to the historic wetland state by removal of tide gates and drainage ditches. While beavers have colonized the upper valleys, the majority of the easement, including the alluvial floodplain, is still in poor condition and almost entirely lacks wetland function. This technical assistance application seeks to develop an alternatives analysis that will address the following issues: 1) lack of floodplain connectivity due to an incised channel that is too straight and deep; 2) hydrological constrictions above and below the floodplain due to undersized culverts; and 3) lack of native plant diversity and a monoculture of reed canary grass. This grant request, Phase 1 of technical designs, will result the development of a robust project team, field data collection sufficient to develop an alternatives analysis for restoration actions, a selected alternative, and preliminary cultural resources surveys to inform future designs. Phase 2 of technical designs will result in the development of the preferred alternative, remaining cultural resource surveys, secured permits, cost estimates, and identification of funding sources for implementation. The Coquille Watershed Association with partner with the Leslie Family, ODFW, the U.S. Forest Service, the Coquille Indian Tribe, NRCS, and Coos County Roads Department among other interested restoration practitioners to develop a suite actions to reach our goals.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The technical assistance phase is well articulated and justified in the application narrative.
- The application clearly presents a breakout of the work tasks required for project implementation.
- Addressing invasive reed canary grass will be essential to improve stream channel sinuosity and create complex habitats.
- The 50-acre project area is under an existing NRCS easement.
- The landowners are engaged in the project and provided a letter of support.

- A range of alternatives were considered and are appropriate approaches to improving habitat conditions.
- Habitat conditions in the tributary upstream of the project area are good, which is indicative by the presence of beaver dams and evidence of coho spawning.
- The resulting restoration will implement actions to help address water quality issues identified in the TMDL as well as address issues impacting coho identified in the NOAA coho recovery plan.
- The applicant has sought the right set of expertise for implementing this project, along with a diverse mix of funding partners.

Concerns

- Addressing 50 acres dominated by invasive reed canary grass is a big lift and the likelihood of success is unclear with a well-established infestation in a tidal system and seed sources located above and below the project site.

Concluding Analysis

The project will help restore critical tidally influenced wetland areas important to ESA-listed coho and a myriad of other species. The landowners have demonstrated a conservation ethic and are invested in the success of the project and maintaining its restoration benefits. The project builds on local momentum and partnerships developed to restore these important habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,997

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$74,997

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2047-19578

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Watts Toppin Dam Fish Passage Project

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Josephine

OWEB Request: \$67,175

Total Cost: \$128,565

Application Description This project addresses the need for fish passage improvement at the Watts Toppin Irrigation Dam located at RM 2.1 on Williams Creek, a main tributary to the Applegate River near Provolt, Oregon. Williams Creek and its tributaries are among the most important producers of salmon and steelhead in the Applegate River Basin. Watts Toppin Dam is listed on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Statewide Fish Passage Priority List as the 5th highest priority in the Applegate Watershed. The 4 higher priorities are currently in varying stages of planning and/or design for removal or retrofit by APWC and/or other entities. The proposed project will bring fish passage conditions at Watts Toppin Dam to current standards and evaluate opportunities to improve irrigation efficiency and dedicate senior water rights instream. The project will benefit ESA-listed Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, Steelhead Trout, Coastal Cutthroat Trout, and Pacific Lamprey.

The proposal seeks to build upon the recently completed Lower Bridgepoint Fish Passage Project (OWEB grant 220-2015), located 1 mile downstream of Watts Toppin Dam. The project, was similar in scale and design to the proposed project. Together, they will substantially improve access to valuable upstream spawning and rearing habitats. Additionally, the proposed project is located within the current Applegate SIA and will complement these activities.

Topographic survey work has been conducted and conceptual design alternatives are being developed for a roughened channel. This proposal will support engineering for final design, permitting, and bid support; permit applications; and water user coordination. Additionally, an evaluation of the current irrigation system will be conducted to characterize water losses and look for opportunities for irrigation efficiencies. Project partners include water users, Rogue Basin Partnership, BLM, Williams Cr WC, and Paul Allen Family Foundation through American Rivers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is in an existing ODA Strategic Implementation Area.
- The design approach will utilize a roughened channel leading up to Watts Toppin dam. These features are known to provide volitional fish passage without a ladder.
- Addressing the passage issue will improve fish access to cool water and quality habitat upstream.

- The work builds off an earlier project to improve fish passage at the Lower Bridge Point Diversion located a short distance below the project site.
- The project will implement actions that address factors limiting coho production identified in the NOAA recovery plan.
- There is a potential for an instream water right to result from the project, which would add value by addressing low summer flow conditions.
- The project site is included in the Applegate temperature TMDL.
- The proposal will develop a preferred design option and build upon previous planning efforts. The scope of work presented is clear.
- The applicant has a proven track record implementing similar type projects.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the full breadth of the project's ecological goals can be met because not all landowners support an option for dam removal.
- The dam is not a complete barrier to fish passage. Low summer flows exacerbated by water withdrawals impede juvenile passage. At high flows, upstream and downstream passage is known to occur.
- A large seasonal push up dam below the project site at the mouth of Williams Creek impedes juvenile passage seasonally and will limit the potential benefits from the proposed project.

Concluding Analysis

Williams Creek provides valuable habitat for salmonids but is impacted by low flows, poor water quality, and fish passage barriers. The project will develop a design alternative to provide for fish passage at low flows and allow juveniles access to cooler water and higher quality habitat upstream. The complexity of the fish passage issue at Watts Toppin irrigation dam makes the use of a technical assistance phase critical to developing a successful restoration pathway.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$67,175

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering **Southwest Oregon (Region 2)**

Application Number: 221-2048-19583

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Kennedy Slough Tidegate and Channel Design

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$74,630

Total Cost: \$144,013

Application Description Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers and our partners are working collaboratively to restore the health of the Umpqua Estuary by working with owners of tidal wetlands to protect functional habitat, restore degraded habitat, educate the public and evaluate project effects. The goal of this project is to complete designs for fish passage, tidal channel, and dike work needed to improve the ecological conditions of Kennedy Slough, a tidally influenced wetland located in the lower Smith River. Tidal wetlands along the lower Smith River have been significantly altered for urban and agricultural use by clearing, filling in, diking and draining. This habitat is critical feeding and refuge for many aquatic species including steelhead, salmonids, eulachon and Pacific lamprey. Preliminary designs (30%) for tidegate replacement, channel reconstruction, and dike work have been completed for the Kennedy Slough project. To create a final design for the Kennedy Slough project, work is needed to 1) finalize the conceptual project design, 2) obtain cultural review concurrence, 3) engage permit agencies for pre-submittal review, 4) submit all permit and concurrence applications, 5) provide outreach to neighboring tidegate and wetland owners, and 6) apply for project implementation funding. Project partners include Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District, National Marine Fisheries Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Port of Umpqua, Smith River Watershed Council and private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will address the loss of estuarine overwintering habitat for coho, which is the most important limiting factor for coho identified in the NOAA recovery plan.
- The project builds on past habitat enhancement work in the area, including the Glover Tide Gate Restoration Project (220-2011). The applicant is applying lessons learned from this previous project to the current effort.
- The site is adjacent to wetland habitat owned and managed by ODFW.
- The applicant is seeking input from other groups more experienced with tide gate restoration and is engaging with the appropriate agency, stakeholders, and community partners.
- Resulting restoration projects will restore access to habitat and improve conditions of historic tidal wetlands that are essential for overwintering coho along with a myriad of other species.

Concerns

- Landowner commitment to the project long-term is uncertain because it is unclear if one of the properties is still for sale.
- There are two property owners involved in the project and it appears that each may have different expectations for their “desired future condition”, which could limit the effectiveness of the project. For example, the expectations for where flooding pastureland will occur is unclear.
- Reed canary grass will be left untreated at the upstream site, which could potentially limit the effectiveness of the future restoration project.
- The proposal lacks details describing the extent of the riprap placement in relation to the ordinary high-water line. This information will be a key point in the permitting process.
- The proposal lacks an alternative analysis.
- It is unclear whether the applicant has related experience in conducting tide gate projects. There could be merit to completing the adjacent tide gate restoration project to establish a track record.
- The application budget lacks details needed to determine whether costs align with work necessary to accomplish project objectives. For example, the additional engineering support seems high given the chosen design approach and no more alternatives will be examined.

Concluding Analysis

The project will address two failing tide gates and provide access to over-wintering tidal habitat important to juvenile ESA-listed coho by building connectivity between estuaries and wetlands. The proposal lacks detail related to the project design needed to determine the likelihood for the project to succeed. This work is very important to the recovery of coho and the restoration of more natural tidal flows into wetland areas. It is critical that the design work going into these complex restoration projects consider a variety of factors, including landowner expectations, and design alternatives.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2049-19592

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Winter Lake Phase 3: Hydrologic Enhancement Design

Applicant: Coos SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$56,523

Total Cost: \$194,004

Application Description

The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District (Coos SWCD) & team are developing the Winter Lake Phase III tidal floodplain hydrologic connectivity project. The project is within the Beaver Slough Drainage District (BSDD) floodplain (River Mile 20.5) of the Coquille River, 2.5 miles west of Coquille, Coos County, OR. Historical water management through installation of tidegates, berms, and channel excavation in the early 1900's disconnected fish access to over 14,000 acres of tidal floodplain habitat in the Coquille River basin severely truncating production potential for coho. Early tidegate infrastructure has changed little since tidegates were installed in the early 1900's. Oregon Coast (OC) coho have declined from ~150,000 average /412,000 peak adults prior to Euro- settlement to ~14,000 annually today. .

In 2017 the largest tidegate project within the Pacific Coast was installed; the C3P tidegate project on the BSDD (Winter Lake Phase I). In 2018 installation and reconnection of ~8.0 miles of tidal channel was completed in Unit 2 of Winter Lake (Phase II). Coos SWCD in coordination with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), BSDD, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and landowners are proposing to develop engineering and design for replacement of undersized culverts and installation of swale channels/grassed waterways that will critically enhance the capacity of BSDD Units 1 and 3 to produce OC coho juveniles and pasture grass due to enhanced hydrologic connectivity. This project will provide the infrastructure necessary to fully utilize the investment developed through Phase I and II. The project will aim to incorporate NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy (EQIP/RCP) funding with other match sources for implementation of the project. The project team includes: SWCD, ODFW, TNC, BSDD, and Coquille Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns are addressed, specifically regarding the installation of grazing management tools to protect water quality.
- The project is located within the footprint of the China Camp Creek Tide Gate Replacement Project. The land behind the completed tide gate project includes three units with extensive channel and riparian restoration completed in Unit 2 as part of the previous project. Units 1 and 3 are reserved primarily for agricultural purposes and the proposed technical assistance will result in 90% designs for channel restoration compatible with the agricultural practices in these units.

- The project builds on a restoration work undertaken to replace tide gates and restore habitat in Unit 2, which is currently in a monitoring phase.
- Partners have relevant experience, and their roles are well defined in the application.
- Given past investments and lessons learned, the applicant and partners are realizing cost effectiveness.

Concerns

- It is unclear how the project will achieve improved tidal exchange in Units 1 and 3.
- The design will address only a portion of the limiting factors identified in NOAA recovery plans for coho, which limits potential habitat benefits from the project. For example, water temperatures get high in this part of the Coquille and it needs to be addressed more comprehensively.
- The grass swales described in objective 3 of the application will provide limited habitat opportunities.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a resubmit. The applicant has continued to refine the proposal for a design approach that will improve the channel system on agricultural lands found within Units 1 and 3 of the larger China Camp Creek and Winter Lake restoration project. These two units have water levels that are currently operated by a Water Management Plan designed to consider that coho will have access to these units during the winter months and that these units are managed for agriculture the rest of the year. The project builds on momentum in the Coquille River watershed to improve fish access through tide gate infrastructure and restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$56,523

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2050-19614

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Indian Creek Sediment Reduction

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$34,986

Total Cost: \$43,959

Application Description This project is located on Indian Creek, a tributary to the Rogue River. The creek lies within Curry County, near the town of Gold Beach. Indian Creek headlands begin in BLM lands and go through one single owner ranch property, through an ODFW volunteer-run fish hatchery (supported by the landowner), and then empties into the Rogue estuary at approximately river mile 1.2. Indian Creek is an important tributary for fall Chinook, coho salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout.

The landowners are conservation minded and have participated in several of our grant programs (fish passage work, large wood through small grants) throughout the years, as well as NRCS programs on their land. They are currently working within the Conservation Stewardship Program to implement forest conservation practices on their land to enhance wildlife habitat. This includes increasing riparian buffers, creating meadow gaps, diversifying forests, prescribed burns, and creating wildlife snags in several areas. There are currently two locations that cross Indian Creek, which are currently low water crossings and there is a need to reduce their impact to the streams by placing crossings in both locations. One location did previously have a bridge for nearly a century, but it has now failed. Having personally driven across the low water crossings, I have seen 20-30 Chinook scatter quickly upon driving into the stream and have seen productive redds on either side of the crossing. There is also a notable plume of sediment that occurs each time you pass. We would like to see this remedied.

We are proposing to place bridges in both locations to accommodate ranch vehicles, with one bridge needing to pass log trucks as well. We are currently working with the landowner, NRCS, and ODFW staff about how to best address this problem, and how we can best reduce sediment impacts to this important stream for both fish and wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project addresses water quality concerns identified in the TMDL related to sedimentation.
- The stream has high intrinsic potential for coho habitat.
- The planned cultural resource surveys are necessary and appropriate.

- The applicant brings seasoned and capable staff along with a cadre of experienced partners.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the applicant is coordinating with the BLM regarding the compatibility of the project design within the BLM right-of-way and potential future logging on BLM land located above the project site.
- Additional information on the crossing, including the intended use, frequency of use, and the timing of use would be helpful to better understand project technical soundness.
- Additional alternatives analysis that includes consideration of options, such as low water crossings, would strengthen the application.

Concluding Analysis

There are currently two locations that cross Indian Creek that are low water crossings. Crossing solutions will be developed to reduce sediment impacts to water quality in Indian Creek, which supports coho and other salmonids.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$34,986

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2051-19567

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Archie Fire Post Restoration Project
Effectiveness Monitoring

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$138,655

Total Cost: \$607,628

Application Description Unfortunately, severe large forest fires are becoming more frequent in Oregon. There is a need to determine how best to approach restoration and rehabilitation of streams affected by fires. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR) were planning a large-scale stream restoration and effectiveness monitoring project in the Rock Creek Watershed, a major tributary to the North Umpqua River in Douglas County when the Archie Creek Fire burned over 70% of the watershed. Most of this burn was high severity with 100% tree mortality. Additionally, the adjacent watershed (Canton Creek) was mostly unburned, so the potential exists for a paired watershed study. This devastating fire has presented an opportunity to study post-fire water quality impacts in a severely burned watershed, as well as the effectiveness of stream restoration work to mitigate those impacts. Adding a comparison to Canton Creek will provide a substitute for pre-data that we were beginning to collect when the fire occurred. The BLM BugLab at Utah State University is collaborating on the project. They are designing the study so that the data is of statistical significance and have a professor who will analyze and publish the results in peer-reviewed literature. PUR will collect and analyze stream temperature, shade cover, pebble counts, and water quality. Also, PUR will collect all samples for benthic macroinvertebrates, Epilithon, organic matter and nitrate, nitrite, and phosphate that will be sent to the Bug Lab for analysis. Data will be collected for five years. Aquatic macroinvertebrates are good early indicators of stream quality since they respond quickly to physical, chemical, and biological conditions, an indicator of conditions essential for fish survival. USGS re-established a real-time stream gage in Rock Creek in April 2021 and added a sonde to provide year-round water quality data, this will provide critical data for the project.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This monitoring project will complement the existing data in Rock and Canton creeks in regard to fish, water temperature and flow data. The application describes the current and planned post-fire monitoring efforts underway and the plan to engage with several agencies to communicate the results of the collective efforts.

- The applicant will follow professionally accepted protocols and has a DEQ approved Sampling and Analysis plan that will be updated if the project is funded.
- The applicant is partnering with several organizations to collect the data and has engaged with the Utah State University Bug Lab to assist in the macroinvertebrate monitoring element, including sample collection, bug identification, and enumeration.
- The data will be stored internally and with partnering agencies, including submitting water quality data to DEQ.
- The applicant will disseminate the findings in a number of ways, including generating a peer reviewed journal article, providing a final report to OWEB and making the report available on the applicant's website, and presenting at professional conferences, such as American Fisheries Society and/or CONNECT.
- The applicant has many years of experience collecting water quality data. They are working with USGS and BLM to install and operate streamflow gages, and these agencies have the necessary experience to properly operate the gages.
- The applicant took the time to engage an array of technical experts to scope this project and leverage resources to submit a comprehensive application.
- The applicant is engaging community stakeholders and plans to share data with the Glide Water Association to help with operation of their water treatment plant.
- The budget is appropriate for the timeframe, given the data will be collected over a total of five years and three different reports will be written to summarize data at key time intervals.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application poses broad monitoring questions, and it is not clear the monthly sampling (May to September) is needed to answer the question specific to macroinvertebrates.
- While not a major concern, the application did not describe the substrate and stream canopy methods or analysis procedures to understand how they will use these data to answer their monitoring questions.
- The turbidity grab samples will yield limited information. Given the remote location of this watershed, storm events may be hard to capture. Also, it is not clear if stream restoration efforts will reduce turbidity levels.
- Given the focus on benthic macroinvertebrates and algae, this project does not plan to track bed movement (aggradation and degradation) that is likely to occur and impact both of those parameters.
- The application did not describe how all the data will be integrated to understand differences in the control and burned watersheds and restored vs. unrestored reaches.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

Review the frequency of macroinvertebrate monitoring to ensure the data are needed to answer questions stated in the application and determine how this aligns with the monitoring questions stated in the Utah State University document that was uploaded with the application.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The monitoring protocols and methods are appropriate, and science based.
- The applicant has an approved ODEQ monitoring and sampling plan.
- The macro-invertebrate sampling approach has been locally used for over 20 years.
- The applicant has extensive monitoring experience, and a suite of appropriate state and federal partners are engaged and dedicated to this work.
- A diversity of partners supports the project, which is demonstrated by match contributions.
- The applicant has a successful background in implementing quality monitoring work.

Concerns

- The proposed frequency of macro-invertebrate sampling may not provide enough data to detect a measurable change.
- It may not be appropriate to evaluate the effect of installed habitat structures on water quality because these structures are not designed address turbidity.
- The Archie Fire was not a typical wildfire because of its high severity and intensities that resulted in 100% tree mortality instead of a mosaic burn pattern. Due to this, monitoring results from the proposed project may not be transferable to other situations.
- Monitoring results may not be indicative of a typical post wildfire response because post-fire management for the Archie Fire has included a very aggressive wood salvage component.
- Additional explanation for the selection of Canton Creek as a control for evaluating water quality is needed to clarify the suitability of the choice.
- It is unclear from the application how the proposed data is relevant and necessary for informing future aquatic restoration in Rock Creek.
- The geography has burned in the past with seven fires in the last ten years. It may be difficult to incorporate previous changes before this fire occurred.

Concluding Analysis

Using macro-invertebrates as a stream quality indicator has been applied in the past and can be an effective surrogate for comparing and characterizing stream conditions. While determining the impacts of fire on aquatic ecosystems is valuable, the application lacks details indicating the proposed project is the right approach, in the right place, and at the right time to achieve the proposed monitoring goal.

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2052-19575

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Baseline Vegetation and Surface
Water Monitoring after Restoration Activities at
Lalgawa Creek

Applicant: The Understory Initiative

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$55,223

Total Cost: \$74,874

Application Description Located in the Cascade Mountains of Jackson County, Oregon, decades of grazing and water diversion practices have impaired ecological function of Lalgawa Creek and surrounding wet meadow complexes. A collaborative effort between the Vesper Meadow Education Program, The Understory Initiative, The Beaver Coalition, and US Fish and Wildlife Service is attempting to restore hydrologic function along Lalgawa Creek by installing a series of Post Assisted Log Structures (PALS). The intent of the PALS is to reverse the channelization within Lalgawa Creek and raise the local water table by slowing water flow and encouraging the accretion of sediment behind the structures. This partnership will also be addressing the loss of native riparian vegetation by treating invasive plants and installing or otherwise encouraging the re-establishment of native plants that have particular ecological and/or cultural importance within the project area. We are proposing to monitor landscape changes to these restoration activities and help address a current gap in a rapidly developing field of study. Specifically, we will record data before and after restoration activities including 1) measures of plant community composition and structure with a focus on noxious weed cover, riparian woody species density, and the cover of species identified by Siletz and Grand Ronde Tribal members as culturally important, species that are known to be important habitat features for the Federal ESA Candidate species; Mardon skipper (*Polites mardon*), the Oregon Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus affinis*); and 2) measures of improved hydrologic function within the stream-meadow complex. Measures of hydrologic function will include in-stream discharge, surface water temperature, and surface water storage capacity in riparian areas impacted by the PALS. Additional project partners include ODFW, independent field biologists, and the Klamath Bird Observatory.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application adequately describes the monitoring planned for 2021, prior to restoration with matching funds.
- The applicant is working with Tribes that have interest in this area to incorporate indigenous knowledge into the vegetation monitoring efforts by identifying plants that have cultural value.
- The application describes how this monitoring project relates to other bird and butterfly monitoring on adjacent lands by the applicant and partners.

- The applicant will follow professionally accepted protocols to collect the data and will develop a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) to be approved early in the project by DEQ.
- The application describes how the various data will be stored and reported annually after each field season.
- The application adequately describes the partners and staff working on this project. All of those that are mentioned have sufficient qualifications and experience to complete the work as proposed.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It is not clear how this restoration effectiveness monitoring project relates to the vesper sparrow. This restoration project is installing BDAs to increase wet meadow habitat; however, this species is not typically found in this habitat type (although it can be found near the edges of wet meadow).
- It was not clear how extensive the pre-project vegetation data are to track changes due to restoration actions over the course of the project.
- Quantifying hydrologic changes post restoration will be challenging, given that the applicant proposes to collect only one year of pre-project data.
- It was not clear how high flow data will be measured once high flows overtop the banks and spread water across the floodplain.
- The application proposes to partner with ODFW to install the streamflow gage but did not specify who from the agency would be assisting. It was not clear why OWRD was not consulted on this portion of the project.
- The data analysis for water temperature is not well described. The applicant assumes that decreased water temperatures will occur; however, this is not certain given the restoration goal to increase water surface area and residence time in the project area.
- The application lacked detail to understand the hydrologic data analysis to measure changes in surface water storage capacity and flood attenuation. It was not clear what metrics would be used to represent these terms used in the application and how evapotranspiration would be accounted for in the analyses.
- It is unclear if the hydrologic analysis will help answer the monitoring questions. The applicant proposes to track precipitation events, but the application does not adequately describe recording rainfall or obtaining data from nearby weather stations to interpret the data.
- It was not clear if there is sufficient funding in the budget to cover the staff time to collect detailed hydrologic measurements and analyze the data to answer the monitoring questions.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on and complements other monitoring in the area.
- Collecting water temperature will be helpful in evaluating the impacts of Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA) on water quality.

- The proposed monitoring effort is important for characterizing hydrologic and vegetation responses to restoration actions along Latgawa Creek. Restoration actions have been implemented to address incision of high elevation meadows that contribute to many of the issues impacting downstream aquatic resources.
- An array of qualified partners will bring appropriate experience to the project.
- The applicant will follow professionally accepted protocols to collect the data and will develop a Sampling and Analysis Plan for ODEQ approval.

Concerns

- Additional parameters could be helpful for evaluating restoration actions, such as channel aggradation resulting from BDA and post-assisted log structures (PALS) installation.
- Adding soil surveys may be helpful to better understand how water moves through the system.
- The budget includes lump sums, additional detail describing costs is needed to determine whether costs rates are reasonable for the proposed work.
- One year of pre-project data collection during a drought-stricken period may have limited applicability for an effective comparison with post-restoration data.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed monitoring is reasonable, follows established methods, and can help inform future restoration efforts in Latgawa Creek and surrounding wet meadow complexes. The applicant is working with Tribes to incorporate indigenous knowledge into the project work and will share data with Tribal members from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to assist with collaborative First Food plant restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$55,223

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$55,223

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2053-19593

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Coos Watershed Real-time Hydrological and Meteorological Monitoring 2021-2023

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$102,772

Total Cost: \$168,081

Application Description The Coos Watershed, located on the Southern Oregon Coast, is the home of an important population of the ESA listed coastal coho salmon. The ESA Recovery plan for the Oregon Coast coho salmon (NOAA 2016) cites the need for increased quantity and quality of freshwater and estuarine rearing habitat. Historically, the need for hydrological and meteorological data was identified in the IMST's Recovery of Wild Salmonids in Western Oregon Lowlands (2002), and in OWEB's Monitoring Strategy for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (2003). NOAA's A Strategic Plan for Enhanced Coastal Observational System and Predictive Hydrodynamic Model for Improved Management of the Coos Bay Estuary, Oregon (2005) ranked continuing gaging station operations as the highest priority. The lack of long term hydrological data has driven the Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) to meet this need. Most recently, Oregon's 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy (OWRD 2017) recommends that the state continue to maintain the stream gage network, collaborate with other groups, and promote continuous monitoring of changing climates.

OWEB funds will be used for staff to operate, and maintain six real-time stream gaging stations. Hydrological data will be analyzed and summarized by water year, and reported quarterly and annually on the CoosWA website. Discharge data will be further compiled into the long-term data set, flow duration estimates will be recalculated with the updated data. Meteorological data will be summarized by water year. Instantaneous data will be available in real-time on our website.

Since 1999, CoosWA has partnered with OWEB, OWRD, ODEQ, NOAA, U of O, CB/NB Water Board, SSNERR, CTCLUSI, Coquille Indian Tribe, and BLM to support a Water Resources Program that will develop a data set large enough to perform meaningful statistical analysis for monitoring, assessment, research, project effectiveness, and restoration projects needs.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This project will continue to complement a hydrodynamic model in the Coos Estuary that is maintained by the University of Oregon (UoO).
- The application supports streamflow gages and builds upon an existing network of gages in the watershed.
- The application provides a useful history about why the streamflow network was developed and the uses of the data collected to date.
- The application adequately describes how flow and water level data will be collected, along with quality assurance/quality control methods for data collection, management, and analysis.
- The staff working on this project has many years of experience collecting and managing streamflow gaging data.
- The application describes how past data have been shared via the applicant's website and directly with the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, UoO, recreationists, and fisherman.
- The budget is adequate to cover expenses, given that the project leverages the existing streamflow gaging equipment to continue to collect data for two additional water years.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application does not include monitoring questions, which makes it difficult to review the application relative to specific evaluation criteria.
- It is not clear what the applicant's specific plans are to apply the data in a meaningful manner.
- The application does not describe how the continuous water temperature and turbidity data will be collected, managed, and analyzed to meet the objectives described as they relate to benefitting salmon.
- The application does not describe how data will be reported at end of the year and made publicly available in a summarized report that interprets the data.
- The budget includes costs for the annual Kisters user group meeting, but the application does not describe how this relates to the project, which makes it difficult to know if this cost is appropriate for the work necessary to accomplish the objectives.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Appropriate methods and strategies will be used and are well defined in the application.
- The project activities are identified in multiple state and federal plans to evaluate limiting factors impacting ESA listed species.
- The resulting project data will be available on the applicant's website.
- The data collected is useful to a wide variety of watershed stakeholders.

- The data analysis will develop records to help understand how well instream wood structures perform over various flood intervals.
- The applicant is coordinating with appropriate local and state partners that support and actively utilize the information developed from the proposed monitoring work.
- A former USGS employee with appropriate technical expertise assists with data review and Quality Assurance and Quality Control.

Concerns

- Letters of support from state and federal partners would have helped document their commitment to the project work.
- The application lacks some details related to the monitoring questions the applicant hoped to answer with the proposed work.

Concluding Analysis

There is a significant need for gaging stations to collect long-term hydrological data, and yet funding sources for their operation is limited. The information provided from this project is actively used by the applicant to develop restoration projects and inform other monitoring work. The data is also valued by many other efforts and users, including public agencies and private individuals.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$102,772

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$102,772

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2054-19602
Project Name: Almeda Post Fire Monitoring

Project Type: Monitoring

Applicant: Rogue Valley COG

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$170,783

Total Cost: \$287,613

Application Description

The project is located in southwestern Oregon in the Bear Creek Watershed, a major tributary of the Rogue River. The watershed encompasses the Medford urban area and includes the municipalities of Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford, Central Point, Jacksonville, and Jackson County. Specifically, the project focuses on the area burned by the Almeda fire.

In September 2021, the Almeda fire burned 3000 acres and destroyed over 2500 homes and 600 commercial businesses within the cities of Phoenix and Talent in addition to rural homes and farms along Bear Creek from Ashland to Medford. In addition, the fire destroyed native and planted riparian vegetation that helped improve local water quality conditions by providing shade, habitat, erosion protection, and contaminant filtration.

An urban fire of this magnitude presents water quality concerns of short-, mid-, and long-term duration. Toxic materials from destroyed homes and businesses, farm properties, materials used in firefighting have been distributed through ash, smoke and sediment – into the air, soils and water. As sites cleanup, restoration and rebuilding take place, materials continue to enter the stream, washing into the creeks directly or through storm drains. Impacts are heightened by the dramatic loss of riparian vegetation.

Research shows that the most significant impacts occur 2-5 years post fire. Local resources are close to exhausted, so additional funding is essential to analyze data collected, evaluate trends, and continue critical monitoring activities.

Funding would allow us to continue implementing the monitoring program develop a formal SAP/QAPP, complete a comprehensive evaluation of data collected, and prepare a final report that can be used locally, by researchers (OSU) and by other communities impacted by urban fires to determine water quality monitoring needs and responses.

Partners include DEQ, RRWC, RVCOG, Jackson SWCD, SOU, RVSS, as well as local communities.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application is engaging a large group of partners to continue to collect water quality data to meet a variety of objectives.
- The application describes the existing TMDL related and post-fire water quality data that are available, and the applicant is incorporating insights from past urban fires in California to inform their monitoring approach.
- The applicant has the majority of the QA/QC procedures described in existing quality assurance plans and will use this information to develop a DEQ approved SAP.
- The applicant and partners will use established monitoring methods to collect the data and will continue to develop a monitoring plan to organize the different compents of the project.
- The applicant will develop a central database to manage the data internally and submit water quality data to DEQ.
- The applicant and contractors working on this project have the qualifications and experience to complete the project as proposed.
- The applicant is meeting with local community stakeholders and monitoring leads to coordinate and bring the necessary expertise to fully develop and implement this project during the next three to four years.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The project has lots of moving parts, which made the application challenging to understand at times, related to how and when all the data would be collected. In addition, the process and timing for development of a final report (including who will be the lead in coordinating this among the many partners) was not clear, given the timeline described in the application.
- The complexity of the project makes it challenging to understand how the data would be analyzed to answer all the questions posed in the application.
- The application lacked detail about some of the monitoring methods, including a citation for the benthic algae sampling approach described in the application.
- It is unclear if there is enough funding in the budget for project management to complete the final report.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendations

- Coordinate with DEQ to develop a SAP early in the life of the grant.
- The monitoring plan should clearly describe the roles of each organization in relation to each monitoring objective described in the application.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant is incorporating techniques from a City of Santa Rosa template for understanding water quality impacts from urban wildfire.
- The project will continue and expand existing sampling sites to build onto an existing data set.

- Existing data sets from Bear Creek will be beneficial for comparisons with data collected through the proposed monitoring project.
- Improving the understanding of chemical impacts from fire suppression is valuable.
- The project will employ and develop new Best Management Practices (BMPs) in response to wildfire in the urban setting that will be valuable moving forward to inform response strategies in the event of future fires. New fires in 2021 thus far show how important this work is in developing BMP's.
- The project will continue monitoring efforts that were quickly put together post-fire and will incorporate development of a formal Sampling Analysis Plan (SAP).
- A long list of partners representing a wide swath of interests are dedicated to the monitoring effort.
- Eighty percent of fall chinook spawn in the Rogue River downstream of its confluence with Bear Creek. This highlights the need to understand and address water quality impacts from the wildfire, especially during early season runoff that will likely wash pollutants from the burn areas into the stream.
- The applicant is effectively leveraging partner resources.

Concerns

- The public benefit for fish, wildlife, and water quality are over-shadowed in the application by the public benefit due to an emphasis in the narrative on drinking water and the sewer system. Given the importance of the spawning habitat located downstream of Bear Creek on the Rogue River, the watershed benefits from the proposed monitoring is likely significant.
- Recent data has not gone through formal Quality Assurance and Quality Control procedures and there currently is not a SAP guiding the monitoring work; however, the proposed project will include these important monitoring components for future data collection.

Concluding Analysis

Bear Creek flows through an urbanized environment and is a significant tributary to the Rogue River. The Alameda Fire is much different than most wildfires due to its impacts to an urban setting, making it unique in Oregon. The proposed monitoring will evaluate post-fire impacts on water quality to inform BMP development and response to future fires.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$170,783

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$170,783

Staff Conditions

The applicant will coordinate with DEQ to develop a SAP early in the life of the grant. The monitoring plan should clearly describe the roles of each organization in relation to each monitoring objective described in the application.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2055-19607

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Storm Chasers: Volunteer Storm Sampling on the South Coast

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$53,863

Total Cost: \$100,320

Application Description Southern Oregon coastal watersheds are flashy systems with complex geology and historic land-use practices that, when acted on by common short-term, high-intensity storm events, can mobilize significant amounts of sediment in short periods of time. These sediment mobilization events often have negative impacts downstream such as deterioration of aquatic habitat quantity and quality, and increased erosion and stream aggradation on working lands. The Curry Watersheds Partnership (Curry SWCD, Lower Rogue Watershed Council, and South Coast Watershed Council) will monitor sediment mobilization during storm events to identify and prioritize areas for potential restoration actions, and track changes over time. Synoptic storm water quality grab samples will be collected by trained citizen science volunteers, and samples will be processed and analyzed by experienced staff members. Flow data will also be collected by experienced staff members to quantify storm intensities and conduct comparative water quality analysis between sites and over time. The results of this project will be used to identify and prioritize areas for sediment abatement restoration actions, calibrate NetMap model results, and engage and educate our community on issues related to sediment mobilization.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application clearly describes how this project will leverage previously collected storm data and the current technical assistance grant the applicant has underway.
- This data will allow the applicant to perform focused road surveys in the future, based on data interpretation, to inform potential restoration.
- The monitoring questions are clearly stated, and the proposed monitoring approach is appropriate to answer them.
- The applicant will develop a DEQ approved sampling and analysis plan and submit water quality data to DEQ to be stored in the AWQMS database.
- In general, the methods cited for streamflow measurements are appropriate.
- The applicant will provide annual reports to local partners, USFS, and ODFW, and post the reports on their website to be made available to the public.
- The staff that will work on this project have the necessary qualifications and experience to apply the proposed data collection and analysis methods in a successful manner.

- The applicant has engaged a technical expert at USGS to develop the flow monitoring and analysis approach.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application does not describe how the data can complement other monitoring efforts that may be occurring or planned by different agencies and organizations (e.g., USGS, USFS, BLM, private industrial landowners) across such a large geographic area.
- The application does not describe what equipment or methods will be used to measure specific conductivity and turbidity.
- The application does not describe the number of sites to be monitored in this application but uploaded a map that had over 50 sites identified.
- The large number of sites to be monitored with the assistance of volunteers will be a challenge logistically. There was no description of quality assurance/quality control measures regarding how samples collected by volunteers will be handled and tracked to ensure high quality data are collected.
- The rotating panel approach to measure water levels at different sites over three years could be a challenge to implement across a large number of sites.
- The proposed approach to collect water level data with 3-foot staff levels has limitations, given that the streams are likely to exceed this height during storm events and could result in a data gap when water samples are collected.
- The budget narrative did not describe how the monitoring program coordinator's expenses were calculated to determine if the costs are appropriate to accomplish the objectives.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

Consider selecting a subsample of dedicated sites to track water levels over the project timeline.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project work is prioritized based on previous data collection efforts.
- The return of some volunteers from past efforts will provide continuity.
- The applicant is experienced in implementing monitoring efforts.

Concerns

- The number of sites to be sampled is unclear in the application. A map shows around fifty sites, but the narrative does not provide an exact number of sites that aligns with the map.
- The high number of sites to be sampled will be challenging, especially if volunteer recruitment is low. It is unclear from the application whether volunteers are already committed to participate in the project.
- It is unclear how data collected will characterize flow when information will not be collected at regular time intervals.

- It is uncertain whether the proposed protocols will result in consistent data quality. For example, it is unclear how flow data captured during storm events based on volunteer observation will be reliable compared to using gages or staff plates.
- There may be liability concerns regarding the use of volunteers during storm events in potentially dangerous locations.
- The map included in the application lacks context for understanding the proposed project in relation to other efforts in a large geographic area.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds off previous monitoring efforts; however, it is unclear from the application whether the approach is likely to succeed in effectively collecting data in a consistent manner.

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-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2056-19610

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Temperature Monitoring of 3 High Priority Watersheds in the Sixes Subbasin

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$45,865

Total Cost: \$78,985

Application Description Continuous summer water temperature monitoring is proposed in 3 high-priority watersheds within the Sixes Subbasin (HUC8): the Elk River, Sixes River, and Morton Creek. Extreme summer water temperature has been identified as a primary water quality limiting factor for aquatic species in this subbasin, and is Category 5 on ODEQ's 303(d) list. Strategic Action Plans recently completed for both the Elk and Sixes also identify temperature as a known data gap. While temperature data from these watersheds does exist, a majority of that data is 10 to 20 years old and presumably not representative of current conditions. The highest quality current temperature dataset in this subbasin is an ongoing long-term monitoring effort in Morton Creek, an ODA Focus Area in which ODA has been coordinating continuous temperature monitoring since 2017 until recent COVID-related budget cuts halted funding. This project will establish summer water temperature monitoring sites in the Elk and Sixes watersheds, and continue efforts in Morton Creek, to understand the current status of these thermal regimes, calibrate and develop temperature models of the Elk and Sixes, contribute towards trend analysis in Morton Creek, and inform the restoration and conservation efforts of multiple local and state partners. Fifty-four temperature loggers will be deployed for 3 consecutive years throughout the 3 watersheds at sites determined to best meet project goals and objectives. Data will be analyzed following standard protocols and shared with ODEQ. Model development will be carried out with assistance from ODFW REDD group staff with experience developing similar models. The results of these efforts will be shared via reporting and presentations to the Elk River Coho Partnership, Siskiyou Coast Estuaries Partnership, Curry Watersheds Partnership boards, ODFW, USFS, ODA, and the general public.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This project will leverage the existing water temperature data that have been collected in Morton Creek in coordination with ODA since 2017.
- The applicant has coordinated with several stakeholders in the watershed to minimize the potential for duplicative efforts.
- The application describes the flow data available in the Sixes and Elk basins that will assist them in interpreting the water temperature results and developing the model.
- The applicant has an existing DEQ approved sampling and analysis plan (SAP) and will create a new one to include the additional sites they plan to monitor.

- The data will be submitted annually to DEQ at the end of each field season to be incorporated into the statewide database.
- The applicant has a plan to share the results within their local partnership in which several state and federal agencies participate. The report will be placed on their website and presented to local watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts.
- The applicant has the necessary experience to collect the water temperature data and is working with a qualified contractor to model stream temperatures using spatial stream network (SSN) models.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application did not describe the fish and habitat data that may exist or how any of these current or planned monitoring efforts can leverage the water temperature data.
- The application lacked details on both the NetMap and SSN modeling efforts, making it difficult to understand how the water temperature data will be used and the final products that will result. While the letter of support from ODFW did provide additional details that were helpful, the information would have been useful in the application.
- The time needed for ODFW to model stream temperatures may exceed the amount of time stated in the application's budget.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation:

Connect with ODFW staff who are performing survey efforts to map Yellow-legged Frog distribution in these watersheds; they are likely interested in the water temperature data.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Land management and current land uses have changed a lot in the project area making this data capture important to understand land use changes.
- The data collected will be useful and informative for targeting and developing future restoration actions.
- The locations of the monitoring sites are appropriate for data collection and meeting project objectives.
- Morton Creek has limited habitat and water quality information and this effort will help fill data gaps.
- The need for the proposed water temperature data is well described in the application and is supported by both ODA and ODEQ.
- The existing SAP will ensure data is captured utilizing procedures for quality assurance and quality control.
- There is a long list of partners engaged in this effort.
- The applicant is experienced at this type of monitoring work with proven success.

Concerns

- It is challenging to capture stream temperature variability in large river systems, and this can make analyzing and using the data difficult.

Concluding Analysis

The project team is experienced with monitoring and working within the targeted project areas. The data collected will inform future restoration as well as provide data to better understand the stream temperature issues impacting the project areas.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$45,865

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$45,865

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2057-19517

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Umpqua Oaks Partnership
Landowner Outreach

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$40,172

Total Cost: \$57,292

Application Description The project will take place in Douglas County, Oregon (see attached maps below) within four high priority areas identified by the Umpqua Oak Partnership (UOP). These areas were selected based on local knowledge of sites that contain large tracts of historic oak habitat, has potential for significant oak restoration, has issues with invasive species, has the potential for developing fire resistance with private landowners and private landowners willing to do Oak projects.

Oak habitat is declining over its range in the Western United States. The Oregon Conservation Strategy (ODFW, 2006) estimates that oak woodland habitat may now only occupy 4-7 percent of their historic range. Oak and associated plant communities provided vital resources to Native American communities. Oak savannah and oak woodlands provide habitat for more than 200 species of native wildlife, plant species endemic to oak habitats and insect life.

This project proposal would be to complete the landowner survey, statistical analysis, final report and use the results to help inform next steps in the outreach, education and project development. Follow-up to this program would be to organize and implement an Oak Woodland Day which would be open to landowners/public as a way to promote the results of the outreach, extend our contact list, include the benefits of Oaks, threats, potential projects, oak restoration techniques and funding. Additionally, we would plan two days of tours of project sites where restoration activities are taking place. This project would include funds to pay the UOP coordinator to complete the survey, statistical analysis, final report, conduct presentations to landowner groups and organize the Workshop and tours. Educational materials such as a Landowner Guide to Oak Restoration which includes the Umpqua Basin and revised will be purchased for distribution to interested landowners.

Project Partners and UOP members are included as an Upload.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The engagement effort targets a high priority geography for restoring and protecting oak woodland habitats.

- The Umpqua Oak Partnership utilizes lessons learned from other oak working groups throughout the State and is adapting techniques to move towards the development of a strategic action plan.
- The survey will reach over 1,400 landowners and was created by graduate students with a strong foundation for developing the kind of proposed engagement approach.
- The applicant appropriately identified different geographies to target in the project.
- The Umpqua Oak Partnership is poised to be a catalyst to kickstart public land managers' focus and efforts towards oak habitat restoration.
- A long list of supportive project partners is working to pull together restoration strategies across public and private lands.
- The applicant has relevant experience and previous success engaging private landowners in restoration.

Concerns

- The landowner survey is long. The length and time to complete this survey could create a barrier to private landowners.
- The pathway to restoration is unclear from the application because priority areas or specific project types expected to result from the stakeholder engagement project are not identified.
- It is unclear whether the project will build off or coordinate with the existing NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategies program focusing on oak habitat.

Concluding Analysis

The Umpqua Oak Partnership gained traction during a Focused Investment Partnership development effort and has moved forward with successfully working to conserve and enhance important oak habitat in the Umpqua basin. USFWS has been an active partner in this effort, providing technical expertise since its early inception. The project engages the appropriate partners and stakeholders in a suitable geography and has a high likelihood of resulting in restoration and conservation opportunities.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$40,172

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$40,172

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2058-19518

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Illinois Valley Collective Mobilization
for Fire and Fish

Applicant: Illinois Valley SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Josephine

OWEB Request: \$127,109

Total Cost: \$194,455

Application Description Project location is entirely within Josephine County and the Illinois River watershed; specifically, private lands within the high priority subwatersheds of West Fork Illinois River, East Fork Illinois River, and Sucker, Althouse, and Deer creeks. This encompasses the rural hubs of Selma, Cave Junction, Takilma, and O'Brien.

This project need is to engage landowners in multidirectional communication to address, on their properties, (1) dangerous forest conditions compounding catastrophic wildfire risk, and (2) riparian and instream habitat limitations.

The proposed work is for stakeholders to come together to: coordinate resources, develop a messaging plan and engage in multidirectional communication with private landowners, develop restoration projects with cooperative landowners, and establish a replicable model to maintain and expand successes.

Project partners include: IV Conservation District (IVSWCD), IV Watershed Council (IVWC), IV Community Development Organization (IVCanDO), IV Fire District, City of Cave Junction, Josephine County, Oregon Department of Forestry, Grayback Forestry, Wilson Biochar, KS Wild, NRCS, USFS, and BLM. Each of these partners is already actively participating in the Illinois Valley Fire Resiliency Oversight Group (IVFROG).

Partners share a vision to restore watershed function and health for the benefit of all communities, by building relationships and cultivating a local culture of conservation and collaboration. The project has been community-driven from its onset. This style of grassroots leadership increases the efficacy in outreach and engagement. These values emphasize the approach of localized participatory process that permeates this proposal.

The Illinois Valley (IV) supports thriving human and ecological communities across a landscape struggling to recover from historic land management practices that adversely impacted watershed conditions.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous evaluation concerns are addressed by providing information describing the type of products and associated outcomes that are expected from the proposed project.

- The applicant clearly describes a link between the proposed stakeholder engagement effort and upland forest habitat conditions that directly impact important aquatic and fisheries resources.
- The applicant clearly laid out objectives and activities relating to the roles required for successful landowner engagement.
- Improving fire resiliency at a broader landscape scale will benefit riparian habitats.
- The project geography includes water quality impaired streams identified on DEQ's 303d list. Objectives identified in the application could lead to actions that improve water quality conditions.
- The project is very timely with the recent Slater fire raising awareness within the community and focusing attention on fire and forest health issues, which has resulted in a high degree of interested landowners.
- The project brings together and involves the right suite of public and private partners necessary to achieve the project goals.
- The project partners have demonstrated success in engaging stakeholders.
- The project will build off previous successful planning and restoration efforts on private lands.

Concerns

- The pathway from the engagement work to achieving on-the-ground restoration outcomes is not clear in the application.
- The project approach to prioritize private landowners first in the process and then incorporate agency staff later could be less efficient and create missed opportunities in the process. Engaging all stakeholders within the same time frame might prove more effective.
- It is unclear whether the project interacts with or builds off work related to the NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategies in Josephine County.

Concluding Analysis

There has been an increase in unpermitted tree removal to increase defensible space by private landowners in the project geography that cite previous fires as a reason for these actions. The proposed project work will provide an avenue to work with landowners on related resource issues in manners that improve forest and riparian health as well as provide for increased fire resiliency.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$127,109

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$127,109

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2059-19536

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Highland Ditch Stakeholder Association

Applicant: South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$10,417

Total Cost: \$14,417

Application Description Location:

Highland Ditch is a 1911 2.5 mile legacy irrigation diversion located along Cow Creek, a major tributary of the South Umpqua river. Azalea, Oregon is the nearest town. The diversion is located approximately 7 miles below Galesville Reservoir, main water supply source for cities located in the South Umpqua river basin.

Project Need:

The current primitive irrigation diversion is a chronic source of ESA listed fish kills and over utilization of water resources. Present efforts to manage these problems have been insufficient due to a lack of collective community engagement . An association must be formed to address the degraded ditch condition and water distribution for irrigation purposes. Updated irrigation controls and a permanent fish screen need to be installed. The project has a high potential for removing a diversion dam associated with the stakeholders.

Proposed Work:

Engage all landowners and stakeholders to form a function organization that will equitably and safely distributing irrigation water, eliminate ESA listed fish kills, manage irrigation system maintenance and remove fish barriers from the related segment of Cow Creek.

Project Partners:

11 Highland Ditch private landowners, their leasers and renters.
South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership (surcp.org)
Oregon Dept. of Water Resources (ODWR)
Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant is a trusted member of the community and well positioned to lead the proposed effort. The applicant has contacted all the private water users to make them aware of the stakeholder

engagement work.

- The current condition of the water diversion and ditch system clearly demonstrates an urgent need to address fish passage and diversion issues identified in the application.
- There is a high potential for the stakeholder engagement to result in eligible restoration projects centered around fish passage and water quantity. The water right associated with the ditch is senior to others in the area and an instream transfer is a possible result of this work.
- The Cow Creek drainage provides ideal coho spawning and rearing with cool water refugia areas that have high intrinsic potential for coho habitat.
- Natural resource agency staff are engaged due to the importance of Cow Creek aquatic resources and opportunities to improve the ditch system. This will help in identifying viable solutions and with permitting aspects.
- The legal costs seem appropriate given the specific needs for legal advice and document review necessary in the formation of a special district.

Concerns

- The degree to which landowners are currently engaged is not well demonstrated in the application either through letters of support or clarity on landowner roles or expected participation during the project.
- While facilitation will be an important component to the success of the project, it is unclear whether this cost is included in the application budget.

Concluding Analysis

A water user association will likely be created as an outcome of the proposed stakeholder engagement project. This will be an important step towards facilitating the decision-making processes needed to effectively address water use along the ditch, fish entrapment, fish passage, and other issues.

Historically, the ditch likely diverted more water than permitted, however, there are no current or past enforcement actions by either OWRD or ODFW. Having a local non-profit leading this effort is a sound approach given the potential contention and conflict among the water users. The work has a high likelihood of success with the applicant engaging with the appropriate stakeholders in the appropriate geography.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$10,417

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$10,417

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 221-2060-19632

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Stakeholder Engagement along the Bear Creek Corridor

Applicant: Rogue River WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$64,691

Total Cost: \$109,509

Application Description The Bear Creek watershed in Jackson County is the most urbanized watershed in southern Oregon, traversing 5 communities (Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford, and Central Point) with a combined population of over 134,000 people. Bear Creek is rated in the "poor" water quality category by Oregon DEQ. It is water quality-limited for phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and bacteria. Salmonids, including Coho Salmon (currently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act), use the creek for spawning, rearing, and migration. Young salmonids can only survive the hot summer by finding pockets of cool water. The vegetative canopy over Bear Creek was estimated to provide only 15% shade cover prior to the Alameda Fire, likely less now. The creek corridor also has dense colonies of invasive plants such as Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, and reed canary grass, which suppress native plants, increase wildfire risk, and obscure line of sight for law enforcement. The Bear Creek Greenway parallels the creek for 20 miles, providing a popular thruway for recreation. but also an attractive encampment area for the unhoused population of the area, which brings with it issues related to public safety, environmental health, and fire risk. Management of the creek and Greenway is made more complex by the multitude of jurisdictions involved--from the state level down to the local.

Rogue River Watershed Council, partnering with Jackson County Parks, Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Rogue Valley Sewer Services, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District, The Freshwater Trust, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and Rogue Riverkeeper, proposes to engage stakeholders from outside the restoration community--most specifically, those in law enforcement, public safety, and fire prevention, advocates for the unhoused, and government decision-makers to secure commitments to collaborate in solving the many issues related to the creek's health. We will also engage the general public

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes a diverse list of public and private partners, including local government, which is very important to the success of this effort to improve watershed health in the Bear Creek corridor. The applicant assembled the right people to successfully engage with the variety of stakeholders involved in this high-profile opportunity.

- The project hits directly on the issues affecting the riparian corridor along Bear Creek, which provides habitat for salmonids and has challenging water quality issues. The application presents a template for effectively incorporating the variety of issues impacting watershed health into one engagement effort, including fire prevention, unsheltered population residing along the creek, sanitation, fish habitat, and water quality.
- The removal of riparian vegetation post fire is a regional concern. The proposed project could bring to light how riparian vegetation can and should be protected in the urban environment.
- The project is very timely given recent fire history and a culmination of the efforts by the applicant and recent initiatives involving the health and safety on Bear Creek.

Concerns

- The resource, social, and health concerns along Bear Creek are vast and will be difficult to address and correct for the long-term.
- Convening all the right entities needed to assist in addressing resource concerns in Bear Creek might be a big reach given the social, health, safety, and environmental issues impacting this area. Securing the right mix of consulting services to address the variety of concerns affecting the stream corridor could prove difficult.

Concluding Analysis

There are a wide variety of factors and interests along Bear Creek, including public health, fire, homelessness, and natural resources. A group of partners committed to the project's success has been assembled and will build on the applicant's proven track record of coordination and engaging with appropriate stakeholders in the project geography to accomplish planning, restoration, and monitoring efforts. The project is likely to result in meaningful restoration and protection of riparian habitats critical to restoring fish habitat and improving water quality.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$64,691

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

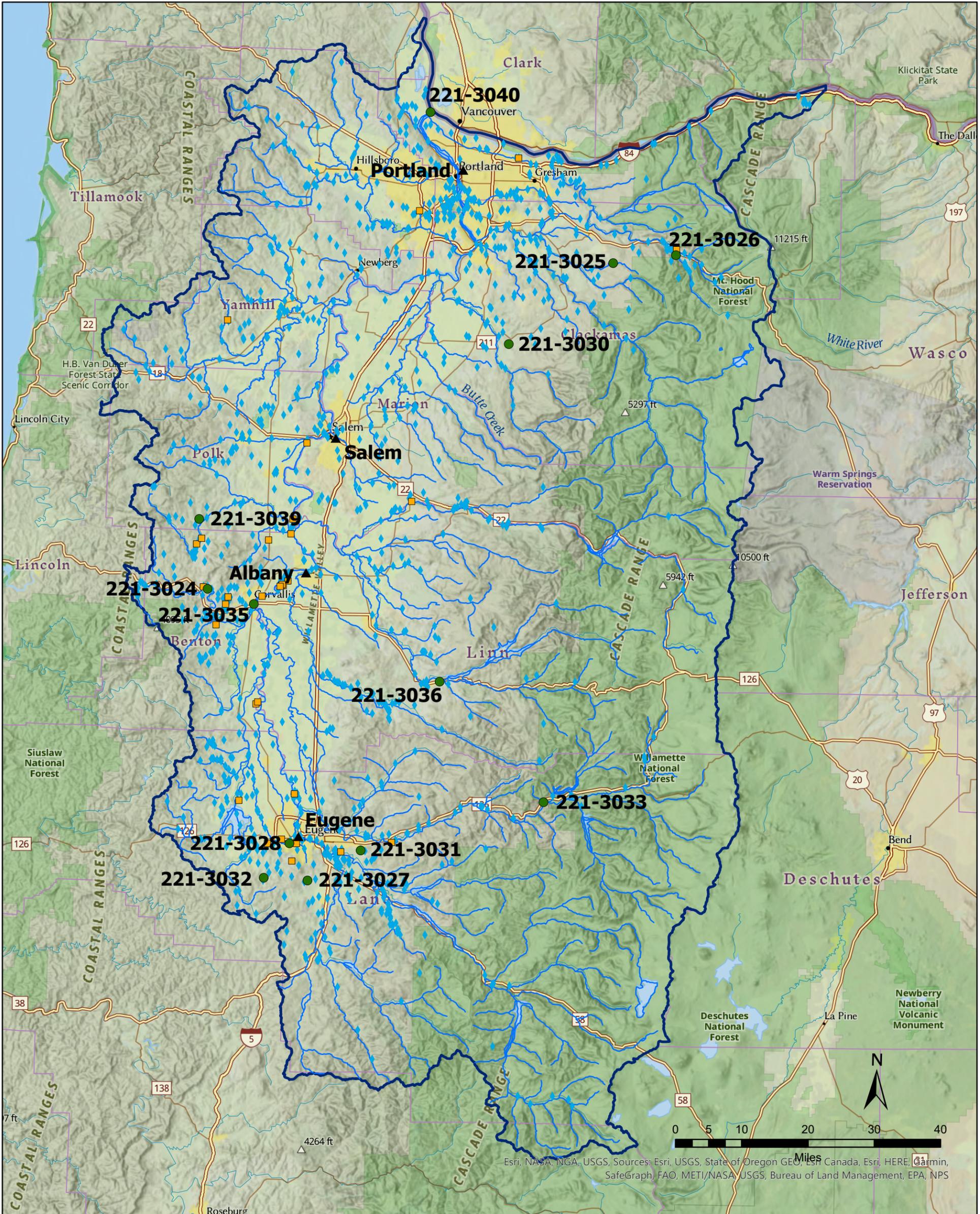
Staff Recommended Amount

\$64,691

Staff Conditions

N/A

Willamette Basin - Region 3 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2020

- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 3 Cities
- Region 3 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 3 Boundary



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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
221-3026	The Freshwater Trust	Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project	The recovery of naturally functioning conditions within the stream channels and floodplain areas of Salmon River, Zigzag River, Boulder Creek, and Clear Fork will be accelerated to increase the abundance and productivity of Upper Sandy basin salmon and steelhead populations.	291,383	Clackamas
221-3027	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Salyers Family Ranch: Oak Woodland Restoration Phase 2	Oak habitat will be restored across over one hundred acres within the lower Coast Fork Willamette watershed to preserve large legacy oaks, promote native plant diversity, and increase habitat connectivity for native birds and other wildlife.	338,827	Lane
221-3025	Clackamas River Trout Unlimited	North Fork Eagle Creek Dam Removal Project	Fish passage will be restored to eight miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat for native fish by removing a privately owned dam from the North Fork of Eagle Creek, a tributary to the Clackamas River Basin, which is a high priority basin for the recovery of endangered salmon populations.	127,237	Clackamas
221-3030	Molalla River Watch Inc	Woodcock Creek & Grimm Road Fish-Passage Project	A box culvert on Woodcock Creek in the Molalla River watershed will be replaced with a bridge to restore natural streambed processes and will open more than eleven miles of stream habitat to native aquatic species.	348,671	Clackamas
221-3024	Institute for Applied Ecology	Prairie restoration for Willamette daisy recovery	An interconnected network of prairie habitat will be created in the Willamette Valley that supports Willamette daisy populations sufficient to eventually delist this plant from federal and state Endangered Species Acts.	345,883	Benton
221-3032	Long Tom WC	Regenerating Native Plant Communities with Cultural Fire	Cultural burning will be re-introduced to restore native plant diversity, return historical management practices to the land, build Tribal fire capacity for multiple tribes, and better understand the relationship between fire and existing plant communities to inform long-term landscape management with fire.	130,289	Lane
221-3028	Long Tom WC	Urban Stormwater Improvements for Healthy Human, Ecological, & Aquatic Communities	Retrofits will be made at a parking lot in Eugene to integrate rain gardens that will improve water quality exiting the site and reduce urban stormwater pollution entering streams that negatively impacts native fish.	207,248	Lane
221-3031	Middle Fork Willamette WC	Thurston Hills Natural Area Oak Restoration and Enhancement Phase 3	Oak woodland and prairie habitat will be improved in the Thurston Hills Natural Area to increase plant species diversity, increase fire resilience, and increase knowledge and awareness among City of Springfield residents of the importance of oak habitats.	150,981	Lane
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,940,519	

Region 3- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Cycle July 26, 2021

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
221-3029	Tualatin River WC	Balm Grove Dam Removal	450,193	Washington

Region 3 - Willamette Basin Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-3033	McKenzie River Trust	Phase II Finn Rock Reach Floodplain Habitat Restoration Engineering and Permitting	Engineering, modeling, and permitting work will be completed to undertake extensive floodplain restoration actions that will improve habitat for native fish utilizing the middle McKenzie watershed.	51,740	Lane
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				51,740	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County	
None					

Region 3 - Willamette Basin Stakeholder Engagement					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-3040	Columbia Slough WC	Healthy Industrial Lands Initiative Phase II	Stakeholder engagement will build strategic and meaningful relationships within the industrial community to increase voluntary investments in watershed health on private industrial properties in the Columbia Slough floodplain.	27,293	Multnomah
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				27,293	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County	
None					

Region 3 - Willamette Basin Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-3039	Luckiamute WC	Luckiamute Temperature Monitoring Phase 3	Data will be collected to understand water temperature status and trends in the Luckiamute watershed to prioritize and design habitat restoration projects that improve water quality and habitat for native fish while adaptively managing for climate resiliency.	88,891	Polk
221-3035	Institute for Applied Ecology	Willamette daisy restoration effectiveness monitoring	The effectiveness of restoration and reintroduction activities designed to increase the abundance of Willamette daisy and overall prairie habitat quality will be monitored to determine progress toward recovery of this endangered native plant.	166,715	Benton
221-3036	South Santiam WC	South Santiam Temperature Monitoring	Data will be collected to maintain a high-quality, multi-year dataset to better understand water temperature trends in the South Santiam River and make data-informed decisions for prioritizing restoration.	35,372	Linn
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				290,978	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-3034	Sandy River Basin WC	Sandy River Cold Water Refuge Monitoring	144,751	Multnomah	
221-3037	Willamette Riverkeeper	Freshwater Mussel Occurrence and Habitat - North Santiam Basin	78,253	Linn	
221-3038	OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin	American Beaver Population Ecology in Dynamic Forested Landscapes of Western Oregon	314,983	Linn	

Region 3 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	2,310,530
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3024-19527

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Prairie restoration for Willamette daisy recovery

Applicant: Institute for Applied Ecology

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$345,883

Total Cost: \$741,666

Application Description

This project focuses on the endangered Willamette daisy, which occurs in the Willamette Valley and southwest Washington. Most populations are declining and fragmented with restricted gene flow between sites. Plants struggle to survive in habitats invaded by exotic grasses which create dense thatch, especially in the context of modern-day fire suppression. Of 21 known populations, only 6 have more than 200 plants, and only one of 9 Recovery Zones has meets USFWS recovery criteria. Without direct intervention, the risk of extinction is very high. Through habitat restoration and augmentation of Willamette daisy, we will be moving this species closer to recovery and eventual delisting. Nine project locations (Pearcy-Schoener, Bald Hill Farm, Finley NWR, Yamhill Oaks, Cornerstone, Baskett Slough, Ankeny NWR, Santiam Kingson Hills, Chankawan) are in three Recovery Zones (Corvallis West, Salem West and Salem East), five counties (Yamhill, Polk, Benton, Marion, Linn) and five Watersheds (Marys River, Deer Creek-South Yamhill River, Salt Creek, Rickreall Creek-Willamette River, Lower North Santiam River). Reintroduction sites include protected areas on public and private land. The proposed work will restore prairie habitat using techniques such as herbicide treatments, mowing and prescribed burns before seeding and planting with native prairie species, including Willamette daisy plugs and seed. Seed will be sourced from USFWS-funded production fields or from commercial nurseries. The project builds on other restoration projects funded by USFWS and OWEB at the nine project sites. It draws upon a highly functioning network of government agencies, non-profits and private landowners who are working towards prairie restoration and listed species recovery in the Willamette Valley. Partners include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Benton County, Polk and Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Greenbelt Land Trust, and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Federally listed endangered Willamette daisy populations will be augmented at nine project sites distributed over three recovery zones identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This will contribute towards achieving delisting criteria by spreading daisy populations, currently clustered in smaller geographies, across a broader landscape.
- Project objectives are measurable and clearly described in the application. For example, the tables included in the application describing Willamette daisy population targets, current status, and treatments needed for each project location, is helpful for understanding the proposed work over a broad geography.

- The proposed project builds on work completed through previous OWEB grants to restore Kincaid's lupine; another Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed upland prairie plant species.
- The proposed restoration approach will address limiting factors impacting Willamette daisy populations, including encroachment by invasive plant species and woody trees and shrubs that crowd or shade out native prairie species and convert open prairie habitats to forests.
- The proposed project includes a long-term vision for adaptively managing prairie habitats and species through entries for seeding, herbicide treatments, and mowing. This is critical to reach ESA de-listing goals and is feasible because all the project sites are protected by their location on public land or within a conservation easement. Prairies are early-seral habitat, meaning they are primarily dominated by grasses, forbs, and shrubs, which were historically managed by Indigenous people utilizing prescribed fire. These habitats are now highly disturbed and degraded due to human impacts such as agriculture, urban development, and fire suppression. Restoring and maintaining prairie systems and associated plant species requires a long-term commitment and multiple treatment entries over time because these habitats were historically maintained by people for thousands of years.
- The applicant has experience growing out prairie species and implementing prairie restoration; they are co-inventors of methods proving to be effective in restoring upland habitats in the Willamette Valley.
- There is a long, diverse list of partners contributing to the project that provided letters of support, which demonstrates partner commitment and an "all-hands" approach to implement the project.
- Details provided in the budget describing how project costs were calculated provides necessary contextual information for evaluating project cost-effectiveness.

Concerns

- The restoration sites overlap with OWEB-funded restoration and monitoring projects focused on Kincaid's lupine. Additional information describing how the two efforts to restore ESA-listed prairie species are related would provide helpful context to better understand this project. In particular, a description of how monitoring and restoration actions at the same project sites are broken out for the Willamette daisy and Kincaid's lupine, and yet are complementary, would be helpful for understanding how the efforts are leveraged to achieve overlapping prairie restoration goals and not duplicative.
- The proposed method for growing out Willamette daisy seed typically has a lower rate of success. The applicant likely chose the proposed approach to balance costs. Since Willamette daisy seed material supply is no longer as limited as it has been previously, the tradeoff of a lower overall seed germination success rate to limit costs may be appropriate.
- Project match costs are grouped into lump sums in the application budget. Additional detail is needed to better understand how match will be applied to the proposed work.

Concluding Analysis

The Willamette daisy has been somewhat neglected and is one of the last species to be addressed in prairie habitat because it has been difficult to restore due to challenges with growing out daisy plant stock. It has taken time to understand how to effectively collect and propagate Willamette daisy seed. Work in recent years has increased the understanding for what is needed to be successful in restoring Willamette daisy populations. The proposed project will target Willamette daisy recovery and also use it as a surrogate to the recovery of prairie habitats, the approach being "build it around one species and the rest will follow." As a result, this will contribute to recovery goals for both the Willamette daisy species and prairie habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$345,883

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$345,883

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3025-19558

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Fork Eagle Creek Dam Removal Project

Applicant: Clackamas River Trout Unlimited

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$267,237

Total Cost: \$355,562

Application Description

The North Fork Eagle Creek Dam Removal project addresses the decline in Lower Columbia River ESA listed salmonid fish populations partly attributed to a lack of access to high quality habitat. This project will restore full volitional fish passage to 8 miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed Lower Columbia River winter steelhead, coho salmon and spring Chinook within the North Fork Eagle Creek sub-basin. The project will also restore natural channel processes including sediment and large wood distribution. The project site is in the Clackamas River basin on the North Fork of Eagle Creek near Estacada. This dam is listed on OR Dept of Fish & Wildlife's Statewide Fish Passage Priority List as the 8th highest priority within the North Willamette Watershed District. The dam lies downstream of a highly functioning natural stream reach. Removing the dam will restore passage for juveniles and improve adult salmon throughout the year, especially during summer low flow periods. This dam is not a complete barrier to upstream fish passage for adult salmon and steelhead but is a complete barrier for juvenile salmon and other resident adult native migratory fish species including cutthroat trout. The project is composed of two sites: Site 1 - Remove the dam. Site 2 - Side channel connectivity and bank stability. To protect the homes adjacent to the stream and prevent bank sloughing from continuing to contribute sediment to the channel, large wood will be installed on the the upstream landowner's streambank and an historic side channel will be reconnected to take pressure off the actively eroding bank that threatens the existing well. The project partners and key roles include: design engineering and permitting support, Waterways Consulting; project management and technical design review, OR Dept of Fish & Wildlife; grant management, Trout Unlimited; engineering design funding, Resources Legacy Fund and permitting support, Confluence Consulting.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is well thought out and restoration objectives are clearly described in the application.
- The proposed restoration builds on previous work in the Eagle Creek basin, including stream habitat improvements and the Eagle Fern Dam removal scheduled for 2021.
- Limiting factors for lower Columbia Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish will be addressed, including lack of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat. The project will expand access to cold water refuge that is critical for all native fish.

- The North Fork Eagle Creek Dam is identified in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Statewide Fish Passage Priority List as a high priority for removal. The dam is currently a complete passage barrier to pacific lamprey and juvenile salmon and steelhead, and a partial barrier for adult salmon and steelhead.
- Removing the dam will open fish access to approximately eight miles of high-quality stream habitat located in mostly publicly owned lands.
- The project approach is technically sound.
- A variety of alternatives were considered through the design process and the most cost- effective approach for the ecological benefit was selected.
- Sediment released after the dam is removed will likely provide habitat and water quality improvements by building gravel beds that increase hyporheic exchange, which will result in cooler water flows.

Concerns

- There is some uncertainty related to the stability of the riverbank after dam removal since the dam appears to have been built to stabilize the stream channel. This may be a concern for the residential infrastructure located directly adjacent to the stream; however, the restoration design process took into consideration how to maintain streambank stability for these structures.

Concluding Analysis

Removing the North Fork Eagle Creek dam will allow native fish to seek out cold water habitat, which is critical for continued survival of Willamette ESA-listed fish species. Areas upstream of the dam have high quality spawning habitat, fish just need access to use it. The proposed project will have a high benefit for the cost by opening access for ESA-listed fish to eight miles of stream habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$267,237

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Site two was determined to be ineligible for Open Solicitation because of the Focused Investment Partnership overlap rule (OAR 695-047-0100(4)).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$127,237

Staff Conditions

Site two objectives and associated costs must be removed from the project application.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3026-19570

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$291,383

Total Cost: \$1,109,439

Application Description

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 on behalf of the Sandy River Basin Partners (the Partners). The Sandy River originates on Mt. Hood and flows 56 miles northwest before entering the Columbia River, near Portland, Oregon. The proposed project will address primary limiting factors by increasing off channel habitat/floodplain connectivity and large wood abundance in high priority tributaries of the Sandy, including the mainstem Salmon River, Boulder Creek (both in the Salmon River sub-watershed) and Zigzag River (located within the upper Sandy sub-watershed). Proposed work is on public land managed by the USFS and BLM located near Zigzag, Oregon in Clackamas County. Sandy River salmon and steelhead populations have declined over the last century due to degradation of habitat and other factors. The Partners have identified the Salmon River and upper Sandy sub-watersheds among the top areas providing high quality habitat for the basin's native fish. The Partners are aligned on a near term goal of restoring these priority watersheds to advance Sandy basin-scale restoration. Restoration actions to be undertaken as part of the proposed project 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. 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.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly defined methods and a description of how project objectives will be met, providing a clear pathway to success.
- The applicant is targeting restoration in geographies and habitats prioritized for addressing limiting factors to Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish recovery.
- Proposed habitat restoration treatments and approaches, including adding instream large wood structures, creating side-channels, and removing berms, are technically sound techniques proven to effectively restore stream processes and provide ESA-listed fish habitat benefits.
- The restoration strategy will address impacts from previous land management practices, primarily related to logging, that contributed to stream habitat decline.

- Project designs are nearly completed, and the application includes an explanation of alternatives that were considered and a justification for the chosen approach.
- The proposed restoration expands on previous project phases that have demonstrated quantified benefits to fisheries. Post-project effectiveness monitoring from previous project phases indicates the stream restoration approach is successful in restoring fish habitat. The measured fish response documented a 500% increase of fish present in areas with completed stream restoration work.
- The project team has a consistent track record for implementing similar high-quality projects.
- The project budget includes typical costs for the proposed restoration activities.
- A diversity of partners support the project, which is demonstrated by letters of support and match contributions.

Concerns

- The application includes only one map that covers a large geographic area. The applicant is encouraged to provide additional maps in future applications that include details about the position of the proposed work relative to previous restoration efforts and future phases of work. This would provide a better understanding of the proposed current phase of work within the context of the broader, long-term strategy for restoring stream habitat in the Upper Sandy Basin geography.
- Additional information on site conditions would be helpful to understand the different design approaches at each of the project sites. The design approach for the Zigzag site is more engineered compared to the Rock Creek design approach, which may be driven by site specific considerations of the geomorphic processes driving the system. A more engineered approach may be needed to manage risk associated with restoration actions at Zigzag. A description of conditions unique to the individual project sites that had to be considered in the design approach would provide context to better understand different levels of engineered solutions.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project builds on stream restoration over time that has a record of producing a quantified fish response to habitat improvements. The Sandy River watershed provides habitat to numerous ESA-listed fish species, making it a priority area for instream habitat restoration. The project has a high ecological benefit-cost ratio and certainty of success, which is documented by monitoring data from previous phases of restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$291,383

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$291,383

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3027-19573

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Salyers Family Ranch: Oak
Woodland Restoration Phase 2

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$338,827

Total Cost: \$600,979

Application Description

This 133.1 acre project is in Lane County, west of the City of Creswell, in the Camas Swale sub basin. The property (~2000 acres) known as the Salyers Family Ranch is owned by private landowners, the Salyers Family. Approximately 1600 acres of the ranch known as Creswell Oaks is protected by a conservation easement. This property contains rare and degraded Willamette Valley oak woodland, savanna, and upland and wet prairie habitats. The lack of disturbance has allowed open-grown Oregon white oaks within the project area to be threatened by conifer encroachment and overtopping and the establishment of woody vegetation in the understory. This loss of native habitat reduces biodiversity and negatively impacts important species that rely on these open canopy habitats including acorn woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, and western gray squirrel. The proposed project will implement oak woodland restoration on 133.1 acres by: (1) thinning firs and small diameter oaks around legacy oak trees; and (2) enhancing the herbaceous understory by controlling undesired species and reseeding with native forbs and grasses; (3) convert closed canopy oak woodland to a 20-60% open canopy thereby reducing the rate of Oregon white oak woodland loss and habitat fragmentation, with the long-term goal of increased recruitment, structure and function. Partners include Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC), Salyers Family Ranch (Creswell Oaks), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly defined restoration methods and a description of how project objectives will be met.
- The restoration design is based on experience from previous project phases.
- The restoration treatment approach is technically sound for addressing limiting factors for oak woodland habitats. The proposed work also incorporates prioritized actions recommended in multiple planning documents related to oak woodland habitats.
- The proposed restoration across a 133-acre footprint leverages habitat benefits resulting from previous restoration investments on the property.
- The equipment that will be used for mechanical brush management is efficient and effective.
- Materials resulting from treatment of woody vegetation will be mulched instead of piled and burned; as a result, carbon will stay in the soil instead of being released into the atmosphere. Mulching will also be effective for preparing the site for seeding by providing more effective seed to soil contact.

- The applicant has the capacity to complete the proposed restoration and has a proven track record completing similar projects.
- The applicant is engaging appropriate partners to implement the project.
- The landowner has the capacity and experience to implement restoration and has a history of implementing multiple projects across a variety of habitat types on the property. The landowner has also participated in a wide variety of conservation programs, including adding habitat protections through a conservation easement with BPA. Restoration investments are likely to be maintained in the long-term because multiple generations managing the property participate in restoration activities.
- The application budget is detailed. The cost per acre is comparable to similar projects and appropriate for the proposed restoration treatments and stewardship work needed to maintain habitat improvements.

Concerns

- No concerns identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project property contains a wide range of habitat types that offer significant restoration opportunities, and any investment is further leveraged by restoration already completed both on the site and in the region. The property also has the largest breeding population of Oregon Vesper Sparrow in Willamette Valley. Since this species is under consideration for potential listing under the Endangered Species Act, early action to restore habitat that supports this species is a priority. The project site also offers opportunity to demonstrate how working lands can effectively be balanced with restoring native plant communities.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$338,827

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$338,827

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3028-19598

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Urban Stormwater Improvements for Healthy Human, Ecological, & Aquatic Communities

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$207,248

Total Cost: \$280,143

Application Description

Location: Willamette Christian Center 2500 W. 18th Avenue Eugene, Oregon
Need: This site impacts the Upper Willamette River (UWR) Chinook evolutionary significant unit (ESU). Eugene is the largest urban area in the Upper Willamette Basin, and the primary contributor of high temperatures, heavy metals, petrochemicals, and emerging pollutants such as PFAS and 6PPD-quinone - all of which are known to impair fish survival, especially coho salmon. Likewise, the best management practice to reduce the impacts of all of these urban stormwater pollutants continues to be green stormwater infrastructure. Pollutants are typically conveyed through stormwater generated on and adjacent to this site and enters the UWR through the Long Tom River (via Amazon Creek), which accepts untreated stormwater from over 70% of Eugene's urban areas. The Upper Willamette River, Amazon Creek, the A-3 Drain, the Amazon Diversion Canal, Fern Ridge Reservoir, and the Long Tom River are all 303-D listed Creeks for pollutants including lead, mercury, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and turbidity-all of which are recognized as common urban sourced pollutants. The City of Monroe draws the majority of its drinking water from the surface waters of the Long Tom below the confluence with Amazon Creek, making the project within a drinking water source protection area.
Proposed Work: This is phase II of a multi-phase project with the church having taken on the initial phase by themselves, with technical assistance from LTWC. Phase II will treat stormwater from a two acre parking lot, lands adjacent, and air pollution from a bordering primary traffic arterial that currently adds to the stormwater load onsite. Please refer to the attached diagrams and full construction document set for current conditions and proposed solution.
Partners: Urban Waters & Wildlife Partnership (UWWP) , City of Eugene, Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC), Willamette Christian Center, Arbor South Architecture.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly defined methods and a description of how project objectives will be met, demonstrating a thoughtful approach to address urban water quality.
- Previous application evaluation concerns are addressed by clarifying habitat benefits expected from the proposed restoration and providing detailed information on planting plans, long-term stewardship, and costs.

- The project site selection was completed through a screening process for prioritizing stormwater related projects designed through a previous OWEB Technical Assistance investment. The proposed project focuses on one site that is ready for implementation and will have the largest impact compared to other identified locations.
- The restoration treatment approach is technically sound for treating stormwater. The City of Portland's most recent stormwater management manual, along with EPA and DEQ stormwater management guidance, were used to design the project.
- Planting plans are provided in the application and selected plant species are appropriate for the project site.
- The proposed restoration actions are identified in a number of watershed and water quality plans. Also, every recovery plan for Endangered Species Act listed fish species highlights the devastating impacts of stormwater on native fish.
- Treating nonpoint source pollution will also provide water quality benefits for drinking water sources.
- The project provides opportunities for raising public awareness about watershed restoration.
- The applicant has a proven track record with similar projects.
- Appropriate partners will be engaged to implement the project, some of which are new to watershed restoration projects.
- Project costs are clear in the application budget and based on bids provided as an upload to the application.

Concerns

- The literature provided in the application documenting links between stormwater pollutants and impacts to fish and the benefits of using trees and shrubs to reduce heat islands, are likely transferrable for understanding the potential benefits of the proposed project; however, including project specific effectiveness monitoring to document benefits to aquatic systems from the proposed work would be helpful for understanding the impact of urban stormwater investments to watershed health and inform future stormwater related projects.
- The project has a high cost for a small area; however, this is reflective of work in an urban environment. While the restored area is small compared to other watershed restoration projects, the project area is large for an urban landscape.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed urban stormwater improvement project is part of an innovative approach to improve water quality. Since only new development is required to incorporate stormwater treatment, the proposed project addresses a gap in stormwater management by integrating stormwater infrastructure retrofits into previous urban developments. Urban stormwater pollution has significant impacts to native fish, potentially limiting the benefits of stream habitat restoration. Oregon's voluntary approach to restoring habitat has been successful outside of urban areas; applying the same voluntary approach to address stormwater impacts on water quality within urban areas on water quality is likely to provide a significant ecological benefit to native fish.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$207,248

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$207,248

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3029-19605

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Balm Grove Dam Removal

Applicant: Tualatin River WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Washington

OWEB Request: \$450,193

Total Cost: \$774,307

Application Description

Project Location: Gales Creek winds for more than 50 miles through western Washington County, offering some of the best fish habitat in the region. Thirteen miles upstream from where Gales Creek joins the Tualatin River, at 10660 NW Balm Grove Loop, Gales Creek, Oregon (Washington County Property Tax Lot 1N4060003500), an obsolete, three-foot-tall concrete dam at Balm Grove has impeded fish passage since at least 1936. The City of Forest Grove is approximately 7 miles southeast of the property. Project Need: The project need is to restore passage for native migratory fish throughout the mainstem of Gales Creek and assist in recovery of federally listed Winter Steelhead of the Upper Willamette River Distinct Population Segment. The removal of Balm Grove Dam would open up approximately 29 miles of instream habitat to Winter Steelhead; over 25 miles of habitat to Coho Salmon and Pacific Lamprey; over 87 miles to Coastal Cutthroat Trout; and over 5 miles to Mountain Whitefish and Mountain and Largescale Sucker (Myers 2021). Additional benefits include sediment and wood transport, local water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat and connectivity. Proposed Work: This application is requesting funding to remove Balm Grove dam, a high-priority fish passage barrier (ODFW 2019); restore instream habitat; and create floodplain access. In addition, Clean Water Services (CWS) intends to enhance approximately a quarter mile of the Gales Creek riparian area in the vicinity of the dam, 11 acres of riparian forest and most of the upland on the property. CWS anticipates maintaining the riparian plantings for at least 20 years. Project Partners: Tualatin River Watershed Council (TRWC) CWS Metro Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (Tualatin SWCD) Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Confederates Tribes of Grand Ronde Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Tualatin Riverkeepers Joint Water Commission

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application describes clearly defined methods.
- Removing Balm Grove dam is the highest priority restoration action in Gales Creek and is ranked number four in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Statewide Fish Passage Barrier Priority List for removal.
- Plans for removing the dam are technically sound.
- Habitat benefits to steelhead, cutthroat, and pacific lamprey fish populations resulting from dam removal are clearly articulated in the application. A significant number of stream habitat miles will be made available to native fish.

- Partner support for the project is documented with letters of support from a diversity of organizations, including state agencies, local governments, nonprofits, and tribes.
- The landowner purchased the property with conservation in mind, is actively engaged in project design development, and has demonstrated project support through significant match.
- The project provides opportunities for raising public awareness about watershed restoration.
- The partners implementing the project have capacity to complete the project.

Concerns

- The application indicates dam removal will address a temperature sink; however, it is unclear what evidence was used to verify the dam and associated reservoir is contributing to increasing stream temperatures. The primary project benefit, however, is fish passage.
- Additional information is needed to understand the stream restoration objectives and design for large wood structures to evaluate technical soundness of the approach. Plans for instream large wood structures will result in a treatment that significantly exceeds ODFW benchmarks for instream large wood. The ecological value of placing the proposed volume of large wood downstream post dam removal is unclear. The stream system does not appear starved for gravel, which would merit a heavy approach to large wood placement to ensure mobile sediment are captured to provide important stream habitat elements. Also, the dam is a run-of-river structure, therefore, it is unlikely that it is holding a significant amount of gravel that could be lost downstream after dam removal. Given the channel will experience an increase stream dynamism after dam removal, there may be value in seeing how the channel responds post-dam removal before adding instream large wood structures.
- It is difficult to determine how costs associated with large wood debris placement are broken out across two proposed project phases, so it is unclear exactly how much large wood is planned for the phase one placement versus future phases.
- Large wood structures will be placed in a stream transition zone where large wood may not provide the greatest habitat benefits. Instream large wood placement may be a higher priority for locations higher up in the watershed where there would be greater benefit for native fish habitat.

Concluding Analysis

Removing the Balm Grove dam will allow native fish to seek out cold water habitat, which is critical for continued survival of Willamette Endangered Species Act listed fish species. The cost-benefit of the large wood structure project objectives is difficult to evaluate because it is unclear why wood treatments need to exceed ODFW benchmarks. There is significant potential for the stream to migrate post-dam removal and there may be merit in observing how dam removal affects the system, how the channel evolves, and how sediment moves before determining a large wood placement strategy. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address the above concerns.

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-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3030-19609

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Woodcock Creek & Grimm Road
Fish-Passage Project

Applicant: Molalla River Watch Inc

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$358,351

Total Cost: \$688,351

Application Description

An existing 10' wide box culvert in Clackamas County between Colton and the City of Molalla carries Woodcock Creek under Grimm Road. Woodcock Creek is a tributary of Milk Creek, which flows into the Molalla River. Woodcock Creek drains 12.8 square miles and contains 25.2 miles of anadromous fish habitat. This culvert is the remaining complete fish passage barrier on Woodcock Creek and prohibits access to 11 miles or more of high-quality habitat. The existing box culvert is undersized and perched approximately 16" on the outfall end, making it a partial or complete barrier to fish passage. Additionally, the culvert has a flat concrete floor which creates a sheet flow with an average depth of two inches at lower flows and with extreme velocities at higher flows. Upstream aggradation and excessive erosion downstream are constant problems due to the constricting nature of the narrow culvert. The proposed solution is to replace the box with a modular bridge, 1.5 times bank-full stream width. Replacing the culvert will reduce erosion, allow natural streambed processes to occur, and potentially provide an additional 11 miles or more of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat for ESA threatened upper Willamette DPS winter steelhead, upper Willamette DPS spring Chinook, coho, and cutthroat. Also, much needed habitat complexity will be added by installing large wood, boulders, and plantings throughout the project area. Partners include Molalla River Watch (MRW), ODFW, and Clackamas County Department of Transportation & Development (CCDTD). CCDTD has provided survey work, engineered design development of the preferred alternative, and will provide construction oversight. MRW will replant the associated riparian zone. ODFW will continue to provide technical support. Additional partners and funding are being pursued. OWEB funds will be used for construction of the modular bridge, riparian restoration, project management, grant administration, and community outreach.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous application evaluation concerns are addressed by providing additional information regarding other potential fish passage barriers and the available habitat located upstream of the project site, and by adding an instream large wood structure component to the project design.
- The project is ready to implement with completed designs and permit reviews underway.
- The project site is located in Woodcock Creek, which provides cold water refuge to native fish in the Molalla River.

- The project design is site-appropriate and will likely improve fluvial processes in addition to fish passage. The new modular bridge design will meet the 1.5 active channel width fish passage design criteria and will allow natural streambed processes such as sediment movement downstream.
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) provided stream survey information confirming there are no other barriers in Woodcock Creek. Replacing the crossing at Grimm Road will open 11 miles of stream habitat to native fish. The ODFW survey also confirmed that upstream habitat located on the Oregon State University demonstration forest property is suitable for spawning.
- The proposed project provides opportunity to leverage conservation efforts on properties located upstream of the project site.
- Alternatives were evaluated and the selected design was chosen to ensure long-term maintenance and sustainability of the restoration investment.
- The project design is by a qualified engineer, and the implementation team is experienced with a proven track record implementing similar projects.
- Appropriate partners will be engaged to implement the project and partner support is demonstrated by match and letters of support included in the application.
- The project costs reflect current construction rates.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the line-item cost for a portable changeable message sign is reasonable and necessary for implementing the project.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project will remove the final barrier on Woodcock Creek and is timely because it is unclear how long the current crossing at Grimm Road will remain stable since water flow is undermining the structure. Removing the fish passage barrier on Woodcock Creek will allow native fish to seek out cold water habitat, which is critical for continued survival of Willamette Endangered Species Act listed fish species. Addressing fish passage barriers allows fish to move upstream to colder water and allows sediment to migrate downstream forming gravel beds that increase hyporheic exchange, which will result in cooler water flows that improve downstream water quality.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Review Team Priority

4 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$348,671

Review Team Conditions

Remove sign costs and associated indirect cost.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$348,671

Staff Conditions

Remove sign costs and associated indirect cost.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3031-19628

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Thurston Hills Natural Area Oak Restoration and Enhancement Phase 3

Applicant: Middle Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$150,981

Total Cost: \$276,774

Application Description

Thurston Hills Natural Area (THNA) is 665 acres and located on the southeastern edge of the City of Springfield within Lane County and the lower Middle Fork Willamette Watershed. THNA is comprised of rare but degraded Willamette Valley Oregon white oak woodland, prairie, and savanna habitats. Proposed project area contains open-grown Oregon white oaks that are threatened by conifer encroachment and overtopping, with an understory that has been heavily invaded by exotic woody vegetation. Non-native grasses and woody vegetation have invaded the adjacent prairie and savannah habitat. This loss of native habitat reduces biodiversity and negatively impacts threatened species that rely on oak habitats. To build upon the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council's (MFWWC) previous oak restoration in THNA, we will release the oak stands through timber harvest and snag creation of encroaching conifers, implement repeated Integrated Pest Management treatments to remove invasive plants, and seed with native forbs and grasses. The close proximity of the site to recreation and urban zones also creates an opportunity to engage through outreach the local communities in oak restoration and fire mitigation practices. This project area will connect to two previously restored areas (Phases 1 & 2), thus establishing habitat connectivity across the site at varied elevations. MFWWC and Willamalane Park and Recreation District will jointly implement this project. US Fish and Wildlife Service will provide technical support for restoration prescriptions. We will coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management to align restoration efforts with their Fire-Dependent Ecosystems Restoration Project in which THNA is identified for hazardous fuel reduction work. OWEB funds will be used for MFWWC staff salaries, contracted services, travel, and project materials.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration provides an opportunity to leverage similar oak habitat restoration and land acquisition efforts in adjacent areas by expanding habitat connectivity.
- The project site was identified by the Rivers to Ridges Partnership, which is a group of public and non-profit organizations working to restore habitat across the Southern Willamette Valley.
- The proposed oak woodland restoration treatments are technically sound and include strategies typical for addressing oaks overtopped by encroaching fir trees. The proposed approach demonstrates that the applicant understands the structural requirements for restoring oak habitat. There are several large oaks that could be rescued through these restoration efforts.
- The proposed project includes an effective plan for controlling invasive plant species.

- The project provides opportunities for raising public awareness about watershed restoration.
- The applicant is taking a thoughtful approach for balancing recreation use with habitat restoration. This includes strategically leaving blackberry to limit access in some areas and utilizing on-site rangers to guide community use by helping the public understand how to reduce their impact to habitats.
- Appropriate partners will be engaged to implement the project.
- The landowner commitment to the project is demonstrated by a letter of support and match contribution.

Concerns

- The plant species list combines wetland and upland habitat species; however, it is unclear what portion of the project site has wet conditions. The project area appears to be an upland prairie site. Additional information on site conditions and existing habitats is needed to understand whether the plant species mix can be successfully planted in the project area.
- The cost per acre for the prairie seeding line item seems low for the seeding rate listed in the planting section of the application. Seed cost per acre in the budget may not accurately reflect actual cost for the proposed seeding rate.
- Additional information on how the seeding rate was determined would be helpful for understanding the restoration approach. The seeding rate is in line with some technical resources; however, it is high compared to similar projects.
- Planting on a steep slope will be challenging.
- While the applicant has a thoughtful approach for habitat restoration, it will be challenging to manage combining habitat with park use as urbanization is likely to expand nearby and increase recreation demand at the Thurston Hills Natural Area.

Concluding Analysis

The project location is a priority for restoring oak habitat communities to preserve sensitive species relying on these habitats. The proposed project offers an opportunity to expand connectivity of oak habitat in the region, therefore expanding the benefit of this restoration investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

8 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$150,981

Review Team Conditions

At first payment, applicant will provide evidence of a consultation with the Rivers to Ridges Partnership that confirms the final seeding plan and species is technically sound for the project site.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$150,981

Staff Conditions

At first payment, applicant will provide evidence of a consultation with the Rivers to Ridges Partnership that confirms the final seeding plan and species is technically sound for the project site.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3032-19641

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Regenerating Native Plant Communities with Cultural Fire

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$130,289

Total Cost: \$375,121

Application Description

Regenerating Native Plant Communities with Cultural Fire encompasses Rattlesnake Butte (Grand Ronde site), Andrew Reasoner Wildlife Preserve (conserved private site and host to Native youth internship program), and Camp Creek Hills (Siletz site). Funding is requested to support the re-introduction of cultural burning on three sites, including support for drafting burn plans, site preparation, day of burning costs, day after mop up efforts, and monitoring. The Willamette Valley's (WV) oak and prairie sites are ecocultural systems that require ongoing stewardship rooted in a cultural context of stewardship. It is anticipated that Grand Ronde will implement the prescribed fire concurrent with that heritage of stewardship. The Oregon Prescribed Fire Council will support burn organization as a training to build Tribal fire capacity across multiple Tribes. Burning at each site continues restoration actions on prairie-oak savanna and woodland habitats, using prescribed fire in small plots and native seeding a portion of the areas burned.. Plant responses will be compared in seeded and unseeded areas, and learning from the small plot burns will inform future management across the sites with fire, while gaining experience with prescribed fire across habitat types. One of the key questions is: will fire or a combination of fire/seeding allow us to restore the herbaceous plant community with minimal herbicide? The first plot burns are just a step in answering this question, but would inform management approaches across the sites, which seek to use fire at regular intervals to manage the habitats long term. This project is a collaboration with The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. LTWC is supporting partners along with Doug & Linda Carnine, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Institute of Applied Ecology, McKenzie River Trust, McKenzie Watershed Council, and Oregon Prescribed Fire Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration expands on an OWEB Stakeholder Engagement investment focused on building prescribed fire capacity in the Southern Willamette Valley.
- The problem that led to the loss of prairie and oak habitats is clearly described in the application, and the proposed solution addresses causes over symptoms of habitat degradation.
- The proposed project is an innovative restoration approach that will also build capacity and tools needed to bring a historic cultural practice back onto the landscape for long-term conservation of priority Willamette Valley habitats. Tribal fire crews will be utilized on sites with on-going restoration activities, which will increase prescribed fire experience within tribes.

- The proposed project will set the stage and framework for putting fire back on the landscape while burning acres that can and need to be burned to restore prairie and oak habitats.
- Project sites selected for treatment are located in geographies with high conservation value for oak and prairie habitats.
- Potential impacts to the project sites and adjacent properties were considered in the project plan. The project includes smoke management plans and plans for safe burn procedures, mop up, and monitoring to ensure sites are safe after a prescribed fire.
- The project provides opportunities for raising public awareness about watershed restoration and habitat benefits from prescribed fire.
- Partnership commitment is demonstrated by a variety of leveraged resources.
- The applicant has the capacity and experience to complete the proposed restoration and has a proven track record completing similar projects.

Concerns

- Few acres will be treated for a relatively high cost; however, the ecological values and benefits of fire are overshadowed by the social values discussed in the application. Additional detail on expected ecological benefits would likely demonstrate that the benefits from the proposed project will outweigh the costs.
- Weed control may be problematic on some of the project sites where herbicides will not be used; however, these sites are limited to locations identified for future tribal harvest.

Concluding Analysis

Restoration practitioners in the Willamette Valley have been restoring prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitats without a necessary tool that addresses the driver critical to enhancing these habitats. The cause of habitat degradation and widespread loss started when the relationship between Indigenous people, land, and fire was disrupted in combination with urban and agricultural development, invasive species encroachment, and fire suppression. More recently, the social license and public support for using fire as a management tool has increased. A landowner survey in the project area indicated more than 70% of respondents support the use of prescribed fire, which produces less smoke than wildfires. Prescribed fire has been successfully used in other habitats and landscapes; there are likely few habitats that would not benefit from a reset by prescribed fire. While the cost per acre for the proposed restoration approach is higher compared to more traditional techniques, the traditional approaches will never provide the same benefits as fire for restoring prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$130,289

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$130,289

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3033-19597

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Phase II Finn Rock Reach
Floodplain Habitat Restoration Engineering and
Permitting

Applicant: McKenzie River Trust

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$51,740

Total Cost: \$76,362

Application Description

The project will provide engineering and permitting assistance to facilitate a middle-McKenzie River floodplain habitat restoration project encompassing approximately 65 acres of floodplain. The project is on a side channel of the McKenzie River, near the town of Blue River, Lane County, 3.75 miles downstream of the South Fork McKenzie Floodplain Enhancement. It is directly upstream of the FRR phase 1 restoration scheduled to be implemented in the summer of 2021. The watershed issue to be addressed is the degradation of streams through simplification, the removal of large woody debris, and decreased floodplain connectivity. Impaired habitat complexity, diversity, and off channel habitats are limiting factors for spring Chinook salmon. At this site, former gravel extraction pits in the floodplain, and their attendant access road, has disrupted the flow regime within the side channel. Bathymetry shows that the side channel is incising, increasing flow velocities and transporting sediment. The proposed project will regrade the gravel ponds, and much of the side channel itself, and add substantial amounts of large woody debris, transforming the area to a depositional environment with increased permanently wetted surface area, floodplain connection, and habitat complexity. The consultant will develop the engineering necessary for the completion of all required permits to implement restoration actions. They will incorporate existing data (hydraulic modeling, aerial mapping, geomorphologic survey data, etc.) on project area from MRT, resource agencies, universities, and other sources and supplement and utilize as required. The consultant will develop and submit all applications and obtain all permits necessary to construct the final design. Environmental compliances associated with listed and or sensitive species and adjacent federal and state land will be obtained. Major project partners include the McKenzie Watershed Council and USFS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project expands on restoration work completed during summer 2021 for Finn Rock Phase 1.
- The application provides a clear explanation of the existing site conditions and what technical assistance is needed. Unlike Phase 1, Phase 2 Finn Rock will occur on private lands, which elevates the need for hydraulic modeling utilizing high resolution data from LiDAR and engineering work to ensure no net rise floodway permit requirements are met.

- Limiting factors identified in multiple watershed and species recovery plans will be addressed, including the lack of floodplain and habitat connectivity, habitat diversity, and winter refugia for anadromous fish.
- Future restoration actions will restore stream processes that will benefit terrestrial species with life history stages dependent on stream systems, including amphibians, insects, and birds, in addition to Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish species.
- The project scope and scale are reasonable and based on experience from previous implementation of similar projects in the McKenzie Watershed.
- A range of design alternatives were considered.
- The applicant and partners have a proven track record completing similar projects.
- The applicant has sufficient organizational capacity to complete the project.
- The applicant is working with a qualified consultant experienced in designing realistic plans for on-the-ground restoration.
- Costs are reasonable for the complexity of the engineered solution.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the applicant explored opportunities to build on existing data available for the area before deciding to collect new data; for example, there may be other LiDAR flight efforts underway that could be leveraged. Additional information on the data gaps within existing data would provide helpful context for understanding the need for new data and LiDAR to achieve the technical assistance goals and objectives.
- There may be restrictions from no-net-rise floodway requirements that limit restoration opportunities.
- It is unclear from the application how existing weeds within the project footprint will be addressed when restoration is implemented.
- The ponds resulting from previous gravel extraction likely have bass that are invasive predators of ESA-listed salmon smolts. Encouraging smolts to utilize restored habitat at the ponds could make them vulnerable to these predators; however, rivers become less habitable to warm water fish, such as bass, when rivers are restored to function like historic Pacific Northwest rivers with cold water refuge habitat.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant is taking an informed approach to utilizing a Stage 8 floodplain restoration design concept. Restoration is timely to take advantage of wood material resulting from recent wildfires to construct instream and floodplain wood structures. The resulting watershed project design will restore habitat for spring chinook salmon, trout, and other native aquatic species utilizing the middle McKenzie watershed. The proposed technical assistance is needed to move the project forward to be ready for implementation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$51,740

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$51,740

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3034-19524

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Sandy River Cold Water Refuge
Monitoring

Applicant: Sandy River Basin WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: \$144,751

Total Cost: \$208,695

Application Description EPA's 2021 Columbia River Cold Water Refuges Plan recommends that summer water temperatures within the Sandy River cold water refuge (CWR) be maintained at 18.78°C. The EPA report identified the Sandy River as one of 12 CWR tributaries of the Columbia, key to minimizing salmon, steelhead, and other native species exposure to warmer Columbia River temperatures. The Sandy River CWR may also be important to Pacific lamprey populations of the Sandy and tributaries of the Columbia River upstream. Given regional commitment to the persistence of Pacific lamprey and support of traditional tribal use of this species, understanding the use of this CWR by Pacific lamprey will provide information to guide Sandy River restoration activities.

To contribute to understanding of the importance of the Sandy CWR, we propose to monitor temperature in the Sandy River CWR. We also propose to survey for larval lamprey in the Sandy River delta and in Beaver Creek. Data gathered should identify the importance of the Sandy River CWR, delta channels, and delta side channels to lamprey habitat. In addition, we propose to survey Beaver Creek for larval lamprey prior to the full effect of restoration activities in the basin including plantings of native riparian shade trees. As one of our monitoring activities, we will repeat lamprey surveys post-restoration to assess response to the improved riparian areas. These monitoring activities will adaptively guide management actions needed to promote climate resiliency in the Sandy River watershed, to protect and restore native fish habitats, and to protect natural ecosystem functions in order to improve water quality.

Project Partners include US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Tributaries Network, Wisdom of the Elders, The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Cities of Gresham and Troutdale, City of Portland Water Bureau, Multnomah County, and Beaver Creek Conservation Partnership

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application clearly described the importance of cold water refugia to salmonids and lamprey and the need to collect additional data.
- The applicant will develop a sampling and analysis plan (SAP) for the water temperature monitoring component and have it approved by DEQ.
- The lamprey data will be made available through the Pacific Lamprey Data Clearinghouse and shared with ODFW.

- The applicant is working with qualified contractors on study design and implementation of lamprey monitoring and data analysis.
- The applicant will share the lamprey data with the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative, the Lamprey Technical Workgroup, and the regional management unit of the Willamette/Lower Columbia River. The water temperature data will be shared with the Beaver Creek Conservation Partnership. The applicant will hold two public meetings to present the study design and results of the final study.
- The applicant is engaging community stakeholders, including the Wisdom of the Elders, The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, cities of Gresham and Troutdale, City of Portland Water Bureau, and Multnomah County, that are likely to be interested in the data.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The maps uploaded to the application are challenging to understand. It is not clear where the monitoring would occur, and the maps do not appear to be directly linked to the proposed monitoring project.
- The application does not discuss existing water temperature data in the Columbia River or Sandy River that this project could complement.
- The objectives stated in the application are not well matched to the work proposed.
- The water temperature monitoring component of the application is not well described and is still in development. The review of existing data should have been completed to inform this proposal, and greater detail could have been provided on the proposed water temperature study design. The lack of information about study design makes it challenging to understand whether the design is sufficient to accomplish the objectives for temperature (i.e., understanding temporal and spatial dynamics) or contributions to the Sandy River cold water refuge temperatures.
- The application does not describe how the water temperature data will be analyzed to answer the monitoring questions posed in the application.
- The application lacked detail about how the water temperature and lamprey larval data will be synthesized to identify important habitats.
- The current watershed council staff lacks experience in monitoring data collection, and it is unclear what qualifications will be required to hire new staff, if funded.
- Lack of information about the study design makes it challenging to evaluate if the budget is adequate to achieve the objectives.
- It is unclear if the watershed council staff time proposed in the budget is appropriate, given that much of the intensive monitoring will be completed by a contractor.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes the importance of cold water refugia to salmonids and lamprey and the need to collect data to better understand the critical role of micro-habitats for lamprey. This data can be used to inform actions for restoration of lamprey habitat.

- The Environmental Protection Agency 2021 Columbia River Cold Water Refuges Plan identifies the Sandy River as one of twelve Columbia River tributaries providing cold water refuge to salmon and steelhead.
- The proposed project will complement ongoing temperature monitoring and restoration efforts on Beaver Creek focused on riparian restoration to improve stream temperatures.
- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) protocols will be used to collect water quality and lamprey data.
- Project oversight will be provided by a watershed council member with relevant experience.
- Appropriate partners will be engaged to implement the project. USFWS will provide necessary expertise to accomplish the proposed monitoring goals and objectives.

Concerns

- The application lacks details describing specific activities for achieving the monitoring objectives.
- It is unclear from the application how the proposed monitoring complements existing data and current monitoring efforts by other organizations, or whether the applicant explored existing data when developing the proposed project.
- The application lacks information describing locations for monitoring, how sites were selected, and how monitoring locations are related to other efforts. Since the Sandy Basin has a large geography, a map indicating monitoring site locations would be helpful for understanding the proposed monitoring approach.
- Additional information describing restoration efforts completed in Beaver Creek would provide helpful context for understanding how the proposed monitoring will provide data needed to inform future restoration in the area.
- The application indicates data will be shared; however, there is limited details provided to understand how data sharing will be done effectively.
- USFWS is contributing significant staff time and equipment needed to implement the proposed monitoring work; however, USFWS support and commitment to the project is unclear without a letter of support in the application.
- Estimated staff time for temperature monitoring is high compared to similar efforts. Additional information is needed to understand whether staff costs are appropriate and necessary for accomplishing the proposed monitoring objectives and not funding a position with a broader scope of work.
- It is unclear why two computer laptops are necessary for accomplishing the proposed monitoring work.

Concluding Analysis

While the virtual site visit provided some clarity about the proposed monitoring, the application lacks details necessary to understand monitoring site locations and activities. Additional details are needed to understand and evaluate the likelihood of success for this monitoring 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-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3035-19528

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Willamette daisy restoration effectiveness monitoring

Applicant: Institute for Applied Ecology

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$166,715

Total Cost: \$219,321

Application Description Less than one percent of the prairies that historically existed throughout the Willamette Valley ecoregion remains intact. As a result, many prairie species have declined, including Willamette daisy (*Erigeron decumbens*), which was federally listed as endangered in 2000. The Recovery Plan for the Prairie Species of Western Oregon and Southwestern Washington (USFWS 2010) identifies the need to restore and maintain population networks across the species' historic range. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently awarded the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) a Recovery Challenge grant focused on Willamette daisy recovery actions. IAE is applying for a complementary OWEB restoration grant (Prairie Restoration for Willamette Daisy Recovery), which aims to implement habitat restoration and Willamette daisy augmentation activities to meet recovery goals in the Salem East, Salem West and Corvallis West recovery zones. In this monitoring proposal, we seek to assess the effectiveness of Willamette daisy restoration efforts at all 19 project sites (10 OWEB and 9 USFWS). We will implement standardized Willamette daisy and habitat quality monitoring protocols to determine if sites meet recovery goals. Baseline data will be collected and analyzed the first year (2022) and compiled into a brief progress report. Post-project monitoring data will be collected in 2027, three to four years after restoration actions have been completed at each site. All data will then be analyzed in a final project report. This project helps fulfill the monitoring requirement of nine different local assessment plans in five counties. Partners include USFWS, Benton County, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Greenbelt Land Trust, Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District, Polk Soil and Water Conservation District, Jefferson Farm (private) and Patricia Wheeler and John Westall (private).

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The data to be collected will complement the range-wide assessment work that was completed in 2018.
- The project is connected to broader Willamette daisy and prairie restoration efforts in the Willamette Valley.
- The applicant is familiar with the monitoring methods and the methods are consistent with the 2018 survey. The applicant will refine the existing monitoring protocol to fit it to site-specific conditions.
- The study design and data collection methods and analyses are described in adequate detail.

- The data will be stored in the USFWS's threatened and endangered plant species database for Willamette Valley species, which the applicant currently maintains.
- The applicant will produce a final project report, and any resulting publications will be posted to their website, the Cascadia Prairie-Oak Partnership technical library, and ResearchGate.
- The information generated from this monitoring project will be presented to the Prairie Plant Working Group and interested landowners and stakeholders at regional meetings and conferences.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The monitoring questions are not listed in the objectives. The applicant does pose two broad questions in the problem statement, making it difficult to align the objectives with each question when applying the evaluation criteria.
- It was unclear if the resulting monitoring data across all 19 sites will be sufficient to inform future restoration actions.
- The application proposes to collect data in 2022 and then again in 2027. During this timeframe, issues can occur that could impact the project, creating logistical challenges around budgeting.
- The budget lacked detail to evaluate if the estimated costs in the budget are appropriate. It is not clear what the three permanent staff will do on this project, given that their roles related to this project are not articulated. The overall the costs seem high since there will only be two years of monitoring at 19 sites.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed monitoring is clearly linked to restoration actions and will provide significant knowledge needed to inform future Willamette daisy restoration.
- The monitoring questions relate directly to the Recovery Plan for the Prairie Species of Western Oregon and Southwestern Washington. The resulting monitoring data will help determine whether recovery criteria are met at each restoration site.
- The resulting plant community data will reflect whether restoration is successful at an individual site. Since the same actions implemented at different sites can have different results on Willamette daisy populations, it is difficult to compare monitoring results across multiple sites. The proposed monitoring approach will provide information about the range of Willamette daisy population responses to better understand what this species needs and inform future restoration work towards recovery.
- The monitoring timeframe is reasonable to ensure baseline data and effectiveness monitoring data is collected over a range of restoration activities needed to restore Willamette daisy populations.
- The applicant and partners have the capacity and expertise to complete the proposed monitoring and has a proven track record completing similar projects. The applicant is the expert in monitoring protocols for the Willamette daisy.

Concerns

- Protocols described in the application are more conceptual and references to standardized protocols are provided instead. Additional information in the application describing the protocols would be helpful to better understand monitoring methods that will be used. The protocols referenced in the application do, however, provide a sufficient explanation of the monitoring methods.
- The project budget has a significantly high number of personnel hours. Additional details describing roles of each position would be helpful for understanding whether costs are appropriate for the work necessary to accomplish the monitoring objectives. It is likely the budgeted time is reasonable because of the unique nature of the project where each monitoring site will require individual monitoring designs.
- In-kind match is grouped into lump sums and it is unclear how the match is related and contributing to implementation of the proposed monitoring objectives.
- It may be challenging to accurately estimate out-year costs over the long project timeline.
- The restoration sites to be monitored overlap with OWEB-funded restoration and monitoring projects focused on Kincaid's lupine. Additional information describing how the two efforts to restore and monitor Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed prairie species are related would provide helpful context to better understand this project. In particular, a description of how monitoring and restoration actions at the same project sites are broken out for the Willamette daisy and Kincaid's lupine, and yet are complementary, would be helpful for understanding how the efforts are leveraged to achieve overlapping prairie restoration goals.

Concluding Analysis

The monitoring approach models similar efforts that have impacted both recovery and de-listing of other prairie plant species. The applicant is one of the experts for the Willamette daisy and monitoring prairie plant populations. There is a strong need for the proposed monitoring to complement the companion Willamette daisy restoration project. The Willamette daisy is one of the most beleaguered of the ESA-listed prairie plant species that is finally getting concerted attention. The combination of the Willamette daisy monitoring and restoration grants will provide essential information to better understand how the Willamette daisy ticks and what is needed for species recovery.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$166,715

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$166,715

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3036-19550

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: South Santiam Temperature Monitoring

Applicant: South Santiam WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$35,372

Total Cost: \$46,303

Application Description The South Santiam Watershed Council (SSWC) seeks to continue and grow its stream temperature monitoring program in McDowell and Hamilton Creeks, two basins that are important for both migratory fish and overall watershed health in the South Santiam watershed. Several private landowners in these basins have undertaken voluntary measures to improve wildlife habitat, reduce non-native vegetation and increase critical shade to streams. They have continued to engage in fish conservation by hosting in-stream data loggers from May to October to help the council monitor stream temperatures. These data were collected as part of a long-term stream temperature monitoring program operated by Oregon Departments of Agriculture (ODA) and Environmental Quality (DEQ).

While funding from ODA for this effort has lapsed due to state-level budgetary downturns related to COVID, the council sees great benefit to maintaining an existing multi-year dataset and understanding the effectiveness of our efforts to enhance riparian habitats throughout the watershed. Further, the council seeks funding to expand efforts to collect year-round water temperature data and explore relationships between flow, streamside vegetation, air temperature and water temperature. These data will continue to support our partners' needs for data and will help inform strategic planning efforts for the council, directing future work to benefit fish, humans and habitat in the South Santiam basin.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This monitoring application will follow straightforward, widely accepted monitoring protocols for data collection.
- The applicant has an existing sampling and analysis plan (SAP) to collect water temperature data.
- The water temperature data will be submitted to DEQ annually.
- The final comprehensive report will be share with their partners and made publicly available.
- The applicant has experience collecting the continuous water temperature data, and the number of sites seem manageable for the staff.
- The budget seems reasonable for the objectives identified in the application, and level of detail in the budget is adequate.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application mentions USFS and DEQ monitoring sites, but it is not clear on how this information will be integrated in the study design or data analysis.
- The application lacks an objective or monitoring question to describe why flow is being monitored and how that information will be incorporated into the data analysis. Based on the available information in the application, it was not clear if estimating flow data using the buoyancy method at a quarterly interval will yield useful information.
- The application lacked detail on the WATR model to understand how the data will be incorporated into this modeling effort.
- The application lacks detail about how the appropriate community stakeholders are engaged beyond the landowners and volunteers participating in this monitoring project and related restoration projects.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed monitoring project continues a long-term stream temperature monitoring effort in the South Santiam watershed.
- The application has clearly stated project objectives and tasks for monitoring water temperature on two South Santiam River tributaries.
- Temperature monitoring is coupled with four miles of stream revegetation restoration projects. Data will be used to explore the relationships between streamside vegetation restoration and water temperature.
- Gathering year-round water temperature data is valuable for understanding long-term temperature trends.
- Landowners providing access to monitoring sites support and are committed to the monitoring effort.
- Standard temperature monitoring protocols will be used.
- The applicant has submitted previous monitoring data to Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).
- Project costs are reasonable and appropriate for the proposed monitoring work.
- Applicant staff have appropriate experience to accomplish the objectives outlined in the application.
- The applicant is engaging appropriate partners to implement monitoring work, including DEQ and Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

Concerns

- Additional details describing previous temperature monitoring and how data will be integrated from other monitoring efforts, such as DEQ monitoring sites, would provide helpful context for understanding how the proposed project complements existing monitoring data.
- Letters of support from project partners would strengthen the application.

- Additional information describing the WATR model, its connection to the monitoring project, and how it will support decision making is needed to better understand a path from the proposed monitoring to informing future restoration.
- The protocols for “neutral buoyancy” flow monitoring may not be adequate without an accompanying depth measurement. Flow measurement could be more accurate and as cost effective with a probe; however, the neutral buoyancy was chosen to engage volunteers in measuring flow and this method requires less training. The applicant should consider using a staff plate to track depth.
- The referenced Sample Analysis Plan (SAP) may be outdated; the applicant should work with DEQ to update the SAP as needed.
- The applicant may have limited expertise for data analysis; however, technical partners will be engaged to accomplish the analysis.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed monitoring project is technically sound and the applicant will engage volunteers and technical experts as needed to achieve monitoring objectives. The project will maintain and expand a long-term dataset that will provide information for understanding the effectiveness of riparian habitat restoration efforts, long-term water temperature trends, and inform future restoration strategic planning decisions.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$35,372

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$35,372

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3037-19608

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Freshwater Mussel Occurrence and Habitat - North Santiam Basin

Applicant: Willamette Riverkeeper

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$78,253

Total Cost: \$103,294

Application Description The monitoring for this project will occur instream, in anadromous fish-bearing reaches of the North Santiam River basin in Linn and Marion counties. eDNA lab analyses will take place in the Molecular Ecology lab at Utah State University.

Western freshwater mussels provide immense benefits to streams improving water quality, stabilizing substrate, and encouraging healthy benthic communities, all of which benefit salmonid populations; however, there is a dearth of information on the locations at which these long-lived, cryptic mussels reside. Studies of their habitat are necessary to conserve mussels and to help prioritize protection and restoration of stream reaches based on their populations. We propose a two-season survey effort to locate extant western ridged mussels (*Gonidea angulata*) and western pearlshell mussels (*Margaritifera falcata*) in the Santiam River basin gaining needed information on regional habitat associations. During the first season, we will collect water samples by paddle craft for eDNA analysis to gain a broad presence/absence understanding of population locations. The second survey season will target areas that showed mussel occurrence via positive eDNA results and conduct in-depth snorkel surveys to characterize mussel bed characteristics.

Results from this work will be publicly available on an interactive web map that will include a story-style website providing information on western mussels and their importance. Results will be published in a peer-reviewed journal and shared at conferences. We will reach out to local watershed councils, land management agencies, and tribes to provide results and context for their use to prioritize watershed protection and restoration, and how to restore habitat specifically for freshwater mussels. This early phase project will focus on the North Santiam River basin; to expand this work to additional basins.

Project partners: Willamette Riverkeeper ICF and the Molecular Ecology lab, Utah State Univ.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the data gaps associated with freshwater mussels (FWM) in this basin and how this project will complement previous surveys completed by the applicant.
- The study design to incorporate field surveys when collecting the water samples and use of follow-up surveys if eDNA is detected should help the partners learn more about FWM distribution in the North Santiam River.

- The eDNA water sample collection methods and lab analyses are well established and professionally accepted.
- The applicant will follow quality assurance/quality control measures when collecting and analyzing eDNA samples to prevent cross contamination and review the data when it is entered into web-based tools.
- The laboratory performing the eDNA analysis is experienced and the consultants that are working on this project have sufficient experience and
- qualifications to assist the applicant in completing this project as proposed.
- The data will be made publicly available using a public facing interactive web map for data visualization.
- The budget table and narrative provide adequate detail, and the estimated expenses are appropriate to accomplish the objectives.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application did not cite the source of the existing data for the North Santiam basin and it is unclear if the Xerces FWM database was accessed to identify potential data in this basin.
- It was not clear why the North Santiam River was chosen for this pilot project and if the recent 2020 wildfire could impact the data they are proposing to collect.
- It is not clear if this study design will be able to prove absence if the eDNA is not detected and the rapid survey does not identify any FWM when water samples are collected, given site selection and timing of sampling.
- The application does not mention submitting data to the Xerces Society to be uploaded to their FWM database.
- It is not clear how these data will be applied to inform future restoration actions, given that other stakeholders are the ones that will use this information for such purposes and outreach plans are not well articulated.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application describes a clear need for monitoring mussels to better understand their habitat needs and population distribution.
- The data could provide valuable information to assist with landowner outreach about watershed restoration and can be shared with organizations focused on restoration, such as the local watershed council and tribes, to inform restoration planning and prioritization.
- The monitoring approach includes a reasonable sampling plan using eDNA signals as a tool for locating mussel bed sites. If the proposed approach for using eDNA for monitoring mussels is successful, there is opportunity for this pilot effort to be replicated across the state.
- The interactive story-style web map to share data will provide a helpful outreach tool.
- The applicant has appropriate expertise to accomplish the proposed monitoring.

Concerns

- Additional information is needed to understand why the North Santiam watershed was selected for this pilot effort and how sampling locations were determined. The map provided in the application covers a large geography and lacks details needed to better understand sampling locations.
- It is unclear whether recent fires will affect access to sampling locations.
- Plans for gaining access agreements with landowners are not clearly described in the application.
- To maintain a streamlined budget, water quality monitoring is not included in the proposed monitoring project. Recent fires may have increased sediment loads into the North Santiam streams that could be negatively impacting mussel populations. Monitoring water quality may be important for understanding mussel population distribution.
- Since the proposed monitoring project is a pilot for using eDNA to monitor mussels, there is some uncertainty for the project to effectively result in data that could inform future restoration efforts.
- It is unclear whether appropriate partners and technical experts will be engaged to implement the proposed monitoring project. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife may be able to provide technical input on monitoring sites targeting anadromous fish-bearing reaches of the North Santiam River, and The Xerces Society may be able to provide helpful feedback on monitoring protocols since they have completed extensive work on mussel-related Best Management Practices.
- It is unclear how the proposed monitoring will inform future restoration because there is only one letter of support provided by an organization involved in restoration in the area.

Concluding Analysis

Freshwater mussels provide a number of benefits to Oregon stream health and anadromous fish populations; however, little is known about their distribution and habitat needs. The proposed monitoring project will use eDNA data as a pilot tool for detecting the presence or absence of mussels to better understand mussel population locations in the North Santiam Watershed. Additional detail is needed to understand the project, such as monitoring site locations and how data will be used by restoration practitioners, to determine whether it will be a cost-effective approach that has a clear pathway to 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-2021 Spring Offering Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3038-19623

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: American Beaver Population Ecology in Dynamic Forested Landscapes of Western Oregon

Applicant: OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$314,983

Total Cost: \$393,729

Application Description Incorporating beaver into management planning continues gaining support despite a lack of empirical evidence reflecting their current status and trends in Oregon. Information developed from beaver populations outside of our state should not be applied here due to the large variability in physiographic, hydrological, and vegetative conditions, in addition to the behavioral differences that exist among beaver populations within these systems. An essential first step in beaver-related stream restoration is identifying the resources and environmental conditions that influence beaver habitat use. Examining how natural (wildfire) and anthropogenic (timber harvest) disturbances influence beaver colonization at multiple spatial and temporal scales will provide a unique opportunity to identify changes in habitat composition and configuration that may affect beaver distribution, survival, and movement in a forest-dominated landscape matrix. This project will collect baseline monitoring data to improve understanding of American beaver population ecology and habitat use in the Western Cascades of Oregon by: 1) implementing repeated landscape-level beaver activity surveys to understand patterns of beaver distribution and dam construction, 2) tracking individuals from multiple family units to estimate survival, movement, and space use, generating models to assess the spatial-temporal patterns in beaver habitat relationships, 4) predicting beaver occurrence and dam locations. Providing a data driven framework to inform decision making and land management strategies will increase the effectiveness of future projects in aquatic systems as opposed to using a process of trial and error. Project partners include the Bureau of Land Management, National Wildlife Research Center, Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and private industrial landowners including Weyerhaeuser and Cascade Timber Consulting.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The data that will result from this project will complement previous monitoring in the Cow Creek Basin that was used to inform this study design.
- This project will collect data in the west Cascades and complement the data collection planned in the other two ecoregions (coastal and southwestern) of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Resource Management Plan areas.

- The application provides clear and succinct monitoring questions and the study design and data collection, management, and analysis methods are likely to answer these questions.
- The applicant is the co-author of the monitoring protocol. The method has been applied previously in a project that resulted in a published manuscript. This project will aim to improve the protocol and allow other practitioners to apply it, since there is a great demand for and interest in beaver related data.
- The data will be stored in tabular and spatial database in the cloud to provide back-up storage.
- The data will be made available to the BLM and private landowners who are partnering on this project and providing access to their lands. Information also will be shared more broadly via peer reviewed manuscripts and public presentations.
- The applicant is highly qualified and is one of the lead experts in the field to improve understanding of beaver ecology in forested landscapes.
- The applicant has produced several peer reviewed journal articles, demonstrating the ability to complete past projects in a successful manner.
- The applicant is engaging technical experts from a multi-disciplinary group from Oregon State University (OSU), USFS Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center, and the USDA/APHIS/WS National Wildlife Research Center.
- The budget and narrative provide sufficient detail to understand how the costs were estimated to complete this project over three years. This funding will include the publication of a peer reviewed journal article(s) and time for technicians to collect the data over a large geographic area.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- While data in Oregon is sparse, it would have been helpful to understand what data are available from other Western states to inform land management impacts to beaver ecology.
- The application did not describe how timber harvest and wildfire would be factored into the study design or data analysis to determine how these disturbances influence beaver colonization at multiple spatial and temporal scales.
- Additional detail about how information will be made available to the public, including which publications are being targeted and where presentations would be made, would help explain the audiences being targeted.
- The application identified future community stakeholders but does not clearly address how these stakeholders will be engaged over the course of the project or afterwards to share the results.
- The budget includes a lump sum match from the BLM, but the application does not describe what this contribution is or how it is related to this project.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly stated project objectives, tasks, and monitoring questions.
- There is a clear need for the resulting monitoring information to better understand American beaver population ecology and habitat use in the Western Cascades of Oregon.

- The proposed project will test detectability and repeatability of monitoring protocols.
- The monitoring approach includes a sufficient sample size and incorporates locations to better understand both timber and fire impacts on beaver habitat.
- The applicant has extensive experience monitoring beaver populations and is involved in the Beaver Working Group.
- A letter of support from a timber company participating in the project is included in the application.
- Costs are reasonable for the large geographic scale of the project.

Concerns

- The application lacks a description of a clear path for how the monitoring data will inform future restoration. The proposed monitoring will be used for a planning framework to update Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans and policies, but it is unclear how it will also lead to on-the-ground watershed restoration.
- Application materials, including letters of support, emphasize the research elements of the proposed project instead of how monitoring data will inform future restoration.
- The project area map included in the application provides only general locations for monitoring. A more detailed map indicating specific watersheds where monitoring will occur would provide context needed to understand the monitoring approach.
- Only one year of trapping and tagging may not provide enough data if tags go missing.
- Partner roles are unclear based on the limited letters of support provided in the application. It is unclear whether appropriate partners and technical experts will be engaged to implement the proposed monitoring project. Potential partners not included in the proposal include Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, and other stakeholders in the project area, such as watershed councils.
- The draft letter of support included in the application from BLM commits to cooperating on the project, however, it does not reference the BLM match documented in the application needed to meet the minimum 25% match requirement. Match could not be confirmed in the application because the BLM budget was not yet approved. Since BLM is the only match source listed in the application, it is unclear if the project is likely to succeed if there are no other potential match sources available to meet the minimum match requirement and provide the funds necessary to achieve the monitoring objectives.
- Due to constraints in the OSU process for submitting the application, match was documented as a lump sum in the application budget. As a result, it is unclear how match relates to the proposed monitoring objectives, what BLM match will contribute to the project, and in-kind partner roles in implementing the monitoring work. It is difficult to fully understand the entire project scope to evaluate the likelihood of success and whether project costs are reasonable.

Concluding Analysis

There is a clear knowledge gap regarding the distribution, movement, habitat selection, and influence of disturbances, such as fire and timber harvest, affecting the status and trends of beaver populations. The resulting monitoring information could be useful to restoration practitioners and land managers; however, the application is too broad and vague on how the proposed monitoring will provide information that is directly used to inform future 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-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3039-19631

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Luckiamute Temperature Monitoring
Phase 3

Applicant: Luckiamute WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Polk

OWEB Request: \$88,891

Total Cost: \$112,493

Application Description The Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) proposes to continue its temperature monitoring program in Phase 3. The project will collect continuous temperature data from surface waters in the Luckiamute River Watershed during the summer months of 2022 and 2023. The goal is to continue to fill a data gap of stream temperatures and trends in key locations to inform prioritization and planning for restoration projects. Sites will be selected to characterize priority tributaries and stream reaches, detect trends, collect baseline data, and continue to ground-truth results of the thermal loading model from the 2017 NetMap analysis. The LWC proposes to repeat 19 monitoring stations in the mid and upper Luckiamute watershed in Polk and Benton Counties. Work will include field deployment, mid-season checks, and retrieval of loggers. The LWC will also implement appropriate quality assurance and quality control measures to ensure high-quality data that meets A-level standards. As a result of Phase 3 work, 17 of the 19 proposed monitoring sites would have five to seven consecutive years of data. The LWC will establish a partnership with technical experts to conduct an analysis of the full dataset to assess trends and examine relationships with external drivers of temperature. The LWC will share data through presentations and the web-based interpretation and visualization application created during Phase 2. Project partners include field and technical volunteers, private landowners, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application clearly describes the existing data that have been collected and how the water temperature data that is proposed to be collected will complement current monitoring efforts, including a USGS streamflow gage, a remote automated weather station, and ODFW steelhead spawning surveys.
- The application lays out four monitoring questions and the study design and data collection, management, and analysis methods are likely to answer these questions.
- The applicant has a DEQ approved SAP and plans to update it, if funded.
- The applicant is following a professionally accepted monitoring protocol that includes a variety of quality assurance and quality control measures to collect high-quality data.
- The application clearly describes the data storage plan and process to review the monitoring results annually within their organization's Project Review Committee and Monitoring Sub-Committee. This helps ensure the applicant will apply the data in a meaningful way.

- The applicant will share the data with the public in a variety of ways, including making it available on a data visualization website that the applicant recently developed and plans to maintain. Results are also included in a newsletter that is mailed to their list of community members, submitted to DEQ to store in their AWQMS database, and posted in a final technical report on their website.
- The applicant has performed well on the previous two monitoring grants and is applying the data in a successful manner. Staff currently are continuing to work on this project and, if funded, the organization will hire a new monitoring coordinator.
- The applicant is engaging several technical experts to assist them in adaptively managing this monitoring project and applying the data.
- The applicant has engaged community stakeholders by recruiting landowners that allow access to the monitoring sites and by hosting an annual watershed-scale outreach program with local partners.
- The budget provides sufficient detail to understand how the expenses were estimated. The budget was informed by experiences with the previous two monitoring grants.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- This grant will fund the hiring of a new monitoring coordinator, so there is some uncertainty about the specific qualifications of the person who will lead the project.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly stated project objectives, tasks, and timeline for the proposed monitoring work.
- The proposed monitoring approach is technically sound, and the applicant has utilized technical experts over multiple project phases to adjust and improve monitoring efforts to achieve a more reliable data set. For example, the applicant has adjusted monitoring sites and added an air temperature data comparison to the monitoring project.
- Data will be shared using a data visualization application that can be accessed by the public.
- The proposed monitoring is directly linked to future restoration projects. The application includes a current example of how monitoring data is tied to identifying a current watershed concern, landowner engagement, and identifying a restoration strategy to address a water quality issue.
- The applicant has a proven track record with similar monitoring work and has demonstrated effective use of monitoring data in prioritizing restoration projects.
- Project costs are reasonable based on the objectives and activities described in the application.

Concerns

- The application lacks detail describing data analysis that will be completed and who will be completing this task; however, the council has a monitoring team that is likely to provide technical support for this work.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed monitoring project is phase three of an ongoing stream temperature monitoring project in the Luckiamute watershed. The applicant has a history of actively using this monitoring data to plan and prioritize restoration projects, which has also led to an effective watershed strategy and high-quality restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$88,891

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$88,891

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 221-3040-19622

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Healthy Industrial Lands Initiative
Phase II

Applicant: Columbia Slough WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: \$27,293

Total Cost: \$76,493

Application Description

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council (Council) kicked off the Healthy Industrial Lands Initiative in 2020 with a grant-supported survey of industrial landowners in the Middle Columbia Slough (Phase 1) that was designed to learn about the private sector's motivations for, and barriers to, voluntarily investing in nature-based solutions to stormwater management and native habitat enhancements on their properties. Funding has been secured for Phase 2 which allows us to extend the survey to the rest of the industrialized floodplain of the Columbia Slough and collect further property owner data in 2021-22. But we learned during Phase 1 that we need additional time for deeper one-on-one conversations with property owners to build the kinds of relationships needed that lead to cooperative habitat improvements, including site visits to explore what kinds of projects might be possible on their property. Phase 2 of the survey is an opportune time to increase stakeholder engagement and foster relationships that will lead to businesses committing to enhancement projects. Thus, we are seeking OWEB funding as a match to expand our online surveys to also include phone and in person meetings and site visits. At the close of this phase of the project, we will have a strong understanding of who makes up the industrial sector in our watershed and their interest in improving the environmental values of their property. We will also have built stronger relationships to enlist early adopters in our Healthy Industrial Lands Initiative. As a trusted environmental leader in the community, the Council is well-positioned to drive the private sector toward greater investment in watershed health, creating more resilient ecosystems for people, fish, and wildlife in the watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Most of the previous application evaluation concerns are addressed.
- The proposed Stakeholder Engagement project is an innovative approach to engage industrial landowners, which have the largest ownership in the Columbia Slough Watershed.
- Landowners will be engaged beyond a computer-based survey through phone and in-person meetings. This approach is likely to result in businesses committing to restoration actions.
- The applicant has experience from the first phase of the Healthy Industrial Lands Initiative and is incorporating lessons learned into phase two.
- The applicant has sufficient employee capacity to achieve the proposed stakeholder engagement scope of work and will hire a consultant to provide expertise to implement the survey.
- The project costs are reasonable.

- Stakeholder engagement is timely by providing an opportunity for landowners to choose voluntary action before City of Portland regulatory environmental zone designations are initiated.
- Restoration opportunities will be staged in time to leverage future fund sources expected from Portland's Clean Energy Fund and consolidation of local drainage districts that could target specific stormwater and green infrastructure actions proposed to stakeholders through the project.

Concerns

- The application lacks letters of support confirming partner support and involvement.
- Outreach to invite people to participate in the survey depends on partners; however, it is unclear who those partners are and how this outreach will be implemented.
- Additional information on how the success indicator was determined for the objective related to enrolling landowners in enhancement work is needed to better understand project outcomes. Setting a target of four landowners enrolling in an enhancement project seems low given the expectation that there will be 150 survey respondents and 30 site visits with landowners. Additional information on what enrollment means may provide context for the work related to the four projects and demonstrate that four enrolled landowners is a reasonable success indicator for the organization's capacity. For example, does enrollment mean the landowner is committed, or that four projects will be fully developed, designed, and ready for funding?

Concluding Analysis

The Columbia Slough watershed is a highly urbanized watershed and most habitat restoration efforts have been limited to residential and public lands. Focusing stakeholder engagement on private industrial lands is unique and critical for future priority restoration to occur in the Columbia Slough watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$27,293

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

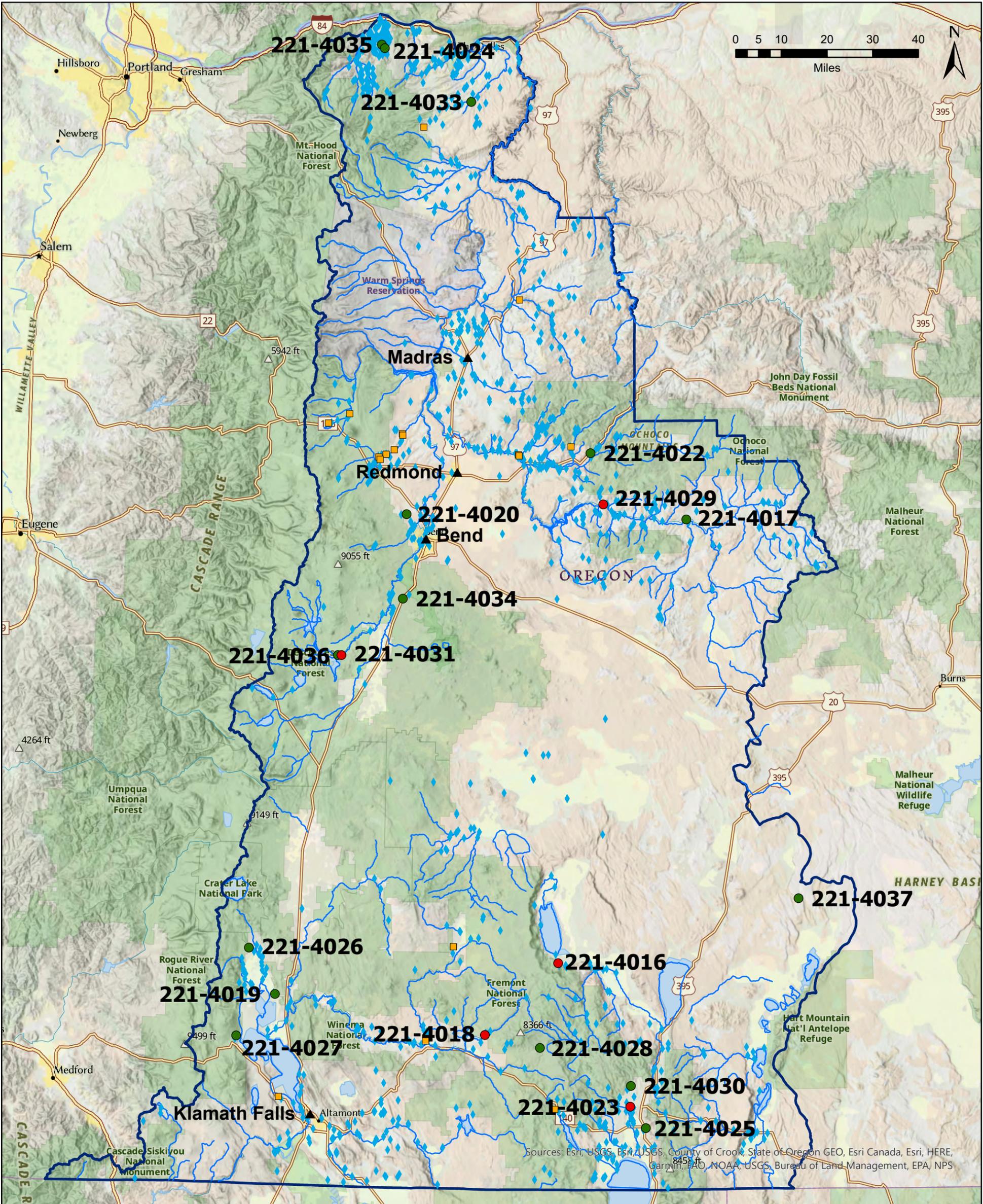
Staff Recommended Amount

\$27,293

Staff Conditions

N/A

Central Oregon - Region 4 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



Sources: Esri, USGS, Esri, USGS, County of Crook, State of Oregon GEO, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS

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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

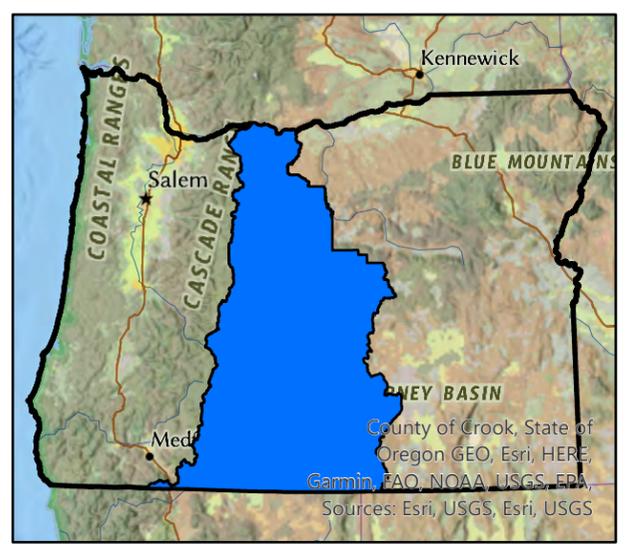
Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2020

- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 4 Cities
- Region 4 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 4 Boundary



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County of Crook, State of Oregon GEO, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS
 Sources: Esri, USGS, Esri, USGS

Region 4 - Central Oregon Restoration					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4022	Crook SWCD	Fish Passage and Screening in the Upper Ochoco Creek Watershed: Implementation Phase 1	Fish passage and screening work will be implemented on irrigation diversions along Ochoco Creek just upstream of Ochoco reservoir.	323,339	Crook
221-4019	Trout Unlimited Inc	Ranch Creek Redband Trout Habitat Enhancement	Redband Trout spawning and survival will be improved by enhancing instream habitat, providing fish passage at an irrigation diversion, and improving streamside vegetation along Ranch Creek, a tributary to Crooked Creek in the Upper Klamath Basin.	103,476	Klamath
221-4017	Crook SWCD	Lower Camp Creek Riparian Improvement	Native trees and shrubs will be planted along Lower Camp Creek and the Crooked River to improve water quality and stream conditions for native fish.	78,500	Crook
221-4024	Hood River SWCD	Neal Creek Phase II Instream Habitat Restoration Project	Fish habitat will be restored along portions of Neal Creek by adding large wood into the stream, which will improve the connection between the stream and floodplain and increase spawning and rearing habitat.	85,402	Hood River
221-4020	Tumalo Irrigation District	TID Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration Project - Group 6A	A portion of an open ditch canal will be enclosed in leak-free piping to permanently conserve water to both Tumalo and Crescant Creeks and address water quantity, water quality, and public safety concerns.	200,000	Deschutes
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				790,717	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4023	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Three Creeks Fish Passage, Fish Screening, and Wet Meadow Restoration	Wet meadow and stream habitat will be restored by installing beaver dam analogs, livestock fencing, and fish passage and screening at two irrigation diversions in the Goose Lake Watershed.	352,524	Lake
221-4018	Klamath Watershed Partnership	Harmony Preserve Landscape Restoration	Priority upland acres will be treated to improve forest health and preserve sage steppe habitat by small tree thinning as well as juniper removal in the North Fork Sprague River in Klamath County	228,370	Klamath
221-4016	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Summer Lake Wildfire Risk Reduction	Upland forest health and wildlife habitat connectivity will be improved by small tree thinning in Summer Lake.	198,864	Lake

Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-4021	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation	Greater Williams Prairie Restoration Project 2021	239,188	Crook	

Region 4 - Central Oregon Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4026	Trout Unlimited Inc	Annie Creek Fish Passage and Screening Design - Phase II	Engineered design plans will be developed for the last four irrigation diversions along Annie Creek to provide fish passage and to install fish screens on ditches.	75,000	Klamath
221-4025	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	South Warner Forest Health Mapping & Inventory	Forest health treatment plans will be developed for private lands in Lake County to initiate a large-scale forest management effort and reverse the current fire trend.	74,998	Lake
221-4028	Trout Unlimited Inc	Sprague River Fish Passage Improvement Project	Engineered plans will be generated to correct fish passage barriers at six road crossings in the Upper Klamath Basin to expand native fish access to stream habitat.	75,000	Lake
221-4027	Klamath Watershed Partnership	Southeastern Cascades Landscape Forest Resiliency Planning	Private forest lands will be surveyed and inventoried to develop forest health treatment plans in Klamath County.	73,686	Klamath
221-4030	Lakeview SWCD	Maxwell Ranch Bauer's Creek Diversion Replacement - Survey and Design	Designs to replace the last remaining fish passage barrier on Bauers Creek will be created to provide fish passage to stream habitat as well as providing surface water across the floodplain for migrating waterfowl.	49,485	Lake
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				348,169	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4031	Deschutes River Conservancy	Upper Deschutes Basin Comprehensive Water Management Plan- Technical Assistance	A comprehensive water management plan will be developed to address streamflow conditions in the Upper Deschutes River.	75,000	Deschutes
221-4029	Crooked River WC	Upper Crooked River Floodplain Restoration	Data will be collected and analyzed to generate conceptual restoration designs that will improve floodplain connectivity on private land and restore a vibrant habitat for thriving wildlife populations along the Crooked River upstream of Bowman dam.	74,896	Crook

Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
None					

Region 4 - Central Oregon Stakeholder Engagement					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4035	Hood River SWCD	Hood River Pesticide Management	Pesticide management trainings will be provided to orchard growers in Hood River County to reduce pesticides entering Hood River and improve water quality.	32,981	Hood River
221-4037	Oregon Agricultural Trust	Outreach & Collaboration to Promote Easements in Southeast Oregon	Agricultural landowners in southeast Oregon will be engaged to generate support for conservation easements that will preserve Oregon's unique mixed agricultural and natural landscapes.	96,485	Harney
221-4036	Deschutes River Conservancy	Upper Deschutes Basin Comprehensive Water Management Plan - Stakeholder Engagement	Local, regional, and statewide stakeholders will be engaged through a facilitated, collaborative process to develop a comprehensive water management plan for the Upper Deschutes Basin.	84,518	Deschutes
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				213,984	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
None					

Region 4 - Central Oregon Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-4033	Wasco SWCD	Fifteenmile Creek Steelhead Status and Trend Monitoring	Salmon production and life history will be tracked for a period of four consecutive years in Fifteenmile Creek watershed, which enters the Columbia River just below the Dalles Dam.	209,025	Wasco
221-4034	OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin	Wildlife Crossing Effectiveness Monitoring in Central Oregon	Data will be collected at wildlife crossing structures on Highway 97 to evaluate the effectiveness of these structures in facilitating wildlife passage and preventing wildlife vehicle collisions.	54,831	Deschutes
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				263,856	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-4032	Oregon Glaciers Institute	Oregon Glacier Monitoring Network in the Upper Deschutes and Hood River Basins	170,958	Deschutes	

Region 4 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	1,616,726
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4016-19488

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Summer Lake Wildfire Risk Reduction

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$198,864

Total Cost: \$427,449

Application Description 1) The Summer Lake Wildfire Risk Reduction project area will focus on an approximately 600 acres within an overall 1,800- acre area with multiple ownerships. Three private landowners make up about 1,358 acres with the remaining 475 acres under BLM management. The project area is flanked by three wildfire scars and the US Forest Service has been focused on conducting thinning treatments to the boundaries.

2) This area is the last dense forested stand at risk of wildfire. A stand that would lead wildfire to four permanent residences and one hunting cabin. The area is currently being surveyed for pre-wildfire roads and contingency lines within a grant agreement between the USFS and the High Desert Rangeland Fire Protection Association (HDRFPA).

3) The implementation of a thinning project would successfully complete a wildfire contingency line spanning nearly 10 miles from Paisley to the project area west boundary. Additionally, the treatment would improve watershed function in four sub-watersheds of the region.

4) Partners would include Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, BLM, USFS, ODF, ODFW, HDRFPA and private landowners

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant and partners have experience with implementing forest health projects and are likely to succeed in executing the proposed restoration.
- The cost per acre of forest stand treatment is comparable to other similar type projects.
- During the virtual site visit, the applicant and partners emphasized the wildlife benefits, specifically mentioning goshawk, mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep.

Concerns

- The project is not identified in a watershed plan or assessment.
- There is no discussion in the application on how the treatments will be maintained or managed into the future.
- The application lacks letters of support from landowners where work will occur.
- There are no photos attached to the application to help illustrate the project need.

- The application lacks a discussion explaining the specific ecological impacts or species that could benefit from this project.
- The ecological uplift outcome from brush mastication described in objective 2 in the application is unclear.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal presents forest health treatments on private land that is surrounded by three previous wildfire scars. The application demonstrates a clear need for this project to mitigate future wildfire impacts to private lands, however, fell short on demonstrating the ecological need and benefit.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$198,864

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

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4017-19504

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Camp Creek Riparian Improvement

Applicant: Crook SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$78,500

Total Cost: \$101,950

Application Description The Lower Camp Creek Riparian Planting Project capitalizes on years of investments made by many partners including OWEB, ODA, the landowner, and Crook SWCD. The project is intended to jump start instream and riparian processes by providing the system with the necessary tools to heal itself over time. Plantings will be strategically designed to maximize return on investment by prioritizing plant survival in order to provide the maximum amount of bank stability, instream shade, and fish and wildlife habitat. Species lists will be simple, consisting of only a few species that are the most likely to survive and meet our long term objectives. Planting locations within the project area were chosen based on channel morphology and the resulting soil and water table conditions that will ensure the highest return on investment. Beavers already occupy the site so container stock will be protected while relatively inexpensive, locally sourced willow cuttings will be left uncaged.

Previous OWEB funding was used to construct riparian fences allowing exclusion of grazing along 3.5 miles of Camp Creek and the Crooked River. Legacy management was in place for over 25 years and consisted of season long grazing which resulted in complete loss of woody riparian shrubs and changes to channel structure. Current managers took over 5 years ago and have been actively restoring the property for the benefit of wildlife habitat and watershed function. Restoration actions undertaken by the landowner include over 50% reductions in cattle numbers, rebuilding infrastructure to protect sensitive areas, riparian plantings, western juniper treatment, upland seeding and a rigorous weed treatment program. Current management has seen marked progress in improving watershed conditions and habitat for sensitive species including sage grouse and trumpeter swan.

Restoration actions were partially identified using the recently completed Camp Creek Watershed Restoration Atlas.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The planting locations will be located inside newly placed livestock exclusion fencing.
- The root cause of the watershed problem, overgrazing, is identified clearly in the application and is addressed by low-cost methods that are proven to be effective.

- The maps and associated photos provided in the application were helpful in documenting the project need and evaluating the potential benefit.
- The project was identified in the Camp Creek Watershed Atlas as a priority to address sediment, a key water quality parameter of concern.
- The costs are reasonable and appropriate.
- The applicant and landowner have completed similar type conservation projects together, indicating a high likelihood for success.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the proposed planting plan focusing on woody plant species is appropriate for the site conditions that are dominated by fine soils with high pH levels unsuitable for woody vegetation.
- Photos provided in the application show streamside areas dominant with sedges and rushes, species known to be effective at trapping sediment. It is unclear why these plants are not considered in the planting plan.

Concluding Analysis

The project will restore woody vegetation to highly degraded sections of Camp Creek and the Crooked River, which is a good first step at addressing water quality problems. The project is likely to succeed given the existing fencing network that will protect riparian areas and landowner commitment to the project. This project may also spawn additional restoration actions to aid in sediment retention.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$78,500

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$78,500

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4018-19516

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Harmony Preserve Landscape Restoration

Applicant: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$228,370

Total Cost: \$317,055

Application Description The Harmony Preserve is a 900-acre parcel of private land featuring ponderosa pine, juniper, sagebrush flats, and riparian meadow encompassing both sides of approximately 3/4-mile of the North Fork Sprague River in Klamath County. New, progressive owners have developed a vision for holistic, ridgetop-to-ridgetop restoration, and have sought support for planning and implementation. Through a collaborative effort, Klamath Watershed Partnership, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife are undertaking a phased restoration of the uplands, meadows, and river.

Historically the Harmony Preserve was grazed by cattle and horses, and the river was channelized to facilitate meadow grazing. Decades of these practices saw the removal of riparian vegetation and large wood, resulting in loss of shade and instream complexity. River velocities, erosion, and habitat simplicity continue to diminish the value of this stretch for bull trout (Federally Threatened), redband trout (species of concern), and anticipated anadromous salmonids. Fire suppression and grazing in the uplands with little forest management allowed for overstocking in pine and juniper stands, and juniper encroachment into sagebrush flats. Mule deer, elk, beaver, and numerous sage-dependent species have been observed in the area in the two years since grazing cessation.

This project will facilitate treatment of priority upland acres to address riparian health, overstocking, wildfire risk, and sagebrush restoration. By collaborating with stream and riparian restoration efforts, upland work will expand the benefits to ecologically linked habitats, provide efficiencies in implementation, protect investments, and ultimately set the landscape up for long term, sustainable management by dedicated landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project's intent to provide logs for stream habitat restoration on the property is a smart and useful approach for utilizing cut trees with no or little market value.
- The landowner is very supportive of the project, which is documented by a letter of support, and has implemented similar type conservation work on other properties.

- The YouTube video link and associated documents provided in the application are helpful in understanding the property and project need.
- The proposed forest health treatments, combined with the stream and floodplain restoration that is funded outside of this proposal, provide a ridgetop-to-ridgetop strategy for fish and wildlife habitat restoration.
- The applicant has a proven track record implementing similar type projects.

Concerns

- The application and budget lacks details explaining the stream and floodplain restoration components identified throughout the proposal and its nexus with the forest treatment objectives. Specifically, it is unclear how objective four in the application, which describes the stream and floodplain work, will be implemented and funded.
- The project area falls within the perimeter of the Bootleg fire and it is unclear how the fire may have impacted the viability of the project or the wildlife that could potentially benefit from the proposed restoration.
- The cost per acre of forest health treatment appears high compared to other similar type projects.

Concluding Analysis

The project will implement forest health and sagebrush flat enhancement by small tree thinning and juniper removal. This work will be in conjunction with partners implementing stream and floodplain enhancements, yet the specifics of how this aquatic restoration work will be implemented are unclear.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

7 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$228,370

Review Team Conditions

Check with applicant prior to funding to see if the Bootleg Fire has compromised the project as proposed. Direct staff to investigate and work with the applicant to determine what actions and costs remain viable.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4019-19564

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Ranch Creek Redband Trout
Habitat Enhancement

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$103,476

Total Cost: \$157,056

Application Description

1. This project is located in Klamath County near Ft. Klamath, Oregon. The project will occur on Ranch Creek, which is a small tributary to Crooked Creek. Crooked Creek flows into the Wood River and from there into Upper Klamath Lake.

2. Klamath Basin Redband Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss newberrii*) are endemic to the Upper Klamath Basin and are listed as a State Sensitive Species by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Over the last century, their populations have been affected by land use changes that have disconnected, degraded, and eliminated spawning, rearing, and migratory habitat throughout the basin. In Ranch Creek, Redband Trout spawning has decreased substantially since surveys began in 2003, likely due to inconsistent flows. Biologists assume that much of the spawning habitat used by Redband Trout will also be important for anadromous salmon and steelhead that return to the basin after the four mainstem Klamath River dams are removed, so maintaining existing habitat and creating or enhancing additional habitat is especially important at this time.

3. In order to improve spawning abundance and success in Ranch Creek, and to provide access to additional spawning habitat upstream for Redband Trout and future anadromous populations, we propose to construct 0.15 of new channel, reconnect fish passage to 0.75 miles of upstream habitat, screen one 5-cfs irrigation diversion, and improve diversion management to ensure consistent flows in Ranch Creek. Overall, accessible spawning habitat will almost triple, from 0.5 miles to 1.4 miles.

4. Partners on this project include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Klamath fish biologists as well as fish passage and fish screen programs), U.S. Forest Service (all project work will take place on USFS property, and USFS will complete NEPA process), The Klamath Tribes, and the adjacent private landowner (Root Ranch).

Review Team Evaluation **Strengths**

- The project objectives are clear, and the application demonstrates a strong need for the restoration actions proposed.
- ODFW spawning surveys indicate the project area is a high priority for redband trout and other native fish and there are lots of opportunity to increase spawning habitat.
- The water diverted out of Agency Spring has an instream water right for fish and wildlife that aligns well with the management of Ranch Creek.
- The landowner excluded livestock with fencing, protecting the adjacent riparian and floodplain habitat.
- The applicant has a proven track record in implementing similar type projects.
- The project approach is a relatively low-cost option that will have substantial ecological uplift.

Concerns

- The maps provided in the application would benefit from the addition of arrows indicating flow paths of water bodies.
- The riparian planting buffer is 15 feet, which is narrow compared with ODA water quality standards of 25 feet.
- Diverting high quality cold spring water to a human created creek may degrade stream temperature and overall water quality in Agency Creek.

Concluding Analysis

The project presents a unique approach in creating and enhancing native fish habitat on a human created creek, called Ranch Creek, that flows directly into Agency Creek. The drop culvert that will be removed impedes stream flow and presents a clear problem for fish passage. ODFW will continue to monitor the project area. The solutions proposed have a high likelihood of success in achieving the desired ecological outcomes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$103,476

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$103,476

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4020-19566

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: TID Deschutes Basin Flow
Restoration Project - Group 6A

Applicant: Tumalo Irrigation District

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$200,000

Total Cost: \$6,140,037

Application Description For decades, irrigation districts in the Deschutes Basin have been working toward enclosing porous open canals to return and protect flow to the Deschutes River and their tributaries. The open porous canals, lined with volcanic rock and open to evaporation, cause the loss of approximately 50 percent of the water withdrawn. By enclosing the canals into leak free piping, the district can reduce its consumption by nearly half and return that conserved water into the basin that has resulted in a restoration of 24.2 cfs of instream flow to Tumalo Creek during the period of April – September, and 3,136 acre-feet of stored water to Crescent Lake for the storage season. The water conserved is protected for instream flow through Oregon Water Resources Department’s Conserved Water Program through a transfer of water rights.

The Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration – Group 6A project (project) encloses 2.3 miles (12,300 ft) of open porous irrigation canals into leak-free piping resulting in 1.5 CFS returned and protected in the Deschutes Basin (Crescent Lake and Tumalo Creek.) The project will pipe the Columbia Southern Lateral from approximately Tumalo Reservoir road to the northeast, using 48" diameter, pressure-rated high density polyethylene pipe. Like other TID modernization projects, the pipe will follow the existing canal alignment and will be installed in a compacted trench with a minimum of 3-ft of cover to protect the pipe from freezing and damage. The surface will be restored with topsoil and native seeding, where appropriate.

This project is part of a regional collaboration effort with the Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC) consisting of eight irrigation districts (Arnold, Central Oregon, Lone Pine, North Unit, Ochoco, Swalley, Three Sisters and TID). Members are working toward enclosing open canals to restore flow to the Basin that modernizes irrigation infrastructure while returning the basin to a more natural state.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has a long history of successfully conserving instream water rights for fish and wildlife.
- The applicant will engage ODFW and USFWS to determine how best to split the conserved water realized from this project.
- The applicant has the capacity and experience to implement the proposed project.

- Additional storage in Crescent Lake will allow for increased releases into Crescent Creek, which will benefit the threatened Oregon spotted frog.
- Additional water remaining instream on Tumalo Creek will add value to high quality redband trout habitat as well as increase cold water inputs to the Middle Deschutes River.
- The restoration objective of conserving 1.5 cfs is cost effective.

Concerns

- The proposal includes attachments that are not relevant to the proposed project, including outdated letters of support for different projects.
- Additional details describing match costs is needed to better understand whether match estimates are reasonable and align with the work necessary to accomplish the project objectives.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a continuation of Tumalo Irrigation District's effort to pipe their network of delivery canals that are leaky and inefficient in conveying water. This effort is supported by a watershed plan developed in conjunction with the NRCS.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$200,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$200,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4021-19587

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Greater Williams Prairie Restoration
Project 2021

Applicant: Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$239,188

Total Cost: \$763,851

Application Description The Greater Williams Prairie Restoration Project (GWPRP) is located 25 miles east of Prineville, OR, in the Ochoco Mountains, on the western edge of the Blue Mountain Range. The project area incorporates the North Fork of the Crooked River with drains to the north and east, eventually flowing into the Crooked River near Post, Oregon. GWPRP incorporates whole-watershed restoration of 17,500 acres on the Ochoco National Forest. The primary goals are protection and restoration of whole-watershed processes and increased local landscape resilience to climate change. Projects, from ridge-top to valley-bottom, include work in streams, riparian areas, and uplands. Projects focus on the protection, management and/or restoration of hydrologic function (with water table restoration in prairies and meadows), aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna habitat restoration, travel route improvements including aquatic organism passage restoration, forest health restoration, early detection and rapid response treatments of invasive plants and cattle management. This funding request focuses on stream restoration and conifer reduction. Stream restoration will occur on 1.9 miles of the North Fork Crooked River and .75 of Long Prairie Creek. Conifer thinning across 415 acres will occur adjacent to Williams Prairie. Proposed actions include in-stream placement of wood and/or rock, filling gullies, installing beaver dam analogues, and commercial and non-commercial thinning. This supports direct improvements in habitat conditions for aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna. Through a unique partner initiative referred to as "All Hands, All Brands, For Public Lands" we have secured monetary and in-kind support from the following partners; Western Native Trout Initiative, Blue Mountain Elk Initiative, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, among others.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is part of a landscape scale effort that is a ridgetop-to-ridgetop approach to improve fish and wildlife habitat on the Ochoco National Forest.
- The applicant and USFS partners are experienced and have a proven track record at implementing the restoration actions in this proposal.
- The proposed stage 0 stream and floodplain restoration design will increase the wetland footprint and associated watershed benefits wetlands provide.

- The forest health and invasive species treatment will improve wildlife habitat quality and connectivity throughout the project area.

Concerns

- The proposal lacks designs for the stream and floodplain components needed to understand the methods and strategies that will be employed and whether the expected ecological outcomes can be achieved.
- Maps provided with the application lack sufficient detail to understand the extent of the proposed stream and floodplain work and its context in relation to other work proposed, such as the forest health and invasive weed treatment. Adding road and stream labels along with aerial imagery to the forest health treatment map would provide details needed to understand where proposed treatments are located in the landscape.
- It is unclear from the application how the proposed restoration will provide expected benefits to anadromous salmonids given the project location is 35 river miles upstream from a dam with no fish passage.
- A description of post project maintenance and activities, including future livestock grazing management, is not included in the application.
- It is difficult to determine if project costs are appropriate without designs.
- Evidence of additional local support for the project would strengthen the proposal.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal is a resubmit and the current application addresses some but not all of the previous evaluation concerns, in particular the lack of project designs and detailed maps needed to evaluate project technical soundness. This project presents an incredible opportunity to build resiliency, improve habitat conditions for a wide variety of species, and improve habitat connectivity across a large landscape. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address the concerns identified above.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

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-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4022-19611

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Fish Passage and Screening in the Upper Ochoco Creek Watershed: Implementation Phase 1

Applicant: Crook SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$323,339

Total Cost: \$417,316

Application Description Our project area is anchored by the confluence of Ochoco and Marks Creeks in the Upper Ochoco Watershed. Marks Creek is the largest tributary to Ochoco Creek and is an important source of cold water to the upper watershed, located east of Prineville.

These streams exhibit rich ecological potential but past management and barriers to fish migration and survival have fettered their productivity. With proper fish passage and screening this lush valley can offer important spawning and rearing habitat for resident redband trout (a state and federal sensitive species), while continuing to provide excellent big game habitat and agricultural production. Significant instream and riparian restoration was completed in 2020 to improve habitat and passage in the section above our proposed project reach. Our project will solidify that investment by creating a barrier free system from Ochoco Reservoir to Marks lake, improving the connection to an additional 15 miles of improved habitat.

This application seeks to secure funding to implement the designs produced through an OWEB Technical Assistance Grant. After receiving the TA grant we worked closely with our project partners to identify a unified approach to addressing watershed problems in the upper watershed. Through that process our team evaluated the designs in order to identify which projects were best suited for restoration investment. In this phase of implementation project we will address fish passage at four sites (on 5 PODs); one in Ochoco Creek and three in Marks Creek. The team agreed that screening and passage at this set of diversions is the next logical step in improving conditions for native migratory fish in the Upper Ochoco Watershed.

This proposal is the result of a collaborative partnership between the Lookout Ranger District of the Ochoco National Forest, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Crooked River Watershed Council, Oregon Water Resources Department and Crook SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will implement a subset of fish passage solutions designed by a qualified restoration consultant as a result of a previous OWEB technical assistance grant.

- All the screens proposed occur on one landowner's property who is aware of the maintenance requirements and supportive of the project.
- The approach and strategy of addressing fish passage barriers upstream of Ochoco reservoir is appropriate and supported by ODFW. The proposed work will open stream habitat for fish and prevent fish loss into ditches.
- The addition of headgates associated with the diversions will allow for new efficiencies in water use and measurement.
- The proposed restoration compliments other watershed-related work nearby, including CREP and planting projects.
- The budget provides sufficient detail and breakdown of project costs.
- The project is well supported, evidenced by a variety of support letters.

Concerns

- The roughened riffle component described in the designs attached to the application is not listed or described in the objectives part of the application.

Concluding Analysis

The project is the first implementation phase to address fish barriers at four sites above Ochoco Reservoir, improving habitat connectivity along 15 stream miles. The project is likely to succeed because the approach is strategic and methods are technically sound.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$323,339

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$323,339

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4023-19633

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Three Creeks Fish Passage, Fish Screening, and Wet Meadow Restoration

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$352,524

Total Cost: \$574,803

Application Description The proposed restoration project is located in the Goose Lake Basin, Lake County Oregon. The project involves three major watershed concerns that will be addressed in cooperation with three private landowners, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Swift Water Designs, and River Design Group.

The Goose Lake Basin has several unique features as it lies within the Southern Oregon-Northeastern California (SONEC) region of the Pacific Flyway, standing out as highest priority habitats across the 11-state geography. SONEC sustains more than six million migrating and breeding birds each year. Latest data indicates that wetlands across this landscape are threatened not only by land use changes but also drying as a result of climate change and human water use. Also unique to this watershed are the nine native fish species that complete their life cycles in these streams. Four of which are listed as “species of concern” by the US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) due to vulnerability within this challenging system. These fish are adapted to the alkaline lake waters, the ever-fluctuating seasonal flows, and periods of drought – yet populations, distribution, and abundance are greatly influenced by the environmental and human modified conditions we see today.

Historical channel straightening, irrigation infrastructure, livestock grazing, and resulting channel incisions have greatly impacted the stream corridor and wetland function in and along Cox Creek, Camp Creek, and Thomas Creek. The goal is to restore the degraded stream and meadow system habitat using process-based restoration strategies, improve fish connectivity by constructing a fish bypass channel at an irrigation diversion structure, and installing a panel fish screen to prevent fish from becoming entrapped in a 6-mile irrigation system.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds off a previous OWEB technical assistance grant that provided project designs in partnership with USFWS.

- The project capitalizes on adjacent landowners' willingness to address fish passage and habitat concerns, as well as an opportunistic chance to provide screening at a private diversion on federal land.
- The fencing component will be designed and built following Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) placement to ensure installation is adapted to changes to the floodplain in response to restoration.
- Historically, the streams in the project area were heavily populated with redband trout, as indicated through past reports and PIT tag studies within the Thomas Creek watershed.
- The applicant has a record of implementing similar type large-scaled projects.

Concerns

- A grazing management plan would provide a better understanding of future land use and its compatibility with ecological restoration.
- The design information provided in the application is more conceptual and lacks details to evaluate technical soundness of the design approach.
- The ecological outcomes expected from the process-based restoration utilizing BDAs are unclear. The number of proposed BDAs to be installed will have a significant maintenance burden and the use of sagebrush material for these structures will limit their longevity in the stream. It is unclear from the application how these structures will be monitored and maintained. A monitoring and adaptive management strategy is needed to quantify project impacts and long-term benefits.
- The design approach for the BDA structures do not seem to align with fish passage criteria from ODFW.
- There is a lack in proposal clarity because it is unclear how the objectives at the three project sites correlate with the budget and uploaded documents.

Concluding Analysis

The project is working with three private ranches to address fish passage along with instream and riparian habitat degradation. The project area has suffered from past overuse by livestock. However, new landowners are engaged and interested in supporting conservation. Combining fish screening, riparian fencing, and BDA's has wide reaching capabilities to improve stream conditions; however, the application lacks details needed to evaluate the extent of expected watershed health benefits for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$352,524

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

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4024-19635

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Neal Creek Phase II Instream
Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: Hood River SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Hood River

OWEB Request: \$85,402

Total Cost: \$399,127

Application Description This project will take place on Neal Creek, located within the Hood River Watershed in Hood River County. The project will include nine private properties located up and downstream of Thomsen Road in a reach of Neal Creek that has the highest intrinsic potential for salmon and steelhead due to a relatively low gradient (= 2%) and wide valley bottom.

Neal Creek is one of the few clear water (non-glacial) tributaries of the lower Hood River and contains a viable population of threatened winter steelhead, threatened coho salmon, cutthroat trout, and resident rainbow trout. Based on ODFW sampling and population estimates, Neal Creek is estimated to provide 5-10% of steelhead production in the Hood River Basin. The primary limiting factors that this project will address are habitat diversity and key habitat quantity, particularly spawning and juvenile rearing habitat. On Neal Creek, the combination of channel alterations, fill from private and county roads, and large wood removal has led to entrenched channel segments with limited amounts of large wood.

This project will reconnect 12 acres of floodplain and restore 3/4-mile of spawning and rearing habitat by increasing the number of key pools, spawning gravel patches, and channel complexity through the addition of large wood structures.

Project partners include Hood River Watershed Group (project manager), Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District (applicant/fiscal sponsor), Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (cash match, materials), and project landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds off a previous OWEB technical assistance grant that developed project designs.
- The project designs were reviewed by BPA as part of the project's nexus with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. This ensures project technical soundness and viability.
- A hydraulic analysis was completed to ensure the county no-net rise requirements will be met.
- The project will address limiting factors for ESA listed salmonids, specifically coho and steelhead.

- The expenditures associated with the ecological outcomes are cost effective.
- The project will promote water quality benefits by capturing sediment thus reducing downstream inputs.

Concerns

- The proposal lacks detail on the post construction planting plan.

Concluding Analysis

The project continues momentum that is building along Neal Creek to engage private landowners in the rural-urban interface to support instream and floodplain habitat enhancement opportunities. Utilizing local partners with experience increases the likelihood for the project to succeed in improving stream and floodplain interactions that benefit multiple fish species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$85,402

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$85,402

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4025-19487

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Warner Forest Health
Mapping & Inventory

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed
Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$74,998

Total Cost: \$93,988

Application Description The South Warner Forest Health Project (SWFHP) encompasses 39,037 acres of private, non-industrial forestland in Lake County, east and south of Lakeview. This landscape scale project is tied directly to Fremont-Winema National Forest's South Warner Integrated Landscape Restoration Project, totaling 85,620 acres and is adjacent to the North Warner Forest Health Project where current treatment is underway. Through a century of fire suppression, the forests of this region have increased in density, lost diversity, and altered the structure and hydrologic function of watersheds. This loss from historic conditions has increased the scale and risk of fire severity, and reduced forest resiliency to drought, insects, and disease. High priority resources and habitat such as waterways and associated sensitive species, homes, ranch land, and private/industrial timberland are currently in jeopardy. The goal of the SWFHP is to initiate a landscape-level forest management effort aimed at improving forest health conditions that will reverse the current fire trend and increase ecosystem resiliency.

Based on similar efforts in Lake County, the SWFHP uses an 8 step model founded on personal connections with informed and engaged private landowners. A comprehensive outreach, mapping, and inventory effort will inform and facilitate cross-boundary planning and implementation of forest health practices.

Technical Assistance will be used to conduct targeted outreach to private landowners, including phone calls, mailings, site visits, forest management planning sessions, and educational workshops. Landowner education efforts will include two OSU Extension workshops for forest ecology/management, fire science and prioritization planning. Project partners include the Fremont Winema National Forest, ODF, NRCS, ODFW, and members of the Klamath- Lake Forest Health Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project geography is the Fremont-Winema National Forest's second highest priority area to address forest health.

- The project scope and deliverables generated will aid in prioritizing limited funding for targeting on-the-ground forest health restoration.
- The applicant and partners have a proven track record with similar type projects at landscape scales.
- The methodology proposed has proven to be effective at laying the foundation for implementing successful landscape scale forest health restoration.
- Recent wildfires within and adjacent to the project geography have heightened private landowner awareness, creating a high level of interest in partnering with the applicant to improve forest health.
- The technical assistance effort involves working in the field directly with individual landowners, which has proven to be effective at building relationships and trust for future work.

Concerns

- The approach utilized for field verification and mapping on private land is not consistent with those employed on neighboring federal land. The scale of the public land's effort is, however, vastly different by relying more on remote sensing tools as opposed to a field based "boots on-the-ground" approach.

Concluding Analysis

The project continues the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership restoration efforts to address overstocked forests and habitat degradation in targeted geographies across private and public lands.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,998

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$74,998

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4026-19507

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Annie Creek Fish Passage and Screening Design - Phase II

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$207,449

Application Description

1) The proposed project is located on Annie Creek, a tributary to the Wood River in Klamath County. 2) The lower portion of Annie Creek flows mostly through private property, where numerous ranching-related impacts led to a lack of year-round volitional fish passage, degraded riparian conditions, and a homogenous creek channel. Prior to 2018, there were 8 irrigation diversion structures along the length of this reach that served as barriers to upstream fish passage and posed a significant entrainment threat. With assistance from OWEB and a number of other funders, Trout Unlimited (TU) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will have removed four of these barriers by the fall of 2021. Bull Trout have been expatriated from Annie Creek since the 1980s; however, there is a recovering population in neighboring Sun Creek, and Annie Creek is the top priority for Bull Trout reintroduction. The USFWS Klamath Recovery Unit Implementation Plan for Bull Trout (Recovery Plan), identifies "Connectivity Impairment" as one of the primary threats to Bull Trout recovery in Annie Creek. The Recovery Plan identifies passage improvement and screening to address "Connectivity Impairment" on Annie Creek as critical recovery actions. 3) Trout Unlimited is requesting funding to acquire engineered designs for removal of the four remaining diversion structures along Annie Creek. These projects will provide year round access to 10 miles of additional habitat that is currently blocked by the 4 passage barriers. Trout Unlimited will also work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to install fish screens on the ditches at these points of diversions (57 cfs total) to eliminate entrainment. However, funding is only requested for the passage portions of these projects. 4) Project partners include the USFWS, ODFW, Crater Lake National Park, and U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds off the applicant's previous successful work in providing fish passage at similar type barriers downstream from the project site.
- Utilizing the same experienced consultant team who developed designs for the downstream structures and capitalizing on their site-specific knowledge and existing data sets will provide cost savings for the proposed project.
- The use of roughened riffles has proven to be successful at year-round volitional fish passage.
- The project will address impaired habitat connectivity, the primary threat to Bull trout outlined in the USFWS recovery plan.

- The applicant will engage the ODFW screen shop once designs reach 30%, allowing for adequate time for fish screen design and fabrication.

Concerns

- The application lacks information describing plans for long-term maintenance once the restoration project is completed.
- The application describes potential impacts to wetlands and the use of riprap in the project design; however, it lacks a discussion explaining why the design approach was selected and any considerations made to minimize negative impacts.
- The application lacks information describing how adjacent lands will be managed, such as whether fencing will be incorporated to protect the stream corridor and allow riparian vegetation to establish.
- Brook trout are currently present in Annie Creek, posing potential problems for the reintroduction of Bull trout because brook trout will hybridize with Bull trout populations. However, methodologies and lessons learned from Brook trout removal on Sun Creek will be applied to Annie Creek.

Concluding Analysis

The project will continue efforts on Annie Creek to address the last four instream barriers to fish movement. A recovering population of Bull trout has been documented in neighboring Sun Creek and similar results are expected for Annie Creek as habitat improvements are completed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4027-19508

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Southeastern Cascades Landscape
Forest Resiliency Planning

Applicant: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$73,686

Total Cost: \$100,329

Application Description

The Southeastern Cascades Forest and Fire Project (SCFFP) encompasses nearly 197,000 acres in western Klamath County. This project area has been identified by the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP) as the next priority landscape for cross-boundary work based on opportunities for collaboration with planned and existing projects on Federal land. The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) North Landscape Project and the United States Forest Service's (USFS) Klamath Landscape Restoration Project are included in the SCFFP based on complementary objectives for forest resiliency, wildfire risk reduction, and resource protection. Wildfire does not recognize property boundaries, but there is currently no comprehensive inventory of forest resources for private land in the project area to promote or facilitate management in step with Federal efforts. This project will conduct the necessary outreach and education of landowners across 21,000 acres of non-industrial private land to encourage forest stewardship and engagement in the larger effort. Remote sensing, combined with ground verification and data collection, will be conducted to provide the necessary resolution to understand the scope and scale of restoration needs on private land. Documented techniques for developing treatment recommendations and prioritizations will then be used, setting the private lands up for future forest management plan development and acquisition of implementation funding. Project partners are members of the KLFHP, including the USFS, BLM, Oregon Department of Forestry, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon State University Extension, and Klamath Watershed Partnership. Additional partners to be engaged through this project include local fire districts and private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal provides a clearly describes the project objectives and outcomes.
- The project geography is a priority for adjacent federal land managers, including BLM and USFS.
- The applicant is utilizing lessons learned from a similar project in the Chiloquin Community Forest area. The work will result in relevant field data that is imperative to inform on-the-ground implementation.
- Resulting projects will aid in habitat recovery for the Oregon Spotted Owl.
- The applicant and partners have a proven track record working on projects with a similar scope and scale.
- The methodology is technically sound.

Concerns

- No concerns were raised.

Concluding Analysis

The project will initiate the eight-step methodology developed by the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership to address forest health and habitat degradation in order to facilitate cross boundary landscape level restoration. The private landowner engagement and plan development specific to individual properties has shown to be successful at putting plans into action.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$73,686

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$73,686

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4028-19513

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Sprague River Fish Passage Improvement Project

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$319,458

Application Description

1) The proposed project will improve fish passage and hydrological processes at 6 road/stream crossings in the upper Sprague River watershed, upper Klamath basin. 2) The 6 existing structures block volitional fish passage for Bull Trout and other native fish species. Removing fish passage barriers will assist in Bull Trout recovery by allowing full volitional passage from the Sprague River into tributaries such as Leonard, Brownsworth, Camp, and Corral Creeks from the South Fork Sprague River. Volitional fish passage is important for species recovery and protection from catastrophic events. 3) Trout Unlimited will partner with the U.S. Forest Service Fremont-Winema National Forest to contract an engineering firm to complete 100% designs for replacing the existing 6 culverts with structures that allow for year-round volitional fish passage. 4) Trout Unlimited, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Green Diamond Resource Company, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is cost effective by developing 100% complete designs for fish passage at six different road crossings.
- The project is within USFWS's critical habitat designation for Bull trout.
- The applicant is engaging with the Green Diamond Resource Company, who has partnered on similar type projects with success.
- The project is timely by aligning with the US Forest Service's plan to pave the road with five of the crossings that are fish passage barriers.
- The South Fork Sprague River system is prioritized by the USFS to focus on projects that benefit Bull trout.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether additional barriers exist downstream that could limit the effectiveness of the proposed work.
- Pictures submitted with the application seem to depict adjacent wetlands associated with the road crossings but there is no discussion on how these resources will be protected or enhanced.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant and partners are seeking to expand the spawning and rearing range of an isolated population of Bull trout in the South Fork Sprague River system. Leonard and Brownsworth Creeks are the only two streams to occupy Bull trout in the South Fork Sprague River system, making the population vulnerable to extirpation. This project will open up suitable habitat with the hopes of Bull trout colonization into the future.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4029-19579

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Crooked River Floodplain Restoration

Applicant: Crooked River WC

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$74,896

Total Cost: \$106,605

Application Description

1) The project area is 24.8 linear miles of the Upper Crooked River, known hereafter as (UCR) mainstem and 4.5 sq. miles of historic floodplain between Prineville Reservoir and its confluence with the N. Fork.2) Degradation of the UCR is well-evidenced by multiple 303(d) listings. During late summer, the UCR often flows at <5 cfs and >80°F. Prior work estimated that floodplain reconnection could support late season flows >20 cfs, which is likely to improve water quality. There is widespread interest in restoration of the UCR, but there are not enough data to provide for science-based restoration planning. In other words, there is a diverse coalition of UCR stewards, but no clear roadmap to restoration.3) This project answers the data needs to guide future UCR restoration. First, we will monitor floodplain groundwater levels in four new transects (and continue monitoring four existing transects). These transects represent a range of valley constraint, hydrologic regime, and soil types to characterize the heterogeneity of the study area. Second, we will collect soil data to characterize the floodplain aquifer. Third, we will fly LiDAR to generate a high-resolution topographic model of the study area. These three activities will provide distributed estimates of current and potential floodplain aquifer volume capacity and the baseflow discharges that such volumes support. Fourth, we will model the amount of floodplain reconnected by two different illustrative restoration options, spanning from small-scale projects to holistic restoration. These results will provide a data-based platform for stakeholders to consider what restoration approaches would be optimal and most cost-effective.4) CRWC, OSU-Cascades, and 7 of 9 landowners in the project area: McGrath, Neuharth, Gillen, Dow, Wood, The Nature Conservancy, Fulbright. Letters of support from: Crook County SWCD, Deschutes Land Trust, Deschutes River Conservancy, Central Oregon LandWatch, USFS Ochoco NF.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The development of restoration plans will provide a valuable foundation to engage landowners interest in future enhancement opportunities.
- The project builds off work initiated by Oregon State University (OSU) and expands it into priority areas to maximize floodplain restoration opportunities.
- The LiDAR data capture will serve as an invaluable tool in restoration planning.
- The project's footprint spans a large geography that is privately owned by landowners who have large parcels. Most of these landowners provided letters of support for the proposed project.

Concerns

- Drilling geotechnical holes will trigger a permit process with Oregon Department of Water Resources (OWRD) that will specify this work be completed by a licensed and bonded well driller unless performed by the landowner. Since the application lacks information on how this project component will be completed, it is unclear whether requirements associated with the OWRD permit will be met.
- The application lacks details explaining how the data to be collected is necessary to develop restoration plans for reconnecting the Crooked River to its floodplain.
- It is not clear from the application whether appropriate State natural resource agencies, such as Oregon Departments of Water Resources, Environmental Quality, and Fish and Wildlife, were contacted and engaged as part of the proposed project.
- It is unclear how many conceptual restoration designs will be developed, and the extent to which a qualified engineer will be involved in developing these designs.

Concluding Analysis

The project will address degraded floodplain and riparian habitats along the Upper Crooked River. The resulting technical assistance will provide quantifiable floodplain aquifer capacity and potential summer streamflow estimates that will be valuable for communicating with landowners and engaging them in floodplain restoration design.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,896

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

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4030-19588

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Maxwell Ranch Bauer's Creek
Diversion Replacement - Survey and Design

Applicant: Lakeview SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$49,485

Total Cost: \$63,093

Application Description

The Lakeview SWCD seeks to continue ongoing legacy conservation efforts on the Maxwell Ranch in Lake County, Oregon, a pivotal landscape in the Oregon SONEC. Maxwell Cattle, Inc. has been a long-time Lake County partner where numerous wet meadow and stream restoration and fish passage treatments have been employed. The project addresses a dilapidated instream diversion structure that currently serves as a fish passage obstacle on Bauer's Creek, contains no fish-screening, and no longer effectively diverts surface water across the historical floodplain. The project aims to replace the traditional structure with a rock chute feature and associated lateral ditch infrastructure to restore perennial fish passage, provide fish-screening, and reestablish flood-irrigation capabilities on 80 acres of historical floodplain wet meadows. The feature is the last remaining fish passage obstacle on the Maxwell Ranch. This project is a collaboration with Maxwell Cattle, Inc., Ducks Unlimited, and the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds off previous fish passage projects implemented on Maxwell Ranch and will address the final barrier on Bauer's Creek.
- The design approach utilizing a roughened channel to facilitate fish passage is technically sound.
- The project area is within an existing conservation easement, ensuring long-term habitat protection for fish and wildlife.
- The application provides a reasonable rationale describing the strong correlation for how a well-functioning flood irrigation system can benefit migratory waterfowl and native fish.
- The proposed technical assistance effort will also evaluate habitat enhancement opportunities along Bauer's Creek, specifically considering Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) installation and vegetation improvements.
- The applicant actively engaged landowner to think through the project.

Concerns

- Flood irrigation on land with a grazing livestock contributes to bacteria and nutrient loading that can result in poor water quality conditions.

- The application lacks information about the seasonality of the flyway and whether it coincides with the timing of flood irrigation practices to provide meaningful habitat benefits to migratory birds.
- The application lacks details on specific waterfowl species needs and limiting factors, specifically to provide context for how the project will address those needs.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed technical assistance work will continue engagement in stewardship and conservation efforts with the Maxwell Ranch to address the final fish passage barrier on Bauer's Creek. The project fits well within the context of other on-going fish passage and habitat enhancement efforts occurring on neighboring ranches and waterways, which further leverages the habitat benefits from the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,485

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$49,485

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4031-19627

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Deschutes Basin
Comprehensive Water Management Plan-
Technical Assistance

Applicant: Deschutes River Conservancy

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$125,057

Application Description

The Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC), in partnership with the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC), proposes to develop a comprehensive Upper Deschutes sub-basin water management plan through the Deschutes Basin Watershed Collaborative (DBWC). The Upper Deschutes sub-basin is a HUC-8 watershed and encompasses the Middle and Upper Deschutes River above the Pelton-Round Butte Dam Complex and associated tributaries, including Tumalo Creek, Crescent Creek and the Little Deschutes River. This project addresses low and altered streamflow issues in the upper Deschutes River sub-basin, a major limiting factor for fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and watershed health. The Deschutes River is over-appropriated - more water is authorized to be diverted from the river than actually exists in the river. Inadequate streamflow and unnatural stream flow regimes created by valid irrigation water use have been identified as the primary limiting factor with regard to native fish distribution and productivity. The proposed comprehensive water management plan will be built upon years of collaboration and planning in the Deschutes Basin. The recent completion of the Basin Study and HCP provides a substantial and timely foundation to build on in order to develop a comprehensive and widely supported water management plan that will accelerate the efficiency, pace, and scale of water reallocation in the basin to maintain productive agriculture, achieve flow restoration targets, and ensure water supply reliability for the growing communities in the Deschutes Basin. The comprehensive plan follows the framework agreement being completed under the current OWEB grant to the DRC, which also support COIC to facilitate the DBWC's efforts, which includes participation from many disparate collaborative partners (list uploaded). DRC is concurrently submitting a stakeholder engagement proposal to OWEB to support COIC's continued facilitation and co-leadership of the DBWC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will fill critical data gaps and aid in obtaining instream conservation targets set in the recently approved Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) permit.
- The technical assistance effort will build upon an engaged stakeholder group and previous planning efforts to develop multiple strategies to obtain streamflow restoration objectives. The cohesion demonstrated amongst stakeholders ensures project development and prioritization will be done in a coordinated manner through consensus decision-making.

Concerns

- The application lacks information describing the connection of the proposed project with related work funded by an open OWEB technical assistance grant, number 220-4015, and why additional OWEB funding is necessary.
- There are few agricultural landowners involved in the development of a plan that will directly impact their water use and operations.
- The application lacks information describing what eligible restoration projects will be developed with the comprehensive plan and who will be responsible for implementation.
- The timeline in the proposal is ambitious and may not be realistic given the vast geography and complex nature of the future restoration projects.

Concluding Analysis

The technical assistance project continues an ongoing effort to develop a comprehensive water management plan to target and prioritize projects that improve streamflow in the Deschutes River. The water management plan is a logical step in order to prioritize restoration efforts.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

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

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4032-19552

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Oregon Glacier Monitoring Network
in the Upper Deschutes and Hood River Basins

Applicant: Oregon Glaciers Institute

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$170,958

Total Cost: \$306,480

Application Description Glaciers are the natural reservoirs of Oregon's high Cascade-mountain water towers. Their meltwater supports crucial late-summer streamflow, sustaining streams that would otherwise run dry while keeping instream temperatures below fish-survival thresholds. Irrigation, drinking water and fisheries all depend on glacier meltwater discharge to streams yet the glacial source of the meltwater is not monitored. How are these glaciers responding to climate change? What will be the impacts on streamflow, instream temperatures, and flood and debris-flow risks?

The Oregon Glaciers Institute proposes a monitoring project to document the surface mass balance of glaciers within the Upper Deschutes and Hood River Basins. This project will measure the seasonal input (snow) and outflow (melt) of two benchmark glaciers within these basins (Hayden and Eliot, respectively) in an analogous manner to the balance of a human-made reservoir. These data will relate snowfall and temperature to glacier mass changes and attendant meltwater discharge to streams. Annual snowline and biennial dimensional measurements of all glaciers within the basins will determine glacier health, estimate basin-wide summer meltwater discharge and document changes in the volume of naturally-stored water.

This project follows the USGS Benchmark Glacier Program to quantify changes in glacier mass and their effect on streamflow, define the relationship between glacier cover and climate variations, and document potential hazardous situations. Products comprise seasonal glacier contributions to streamflow, annual glacier health and geohazard documentation, and biennial glacier volume estimates. Partners include the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, Hood River Watershed Group and irrigation districts, LightHawk, the Cities of Sisters and Bend, the Deschutes National Forest, Coalition for the Deschutes, Deschutes River Conservancy, the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters of Deschutes County, and Trout Unlimited.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application described the prior glacial measurements that will be used in the study as well as the data collected by the public. This project will leverage existing mass-balance measurements as well as measurement of glacier area and estimates of volume.

- With one exception, the proposed methods will likely be adequate to address the monitoring questions.
- The applicant will be establishing benchmark monitoring stations using protocols approved by the USGS and UNESCO.
- Data storage, processing, and access will be done in compliance with USGS and UNESCO protocol, sent to an archive in Switzerland, and posted on the applicant's website.
- The study design clearly identifies the study sites selected and why, parameters, and frequency to collect the data to answer the monitoring questions.
- The application clearly links the monitoring questions and thoroughly describes how the data will be managed and analyzed.
- The applicant and staff working on this project have the experience and qualifications necessary to complete the project as proposed.
- The application includes several letters of support that demonstrate the extensive list of stakeholders that have been engaged and are interested in the data.
- The budget seems reasonable given the effort involved and the products to emerge over a three-year period. The budget and narrative adequately describe how the costs were estimated.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The USGS documentation referenced in the application describes that the USGS has established a benchmark glacier for all of the Cascades, but the application did not address the relevance of the existing data from this benchmark.
- The applicant cited the USGS methods for establishing benchmark glacier monitoring. However, while all the benchmark sites also include the operation of streamflow gages, gages were not proposed for this study. The applicants do not explain why they did not include this component of the benchmark study design.
- The application did not describe how the data analysis will assess groundwater losses between the streamflow gage and glacier as a part of the computation of the percent contribution of the glacier to streamflow. The analysis to compare glacial discharge to downstream gages is uncertain to result in an accurate determination of annual glacial contribution to that year's streamflow due to not accounting for groundwater loss or contribution that could occur.
- It is not clear if the geohazard component of the monitoring project is an eligible activity, given potential lack of connection to intended uses of Measure 76 funds.
- Some of the costs detailed in the budget may be better included under the indirect costs category.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

The application mentions that, in subsequent years, the applicant will be contributing to a study that uses the Glacier Evolution Runoff Model. When performing this modeling, consideration should be given to the unique hydrology and hydrogeology of the Deschutes Basin. The hydrologic model coupled with the glacial retreat model may not adequately treat the dominant role of groundwater in the region.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has the appropriate education, expertise, and experience to implement the project.
- Glacial status and trend monitoring data is lacking, this effort would fill in gaps to help characterize conditions and potential impacts to water bodies downstream.
- The relative contribution of glacial melt to streamflow has not been studied in the Deschutes River basin.
- Glacier contribution to streamflow will continue to decline given climate change and quantifying this decline could be useful in water management/resources planning.
- The partnership with Lighthawk to capture high-resolution photographs of glaciers will add significant value to the project.

Concerns

- It is unclear from the application how the study design will answer the monitoring question in objective 3 of the application relating to streamflow because there is not a one-to-one relationship between glacial melt and streamflow. The amount of meltwater at or underneath the glacier itself that infiltrates and bypasses the stream network upgradient of existing stream gages is unknown, but likely significant given the highly permeable nature of the young volcanics in the central Cascades and large amounts of recharge that occur along the eastern flanks of the Cascades. Similarly, channel seepage losses for streamflow between the glacier terminus and stream gages may also be occurring. Thus, it is unknown, but likely, that significant portions of the meltwater bypass the local stream network upstream of existing local gages and recharges the regional groundwater system, which then discharges in lower stream reaches of the confluence area. As a result, the study design may not be sufficient to achieve objective 3 in the application because the gages will not capture all the streamflow resulting from glacial melt.
- The application lacks information describing how the proposed project complements current monitoring efforts; for example, studies in the Hood River basin using a combination of hydrologic modeling and isotope sampling to decipher the contributions of meltwater to streamflow.
- The monitoring period may be too short to determine trends and relationships between glacier mass and their effect on streamflow. This also limits the extent to which project objectives can be realized and for the data to inform future restoration work.
- The extent to which the resulting data can inform future restoration may be limited or even unnecessary to carry out restoration actions.

Concluding Analysis

The monitoring effort will implement status and trend monitoring on glaciated areas in the headwaters of the Deschutes and Hood River watersheds. There is an inherent lack of glacial data that could be beneficial to informing water management. However, it is unclear how the proposed monitoring is necessary for informing future restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

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-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4033-19561

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Fifteenmile Creek Steelhead Status and Trend Monitoring

Applicant: Wasco SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Wasco

OWEB Request: \$209,025

Total Cost: \$325,024

Application Description We propose to provide status and trend monitoring of three anadromous salmonid populations (ESA listed Mid-Columbia steelhead, coho salmon, and coastal cutthroat trout) present in Fifteenmile Creek and associated tributaries located within the Fifteenmile Creek watershed, all within Wasco & Hood River Counties.

Fifteenmile Creek flows into the Columbia River immediately downstream of The Dalles Dam on the Columbia River. Anadromous salmonid productivity and life history data for salmonid fish populations were established through monitoring studies from 2006-2019. However, these studies have since ceased, and status and trend data necessary for adaptive management, including evaluations of riparian and habitat improvements, are now lacking. Status and trend data are fundamental and necessary data used to evaluate habitat, watershed enhancement, or ongoing projects. This in a continued effort to recover ESA listed Mid-Columbia Steelhead, for which Fifteenmile Creek steelhead have been designated as 'must have viable' in the NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion.

We propose to monitor the production and life history of salmonids in Fifteenmile Creek Watershed by providing smolt abundance and escapement estimates to the Fifteenmile Creek Watershed for a period of four consecutive brood years. The baseline status and trend data will include brood years 2022–2026; and were selected to compliment and continue collecting baseline production metrics for Fifteenmile Creek Steelhead. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will provide technical assistance in estimating anadromous fish production during these consecutive brood years. Deliverable metrics will include: annual smolt abundance, age structure, migration timing, smolt-adult return estimates to Bonneville Dam & Fifteenmile Creek, overshoot rates and adult return timing to Bonneville Dam & Fifteenmile Creek. Project partners include Wasco County SWCD, ODFW & Fifteenmile Creek Watershed Council.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application provides a thorough explanation of the fish monitoring data that has been collected in the basin since 2006 that this project will leverage.

- This project will extend the life of the existing PIT array at the confluence of Fifteenmile and Eightmile creeks and incorporates some modifications to collect priority data while minimizing costs.
- The monitoring methods and analyses are well suited to address the questions listed for each monitoring question.
- The PIT detection data will be stored in PTAGIS, which is a publicly accessible repository and is backed-up to ensure data storage longevity. The additional fish data will be made publicly available on NOAA and ODFW's Recovery Tracker.
- The ODFW staff conducting the work have the experience and qualification necessary to collect the data in a successful manner and have a track record of the collecting this data in the past.
- The expenses in the budget are well aligned with the work proposed over five years and are adequate to successfully complete the project.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacks detail about how the monitoring is linked to current or planned habitat restoration efforts to be implemented by the grantee and other restoration practitioners in the basin.
- The application briefly mentions that these data can complement habitat data, but it was not clear to the extent habitat data exists or there are plans to collect these data in the future.
- The project mentions the FAST program but does not mention the data they collect or plan to collect to complement this effort.
- The application does not describe how the data would be analyzed to understand how many of the fish overshoot the Dalles Dam and successfully return to Fifteenmile Creek.
- The application does not describe the implications of not operating the downstream migrating juvenile fish trap Friday morning to Sunday afternoon and how that data gap can be accounted for when estimating the abundance of out-migrating juvenile fish.
- The application does not describe the roles of the specific ODFW staff identified in the application.
- The application does not describe the specific efforts to engage community stakeholders to share this information and to assist with describing trends associated with watershed restoration actions.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

The final report should provide a description about how the grantee and restoration practitioners have used or plan to use the data to evaluate effectiveness of restoration actions across the watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous fish monitoring work that occurred from 2006 to 2019 developed a robust data set essential to management of salmonids in the Fifteenmile Creek watershed. The proposed project will continue status and trend monitoring for salmonids in the Fifteenmile Creek where previous efforts left off in 2019.
- The applicant and partners have implemented similar type monitoring efforts with proven success.

- The monitoring data could be beneficial for informing current fisheries, habitat, and water quantity restoration projects in the Fifteenmile basin.
- The data will help managers better understand whether fish are effectively utilizing the sluiceway at the Dalles dam for adult downstream passage.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether all ODFW staff listed can commit to the time allotted in the application and budget.
- The application lacks specific details on how the data will inform future restoration.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed monitoring effort is led by research staff at ODFW. Data collected will provide status and trend information on ESA listed anadromous fish in the Fifteenmile Creek watershed that is critical to inform future fisheries management and restoration needs.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$209,025

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$209,025

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4034-19625

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Wildlife Crossing Effectiveness
Monitoring in Central Oregon

Applicant: OSU Office of Sponsored Research &
Award Admin

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$54,831

Total Cost: \$77,703

Application Description This project will document effectiveness of five wildlife crossing structures on U.S. Highway 97 between Gilchrist and Lava Butte (mileposts 149-185) designed to restore and enhance habitat connectivity for mule deer and elk between summer and winter ranges. Four of the crossing structures have been completed, while the fifth will be completed in 2021 as the latest component of a regional connectivity initiative. Three of the five crossing structures will also include design elements (deer guards) that were not a component of structures completed in prior phases of the project, and for which no effectiveness monitoring has occurred. A previously awarded proposal for completion of the fifth structure specified use of camera traps (in combination with ODOT deer-vehicle collision data) to document individual structure effectiveness but did not include funding for study design, data processing and analysis, or associated reporting. Further, there is a need to monitor all five crossing structures to evaluate regional effectiveness of the habitat connectivity initiative overall and to provide the necessary information to inform future connectivity restoration efforts statewide. Funds requested here will be applied toward camera trap study design, data collection, image processing and analysis, and associated reporting by the Oregon State University Human and Ecosystem Resilience and Sustainability Lab (HERS). HERS will collaborate with both Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and ODOT regarding study design parameters, agency information priorities and reporting requirements. Funding this request will inform a strategic and evidence-based platform for effective regional wildlife crossing systems in a corridor identified as a high priority in the Oregon Action Plan.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the existing data about wildlife vehicle collisions on this highway that are collected and maintained by ODOT, and the camera trap data for some sections of the highway that have existing wildlife passage structures.
- The project will develop a draft and final study design and protocol, with peer review from ODOT, ODFW, and National Park Service staff.
- The applicant cites methods from Colorado and Nevada and acknowledges that these methods will be refined during this project.

- The application describes the quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) measures that will be taken to review the data at key stages for transcription errors prior to data analysis. QA/QC measures are also described in and taken into consideration during camera deployment, and when using software to review the camera trap imagery to reduce redundant counts or missing ungulate movements.
- The application thoroughly describes how data will be stored in Excel and placed on a cloud-based database to share with partners. A comprehensive report will be completed with the finalized protocol and shared with ODOT, OWEB and ODFW.
- The data will be made publicly available by generating a peer-reviewed journal article and a poster will be presented at the OR Chapter of Wildlife Society conference. A presentation will be delivered to local audiences at either the High Desert Museum or Sunriver Nature Center.
- The staff and consultants working on this project possess the necessary qualifications and experience to complete this project as proposed.
- The applicant is engaging the community stakeholders by working with the Central Oregon Landwatch, which is contributing match, to understand wildlife habitat connectivity issues and monitor the wildlife passage project.
- The costs in the budget include expenses for a Master's student at OSU to assist with data collection and analyses. These costs are appropriate for the work necessary to accomplish the objectives and timeline described in the application.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It was not clear how applicable this data will be to inform similar wildlife passage actions in other geographic areas.
- The application does not describe any other current or planned wildlife monitoring efforts besides ODOT plans to continue to collect vehicle collision data by processing road kills.
- The application does not include monitoring questions, which makes it difficult to review the application relative to specific evaluation criteria.
- It was not clear if one year of collecting camera trap data at the newly installed site is enough data to make conclusions about the effectiveness of the different wildlife passage features.
- The study design does not have pre-project camera trap data to compare post-project data they will be collecting.
- The timeline included in the application was confusing; some of the information was conflicting about timing to complete data collection and reporting tasks. It was not clear if there was enough time to complete a thorough analysis and develop peer reviewed journal articles.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will help document the effectiveness of different strategies to safely allow for wildlife passage under and near highways.

- Many other Western states are further along in developing strategies and solutions for wildlife passage, the applicant and partners will utilize and incorporate lessons learned from these other efforts.
- There is a clear need to identify effective wildlife crossing measures since there is a high correlation between crossings used by animals and where animal mortalities have been recorded.
- ODOT traffic data indicates a continued trend in increased highway traffic, making this project timely to inform future wildlife passage design.
- The applicant and partners have experience in similar work and are well suited to be successful.

Concerns

- The monitoring timeline is only for one year which may not be enough time to meet project goals.
- It is unclear why OWEB is being asked to fund this project instead of ODOT, which has a role as managers of transportation infrastructure.
- It may not be cost effective for Oregon to invest in monitoring the effectiveness of wildlife crossing strategies when other Western states have developed proven measures to safely pass wildlife that could be implemented.

Concluding Analysis

The project will utilize previously installed measures to pass wildlife under Highway 97 to understand the effectiveness of these wildlife crossings. The project will evaluate different types of passage mechanisms and track photo data for all animals, which will inform future wildlife connectivity efforts.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$54,831

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$54,831

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4035-19555 **Project Type:** Stakeholder Engagement
Project Name: Hood River Pesticide Management
Applicant: Hood River SWCD
Region: Central Oregon **County:** Hood River
OWEB Request: \$32,981 **Total Cost:** \$50,319

Application Description

This project will take place in Hood River County, which covers the entire Hood River watershed, and focuses on the agricultural areas of Parkdale, Odell, and Hood River. Approximately 350 cherry, pear, and apple orchards cover 10,800 irrigated acres in the Hood River Valley. Orchards are sprayed with herbicides, fungicides and pesticides, and many border waterways making pesticide run-off and drift into surface waters a major concern. Steelhead and Chinook salmon are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and impaired water quality was identified as contributing to their decline (Hood River Watershed Action Plan, 2014 Update). The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership program began in Hood River to sample for pesticides in local waterways and implement best management practices to try to reduce their occurrence in samples. While sampling has been continuous since 2000, pesticide training efforts have waned and efforts in Spanish are non-existent. We propose to provide three years of pesticide trainings, in Spanish and English, to local orchardists and their employees. Trainings will cover hands-on sprayer calibration and optimization, as well as best management practices to reduce the amount of pesticides over applied and in drift. We will provide quick guides, in Spanish and English, to reference when working with pesticides. We will also generate a list of landowners from these workshops interested in establishing vegetative buffers around waterways to reduce pollution entering rivers and streams. Partners include: Oregon State University Extension, Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Training in pesticide application and associated equipment calibration has been identified as a need by the applicant and partners.
- The access to pesticide credits through non-English speaking trainings is a great incentive for attracting participation.
- The proposed training should lead to a more efficient use of chemicals, promoting an environmental benefit and a reduction in operational costs.
- The applicant and partners are experienced with this type of work.
- The proposed stakeholder engagement builds off established relationships and lessons learned from similar successful efforts.

- The timing of the trainings is thoughtful and designed to align with the seasonality of the work to reach as many people as possible.

Concerns

- The application lacks a description explaining a direct link between the proposed engagement activities and expected water quality improvements.
- It is unclear from the application whether the Pesticide Stewardship Program that has been active in Hood River will be engaged in the proposed project.
- Recruiting landowners to establish streamside buffers may be difficult. Growers prefer no vegetation along the stream because it traps cold air sinks that can be harmful to fruit trees.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal presents a thoughtful approach to engage orchard staff to be more efficient with pesticide applications. This project will utilize the same Spanish speaking workshop presenters that assisted with previous irrigation water management trainings that targeted the same set of stakeholders. The proposed stakeholder engagement is likely to succeed in reducing pesticides entering Hood River.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$32,981

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$32,981

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4036-19621

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Upper Deschutes Basin
Comprehensive Water Management Plan -
Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Deschutes River Conservancy

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$84,518

Total Cost: \$172,165

Application Description

The Deschutes River Conservancy, in partnership with the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, proposes to develop a comprehensive Upper Deschutes sub-basin water management plan through the Deschutes Basin Watershed Collaborative (DBWC). The Upper Deschutes sub-basin is a HUC-8 watershed in Deschutes, Jefferson, Crook and Klamath Counties in Central Oregon. It encompasses the Middle and Upper Deschutes River above the Pelton-Round Butte Dam Complex and associated tributaries, including Tumalo Creek, Crescent Creek and the Little Deschutes River. This project addresses low and altered streamflow issues in the upper Deschutes River sub-basin, a major limiting factor for fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and watershed health. The Deschutes River is over-appropriated - more water is authorized to be diverted from the river than actually exists in the river. Inadequate streamflow and unnatural stream flow regimes created by valid irrigation water use have been identified as the primary limiting factor with regard to native fish distribution and productivity. This project focuses stakeholder engagement around the collaborative process of the DBWC – namely, the committees and processes outlined in the Charter (see Attachment C), including the Planning Team, Working Group, and the Technical, Communications/Outreach, and Groundwater committees. The goal is to support these multi-stakeholder groups with neutral facilitation and coordination services to help them develop a collaborative Comprehensive Upper Deschutes Basin Water Management Plan from October 2021 with a final Plan being produced in August 2022, and adoption by regional boards occurring by November 2022. The remainder of the project time frame – from December 2022 to September 2023 – is focused on convening the group to support and monitor the implementation of the Plan. The project also incorporates outreach to key regional boards, the general public, and local and state decision makers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant will utilize a neutral party facilitator with a proven track record leading the Deschutes Basin Watershed Collaborative stakeholder group.
- The proposed work is timely given the need to build consensus in developing a comprehensive water management plan.
- The applicant is experienced and best suited to lead this stakeholder group.

- The engagement is essential to maintain focus amongst a diverse set of interests in developing solutions to a complex problem.

Concerns

- It is challenging to discern how many meetings are included in the budget, and whether the sub-committee meetings are included as well, because the contracted services line item is a lump sum.
- The timeline for generating consensus and approving a comprehensive plan by August 2022 seems optimistic.

Concluding Analysis

Restoring streamflow in the Upper Deschutes River basin is a complex issue involving many stakeholders with various interests. The Deschutes Basin Watershed Collaborative has been actively leading and engaging the stakeholders to develop solutions, this proposal allows for this process to continue.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$84,518

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$84,518

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 221-4037-19624

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Outreach & Collaboration to Promote Easements in Southeast Oregon

Applicant: Oregon Agricultural Trust

Region: Central Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: \$96,485

Total Cost: \$128,125

Application Description

1) Oregon Agricultural Trust's (OAT's) stakeholder engagement project will partner with farmers and ranchers for conservation on their privately owned agricultural lands in our Southeast Oregon focal area of Lake, Harney, and Malheur counties (see map of our strategic focal area). This area includes all or portions of 11 watersheds. 2) This project addresses three issues in the focal area: 1) degradation and fragmentation of rangeland that also serves as Greater Sage Grouse habitat, 2) proliferation of invasive species and woody encroachment of nonnative grasses on these lands, and 3) threatened loss of riparian wet meadow habitat necessary for migratory waterfowl and aquifer replenishment. This project will enable OAT to build existing and new relationships with agricultural landowners interested in permanently protecting their lands with working land easements and participating in conservation activities funded by OWEB and NRCS. Landscape-scale conservation is much more efficient when the land is not fragmented and is stewarded by owner operators who know and invest in their property. Therefore, the use of working land conservation easements to prevent fragmentation and promote ranch and farm business viability will enable effective implementation of regional conservation efforts. 3) Outreach activities are: 1) 6 outreach events to a total of 50 agricultural landowners on how they can use conservation tools to meet their goals of business/succession planning; 2) one-on-one meetings with 20 existing and new landowner partners; 3) development of a booklet for land protection staff to use in guiding landowners through their options; 4) meetings with partner organizations to customize our easement template and develop a FIP or RCPP by fall 2022; 5) develop and draft the partnership grant application. 4) Project partners include: DU; IWJV; Lake, Harney, and Malheur SWCDs; Harney County Farm Bureau; the High Desert Partnership; and the Burns Paiute Tribe.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A stakeholder engagement effort in the proposed geography will allow for opportunities to communicate and build relationships with landowners who have traditionally been challenging to effectively engage.
- The applicant's staff has a depth of knowledge regarding effective ways to engage agriculturally based landowners, including experience in implementing conservation easements on working landscapes.
- The development of a brochure outlining a guide to conservation easements will be an effective tool to provide landowners.

- The conservation values within the project geography are vast, including sage grouse habitat and wetland ecosystems. The applicant will utilize knowledgeable partners to aid in prioritizing easements with high conservation value.
- The applicant has ample capacity to take on conservation easements, is adept at fundraising, and has experienced staff with diverse capabilities.

Concerns

- The cost for hosting six workshops appears high compared to similar projects; however, it is likely because these workshops will require long travel times and various degrees of landowner recruitment work leading up to the workshops.
- The timeline in the application is aggressive to accomplish the work proposed.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant is seeking opportunities to engage remote parts of Southeastern Oregon to gauge interest in conservation easements. The applicant's recent surveying of agricultural producers emphasizes this geography as a priority for engagement and opportunity to protect high value conservation habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$96,485

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

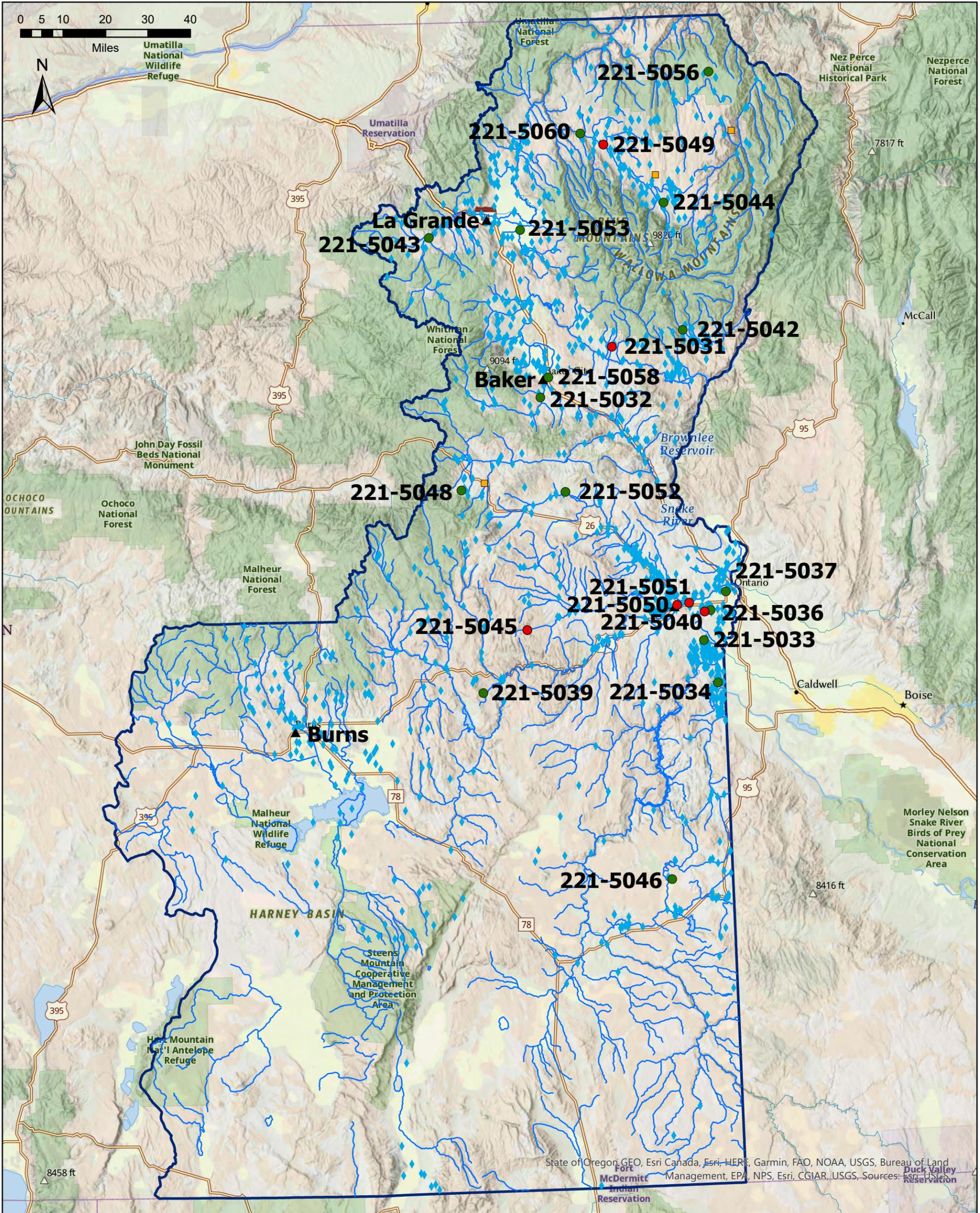
Staff Recommended Amount

\$96,485

Staff Conditions

N/A

Eastern Oregon - Region 5 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

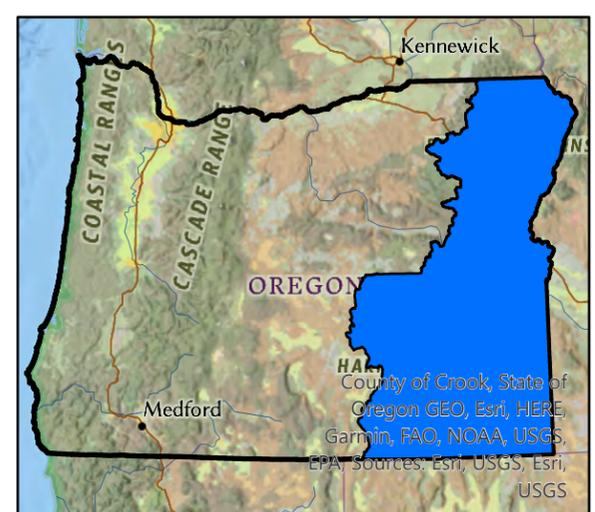
Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2020

- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 5 Cities
- Region 5 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 5 Boundary



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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
221-5043	Tri-County CWMA	Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase VI	Non-native weed inventory, treatment, and monitoring will occur in the Upper Grande Ronde River watershed to contain and control noxious weeds impacting fish and wildlife habitat.	35,474	Union
221-5034	Owyhee WC	Angus Water Quality Improvement	Forty flood irrigated acres will be converted to sprinkler irrigation in the Big Bend area east of the Snake River near Adrian to eliminate irrigation wastewater and improve water quality in the nearby Snake River.	73,538	Malheur
221-5036	Malheur SWCD	The Right Key	Over thirty-five irrigated acres will be converted to sprinkler irrigation in a water quality improvement focus area near Ontario to eliminate irrigation wastewater and improve water quality in the nearby Malheur River.	46,397	Malheur
221-5039	Malheur WC	Poison Creek Wet Meadow Rehab: Stop the Invasion	Juniper will be removed on a 685-acre privately owned land near Juntura to improve habitat for sage-grouse and water quality in the Upper Malheur River Watershed.	155,265	Malheur
221-5033	Owyhee WC	Birds Eye Water Quality Improvement	Twenty flood irrigated acres near Adrian will be converted to sprinkler irrigation to eliminate irrigation wastewater and improve water quality in Cow Hollow Creek as well as the Lower Owyhee River.	38,371	Malheur
221-5037	Malheur SWCD	Watering Juniper Chapter 2	Juniper will be removed on a 376-acre privately owned land near Brogan to build on prior sage-grouse conservation efforts and improve water quality.	106,861	Malheur
221-5042	Powder Basin WC	Pine Creek Fish Habitat Enhancement Resubmit	Fish habitat and water quality will be improved in Pine Creek near Halfway by improving livestock management, planting streamside vegetation, and constructing instream structures to address eroding streambanks.	69,210	Baker
221-5044	Tri-County CWMA	NE Oregon Yellow Flag Iris Control	Yellow flag iris, a non-native and invasive plant, will be inventoried, treated, and monitored in Baker, Union, and Wallowa Counties to contain and control this noxious plant impacting native plant communities.	22,050	Wallowa
221-5046	Owyhee WC	Blue Bird Water Quality Improvement	Sixty-five flood irrigated acres west of Jordan Valley will be converted to sprinkler irrigation to eliminate irrigation wastewater and improve water quality in Cow and Jordan Creeks as well as the Upper Owyhee River.	54,794	Malheur
221-5032	Baker Valley SWCD	Vaughn Stock Water	Sediment and bacteria delivery into Powder River will be eliminated by piping an irrigation ditch and installing watering troughs to prevent livestock access to surface water on private property near Baker City.	37,567	Baker
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				639,527	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County

Region 5- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Borad: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grancy Cycle July 26, 2021

221-5031	Keating SWCD	Skinner Irrigation and Stock Water	Water quality in Balm Creek and the Lower Powder River in the Keating area of Baker County will be improved by converting 180 flood irrigated acres to sprinkler irrigation to eliminate irrigation wastewater and developing three springs to provide off stream stock water access.	53,654	Baker
221-5040	Malheur SWCD	Arabian Pipeline	An open earthen canal will be converted to a burried pipeline to convert 243 flood irrigated acres to sprinkler irrigation, which will eliminate wastewater and improve water quality in the Malheur River.	128,531	Malheur
221-5045	Malheur WC	Indian Creek Fire Rehab: Kill Medusahead While You Can	Critical sagebrush-steppe habitat for sage-grouse will be restored following the Indian Creek fire near Westfall in Malheur County by treating invasive annual grasses, removing juniper, and rebuilding pasture fence.	75,420	Malheur

Projects Not Recommended for Funding by RRT						
Project #	Grantee	Project Title			Amount Requested	County
221-5030	Burnt River SWCD	High Line Ditch Repair			19,275	Baker
221-5035	Harney SWCD	Sagebrush Habitat Restoration HC54 and HC78			664,024	Harney
221-5038	Malheur SWCD	Gully Wash			33,720	Malheur
221-5041	Malheur SWCD	Investing in NF Bank Futures			96,648	Malheur
221-5043	Tri-County CWMA	Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase VI			35,474	Union

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-5048	Powder Basin WC	Makin' Clarity on the Run	Designs will be developed for efficient and effective irrigation diversion structures that will eliminate the need to install and maintain push-up dams, which will improve water quality, fish passage, and stream channel stability in the South Fork Burnt River Watershed near Unity.	29,194	Baker
221-5053	Union County Admin Services	Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Feasibility and Stream Flow Study	A large-scale instream study of the Grande Ronde River upstream of La Grande will be conducted to determine instream flow needs and inform future fish habitat, water conservation and storage, and water quality improvement restoration.	75,000	Union
221-5052	Malheur WC	We Ain't Greenhorns but We Need Help Fixin' Willow Creek_CLONE	Restoration plans will be developed to address the lack of streamside vegetation, floodplain function, and fish habitat on Willow Creek upstream of the Malheur Reservoir, which will improve water quality and fish and sage-grouse habitats.	62,701	Malheur
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				166,895	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-5051	Malheur WC	River Mile 15: Technical Assistance_CLONE	Designs will be developed to address eroding streambanks, poor streamside vegetation, deficient water quality, and inadequate wildlife habitat on a private property near Vale in the Malheur River watershed.	38,352	Malheur
221-5049	Wallowa Resources	Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland Upland Restoration	A restoration plan will be developed to convert a three-acre stand of non-native grasses to native plants using non-chemical methods.	8,123	Wallowa
221-5050	Malheur SWCD	More SSP Plans	Habitat conservation plans will be developed for six landowners and progress will be monitored on ten additional properties with existing plans in a priority sage-grouse habitat in Malheur County, which will contribute to proper land stewardship for sage-grouse conservation.	67,705	Malheur

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
None					

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon Stakeholder Engagement

Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
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None

Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff	
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Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
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None

Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
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None

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-5056	Wallowa Resources	Monitoring the Effects of Management on Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation (MIM): Phase 3	Grazing allotments on US Forest Service lands will be monitored to inform pasture management decisions and activities that will lead to improved stream conditions and fish habitat.	21,815	Wallowa
221-5060	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation	Grande Ronde Basin Stream Flow Gauging Stations Operation - Water Years 2022 & 2023	Stream flow data will be collected at twelve stream flow gauging stations located in Union and Wallowa Counties to inform irrigation water management, fisheries research and management, and restoration project development.	101,002	Wallowa
221-5058	Powder Basin WC	Powder Basin Long-Term Water Quality Monitoring - Enhanced	Water quality data will be collected in the Powder River Basin to build on eight years of existing data, better understand long-term water quality trends, and inform land management and restoration.	174,662	Baker
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				297,479	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-5057	Harney SWCD	Harney CCAA Monitoring	147,414	Harney	
221-5059	Malheur SWCD	Down and Dirty	69,827	Malheur	

Region 5 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	1,103,901
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5030-19443

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: High Line Ditch Repair

Applicant: Burnt River SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$19,275

Total Cost: \$24,323

Application Description

This project is located near Hereford, Oregon, about seven miles from Unity Reservoir, in the Burnt River Soil and Water Conservation District and partially within, and surrounded by, the Burnt Fork Focus Area; part of Oregon Department of Agriculture's Ag Water Quality Program. This project consists of the open earthen High Line Ditch that diverts irrigation water from the Burnt River and travels two miles to the property; serving as the only source of irrigation water. A 700-foot section of the High Line Ditch is currently experiencing severe erosion and water loss due to the rocky composition of the soil as well as the steep terrain at the project site. The proximity of the Burnt River (only 215 feet below this eroding section of ditch) makes a potential failure an even greater concern. If erosion continues at the same rate, the ditch will wash out, causing significant damage to the project site while contributing a large bedload of sediment, debris, and matter into the Burnt River. The landowner is partnering with the Burnt River SWCD to implement the High Line Ditch Repair project to mitigate the erosion and water loss at the project site.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The map and photos provided in the application clearly present the water quality problem to be addressed, including the proximity of the ditch to the Burnt River.
- Piping the ditch may be a technically sound alternative given the site conditions, including rocky ground.
- The landowner consulted an irrigation contractor for pipe sizing and design alternatives.
- The applicant has been engaging producers to build support for improved irrigation water management near Unity.

Concerns

- The application does not provide evidence that the design alternatives were considered and that the proposed project is an effective way to improve the irrigation ditch and prevent erosion.
- The proposed solution may address an isolated problem in the immediate project area, but the application does not describe the whole ditch system or provide detail to determine project priority.
- At completion the producer will not change flood irrigation practices on the property. Project benefits are limited to a small improvement to the water delivery system.

- The project implementation strategy in this area is piecemeal and focuses on a landowner-to-landowner approach rather than a larger watershed perspective. A larger discussion with the irrigation district is warranted to improve water delivery and to make significant ecological change.
- Without linkages between water quality data and the proposed action within the larger system of the irrigation ditch and the Burnt River, the watershed context and priority for the proposed action is unclear.
- The Burnt River Irrigation District is not identified as a partner on the project. This is important as the district delivers stored water to patrons demonstrating the need for their participation.

Concluding Analysis

Proposing to mitigate erosion and irrigation water delivery loss in an ODA water quality focus area, the applicant seeks to pipe a small eroding section of the High Line Ditch. Water quality and quantity are high priorities in the watershed, but it is unclear to what extent the proposed actions will improve these parameters. The application lacks significant detail; it is unclear if this problem is isolated or pervasive in the ditch, designs are not included in the application, and the partnership does not include key participants. Likelihood of success is unknown based on the information provided.

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-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5031-19449	Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Skinner Irrigation and Stock Water	
Applicant: Keating SWCD	
Region: Eastern Oregon	County: Baker
OWEB Request: \$53,654	Total Cost: \$191,263

Application Description

This project is located within the Keating SWCD as well as the Lower Powder Strategic Implementation Area (SIA); a focus area that consists of four drainages (including Balm Creek) and multiple tributaries to the Powder River. This area was chosen specifically to help demonstrate the effectiveness of water quality programs, as well as for the watershed's need for continued water quality improvements. The Skinner Irrigation and Stockwater Project will address 180 acres of flood irrigated pasture ground and exposed springs that are currently being trampled and degraded by livestock use. Sourced from Balm Creek, an unnamed irrigation ditch transports water to the project site where it is then diverted into a series of earthen ditches that flood irrigate the property. As flood irrigation water is "pushed" across the field it collects sediment, debris, and material adding it to Balm Creek. In addition, flood irrigation requires more water than what is necessary to refill the soil profile compared to a pivot system, which allows the landowner to apply water only when and where it is needed. Water-saving is a big concern. More water is used through flood irrigation than is necessary and ineffectively covers the ground. Water quality becomes a main concern as well, as sediment and other debris flows down the hillside, emptying back into Balm Creek in the Lower Powder SIA. The landowner will partner with Keating SWCD to convert 180 acres from flood irrigation to sprinkler by installing two center pivots, developing three springs and installing three rubber tire watering troughs to encourage livestock to redistribute across the pasture. With the installation of the pivots, the ditch will be abandoned and the only source of water will come from the water trough.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner is engaged, motivated, and ready to implement the proposed project.
- Photos and maps provided in the application show the terrain in sufficient detail to evaluate the proposed project.
- Converting from flood to pivot irrigation may have a significant water savings benefit, although the benefit is not quantified.
- The project is within the Lower Powder River ODA Strategic Implementation Area, which is a priority for water quality improvement. A water quality monitoring plan is currently in development in this area that encompasses the SIA geography. The monitoring will document landscape changes related to irrigation water and livestock management improvements.
- The application references applicable science from the Klamath Basin describing nutrient reduction to creeks resulting from this project type, providing confidence the project is focused on outcomes.

Concerns

- The application does not have sufficient detail on slopes, how the pivots will negotiate the steep site conditions, and how the terrain will impact equipment longevity and irrigation application.
- Closed trough systems with an automatic shut off or piped water return will result in greater water quality benefit than the proposed open system.
- The wetlands in the project area are not natural systems, making this a challenging place for the SWCD to work from a regulatory perspective. Additionally, the springs are not exempt from permitting and require a stock water development permit from OWRD.
- It is unclear if there will be a quantifiable water quality benefit without fencing the springs.
- The drainage ditches on this property are part of a larger system that flows into adjacent BLM lands with robust vegetation communities, bringing into question the riparian management on this private property.
- Russian Olive, an invasive species, occupies the spring sites, which will obstruct the pivot operation. More detail on how the project will address Russian olive would have strengthened the application.

Concluding Analysis

Seeking to improve water quality in ODA's Lower Powder River SIA, the applicant, in partnership with the landowner, proposes to convert 180-acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation and improve stock watering methods. Both conservation approaches are generally effective methods to improve water quality; however, the application lacks topographic and design detail informing the longevity and effectiveness of the pivots. The proposed stock watering system is not exempt from OWRD permitting, requiring the system be built as an enclosed system.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

11 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$53,654

Review Team Conditions

Construct stock watering troughs as a closed system with no overland return flow and according to OWRD permitting requirements.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5032-19452

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Vaughn Stock Water

Applicant: Baker Valley SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$37,567

Total Cost: \$51,331

Application Description

This project is located just outside of Baker City, Oregon in the Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and within the Powder River Watershed. The Powder River is located approximately one mile from the project area and is connected through several irrigation ditches. Currently, livestock have unrestricted access to water in an irrigation ditch that runs through a five-acre corral at the project site. While there are many factors that contribute to poor water quality, unrestricted livestock use amongst freshwater systems is the most common cause in rural areas, causing erosion and contributing excess sediment, nutrient, and organic matter inputs that flow directly back into the Powder River via the irrigation ditch. With the successful funding of this project the landowner will reroute the irrigation water that currently runs through the corral, thus no longer using the ditch, by establishing a new headgate location on the Stewart ditch and installing 20 feet of 12" and 720 feet of 10" PVC pipe to carry irrigation water around the corral instead of through it. Three new heated frost-free water troughs that will serve eight individual corrals within the five-acre area using steel cross fencing to better manage livestock distribution and watering access. These restoration activities will eliminate livestock pressure on the ditch entirely and will prevent future erosion, sedimentation, and run-off from entering and further degrading water quality in the Powder River. The landowner is partnering with the Baker Valley SWCD to implement the Vaughn Stock Water Project

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed methods are technically sound. Using domestic water to fill the troughs in the winter will benefit the system by reducing maintenance, eliminating the need to source water from an unreliable irrigation ditch, and add to the longevity of the watering system.
- The proposed corral system will provide a long-term solution to help mitigate water quality issues that result from winter feeding.
- Removing ditch water from the corrals provides a significant water quality benefit.
- Water quality monitoring documents elevated E. coli levels in the Powder River and this project will reduce bacteria runoff to the river.
- The proposed project will likely provide significant water savings through improved irrigation water delivery.
- Potential additional costs due to rising material prices, specifically large diameter pipe, will be absorbed by the landowner as match.

Concerns

- The application would benefit from more clarity around the plan to supply the troughs with well water and clear identification of the stock water source.
- The fencing material to construct the pens is appropriate and necessary; however, it is unclear if the amount of fencing proposed is appropriate for the site.
- Obtaining large diameter pipe is currently a challenge due to ongoing supply and materials shortages.

Concluding Analysis

Removing an irrigation ditch from this domestic livestock feeding facility near Baker City will have significant water quality benefit to the Powder River, which has documented sediment, organic material, and E. coli pollution. The irrigation ditch not only provides water for livestock but delivers water to a 58-acre irrigated field adjacent to the facility. Placing this ditch into a pipeline for irrigation purposes and installing a stock watering system will address both water quality and water conservation concerns on this property.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

10 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$37,567

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$37,567

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5033-19490

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Birds Eye Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$38,371

Total Cost: \$55,466

Application Description

The Birds Eye Water Quality Improvement Project is located approximately 5 miles NW of Adrian on East Cow Hollow Creek. The project area consists of 20 pasture and hay acres currently irrigated with flood/gated pipe irrigation. The upper project area sits above East Cow Hollow Creek and has many steep slopes which direct irrigation tailwater containing sediment, nutrients and bacteria directly into East Cow Hollow Creek. Steep slopes combined with current flood/gated pipe irrigation methods are also causing severe erosion in multiple areas of the fields. East Cow Hollow Creek is a tributary to Cow Hollow Creek and the Lower Owyhee River. The proposed work includes converting 20 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 1 wheelline, 7 big gun sprinklers on carts and all required pressurized conveyance infrastructure. Project partners include the landowner, Owyhee Irrigation District, Owyhee Watershed Council, and Romans Precision Irrigation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application addresses comments from a prior review and includes water rights information, a map of other irrigated land nearby, and clarification that a water right transfer is not needed.
- Five alternatives were identified and evaluated prior to selecting the final design.
- Similar projects have resulted in little to no irrigation runoff after implementation.
- Combining two points of diversion into one is efficient, cost-effective, and reduces watershed impacts.
- The soils in this area are highly erodible and eliminating irrigation water runoff will have direct water quality benefit to Cow Hollow Creek and the Owyhee River.
- Monitoring data from Cow Hollow is provided with the application and indicates that the proposed project is likely to address a known water quality problem.
- The proposed project fits within the context of and builds on similar projects that have been implemented in this watershed.
- The project is located near the headwaters of the watershed, which is an ideal location to implement this type of work.
- At completion, the project will have high visibility and will be a catalyst for other water quality improvement work in the area.
- The applicant has a strong track record of implementing similar projects.

Concerns

- No concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 20 steep and highly erodible flood irrigated acres from flood to sprinkler application will eliminate irrigation wastewater from this property. The application is a resubmittal that addresses prior review concerns, proposes fully vetted actions resulting from an analysis of many alternatives, and helps implement ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives for Cow Hollow Creek and the Owyhee River.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$38,371

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$38,371

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5034-19505

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Angus Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$73,538

Total Cost: \$181,160

Application Description

The Angus Water Quality Improvement Project is located across the Snake River just East of Adrian in the Big Bend Area. The project area consists of 39.69 acres of pasture, hay, and row crop land currently irrigated with flood/gated pipe irrigation. Tailwater containing sediment, nutrients and bacteria flow off the project area into the Oakander Drain, Singer Drain, then into the Snake River approximately ½ mile from the project site. The proposed work includes converting 39.69 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 2 pivot systems (35.69 acres), 2 solid set big gun sprinklers (2 acres), handline sprinklers (2 acres), all required pressurized conveyance infrastructure. Project partners include the landowner, Big Bend Irrigation District, Owyhee Watershed Council, and Rain for Rent Irrigation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Maps, photos, and design details within the application are clear and helpful in evaluating the project.
- The proposed work is well thought out and the application contains data supporting the chosen design.
- The site is located close to the Snake River and is an appropriate location to convert from flood to sprinkler irrigation, reducing transport of nutrients, bacteria, and sediment to adjacent water ways.
- There is no water quality monitoring in this area, but the Snake River downstream of this project does have monitoring sites. A decrease in sediment and phosphorous has been documented at those sites, which may be attributed to upstream improved irrigation water management efforts.
- The Big Bend area is a priority for the Owyhee Watershed Council and this project builds on prior installed flood to sprinkler conversion projects.
- The applicant consistently completes projects in a timely manner and as proposed.
- The project area is important and often overlooked by other entities due to its geographic location east of the Snake River and on the Idaho and Oregon border.
- A contingency is provided within the budget to accommodate rising material costs.

Concerns

- Small diameter pipe installation is missing from the budget, but this expense is identified in the application as landowner match.
- Pipe availability is low, and cost is high due to COVID 19 disruptions to pipe manufacturing and supply chains. This could impact the project implementation timeline and budget.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 39.7 irrigated acres from flood to sprinkler application will eliminate irrigation wastewater from this property. Reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria runoff will build upon other work in the Big Bend area implementing ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives for the Snake River. Application clarity, descriptive uploaded documents, and applicant track record indicate a high likelihood of project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$73,538

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$73,538

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5035-19509

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Sagebrush Habitat Restoration
HC54 and HC78

Applicant: Harney SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: \$664,024

Total Cost: \$899,083

Application Description

The majority of the project area is located within the original Harney SWCD sage-grouse FIP boundary (Drewsey PAC), while a small portion is just outside of it in preliminary general habitat (PGH). The Harney SWCD is continuing to restore sage-grouse habitat on private properties enrolled in the Harney Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). Coordination with partnering agencies and neighboring properties is critical in planning and implementation of our projects. The private landowners of Harney county are determined to improve ecosystem health and expand critical sage-grouse habitat. By cutting juniper it will create connectivity of each critical habitat type that the sage-grouse requires, and will provide a safe corridor for migration. Juniper encroachment remains a major threat to sage-grouse habitats. Juniper serve as perches for birds of prey, and sage-grouse instinctively avoid areas with significant juniper cover. In the absence of "pre-settlement" wildfire regimes, juniper out compete shrubs, native grasses and forbs. Without active juniper removal, the sage-brush steppe can transition to a juniper dominated site with less desirable species, such as invasive annual grasses. With annual grasses comes an increased, unnatural, fire interval. These types of fires can destroy thousands of acres of critical, intact, habitat. With this increased threat comes the need for installation of "fuel breaks" to protect critical habitats. Fuel breaks can consist of conifer removal, brush reduction, annual grass treatment and seeding of desirable perennial species. Properties enrolled in the Harney CCAA are required to address threats to the survival of the Greater sage-grouse. The SWCD seeks to use OWEB funds for the implementation of juniper removal and medusahead treatment to minimize wildfire threat and restore sagebrush habitat. Project partners include, NRCS, BLM, HCWMA, USFWS, private landowners and ODFW.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will address recommended conservation measures for sage-grouse conservation on the subject properties.
- The project is adjacent to similar work on both private and public land and builds on past sage-grouse conservation efforts. The proposed work will fill in the gaps where other organizations are unable to work.
- There is a direct link in peer reviewed literature between sage-grouse population growth and juniper removal.

- The properties are within and adjacent to core sage-grouse habitat, the highest priority for sage-grouse conservation.
- Landowners enrolled in a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) have an annual conversation with Harney SWCD about conservation measures implemented and the project areas are monitored on a three-to-seven-year rotation.

Concerns

- The desired perennial cover and the location of invasive annual grass treatments are unclear, making it challenging to determine the technical soundness of the proposed project.
- The application lacks a grazing management plan, which is necessary to determine the likelihood of long-term sustainability of the conservation investment.
- It is unclear whether slash piles will be burned and if so on what timeline. Landowner match for slash pile burning is detailed in the budget but is not described in the narrative.
- It is unclear how juniper density was inventoried and what stages of juniper encroachment exist in the project area.
- The density of medusahead is unclear from the application and additional detail describing how medusahead will impact the proposed conservation measures is needed.
- The application maps lack detail; inclusion of aerial photography would have helped provide clarity on juniper density and potential sage-grouse benefit.
- Landowner privacy concerns notwithstanding, the application lacks specific maintenance and monitoring requirements necessary for understanding the likelihood of long-term success of the project. A detailed description of the CCAA and how it will improve sage-grouse habitat on the properties would have been helpful.
- Letters of support indicating partner roles and responsibilities are needed to evaluate whether appropriate partners are engaged.

Concluding Analysis

Harney SWCD continues to implement sage-grouse conservation efforts with private landowners following the completion of the Harney SWCD sage-grouse FIP. This work in the Drewsey PAC proposes to control encroaching juniper and treat medusahead, both of which are threats to sage-grouse. The application lacks significant detail including inventory methods, description of how these efforts promote sage-grouse conservation, and conditions in the field. Partnerships are not described, and lack of post-treatment maintenance is a concern for project longevity.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5036-19522

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: The Right Key

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$46,397

Total Cost: \$118,787

Application Description

1) Six miles west of Ontario, located in the Morgan Bench Focus Area. This proposed project will connect to the pressurized Morgan Feedlot Pipeline (OWEB #220-5034) that runs east of the proposed project, that will be installed in the fall of 2021.2) Runoff from 36.5 acres of flood irrigation on 65 irrigated acres for this farm is contributing to the sediment loads from the Nevada Ditch, then the Malheur River which is known to be the second dirtiest river in the state, ending up in the Snake River. The landowner uses his fields in the winter months to winter 60 to 70 head of livestock. There is a small hill on the South West corner of the field that is currently difficult to irrigate with gated pipe, requiring extra water to be applied trying to get this area wet.3) Grant 220-5034 Morgan Feedlot Pipeline will be installed by Owyhee Irrigation District (OID) this fall with NRCS funding for pipe cost increase and cultural survey done. The landowner working with NRCS and the SWCD will connect to the new pipeline- Morgan Feedlot Pipeline turn out and • bury 902 feet of 100# PIP Pipe to the center of the pivot pad. • 4 tower Reinke pivot with end gun, • Clemmons in line screen at the pivot pad to irrigate 30 acres. • The 3-phase power is already set up on Morgan Avenue by the landowner, working with Idaho Power and is ready for use. • Cornell 3 phase hp pump and electrical panel next to road. • Bury 3543 feet of 3 phase electrical power from panel box to pivot pad. • Landowner will remove 1480 feet of fence. • install 1250 feet of new fence. 4) Landowner, NRCS, ODA, Idaho Power, BOR, Owyhee Irrigation District and the SWCD

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner is ready to implement the project and power is already on site.
- Soil maps are included with application, which helps determine applicability for the proposed irrigation system.
- Other irrigation methods are present on the site, informing the irrigation design choice. The project team evaluated a range of alternatives and determined that pivots are most appropriate for the site.
- The proposed design will double the efficiency of the current irrigation system.
- Water quality monitoring data is included in the application and is used to identify this project as a priority in the Morgan Bench focus area.
- Elimination of irrigation water tail flow will result in direct water quality benefit to the Malheur River.
- The project will build on other OWEB funded projects located nearby, including a pipeline that will serve this farm.

- Morgan Bench is a water quality improvement focus area for the applicant, NRCS, ODA, and DEQ, and the project area is monitored to document improvements to water quality.
- NRCS will provide final design if the application is funded.
- The partners have a successful track record of promoting and implementing similar projects.

Concerns

- Shortages in supplies and materials may impact project readiness.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 36.5 irrigated acres from flood to sprinkler application will eliminate irrigation wastewater from these acres. Reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria runoff will continue work in the Morgan Bench priority area implementing ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives for the Malheur River. Application clarity, descriptive uploaded documents, and partnership track record indicate a high likelihood of project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$46,397

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$46,397

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5037-19523

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Watering Juniper Chapter 2

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$106,861

Total Cost: \$135,283

Application Description

The project is located approximately 11 miles West of, Brogan OR. within Malheur County . The project is needed to further protect sage grouse while expanding their available habitat within the property. Juniper has vastly taken over southern portions of the property and needs to be addressed before anymore under story is lost. This will be a continuation of a previous cut to further remove 376 acres of encroaching juniper within enrolled lands. Also, by removing juniper we are going to be expanding the landscape and connecting larger corridors of Sage Grouse habitat. This will result in increasing spring flow water entering pole creek which is currently lost through interception and evapo-transpiration. Additionally, as this property is enrolled in the CCAA and has a letter of concurrence the project will allow MC018 to further address Juniper related conservation measures outlined in their plan and remain in compliance while transitioning the landscape from C State to an A state. Project Partners include L/O MC018 and Malheur SWCD

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Many photos are included with the application providing clarity on the landscape perspective of the project.
- Vegetation inventory information is included with the application, which helps to understand the species present and the conservation needs.
- Removing juniper has a direct and proven link to improving sage-grouse use and habitat quality, including reduced fragmentation.
- The project will build on previous work by connecting to prior successful juniper treatment efforts.
- The property is enrolled in a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) and is priority habitat for sage-grouse.
- The project will maintain initial investments because of the CCAA enrollment, where monitoring and maintenance is a long-term requirement of the agreement.
- Due to its context within priority sage-grouse habitat where successful conservation measures have been implemented, the site is strategic and continues to expand on previously established habitat benefits.
- The landowner has a track record of successfully maintaining previous juniper treatments.

Concerns

- Pre- and post-treatment photos from previous projects would have strengthened the application.
- Landowner privacy concerns notwithstanding, a map providing regional conservation information would be helpful to understand landscape context.
- The application indicates that a small dozer will be used for juniper control. While an experienced operator may be successful at reducing the area of impact, lower impact methods may be more suitable.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant proposes to improve sage-grouse habitat by continuing to remove encroaching juniper on 376 acres. Informed by successful prior projects, landowner attention to maintenance, and conditions of the CCAA agreement, there is confidence this work will be maintained post-treatment. The application would benefit from inclusion of past project monitoring results and further description of treatment methods; however, landowner history provides confidence in project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$106,861

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$106,861

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5038-19526

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Gully Wash

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$33,720

Total Cost: \$45,719

Application Description

1) The project is in the NRCS Jacobsen Gulch priority area, approximately 6 miles North of Ontario. Runoff is 1.22 miles before co-mingling the Jacobson Gulch Drain, then .22 miles to the Snake River. SWCD samples Jacobson Gulch Drain 2X a month during irrigation season. 2) The first gully created by over watering from the neighbor's tree farm is in the middle of 11 acre field and the second gully is at the top east corner of the landowner same field, but in a different field for the neighbors runoff. The gullies have cut banks and are very steep. This issue started in the early 2013 and has increased in depth size since. 3) This proposal will Pipe the drain that comes underneath Oak Road alongside the driveway before it crosses into his pasture and stopping in the trees before entering his pond. Up at the top of the East side of the field, collect runoff into a can, then pipe down to the pond. This project would improve water quality by reducing erosion. This project is in a NRCS priority area and has erosion issues. Water quality improvement in the Jacobsen Gulch Priority. Water quality improvement is achieved through on-farm irrigation infrastructure improvements and management. This project is all about irrigation management. • 4 – Control Structures • 1300 ft-10" 80 pip pipe for gully • 1140 ft -12" pip pipe for drain • 300 yards of fill dirt • Pipe the drain 4) Project partners include NRCS, landowner and the SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Water quality monitoring occurring in Jacobsen gulch as part of the SWCDs monitoring program may inform the proposed project.

Concerns

- The application does not indicate that alternative conservation approaches were considered.
- The erosion occurring on the property is a result of irrigation water delivery mismanagement on a neighboring property. The proposed project addresses a symptom rather than the root cause of the watershed problem.
- There is no clear water quality benefit to Jacobsen Gulch and the Snake River given that all sediment and wastewater go to a pond on the property.
- Water delivery and overuse problems must be addressed by Owyhee Irrigation District.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant proposes to collect and pipe mismanaged irrigation water and deliver it to a pond located on the project site. While this action may stop erosion, the methods are not substantiated by a design, and no actions are proposed to improve irrigation water management. It is unlikely that the project as described will measurably improve water quality.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5039-19531

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Poison Creek Wet Meadow Rehab:
Stop the Invasion

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$155,265

Total Cost: \$210,840

Application Description

1) This project is located around Poison Creek about 5 air miles SW of Juntura. 2) Juniper is shading out native vegetation around 3 wet meadows and 1.85 miles of the riparian area. Reduction of native vegetation negatively affects sage-grouse habitat and Poison Creek's hydrology. The project area is in core sage-grouse habitat. Juniper out-compete native bunchgrass, forbs and shrub necessary habitats for sage-grouse life cycle. And juniper provide perches for avian species preying on young sage-grouse. Riparian areas and wet meadows are critical for late-season, brood-rearing. Because of less-than-desirable vegetation conditions, Poison Creek is susceptible to erosion during heavy cloudburst storms common in the area. These conditions lead to excessive erosion and sediment movement. Several recent studies have shown that dense stands of juniper negatively affect infiltration of water to the ground, which affects wet-meadow function. 3) Remove juniper from 685 acres. 165 acres are "light" density -Late Stage I 240 acres are "medium" density -Early Stage II 280 acres are "heavy" density -Late Stage II Chainsaws will be used to cut juniper. Slash will be machine-piled on 360 acres for later cool-season burning. "Light" density and steep areas the slash will be lopped-and-scattered and limbs cut to keep the slash below 4-feet. Post-Project Maintenance On a yearly basis, the treated area will be inspected to determine if action needs to be taken. Criteria include counts of juniper trees per-acre. Action will be needed if there are 10 or more trees per acre. These actions could include mechanical treatment of small or large areas with loppers and/or chainsaws. This monitoring will occur for a minimum of 10 years. This project complements nearby juniper removal and riparian restoration projects. Approximately 3,550 acres treated, and successful plantings along Cripple Creek. 4) Partners include: MLB Ranch, Department of State Lands, Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project objectives are clearly stated, and a monitoring plan is provided with the application.
- The site description, photos, and overview map provided in the application are clear and demonstrate site conditions in a way that helps in understanding the conservation benefits of the project.
- Examples of similar projects implemented by the applicant are provided in the application.
- The selected methods are appropriate to treat juniper expansion in the project area.
- Careful thought is given to techniques proposed in different habitat types to minimize impacts on sensitive areas.

- Springs in this area are important for wildlife including big game and sage-grouse and are a priority for ODFW.
- The applicant has a successful track record of monitoring their projects.
- The landowner manages grazing on the property appropriately to minimize ecological impacts.
- The budget is realistic based on location, access, and juniper density considerations.

Concerns

- The costs to treat juniper on public versus private lands with similar population densities are different due to the necessity of hand cutting in sensitive areas. This is not detailed in the application and would have helped with budget clarity.

Concluding Analysis

The application proposes to treat 685 acres of stage 1 and stage 2 juniper encroachment in sage-grouse habitat near Juntura. Treatments are site-specific by location and take into consideration upland, mesic, and riparian habitats and impacts from juniper removal activities. The applicant is experienced, the landowner maintains prior projects effectively, and a monitoring plan is included providing confidence the project area will be maintained post treatment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$155,265

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$155,265

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5040-19533

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Arabian Pipeline

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$128,531

Total Cost: \$313,531

Application Description

1) The project is in the Malheur SWCD, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and NRCS designated priority area of Morgan Bench 9 miles west of Ontario with Owyhee Irrigation District and NRCS as major players in this proposal. This lateral spills into Lee Road Drain, Mal 389 where the SWCD has a continuous flow meter and a water quality sample point that the SWCD samples 2X a month in the irrigation season using ODA funds. 2) The proposed pipeline is located 9 miles west of Ontario and services bench ground which has slopes up to 15%. Excessive sediment, nutrients, and bacteria are being delivered to the Malheur River caused by irrigation induced erosion and the lateral itself. This earthen lateral serves about 243 irrigated acres of crop ground that is flood irrigation. We have grants on two landowners with NRCS commitments to replace furrow to sprinkler system on 100 acres and another 21 acres this fall on this lateral. Potentially these fields could deliver 2 to 5 tons of sediment per acre per year to the Malheur River that empties into the Snake River. 3) We are proposing to:-- Replace 7040 feet of Arabian earthen lateral with an enclosed pressurized system. -- Install 8 turnout assemblies with flow meters to feed adjacent fields, one check gate -- Connect pipeline to junction box for the two landowners at the end of the pipeline.-- Install a self-cleaning screen at the headgate on the canal to keep debris and moss out of the pipeline.-- Install various kinds of tees, elbows, air vents, pressure reducers, valves, and gates. 4) Partners are:-- NRCS-- Owyhee Irrigation District-- Malheur SWCD-- Oregon Department of Agriculture

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes helpful maps showing the project area and watershed context.
- Photos show the lateral under different flow conditions, providing a clearer understanding of the watershed problem.
- NRCS is a partner in the project, providing review of the design package prior to implementation, and an engineering inspection to ensure proper installation.
- Morgan Bench is an ODA and NRCS focus area and this project builds on many prior completed and in-progress projects.
- The Owyhee Irrigation District was present at the virtual visit and is an engaged partner.

Concerns

- Monitoring data from the Morgan Bench area exists but is not included in the application. Inclusion of the data would have helped demonstrate potential water quality benefits of the project.
- The application is not proofread, making some sections difficult to understand.
- The application does not describe the overall project benefit in the Morgan Bench area and the number of acres in the queue for irrigation conversion is not articulated.

Concluding Analysis

Converting the Arabian canal to a pipeline will improve irrigation water delivery to 243 acres in the Morgan Bench priority area. This work will further efforts to implement ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives by reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria delivery to the Malheur River. While the application lacks clarity, descriptive uploaded documents and stakeholder participation indicate potential likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$128,531

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5041-19535

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Investing in NF Bank Futures

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$96,648

Total Cost: \$123,488

Application Description

1) The project is on the North Fork of the Malheur River about 9 air miles north and west of Juntura, Oregon. It is part of the Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) designated by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. 2) Need: Riparian vegetation is not in good condition at the site. There is not enough woody species present to modify water temperature and prevent bank erosion. The banks have 4 (four) to 8 (eight) feet unprotected vertical drops and are continually eroding which is contributing to excessive sediment entering the stream. The North Fork is listed by DEQ for not attaining water quality standards for dissolved oxygen and for lacking aquatic habitat. According to ODFW, redband trout, a state designated sensitive species, use the area. 3) Our goal is to improve stream, and riparian function. This will improve water quality, habitat for fish, amphibians, and other aquatic life. To accomplish this we propose to:-- Install 1388 feet of whole tree and rock revetments using 82 large juniper trees with limbs still attached (20 foot long 24 inch dbh), 98 large anchoring rocks (3 foot by 3 foot by 3 foot), 170 willow clumps above and behind juniper trees and 990 cubic yards of mixed native fill. -- This will stabilize eroding streambanks, reduce the channel's width/depth ratio, and reduce bank erosion. 4) Partners include the Landowner, RSI engineering, and the Malheur SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project may build upon other restoration work in the ODA Strategic Implementation Area.
- The applicant is experienced and has implemented similar projects.

Concerns

- A grazing plan is not identified or described in the application and is necessary to assess the sustainability of the restoration project.
- The application lacks an assessment of the compatibility of current land management practices with proposed restoration.
- Further design details including a risk and alternatives analysis are needed to evaluate likelihood of success for this type of work in this location.
- Objectives reference riparian and aquatic habitat improvements but don't align with proposed actions.
- The design is at 60% and appropriate stakeholder review by ODFW, ODA, DEQ, and others has not occurred, demonstrating a lack of due diligence.

- The scope of the project is mostly limited to instream infrastructure and consideration of the riparian area and floodplain including grazing management is not articulated.
- Proposed hardening the outside river bends may not consider fluvial geomorphic attributes of the river or be the best alternative for overall ecological benefit. Channel hardening may preclude attainment of restoration potential as well as transfer erosive flow forces downstream.
- The project treats symptoms rather than the root cause of the problem which includes grazing management and high flow releases from Beulah Reservoir.
- There is no identified plan for fish salvage which is likely to be a requirement of project construction.
- Electric fence is a concern for long-term maintenance and will not preclude browse of planted material by deer and elk, for which there is no plant protection plan.
- There is a lack of understanding of flood events in this watershed. Some erosion control work has been done; however, confidence is low that the proposed project will address erosion.
- Similar nearby projects are still in the beginning stages of implementation and success is unknown.
- The project would benefit from the involvement of stakeholders during the project development and design phase.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant proposes to improve water quality, riparian condition, and fish habitat below Agency Dam on the North Fork Malheur River. The application is informed by an OWEB-funded technical assistance grant and that design effort is at 60%. As proposed, the project lacks important detail and designs at 60% are not sufficient to confidently review a project in this location. Given the location below a dam known for high flow releases, completion of an engineering risk analysis as the design approaches completion and the inclusion of relevant stakeholders is imperative.

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-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5042-19551

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Pine Creek Fish Habitat
Enhancement Resubmit

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$69,210

Total Cost: \$96,615

Application Description This project is located on the Corrigan property within and adjacent to Pine Creek, approximately six miles upstream from the town of Halfway, OR in the eastern portion of Baker County. Pine Creek has been the focus of attention for fish recovery during the past decade due to efforts by ODFW and Idaho Power Co. to re-establish migratory bull trout from the current population that resides high in the headwaters of Pine Creek year-round. In addition, redband trout, which are considered a species of concern in Oregon, reside throughout the Pine Creek system year-round. In 2010, Pine Creek experienced a 30-year flood event, which highlighted to many landowners the poor health that the system is in. Because of this, landowners have been interested in working with us to improve function of the watershed. The goal of this project is to enhance fish habitat, while addressing the concerns of landowners regarding damage from past and future flooding. By using engineered log structures to deflect high flows and stabilize approximately 220 feet of eroding banks, managing livestock grazing through installation of a riparian buffer fence, and planting of native willows, there will be multiple benefits to Pine Creek. These include reduced sediment inputs, increased shade to lower water temperatures, more overhanging vegetation to provide hiding cover for fish and an increase in the diversity of fish habitats through pool formation and establishment of backwater. Partners on this project include the landowner, who is providing logs from her property and the Idaho Power Company. Idaho Power Company will provide \$14,505 cash contribution for rootwad installation and installation of riparian fencing and in-kind donation of boulders and willow whips for the project (\$4,928 value).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A grazing management plan will be prepared prior to project implementation.
- Metrics are provided in the drawings for depth, velocity, and shear stress, which will help determine project success.
- All concerns identified in the previous evaluation are addressed with this application.
- The project approach includes use of cottonwood root wads, which will help initiate riparian vegetation recovery.
- The proposed revetments include logs with boulders used as ballast which is a more natural approach than riprap.

- Bull trout use this reach as a migratory corridor and the proposed restoration will contribute to bull trout recovery in the Pine Creek Basin.
- The project site has minimal fish habitat complexity and proposed actions will help to improve that limiting factor.
- Habitat both up- and downstream of the project site is of high quality adding to the importance of restoration at the project site.
- The applicant's project manager is a fish biologist with over 30 years of experience and has extensive local knowledge and understanding of Pine Creek watershed dynamics.
- Project cost for the expected benefit is favorable.

Concerns

- Application objectives are general and lack success measures.
- Revetments are not currently a preferred method of aquatic habitat restoration and may not be the most appropriate treatment for the site.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmittal and follows an OWEB-funded technical assistance grant for stream restoration in Pine Creek near Halfway. Bull trout and redband trout are a conservation priority focus for Idaho Power, USFWS, and ODFW, and landowners along Pine Creek are seeking ways to protect their properties from frequent area flooding. The partnership proposes to restore aquatic habitats and improve riparian conditions while providing infrastructure protection. The final design package is comprehensive and demonstrates a high likelihood of achieving the objectives.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$69,210

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$69,210

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5043-19582

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase VI

Applicant: Tri-County CWMA

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: \$35,474

Total Cost: \$57,474

Application Description

Located within the Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed, approximately 10 miles west of La Grande, the Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase VI project seeks to contain and control leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and diffuse knapweed. Since 2016, OWEB has continuously supported Tri-County's efforts to inventory, treat, and monitor leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and diffuse knapweed in this watershed. Leafy spurge is the primary target of this project and due to its longevity, consistent herbicide treatments are necessary for effective control. Historic anthropogenic disturbances in this area have negatively impacted many fish and wildlife species, including Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Many of these disturbances have introduced invasive species, such as leafy spurge, and have promoted the spread of these species throughout the watershed. This project began treating high priority areas, such as the Grand Ronde River, in Phase I, and has worked outwards towards the larger infestations by Phase V. The goal of Phase VI is to treat all known leafy spurge sites along the Grande Ronde River and provide follow-up treatments of leafy spurge in the Phase V project area. Tri-County is already contracted with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Oregon Parks Dept. to treat all noxious weeds within their project areas along the Grande Ronde River in 2021 and coordinates treatment efforts with the US Forest Service. Given the aggressive nature of leafy spurge, this project is more important than ever to continue given the recent large-scale efforts to restore native fish habitat in the Upper Grande Ronde Watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is ready to implement, and landowners are motivated to continue weed control in the area.
- The photo points provided are helpful in evaluating the success of past treatments.
- Inventory and monitoring work continue to be implemented, helping to measure project success.
- The selected approach is systematic, with each phase having an inventory component and setting the stage for the next phase of treatments.
- Staff and hired contractors assess adjacent lands as well as the treatment areas, improving the effectiveness of the program.
- The applicant has demonstrated success implementing similar types of projects and the work is organized, clear, and methodical.

- The applicant has successfully built relationships with private landowners through a systematic approach to developing and implementing projects.
- The project is cost-effective and has many components for the price including weed treatment, inventory, monitoring, and educational outreach.

Concerns

- Dates in the proposal schedule are not accurate and this work is scheduled for 2022, not 2021.
- Outreach efforts may not be reaching the target audience including agricultural organizations, river user groups, hunting organizations, and irrigation ditch managers.
- The project approach is sound, but the applicant should consider planning more than one year of work with OWEB funding. A multi-year approach will provide project continuity and security.
- The budget for project management may not be sufficient to cover all necessary project management costs.

Concluding Analysis

Tri-County CWMA proposes to continue treatment of several invasive weeds in the Upper Grande Ronde River Basin near La Grande. This is phase six, and the prior five phases demonstrate effective inventory, treatment, and monitoring techniques, which has led to a successful and high functioning program. There are many relevant project partners working towards the success of the project including the Umatilla Tribe, state and federal agencies, and private landowners.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$35,474

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$34,474

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5044-19589	Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: NE Oregon Yellow Flag Iris Control	
Applicant: Tri-County CWMA	
Region: Eastern Oregon	County: Wallowa
OWEB Request: \$22,050	Total Cost: \$35,290

Application Description

Since 2009, Tri-County has worked with both landowners and agencies to inventory and control yellow flag iris in NE Oregon through funding from the DEQ and BLM. Although yellow flag iris is widely distributed across much of Oregon, in NE Oregon only a handful of populations exist. Starting 2016, Tri-County began working closely with Idaho Power to treat and manage yellow flag iris in the Hells Canyon and Oxbow Reservoirs of the Snake River. This working relationship has effectively reduced the total yellow flag iris population by 80% within the treated areas. The primary goal treatments in this project area is to protect the Wild and Scenic portions of the Snake River from yellow flag iris invasion below the dams. A total of 85 miles of shoreline along with reservoirs has been treated annually by Tri-County staff and proposed to be treated in this project. Outside of the reservoirs, little is known about the distribution of yellow flag iris in Baker County and its potential to re-invade the reservoirs of the Snake River, ultimately making its way to the Wild and Scenic areas of the Snake River. In Union County, yellow flag iris has been found in two sites along the Grande Ronde River but have recently been eradicated. Additional inventories are necessary in Union County to map yellow flag iris in the irrigation ditches that feed into the Grande Ronde River. Tri-County is seeking funding to cover the cost of staff time to inventory, prioritize, treat, and monitor yellow flag iris in Baker, Union, and Wallowa (select populations) counties in 2021. This project will work closely with the weed supervisors from each county, along with the USFS, and Idaho Power to inventory and prioritize treatments of yellow flag iris. A long-term management plan will be developed to ensure that treatment efforts are consistent, effective, and will be maintained beyond the life of the grant period.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides information to demonstrate the success of previous yellow flag iris control projects.
- Identifying yellow flag iris sites in Baker, Union, and Wallowa counties and controlling them before they are large infestations is an effective approach.
- Preventing the spread of yellow flag iris into areas where it would be very difficult to control is an effective watershed strategy.
- The applicant has a strong partnership with Idaho Power that effectively treats yellow flag iris in the Snake River and tributaries.
- Tri-County CWMA is forward thinking in its weed control methods and has a proven track record in implementing successful projects.

- The applicant is organized and diligent in tracking hours and effort spent on each project, resulting in effective budgeting.
- The proposal is cost-effective for the expected benefit and the amount of ground covered.

Concerns

- Dates in the proposal schedule are not accurate and this work is scheduled for 2022, not 2021.
- Outreach efforts may not be reaching the target audience including agricultural organizations, river user groups, hunting organizations, and irrigation ditch managers.
- The project approach is sound, but applicant should consider planning more than one year of work with OWEB funding. A multi-year approach will provide project continuity and security.
- The budget for project management may not be sufficient to cover all necessary project management costs.

Concluding Analysis

Tri-County CWMA proposes the inventory, treatment, and monitoring of yellow flag iris in Baker, Union, and Wallowa Counties. This is phase 1, which is informed from prior treatment efforts in partnership with Idaho Power and the US Forest Service along the Snake River. The applicant runs a successful and high functioning weed control program with many project partners from each county, state and federal agencies, and Idaho Power.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$22,050

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$22,050

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5045-19601

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Indian Creek Fire Rehab: Kill
Medusahead While You Can

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$75,420

Total Cost: \$657,820

Application Description

- 1) The project is located at the Becker Horse Camp on the Indian Creek Ranch, about 14 air miles from Westfall.

- 2) The human-caused Indian Creek fire ignited on August 16, 2020. The wind-driven fire swept through western juniper, Wyoming big sagebrush, antelope bitterbrush, Ribes species, scattered mountain-mahogany, rabbitbrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, Sandberg bluegrass, cheatgrass and medusahead. The fire was contained a month later burning 45,180 acres (36,687 BLM, 6,737 private, and 1,756 State acres). The fire burned fragile sage-grouse habitat on private and public land. The burned area has an increased likelihood of invasive species expanding and dominating the perennial bunchgrass and rangelands critical to sage-grouse habitat.

- 3) We are proposing to spray the 1,520 acres of the Horse Creek area at Indian Creek Ranch (private) adjacent to the BLM. Medusahead and cheatgrass will be treated with Imazapic at a rate of 6 oz/acre. The spray will occur shortly after the BLM sprays over 14,000 acres to ensure that noxious weeds will not reinvade adjacent treated areas. Malheur WSC and Indian Creek Ranch were awarded a Wildfire Response grant earlier this year to rebuild more than 67,000 feet of fence surrounding the Becker Horse Camp area. This spray project complements the BLM's fire rehabilitation activities. The proposed fence will help protect these treated areas from livestock until the vegetation is vigorous to support grazing again. Spraying medusahead and cheatgrass helps ensure that perennial bunchgrass and forbs, dietary requirements for sage-grouse, will remain the major component in the plant community. Reducing the amount of medusahead and cheatgrass present in the stands will help improve the overall stand conditions.

- 4) Partners are the Vale District BLM, Indian Creek Ranch and the Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation **Strengths**

- This project provides an opportunity to treat medusahead following the Indian Creek fire in 2020, before the species expands significantly within the disturbed areas.
- Medusahead is an invasive annual grass with a high silica content that is unpalatable for livestock and wildlife. One year's growth is manageable, but a quick control response is important to limit its occupation of the site.
- There does not appear to be much medusahead re-growth to date even though earlier treatments were not completed.
- Waiting to see the status of native vegetation response post-fire and prior to seeding is a conservative approach.
- The project builds on work started with OWEBs Wildfire Response grant awarded in 2021.

Concerns

- A post-treatment grazing management plan would have been helpful to understand long-term project viability and is not included in the application.
- The site visit clarified that seeding will be accomplished by helicopter and the seed mix intent is to prevent erosion and the spread of medusahead, but this information is lacking in the application.
- The timeline does not coincide with the availability of OWEB funding in October of 2021. Medusahead control is most effective if implemented during the year of the fire and a winter treatment is less effective than in the fall due to weather conditions.

Concluding Analysis

The partnership of Vale BLM, Malheur WC, and the landowner have been proactive in restoring this landscape following the Indian Creek fire in 2020. The landowner is actively rebuilding fence lost to the fire and BLM is controlling erosion and juniper, as well as mapping and planning the control of medusahead. The timing of medusahead treatment described in the application is a concern and post-treatment grazing management is not included, both of which bring into question the effectiveness of the proposed actions.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

13 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,420

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5046-19620

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Blue Bird Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$54,794

Total Cost: \$158,858

Application Description

The Blue Bird Water Quality Improvement Project is located across approximately 12 miles west of Jordan Valley, and consists of 65 acres of flood irrigated meadow and alfalfa cropland . Tailwater containing sediment, nutrients and bacteria flow off the project area through a series of small drain ditches, into Cow Creek, Jordan Creek and the Upper Owyhee River. The proposed work includes converting 65 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 1 pivot system, 8-inch pipeline, 25 HP pump and required electrical connections. Project partners include the landowner, Owyhee Watershed Council, Aqua Irrigation and Agrilines Irrigation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The maps and photos are clear and helpful in evaluating the proposal.
- There are both surface and ground water rights on the property, providing adequate source water for this and future irrigation water management.
- The project will have water quality benefit as the project site drains into Jordan Creek, a tributary to the Upper Owyhee River, both of which are a DEQ concern for E. coli and phosphorous.
- The proposed work builds on an OWEB Small Grant project that piped source water to the project area.
- The landowner is new to irrigation water management conservation and is inspired by neighbors implementing similar work.
- The project site is adjacent to sage-grouse core habitat. Conversion from flood to sprinkler irrigation will reduce mosquito populations and therefore could reduce sage-grouse mortality due to West Nile Virus transmission.
- The proposed project, along with several prior OWEB-funded projects demonstrates the benefits of watershed restoration in an underserved area.
- Owyhee WC has a track record of successfully implementing similar projects in similar geographies.

Concerns

- A phased approach to conservation is mentioned in the application; however, it is unclear how this phase and the prior OWEB Small Grant pipeline will lead to a possible third irrigation water management project.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 65 flood irrigated acres to sprinkler application will eliminate irrigation wastewater in the project area. Reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria runoff will continue work in the Jordan Valley area implementing ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives for the Upper Owyhee River. Application clarity, descriptive uploaded documents, and applicant track record indicate a high likelihood of project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$54,794

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$54,794

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5047-19640

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Morgan Horse Derby

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$83,451

Total Cost: \$139,853

Application Description

1) 9 miles West of Ontario, located inside the Morgan Bench Focus Area.2) Runoff from 70 acres flood irrigation on a small cow/calf operation, 70 irrigated acres for this farm is contributing to the sediment loads in the Lee Road Drain, that spills into the Nevada Ditch, then the Malheur River which is known to be the second dirtiest river in the state, ending up in the Snake River. The landowner uses 17 acres to grow crops in the summer and in the winter months, uses this field as a pasture, along with his other acres of pasture for 60 to 70 head of livestock. This farm has a major ridge line that runs north to south along his landscape. There is as much as 25 % fall in parts of the farm that is flood irrigation with gated pipe.3) This project aligns well with Arabian Pipeline, Horses in the Corner and Wrangling Horses. • Install new orifice head gate with measuring blade at main canal,. With measuring device being installed at headgate on canal for OID ditch rider to read, no flow meter is required. • Install and Bury 400 ft of 10" pipe from canal to delivery point (OID)• Install and bury 1620ft 8" delivery pipe to pond• Install a VFD, 3 phase converter• Install a large floater pump on holding pond• Install and bury 1200 feet of 6" 100# PIP Pipe to the pivot pad. • Install a 5- tower Zimmatic pivot with end gun for a wipe pattern, • Run 1200 ft of #2 Wire to pivot pad • Cornell 20 hp pump and electrical panel next to road. • Install 2 solid sets groups4) Landowner, NRCS, ODA, OID, and SWCD

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Converting 70 flood irrigated acres to sprinkler application will make progress towards conservation priorities in the Morgan Bench focus area.
- Reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria laden runoff from the property will have significant water quality benefit to the Malheur River.
- Ongoing water quality monitoring will enable the documentation of project impact.
- The landowner is prepared to absorb any increase in the cost of materials.
- Efficiencies will be achieved with the Arabian pipeline project, should both projects be funded.

Concerns

- It is unclear where irrigation wastewater goes when it leaves a pond on the property.

- The pumps needed for the irrigation conversion are not identified clearly on the maps provided and it is not evident why they are not located closer to the source water, bringing into question the soundness of the project design.
- It is unclear why a closed system option is not considered that would place the pump in the delivery pipeline, providing additional pressure and eliminating the need to pump from the lower elevation pond.
- Due to lack of application clarity, it is challenging to determine the watershed benefit.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 70 irrigated acres from flood to sprinkler application will reduce irrigation wastewater. Reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria runoff will continue work in the Morgan Bench priority area implementing ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives for the Malheur River; however, the application lacks clarity and design rationale is not evident. A future application will benefit from a clear description of on-farm wastewater management, an irrigation design alternatives analysis, and quantification of the expected water quality 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-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5048-19501

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Makin' Clarity on the Run

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$29,194

Total Cost: \$37,134

Application Description

This proposed Technical Assistance project will address water quality, fish passage, channel instability and irrigation efficiency issues associated with five irrigation diversions in the South Fork Burnt River watershed. Four diversions are located on Bull Run Creek (tributary to South Fork Burnt River) and one diversion is located on Miners Creek (tributary to Bull Run Creek). The project area is located on private land approximately three miles southwest of Unity, Oregon. These diversions currently do not have permanent diversion structures, requiring the water user to annually install push-up dams to divert water. Installation of push-up dams increases sedimentation, blocks or inhibits passage of native interior redband trout and destabilizes the bed and banks of the stream. In addition, irrigation waters are routed to desired application areas by open ditch, where the water is applied by flooding. This method of delivery/application can lead to significant loss through the ditch and application as well as routing of sediment, nutrients and herbicides/pesticides to the waterway. The water user desires to install permanent diversion structures and ditch piping to accomplish more time-efficient and environmentally sustainable irrigation practices. This project will fund design of permanent diversion structures and irrigation water delivery piping to accomplish this goal. The design process will explore alternatives, and lead to a 90% design of the selected alternative that best meets the needs of the water user and addresses water quality, fish passage and channel instability issues. OWEB funds will be used to hire a qualified engineer to conduct the design work and provide construction cost estimates.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed actions are clear and comprehensively described.
- The actions described are inclusive and forward thinking with regards to the steps needed to achieve project outcomes.
- The capacity of the applicant is improving and moving in a positive direction.
- One of the landowners has been involved with other conservation work and is poised to contribute effective long-term stewardship for the resulting restoration project.
- The budget is reasonable for the work proposed and is a cost-effective method to design for improved irrigation water management in the project area.
- The applicant sought multiple cost estimates to inform budget development.

Concerns

- It is unclear if there is support from all landowners involved in the project.
- The project schedule may be aggressive for the work proposed, specifically completing field investigation, survey, and design work by the end of spring 2022.

Concluding Analysis

Located in the South Fork Burnt River watershed near Unity, Powder Basin WC proposes to deliver a 90% design package that will address irrigation water diversion, delivery, and application with the intent of improving aquatic habitat and water quality. The chosen design will prescribe permanent points of diversion eliminating the need to import material for annual diversion dam maintenance, as well as design a pipeline conveyance system improving delivery efficiency, both of which will be preceded by an alternatives analysis. With improved capacity at the watershed council, this application demonstrates the intent to implement restoration work in an area that is a water quality improvement focus for both ODA and DEQ.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$29,194

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$29,194

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5049-19506

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland
Upland Restoration

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$8,123

Total Cost: \$11,330

Application Description This project will be located on the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland Project site, located in Wallowa, Oregon. The Homeland Project serves as a meeting place for tribes who once lived in and used the Wallowa Valley prior to European settlement. The Homeland Project site includes over 300 acres of Wallowa River frontage, valley bottom pastures, and upland grasslands on Tick Hill. The valley bottom pastures and the transition zone to uplands are largely comprised of non-native grasses. We propose to make a restoration plan for 3 acres of this transition zone and uplands, converting the monoculture of non-native grasses to desirable native plants. Project partners include Wallowa Resources, tribal members, Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland Project (staff and board), and a local botanist.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Technical assistance work is an appropriate pathway to develop a restoration project at this location. There are many unknowns about the project site, as well as the desired species composition, that will be addressed.
- There is a need to know more about the invasive plant species present to design an effective method for site preparation techniques as well as post-construction control.
- The methods developed may be transferrable and scalable to other similar restoration efforts.
- The proposed project site has potential to demonstrate effective restoration of native plant species in an area of high visibility.
- This project phase will provide important momentum to achieving the restoration work.

Concerns

- The application lacks clarity and it is difficult to understand project specifics from information provided in the application. The application does not describe how similar local efforts will inform the work, how and when native plant nurseries will be involved, and how existing irrigation may impact the design as well as restoration results.
- The application lacks clear objectives, and the expected outcome of the resulting restoration project is unclear.
- The site is heavily used by the public and the applicant needs to consider this use when planning the restoration work.

- Given the novel methods of invasive species control, including the use of pigs to control Medusahead and no use of herbicides, a future restoration project may not be cost effective or produce intended results.

Concluding Analysis

The application presents an opportunity to develop, demonstrate, and produce a design to restore 3 acres of transition zone vegetation from existing non-native grasses to desirable native vegetation. Located adjacent to a river restoration project and between riparian and upland vegetation communities, the applicant and partners will develop revegetation methods that will inform a future restoration effort. Methods developed may be non-traditional and may be transferable to other locations. If the project is successful it will offer vegetation control alternatives to common chemical or mechanical means.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$8,123

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5050-19532

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: More SSP Plans

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$67,705

Total Cost: \$94,664

Application Description

1. Four proposed SSP plans are in current FIP area, two are south of Vale, Oregon.2. We are seeking funding for one existing CCAA Coordinator/Rangeland position and one seasonal technician. Staff funding is needed to continue to work with 10 existing landowners that have a SSP on 80,621.15 acres for monitoring, and new SSP plan development on MC004, MC006-B, MC013, MC005, MC023, and MC025 encompassing 49,500 and over 50 miles of stream and will affect 3 Priority Areas for Sage-grouse Conservation (PACs). 3. Baseline monitoring has already taken place on the six proposed plans to be developed; MC004, MC006-B, MC013, MC005, MC023, and MC025. Each of these property owners has a assigned LOI. The rangeland employees will work with the participating landowners to finish developing their individual Site-Specific Plans that are intended to promote good land stewardship and sage grouse survival. Within the grant time frame, employees will work with landowners, US Fish, and other partners to gather data, develop maps, write plans, plan treatments, and manage CCAA's and enter all SSP information in a newly created data management system. The primary sage-steppe ecosystem threats being addressed are juniper encroachment, annual grass invasion and wildfire. 4.) US Fish & Wildlife will be working closely with the SWCD employees on documentation forms, SSP's, and working to help resolve issues or problems that are encountered. And to make sure the information is being entered into the database correctly. Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee -Employees will document work being done in the county to meet the goals set by the Steering Committee and will contribute as applicable to further the achievement of the goals and objectives of the All Counties CCAA work Plan.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowners are engaged and the demand for site specific plans (SSP) in Malheur County is high.
- This technical assistance project is ready to proceed with baseline data already collected on the subject properties.
- Data collection procedures have been modified to eliminate PACE 180 transects and photo point documentation has been simplified. This protocol change requires less time and the data remains comparable.
- The Oregon all Counties CCAA (Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances) database is complete and can be used as new CCAA properties are enrolled, resulting in a more streamlined data collection and storage process.
- The applicant has done this type of work and can implement the work as described in the application.

- Unit costs are low for the work proposed, especially when compared with similar projects in the region.

Concerns

- It is unclear how long the requested funding will support staff to perform the work.
- The application does not describe how interested landowners are prioritized.
- The project timeline and budget do not align. Budgeted staff hours indicate .5 years of employment for 2 employees and the project schedule indicates 4 years of work.
- Some counties are continuing to do the more rigorous PACE 180 monitoring transects as part of the monitoring protocol, which will result in differences in data collection across county lines.
- It is unclear which staff positions will be doing the proposed work and qualifications for the new employee are not detailed in the proposal.
- Budgeting for longer than one year of work would help ensure project continuity and reduce staff turnover.

Concluding Analysis

Malheur SWCD proposes to provide partial funding for the existing CCAA coordinator and hire a seasonal technician to complete six site specific plans on CCAA enrolled properties in Malheur County. While the applicant has experience with this work, there are several concerns including proposal inconsistencies, data collection protocol modification, and landowner prioritization as well as staff longevity, compensation, and qualifications. Baseline data has been collected on each property, data collection protocols are established, and with the CCAA all counties database operational several efficiencies are now in place to promote sage-grouse conservation in southeast Oregon.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$67,705

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5051-19568

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: River Mile 15: Technical Assistance_CLONE

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$38,352

Total Cost: \$50,752

Application Description

1. The project is 3 air miles east of Vale; river mile 15 on the Malheur River. 2. Several 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 damaging. There was a record amount of snow fall in 2016-17, which led to record high levels of run-off. Riparian vegetation is inadequate in places along the project reach and the aquatic habitat is very simple, no pools, hiding cover or woody debris. The river in this reach does not meet water quality standards for temperature, sediment and nutrients. Invasive species such as Russian Olive is encroaching. The owner is interested in controlling weeds and improving wildlife habitat along the 1.3 mile reach. 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. In addition to the stream habitat work, we will develop a plan for controlling weeds, and planting desirable riparian vegetation that will attract all forms of wildlife. And we need to explore the possibility of enhancing 16 acres of riparian wetland. 4. Partners are the landowners, Malheur WSC, RSI engineering, and design reviewers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The video, maps, and photos provided in the application are clear and helpful in understanding the proposal.
- Designing for wetland habitats in the project reach is feasible and appropriate in this watershed context and will add ecological benefit to the resulting restoration phase.
- The project approach considers many ecological benefits including aquatic habitat, riparian condition, invasive species control, and upland habitats demonstrating a holistic perspective to planning the restoration work.
- The focus of the design goes beyond aquatic and riparian restoration and there will be benefits to mule deer, upland bird species, and pollinators from the resulting restoration project.
- The selected contractor and the project team have extensive experience with implementing similar projects located in similar geographies.

Concerns

- The project team has not completed similarly proposed and funded projects on the mainstem Malheur River, which is different from and offers additional challenges when compared to other technical

assistance projects completed on tributary streams to the Malheur River.

- The project lacks a channel migration analysis, which is needed to evaluate potential impacts to neighboring landowners and infrastructure.
- Budget amounts for the hydraulic analysis and the geomorphic survey are both small, and the project may benefit from increased technical effort in those areas.

Concluding Analysis

The project team comprised of Malheur WC, an experienced consultant, and several state and federal natural resource management partners are proposing to complete 60% designs for a project that will improve aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats on the Malheur River near Vale. Following design examples from prior completed projects on tributary streams and in-progress efforts on the Malheur River mainstem, the applicant proposes a holistic approach to restoration design. There is concern with the approach from both the mainstem setting and level of design perspectives; however, the partnership is experienced and capable of completing actions as proposed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$38,352

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5052-19572

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: We Ain't Greenhorns but We Need
Help Fixin' Willow Creek_CLONE

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$62,701

Total Cost: \$78,887

Application Description

1) Willow Creek. 2.2 miles upstream from the Malheur Reservoir. 16 air miles from Brogan, OR) The 2.1 miles of Willow Creek in the project reach is deficient in riparian habitat, flood plain function, and habitat complexity. The project is in core sage-grouse area and is classified as a redband multi use stream reach per ODFW. Wet meadow/riparian habitat for sage grouse is lacking. Willow Creek does not meet standards for nutrients, bacteria and other parameters. This reach lacks habitat complexity for red band trout and other aquatic life. Irrigation return flow, and outdated infrastructure is causing erosion, and contributing bacteria, and nutrients to Willow Creek. Several restoration projects are in different phases of planning and completion directly upstream from the project reach. When all of them and this project are completed we will have restored over 5 contiguous stream miles. 3) A drone will be used for a topographic survey of the entire reach. In addition, riparian analyses, and hydrologic and hydraulic analyses will be conducted. A 60% design will provide alternatives for a future restoration project. Sections of the riparian area requiring future planting will be identified along with a suite of optimal shrub and tree species. We will develop a plan to improve irrigation infrastructure. 4) Partners include the Wilks Ranch, RSI engineering, Malheur WSC and technical reviewers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The video, maps, and photos provided in the application are clear and helpful in understanding the proposal.
- The property owner is the same on both sides of the creek, resulting in continuous management strategies throughout the reach.
- The proposed project builds on previous work in the watershed.
- The applicant has successfully completed similar projects upstream and in other areas of Malheur County, demonstrating a record of success.
- Both the landowner and the land manager are currently working collaboratively with the applicant and positive management change is likely in the future.

Concerns

- This project area needs a grazing management plan which is not mentioned in the application, and this will be an important component following restoration.

- Under objective 1, the application proposes to develop a feasibility analysis based on hydrological models derived from a drone flight. The degree of accuracy of the proposed methodology is unclear.
- Objective 2, which proposes to investigate irrigation infrastructure improvements, needs to be integrated into objective 1 to inform the alternatives analysis. This will identify a more comprehensive approach to improving irrigation water management in the project area.

Concluding Analysis

The project team comprised of Malheur WC, an experienced consultant, and several state and federal natural resource management partners are proposing to complete 60% designs for a project that will improve water quality, riparian condition, and sage-grouse habitats on Willow Creek above the Malheur Reservoir. Following design examples from prior completed projects on tributary streams and in-progress efforts on the Malheur River mainstem, the applicant proposes a holistic approach to restoration design. There is concern with the approach from both the method and irrigation water management perspectives, however the partnership is experienced in this setting and capable of completing actions as proposed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$62,701

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$62,701

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5053-19594

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Feasibility and Stream Flow Study

Applicant: Union County Admin Services

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$139,000

Application Description

1) The Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed (UGRRW) HUC 17060104 is located in Union County, Oregon. 2) The UGRRW Partnership (a Place-Based Collaborative Planning Group composed of stakeholders representing ecological, tribal, municipal, and agricultural interests) has been meeting for over 5 years to evaluate water quality and quantity concerns in the UGRRW and has come to consensus on strategies to address these issues. Results indicate that: a) Many waterways in the UGRRW do not have instream water rights or have them based on dated methodologies. Quantification of instream demand is a significant data gap. b) Water storage is vitally needed to reduce late season surface water deficit (for instream and out-of-stream needs), improve surface water quality, improve groundwater sustainability, and buffer against natural hazards and climate change risks. 3) The Partnership is working on a study to address Item 2 above and is seeking support from OWEB for Item 2a only. This OWEB grant would help evaluate the instream flow needs in reaches identified as a priority for data collection to both fill instream demand data gaps, and provide data to assist in the evaluation of potential storage projects. The goal of the OWEB-funded portion of the study is to conduct large-scale Instream Flow Incremental Methodology/Physical Habitat Simulation System studies to determine instream flow needs to support future restoration. 4) The Partnership includes Trout Unlimited, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Union County Seed Growers, USFWS, Union County Cattleman's Association, M&M Farming, LLC, City of La Grande, DEQ, City of Imbler, City of Union, Union County Farm Bureau, City of Island City, ODFW, OWRD, ODA, OSU Extension Office, Grande Ronde Model Watershed, USFS (Wallowa-Whitman National Forest), Union County Soil Water Conservation District, Union County, L. Larson, T. Wallender, A. Hulden, C. Ricker, and C. Murchison.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed work builds on the place-based planning process, which produced a plan to improve water quality and water quantity in the Upper Grande Ronde River watershed. The team is comprised of diverse partners including local, state, and federal agencies as well as private landowner.
- The approach considers a wide range of options and includes both on and off channel water storage as well as built and natural solutions.
- The partnership is well informed, locally experienced, and diverse in perspective, demonstrating ample capacity to achieve a common vision of improved stream flow and water quality.

- The partnership is experienced and capable of building support for the project demonstrated by their ability to work with landowners in the project area, indicating a high likelihood of success.
- Tribal involvement in the project is significant, including fisheries management and habitat restoration efforts, adding capacity to the effort.
- The budget is reasonable for the type and amount of work proposed.

Concerns

- Permission has not yet been gathered for some of the private land sampling sites and there is some mistrust among landowners which may affect study design.
- The application does not identify what stream flow measurement equipment will be used, and this information would have been helpful to determine data quality and applicability to study design.

Concluding Analysis

The UGRRW Partnership has been guided by their place-based planning efforts for the last 5 years dedicated to improving water quality and quantity in the Upper Grande Ronde River. The partners are now ready to plan identified conservation and restoration actions. This proposed technical assistance complements the planning effort and will identify instream flow needs from a fish habitat perspective and inform water storage solutions that are both built and natural options.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5056-19491

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Monitoring the Effects of Management on Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation (MIM): Phase 3

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$21,815

Total Cost: \$31,815

Application Description This project is located in Wallowa County, Oregon on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF). Within the WWNF there are 182 stream reaches that host Federally Listed Fish species that are also located within 33 grazing allotments. Managing these allotments to reduce negative effects to streams, and ultimately to fish, is a high priority for WWNF and is specifically targeted in the Forest Plan.

In this project- Phase Three of three OWEB grants- we propose to continue establishing Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) plots, which include long term and short term indicators to adaptively manage in-stream and riparian resources. The MIM protocol is designed to be objective, efficient, and effective for monitoring stream banks, stream channels, and stream side riparian vegetation. This protocol is considered to be the best available and is used by the National Marine Fisheries Service when evaluating grazing impacts. 128 pastures across the 33 allotments require MIM plots. Most of these sites are actively grazed, but some are not and serve as reference sites. The interest in riparian status and trend data by range managers and fisheries biologists continues to increase and outpace the ability of the WWNF Range Program to collect the data, especially for new MIM plots.

This OWEB Grant seeks funding for two field seasons (2022-2023) to establish an additional 14 MIM plots. Partners include WWNF and Wallowa Resources (WR), who participate in the larger Eagle Cap Partnership. which also includes Eastern Oregon University.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This project will complement the previously collected MIM data since 2015 and the applicant's future plans to establish and monitor 128 plots in the Wallowa Whitman National Forest.
- The applicant will continue to follow an established protocol that has been used to collect data during the two previous phases.
- The application describes a plan to manage and store the data at both the Wallowa Resources and USFS offices to provide back-up and increase access to the data.
- The data will be reported after the two years of monitoring are completed, and the report will be uploaded to ODFW's NRIMP clearinghouse, shared with stakeholders, and presented at lectures locally to disseminate the information.
- The application describes how this information is used by the USFS to adaptively manage grazing allotments.

- The applicant will continue to work with the same USFS staff and contractor to implement this ongoing monitoring project.
- Phase four of this project will be led by the USFS to maintain the long-term monitoring sites established in cooperation with the applicant.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The monitoring question posed was overly broad, and this question is not likely to be answered across the entire study area based on the information described in the application.
- The application lacks a description of how the data collectively will be analyzed to answer the monitoring question. This is a concern since the information can help refine best management practices for grazing where sensitive fish species exist.
- It was not clear how resource advocates will access the information generated from this project, given that dissemination is focused on providing information to regulatory agencies and permittees.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation:

Work with the USFS to analyze data across all three phases and identify trends to refine management recommendations with an aim of preventing impacts in grazing allotments before they occur.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) information will help natural resource managers advise grazing management practices in Wallowa County on Forest Service lands.
- Baseline and subsequent data will inform US Forest Service management objectives to improve stream corridor areas where domestic livestock grazing occurs. The data will also serve as an effective communication tool with grazing permittees.
- This phase 3 application is the final OWEB funding request to establish monitoring plots and all future data acquisition will be accomplished by the US Forest Service and local partners.
- The monitoring protocol is established, widely used, and developed by a diverse partnership of agencies and stakeholders.
- The US Forest Service and Wallowa Resources have staff trained to implement the MIM protocol ensuring data will be collected to inform grazing management into the future.
- The prior 2 phases of the project provided useful baseline data indicating this phase 3 effort has a high likelihood of success.
- Cost per monitoring site for the work proposed is reasonable to accomplish project objectives, as demonstrated by phase 1 and 2 accomplishments.

Concerns

- The need, relevance, and applicability of the proposed monitoring to inform future projects is not well described in application.

Concluding Analysis

This phase 3 MIM monitoring project will complete the establishment of identified stream corridor data collection plots on US Forest Service lands in Wallowa County, where both domestic livestock grazing and essential fish habitats co-exist. Baseline data augmented by scheduled follow up data collection at each plot will provide natural resource managers and grazing permittees the tools to guide grazing, riparian, and instream management to meet established objectives.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$21,815

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$21,815

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5057-19503	Project Type: Monitoring
Project Name: Harney CCAA Monitoring	
Applicant: Harney SWCD	
Region: Eastern Oregon	County: Harney
OWEB Request: \$147,414	Total Cost: \$215,143

Application Description The monitoring project area is located on private properties enrolled in the Harney Greater Sage Grouse Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). The majority of the work will be done within the original Harney sage-grouse FIP boundaries. CCAA efforts have expanded since the original FIP and properties have also been enrolled that include preliminary general habitat (PGH), for sage grouse. As a result, the SWCD along with partners have been able to expand sage grouse habitat.

The private properties that are enrolled in the Harney Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances or have a letter of intent to enroll, are actively applying conservation measures for the Greater sage-grouse. There are currently 22 properties enrolled with 48 remaining to be completed. As part of the CCAA agreement, the SWCD is required to monitor baseline condition and trend, project effectiveness, and long term habitat conditions for the lifetime of the 30 year agreements.

The monitoring burden will grow exponentially as more CCAA Site Specific Plans are completed. Harney SWCD has only one CCAA planner at this point in time, which is not adequate for the workload. With additional funds allocated to monitoring we plan to hire a qualified individual to help complete these tasks. It is also necessary, due to work load, that Harney SWCD hires 2 field technicians to perform monitoring and data analysis for the field season.

The CCAA monitoring technicians will be required to perform preliminary threats assessments (baseline inventory and habitat state designations), Modified Pased 180 transects (detailed vegetation surveys used to track condition and trend over time), establish permanent photo points along with project effectiveness monitoring for weed treatments, rangeland seeding projects, juniper cutting, off stream watering facilities, and other habitat improvement projects.

Project partners include: NRCS, USFWS, BLM, ODFW, CWMA and private land owners.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application generally describes the data that will complement sage-grouse habitat data gathered on various land ownership types.
- This project will support the CCAA efforts and will be used to evaluate the program's voluntary efforts to improve sage brush/steppe habitat.
- The data are made available to the USFWS and landowners and communicated through regular meetings that many different stakeholders attend.
- The applicant is qualified and knowledgeable of the established monitoring methods.
- This monitoring project is part of a long-term stakeholder and agency effort to protect and restore sage-grouse habitat.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application focused on the funding gap rather than the need for the monitoring data.
- This project focuses on the need to collect data over thirty years and is not clear what the plan is for ensuring funding for monitoring over the long term.
- It is unclear how this project builds off previous funding for these same monitoring efforts.
- The application does not provide specific details on other monitoring efforts that state and federal agencies are performing and how these data will complement that.
- While landowner privacy restrictions are recognized as limiting some detail from being provided in the application, the study design provided does not describe how areas to be monitored are prioritized across the county. More high-level information about land conditions and habitat types considered would have been helpful.
- The application does not include specific monitoring questions, making it difficult to assess the specific evaluation criteria. The schedule is difficult to understand and does not build in time to analyze and report the data.
- The QA/QC measures employed across the monitoring program are not well described, including a lack of information to ensure the data are comparable over many years and sites.
- The status of the database is unclear given that some sections of the application state that the database and electronic field forms are complete, and other sections of the application state that a new database for data storage, entry and reporting purposes is in development.
- The analysis of the data is unclear, and the application lacked detail about how the data will be used to track trends and effects from restoration actions.
- The application includes USFWS as a source of in-kind match but does not describe their role to understand how they are involved in this monitoring project.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation Strengths

- The applicant is working to secure a stable funding source for future monitoring work that spans 30

years on each property.

Concerns

- The application focuses on the funding gap and does not describe the need for the monitoring or how the data is being used to inform future restoration and implementation of conservation measures.
- The monitoring question in the Proposed Solution section of the application is unclear. It is difficult to determine if achievement of project objectives will provide the needed information.
- Project partnerships described in the application are unclear. Services provided by other partners beyond the SWCD, landowner, and US Fish and Wildlife Service are not described.
- The application budget lacks essential line-item detail to justify the costs for each staff position by task.
- The application lacks a description of monitoring data availability and how this data can be used to inform future sage-grouse habitat conservation, scale and scope of conservation efforts, and results of prior implemented conservation measures.

Concluding Analysis

Harney SWCD proposes to hire additional field technicians to implement CCAA monitoring on private lands in Harney County. Each agreement requires 30 years of monitoring to establish baseline conditions and monitor the effects of conservation measure implementation. A clear funding gap is described in the proposal, the need for the work will grow as more landowners enroll, and the applicant is working towards a secure funding source. Nevertheless, the application lacks essential detail articulating the monitoring question, roles of identified project partners, and how staff tasks are allocated in the budget. The application does not describe how accumulated monitoring data will inform sage-grouse conservation measures, where conservation work has been completed, or how the data will be used to coordinate future efforts in Harney County.

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-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5058-19515

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Powder Basin Long-Term Water
Quality Monitoring - Enhanced

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$174,662

Total Cost: \$243,982

Application Description For the past eight years the PBWC has been conducting detailed water quality monitoring at up to 72 sites throughout the Powder Basin to establish baseline conditions related to temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen (DO) and turbidity. Based upon what we have learned, we would like to continue monitoring at 50 of those sites in order to continue monitoring long-term trends and track trajectory at problem locations. In addition, we propose to expand aspects of our monitoring to address specific needs. First, to support development of TMDL's and implementation of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan for the Burnt River Subbasin, we propose to monitor E.coli and Total Phosphorous at five sites. In support of this, we would collect flow measurements at the upstream-most location where flow data is not available. To document DO concentration relevant to the state standard for salmonid spawning, we propose to monitor DO continuously at 22 sites at times and locations within the spawning distribution of redband trout and/or bull trout. Finally, we propose to monitor turbidity throughout the year at a select number of sites within the known spawning distribution of redband trout and/or bull trout to better understand sedimentation impacts on these species. This 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 aspect of the 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. However, we will need to re-engage participants for start-up again in 2022.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the historical data collected over the life of the water quality monitoring program.
- The data will inform the development of new TMDLs in the watershed.
- The application includes clearly articulated monitoring questions, and the sample design includes expanded sites to help answer these questions.
- The applicant has a DEQ approved SAP and will revise it to include new sites and monitoring methods for dissolved oxygen.

- The applicant will submit their data to DEQ and store it locally on their database.
- The applicant will work with a diverse group of stakeholders comprised of irrigation districts, landowner advisory committee (LAC), private and public landowners, and state and federal agencies to review data annually and share results to incorporate a total of 11 years of data. These stakeholders will help review the final report before it is completed.
- The applicant has a long history of successfully completing monitoring projects and providing comprehensive reports to summarize the results collected across many sites.
- Newly hired staff at the applicant organization has worked in the watershed for a long time and is engaging many landowners to expand the monitoring project and fill data gaps to inform fish conditions.
- The budget is broken down into hours needed to complete each task across three years.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application did not mention how this monitoring project can complement the historic water quality data collected by the Burnt River Irrigation District.
- The application does not describe the water quality data that other agencies are collecting, including the 15 water temperature monitoring sites operated by the USFS. The application lacked detail on other current or planned monitoring efforts, especially those focused on redband and bull trout that are driving some of the water quality monitoring efforts.
- The application lacked a description of the OWRD or USGS flow gages, but rather just notes that these are operated in the watershed. It also does not explain how flow conditions will be used to interpret results.
- It is unclear if the 72-hour deployment of the dissolved oxygen (DO) probes will yield valuable information to answer the monitoring question related to redband and bull trout.
- The plan to rotate sites to monitor DO will be challenging logistically, given the QA/QC measures needed to collect high-quality data.
- The application lacked detail on the methods to measure water levels and streamflow, and the approach to use a time lapse camera is not a professionally accepted method.
- The application does not describe the necessary methods and QA/QC measure to install and maintain a gaging station.
- The application lacked detail on the storm sampling for turbidity to explain where this would occur, and the question being answered with this information.
- The budget includes funding for a pressure transducer, but the application narrative was uncertain about if this equipment would be used to measure water level.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation

Consult with DEQ volunteer water quality monitoring coordinator to prepare and implement the continuous dissolved oxygen monitoring tasks.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- DEQ is working on TMDLs for dissolve oxygen, nutrients, and bacteria in the Powder River basin. Existing data the watershed council has collected is used to inform landowners about water quality problems and guide TMDL implementation.
- Dissolved oxygen modeling will be conducted over the next few years by DEQ and this data can inform the modeling effort as well as future restoration work.
- The applicant's Monitoring Coordinator position that is currently vacant will be filled soon, indicating capacity to complete the proposed actions.
- Powder Basin Watershed Council has many years of experience collecting similar data and their database serves as a water quality data clearinghouse, both of which indicate a high likelihood of project success.
- Community volunteers, including Baker County schools, are involved and assist with the work, making this an effective way to engage the community.
- The budget breakdown of hours by monitoring type clarifies the amount of work proposed.

Concerns

- The application is unclear regarding how the monitoring information will be used to guide management decisions.
- It is unclear how data collected at the proposed stream reach scale will be tied to specific management activities.
- The application does not reference other water quality monitoring occurring in the region and how this project relates to those efforts.
- The cost of the project is high for the proposed work and dissolved oxygen sampling for 3 months of one persons' time may be excessive.

Concluding Analysis

The Powder Basin Watershed Council will continue water quality monitoring for 3 years at 50 sites in Baker County, building upon monitoring efforts over the past 8 years. The council works closely with relevant stakeholders in the area including landowners, community members, Baker County SWCDs, and State and federal agencies, specifically ODA and DEQ implementing SB 1010 and TMDL development objectives. While there is some concern how the accumulated data informs management decisions at both site and reach scales, the applicant has demonstrated a competent level of data collection, storage, and sharing capabilities indicating a high likelihood of project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$174,662

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$174,662

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5059-19612

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Down and Dirty

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$69,827

Total Cost: \$101,243

Application Description 1) Malheur and Owyhee River Basins in Malheur County.

2) In the past 20 plus years landowners, agencies, and Irrigation Districts have invested millions of dollars with the intent of improving water quality in the Malheur and Owyhee Watersheds. This monitoring program will help determine the success of these efforts, and help direct future actions.

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has placed most of the Malheur River and its tributaries on the 303 (d) list due to violations of state water quality standards. The most common problem is temperature, followed by excessive levels of bacteria, nutrients, Chlorophyll a, and toxins.

The majority of human caused water quality problems in the basin seem to result from the cumulative effects of non-point source pollution caused by landscape-wide activities. Irrigated agriculture dominates the bottomlands in the lower reaches of the Malheur/Owyhee Rivers.

The goals of the Malheur and Owyhee Watershed Action Plans identify the need to quantify environmental conditions in pursuit of correcting watershed problems. The continuation of the established water quality monitoring program will help provide data and analysis needed to evaluate water quality trends in this basin, assess the effectiveness of conservation and restoration efforts, and contribute to the Water Quality Management Plan and the 2010 TMDL assessment and implementations. In addition, we will be able to observe trends in water quality and target areas needing further work.

3) -- Maintain sampling on 14 sites.

- Maintain sampling to support continuous flow gauges on all sites,
- Flow gauges will be placed to monitor key focus areas and major drains,
- Maintain sampling to determine statistically valid trend analysis,
- Maintain sampling to conduct ambient monitoring on the rivers,

4) ODEQ, BOR, Malheur SWCD, Malheur WSC, NRCS, ODA, Vale Irrigation District, Owyhee Irrigation District,

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant will develop a sampling and analysis plan (SAP) and submit it to DEQ for review and approval.
- The applicant will follow professionally accepted methods to collect water samples and send them to the BOR lab for analysis.
- The lab results will be stored locally by the applicant, and the contract lab will upload the data to STORET to make it publicly available.
- The final report will be developed with a Technical Review Committee and shared with state and federal agencies and local partners.
- The creation of the Technical Review Committee and meeting twice a year to review the data and discuss any issues will help apply the data in a meaningful way.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application does not describe how this project was downsized from past monitoring grants now that the watershed council is no longer participating.
- There is a large amount of data that has been collected by the applicant, but the application does not describe how these data had been analyzed to identify why future monitoring and additional data are needed.
- The application does not include specific monitoring questions, making it difficult to assess the application relative to the evaluation criteria.
- The application lacks detail on streamflow monitoring, including the data collection methods and how these data will be analyzed to generate nutrient loads.
- The study design does not describe why this monitoring project is focused on monitoring during the irrigation season.
- The application does not describe the data management plan for streamflow data and if and how the data will be made available to the public.
- The application lacks an adequate description of data gathering and management roles and responsibilities. It is not clear how the University of Idaho is involved and how they will compile the data to assist the applicant.
- The application does not describe how the water quality data would be analyzed and how restoration actions will be tracked to interpret the findings.
- The budget is difficult to understand, including the expenses for the project and the number of sites for streamflow monitoring. This made it challenging to determine if costs are adequate to meet the objectives stated in the application.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The addition of a project technical team as identified in the application will provide additional guidance to inform future monitoring and conservation efforts.
- Project partners, including ODA, DEQ, and BOR, are qualified and have a proven track record on similar projects.
- The applicant has demonstrated the ability to collect water quality data and use that data to guide on-farm conservation, specifically irrigation water management.

Concerns

- There are no monitoring questions in the Proposed Solution section making it impossible to know if achievement of project objectives will answer the monitoring questions.
- It is unclear why the monitoring sites were chosen and where the chosen sites are located.
- A direct linkage describing how the data will be used and how that data will inform on the ground conservation is not described in the proposal.
- The application is missing critical information needed to evaluate likelihood of success, and most of reviewers' understanding of the project is based on assumptions informed by past monitoring efforts and knowledge of the partners.
- It is unclear what the monitoring is intended to achieve; a description of a long-term vision would have clarified the direction of the proposed work.
- The University of Idaho is identified as a partner and included in the budget, but it is not clear how they will participate in the project.
- Flow measurement budget line items are unclear. It is unclear if the applicant is budgeting for flow gauge sites or stream flow measurements, making it difficult to understand if costs are reasonable.

Concluding Analysis

This application proposes to continue water quality monitoring at 14 sampling sites in the Malheur and Owyhee River basins. Sampling over the past 2 decades demonstrates that water in the lower reaches of both rivers does not meet DEQ water quality standards for several parameters including temperature, sediment, and bacteria among others, demonstrating the need for water quality monitoring in the area. While the need for monitoring is understood, it is difficult to determine where the proposed monitoring will occur, the rationale for the proposed monitoring at the selected locations, and whether the proposed costs are reasonable. The overall lack of clarity in the application makes it difficult to determine likelihood of success, data applicability, and linkage to future conservation efforts.

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-2021 Spring Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 221-5060-19630

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Grande Ronde Basin Stream Flow Gauging Stations Operation - Water Years 2022 & 2023

Applicant: Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$101,002

Total Cost: \$313,982

Application Description The Grande Ronde Basin (GRB) covers over 5,000 square miles and includes several thousand miles of perennial flowing streams, many being the home to ESA listed Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon, Snake River summer steelhead and bull trout. A network of stream gauges are in place throughout the Grande Ronde and Imnaha River subbasins to inform and provide data for irrigation water management, fisheries management, long term flow and trend analysis, TMDL and SB1010 water quality management plan effectiveness, subbasin plan implementation, restoration project development and provide essential information regarding cumulative effects response to conservation in the Grande Ronde Basin. This project is in place to operate 12 existing stream gauges in combination with US Geological Survey (USGS) (3 gauges, East Fork Wallowa River, Minam River and Grande Ronde River at Troy), Idaho Power (1 gauge, Imnaha River at Imnaha) and Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) who, independent of this project, operate five additional gauges (Lostine River at Caudle Lane, Wallowa River above Wallowa Lake, Wallowa River at Enterprise, Wallowa Lake, Catherine Cr. near Union) to characterize flow in both the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins. Stream flow characteristics including headwater contribution, land management influence, and basin outlet data are all selectively collected in this network of 21 flow gauges. Production partners include Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW) and Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) with funding partners being BPA, OWEB and OWRD.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This project will continue to provide funds for a contractor to maintain a long-term record of streamflow data.
- The application described a number of other monitoring efforts that use the streamflow data that will be collected.
- The application describes how the data are stored and made available in near real-time to be used by a variety of interested stakeholders to manage streamflow for irrigation and conservation needs.
- The contractor is experienced and will use professionally accepted methods to collect and manage the data.

- The budget describes the costs for the different tasks the contractor will complete over the two-year period.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacks monitoring questions. One broad monitoring question is stated in the application in the problem statement, but it is not clear that the application objectives, study design, data collection and analyses will answer that question.
- The objectives described in the application are not directly implemented through this monitoring grant.
- The activities described in the schedule will not achieve the broader objectives stated in the application.
- The application does not describe any of the QA/QC procedures employed by the contractor to collect high quality data other than citing the protocol.
- The application does not describe how the community stakeholders are engaged other than mentioning a place-based water planning team in Union County that OWRD participates in.
- It is not clear how the applicant helps provide access to the data beyond contracting with OWRD to perform the monitoring.
- It is not clear if or how most of the data users are contributing to funding this project, despite their heavy reliance on it.
- The description of how costs were developed is questionable. The budget narrative refers to past negotiation of costs with the contractor that may be out of date. It is not clear if these costs are reflective of current expenses for the contractor to maintain and operate gaging stations.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Data collected from this project is used by many stakeholders and helps inform management actions that include recreation, fisheries, and restoration planning.
- The proposed work complements other monitoring efforts in the Grande Ronde Basin. The Grande Ronde Model Watershed is an organization with an extensive track record for this type of work, therefore the likelihood of project success is high.
- OWRD is a primary project partner and has extensive experience with stream gauging protocols including data collection, record keeping, QAQC methods, data storage, and reporting.

Concerns

- There are no monitoring questions in the Proposed Solution section making it difficult to whether achievement of project objectives will provide the desired information.
- The proposed close clustering of flow measurement sites may be excessive; however, it is understood the proximity of several flow gauges is to document irrigation-influenced stream reaches.

- The project may be more cost-effective without the near real-time data transmission capability. There are more cost-effective ways of collecting the information that would not impact overall utility of data.

Concluding Analysis

Stream flow data collection in the Grande Ronde Basin has been in operation since the mid-1990s with many natural resource management organizations using the data. Flow data is used for many purposes including irrigation water management, fisheries research and management, restoration project development, and aquatic restoration research and monitoring. While the application lacks some detail, the project team of GRMW and OWRD is experienced and capable of implementing the project as proposed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$101,002

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$101,002

Staff Conditions

N/A

Mid-Columbia - Region 6 Spring 2021 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendation

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants 1998 - Spring 2020

- Land Acquisition
- ◆ Restoration
- ▲ Region 6 Cities
- Region 6 Streams
- ▭ OWEB Region 6 Boundary



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Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin Restoration					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-6021	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Couse Creek at Blue Mountain Station Fish Passage	A two-foot high concrete dam on Couse Creek, a tributary of the Walla Walla River, will be removed and access to eleven miles of cool water habitat restored for steelhead, Chinook and bull trout.	62,774	Umatilla
221-6023	Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation	Walla Walla River Forks Floodplain Reconnection and In-stream Enhancement Implementation	River flow will be restored to, historic floodplain channels along the North and South Forks, and mainstem Walla Walla River, which will improve habitat for steelhead, Chinook and bull trout as they rest, rear, and spawn.	300,000	Umatilla
221-6022	South Fork John Day WC	South Fork Fire Grazing Management	The last seven of 55 miles of fence destroyed in a 2014 wildfire will be built to protect sensitive streamside areas from livestock and feral horses and improve pasture management for grassland health, which will benefit wildlife in the South Fork John Day watershed.	117,860	Grant
221-6029	Wheeler SWCD	Nelson Creek Forest Restoration	Forest habitat in Nelson Creek, a tributary to Bridge Creek, will be restored to a more natural, healthy, and fire resilient state by thinning unhealthy pine, removing encroaching juniper, developing upland springs for livestock and wildlife, and protecting and enhancing streamside habitat for fish and wildlife.	169,835	Wheeler
221-6028	South Fork John Day WC	Hole In The Ground Upland Health	Rangeland conditions and wildlife habitat will be improved by protecting sensitive aspen groves and removing encroaching juniper in the uplands of the South Fork John Day River.	167,960	Grant
221-6026	North Fork John Day WC	Swale Creek Allotment Fencing	Sections of electric fencing will be replaced with permanent fencing to completely protect and exclude sensitive streamside meadow areas from livestock access in the Swale Creek watershed in the Umatilla National Forest.	132,854	Morrow
221-6032	Bridge Creek WC	Middle Alder Creek Watershed Improvement 1	Juniper will be removed on the hillslopes of Alder Creek, a tributary of the John Day River, and upland water sources will be developed for wildlife use and to aid in livestock distribution to improve grassland health.	91,101	Wheeler
221-6030	South Fork John Day WC	Widows Creek Ranch Upland Health	Rangeland health and wildlife habitat will be improved in the Widows Creek watershed, a steelhead tributary of the John Day River, by developing seven upland water sources, treating and protecting struggling aspen communities, and removing juniper.	65,118	Grant
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,107,502	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-6031	Monument SWCD	Camp Creek Targeted Restoration	Juniper will be removed followed by reseeding to bolster grassland species in the Camp Creek watershed, a tributary of Cottonwood Creek.	87,950	Grant

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
221-6024	Monument SWCD	Lost Fawn Meadow and Spring Enhancements	111,627	Grant
221-6025	Wheeler SWCD	Quant Ranch Upland Restoration	149,872	Wheeler
221-6027	Grant SWCD	Zwegart Irrigation Efficiency Project	113,387	Grant
221-6033	Grant SWCD	Seneca 96 Ranch Enhancements Project Phase I	272,595	Grant

Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin Technical Assistance					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-6036	Gilliam SWCD	Ferry Canyon/Hay Creek Floodplain Analysis and Prioritization	A planning document will be created that prioritizes potential restoration locations along 51 miles of Hay Creek and Ferry Canyon, steelhead tributaries of the lower John Day River.	49,999	Gilliam
221-6034	South Fork John Day WC	John Day Basin Partnership Upland Prioritization	Upland habitat restoration actions, strategies, and locations will be prioritized for the entire John Day River Basin to maximize benefits for native wildlife.	35,805	Grant
221-6038	Sherman SWCD	Lower Grass Valley Canyon Structural Restoration_CLONE	Designs will be developed for streamside and instream restoration on five miles of Lower Grass Valley Canyon Creek, a historic steelhead tributary to the lower John Day River, to improve habitat for native fish and address water quality concerns.	30,000	Sherman
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				115,804	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-6035	Grant SWCD	Upper John Day River Aquifer Management Feasibility Study	75,000	Grant	
221-6037	Grant SWCD	Upper John Day Valley Private Forest Lands Assessment	75,000	Grant	

Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin Stakeholder Engagement					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-6044	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Walla Walla Basin Stakeholder Engagement	Landowners will be engaged to partner in voluntary projects that will improve fish passage, instream and streamside habitat conditions, groundwater levels, surface water flows, and water management in the Walla Walla Basin.	42,080	Umatilla
221-6045	Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA)	Walla Walla River Irrigation District Modernization Stakeholder Engagement	Landowners and water users will be engaged in developing on-the-ground water conservation and management projects within the Walla Walla River Irrigation District.	31,135	Umatilla
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				73,215	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
None					

Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin Monitoring					
Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
221-6042	Gilliam SWCD	Combining Methods to Monitor John Day Steelhead Migration and Overshoot	Steelhead migratory data will be collected to build on a multi-year dataset in the Lower John Day and Columbia River near the John Day mouth to inform future habitat restoration.	203,161	Gilliam
221-6043	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	North Fork Walla Walla River Effectiveness Monitoring	Data will be collected for water temperature, streamflow, turbidity, and streamside vegetative cover to document current conditions prior to future restoration planned for the North Fork Walla Walla River.	25,287	Umatilla
221-6039	South Fork John Day WC	Murderers Creek Mussel Monitoring	Freshwater mussels will be monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of relocating mussels to mitigate impacts from stream restoration projects and to document the effects from the Murderers Creek habitat restoration project on freshwater mussels, their habitat, and their host fish.	182,154	Grant
221-6040	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Hydrological Trend Monitoring in the Walla Walla Basin	Data will be collected to produce accurate and reliable datasets that describe stream flows and water temperature in the Walla Walla River and groundwater levels in the aquifer to inform planning efforts that address flow and water temperature limitations in the basin.	86,954	Umatilla
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				497,556	

Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					

Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
221-6041	Wallowa Resources	John Day Watershed Macroinvertebrates	81,232	Gilliam	

Region 6 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	1,794,077
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Region 1 - 6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board	11,497,994
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Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6021-19606

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Couse Creek at Blue Mountain Station Fish Passage

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$62,774

Total Cost: \$118,171

Application Description

1) Couse Creek is a 14 mile long tributary that enters the main stem Walla Walla River near RM 48.5, south of Milton Freewater, Oregon (see UPLOADS). 2) A two-foot tall concrete irrigation dam located near RM 3 (see UPLOADS) is the last known barrier in the Couse Watershed based on a Watershed Assessment and Aquatic Habitat Inventory conducted for Couse Creek by WWBWC in 2020. The dam creates a half-meter step that greatly exceeds ODFW step height criteria of >6", therefore is out of compliance with established passage criteria. The portion of the creek goes dry below the dam annually and many fish are stranded below the dam and perish under current operational procedures. Removing the impediment will be beneficial allowing fish improved access to 11 miles of suitable habitat in the headwaters and decrease mortality in the lower reaches. The dam removal process is categorized as Medium Risk by project partner BPA 's HIP guidance document and WWBWC requires proof of liability protection insurance (see UPLOAD). Couse Creek is inhabited by steelhead, rainbow/red band trout, and occasionally by bull trout and spring chinook salmon and described in the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan as a Priority Protection Area. The Plan identifies addressing fish passage barriers as a priority action. 3) Dam removal will occur. Grade control measures will be undertaken in the wetted channel via roughened riffle, cross vane strategy. Large boulders will be staggered at strategic areas within the wetted channel profile to provide roughness, complexity and suitable micro pool habitats for migratory salmonids staging in the reach (see UPLOADS). 4) The landowners are supportive of the project, and have signed agreements to allow the removal of the dam (see UPLOADS). WWBWC Project Committee unanimously approved the Couse Creek RM 3 dam removal project. The design process for this project is currently approved and funded by BPA under project #2007-396-00, contract #86499.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Removing this full channel-spanning barrier to fish passage will open access to eleven miles of steelhead habitat, including an upstream critical cold-water refuge, which is a significant ecological benefit.
- The large wood project components designed to stabilize the stream banks will improve water quality by reducing sediment entering the stream and create a few resting pools for fish as they migrate to upstream habitat.
- Couse Creek is a productive stream for summer steelhead spawning and rearing and is also used by bull trout and juvenile Chinook salmon.

- The project is identified in the OWEB-funded Couse Creek Assessment as the last fish barrier left to correct in the Couse Creek system.
- The applicant has a proven track record in successfully implementing complex instream projects.
- BPA, as a major funder, provides a high level of certainty the project is technically sound and will be successfully completed.
- The budget is appropriate and reasonable to remove a two-foot-high concrete barrier to fish passage.

Concerns

- The 30% design provided in the application was revised by BPA engineers after the OWEB application deadline. Removing the concrete structure and associated dam elements is now the main restoration focus, and most of the large wood habitat structures were removed from the project design.
- The submitted budget no longer accurately reflects current project components because of the design changes made by BPA; however, during the virtual site visit, the applicant clarified that BPA agreed to cover any additional costs incurred because of their design revision.
- The application lacks detail about the associated water rights, the location of the POD – both existing and proposed, and how that irrigation right impacts stream flow.

Concluding Analysis

Couse Creek, a tributary to the Walla Walla River, is one of the area's most productive steelhead spawning and rearing streams. The irrigation dam proposed for removal was identified in an OWEB-funded assessment as the last structural barrier to fish moving upstream, especially for juvenile steelhead attempting to reach cooler flows. At the time of OWEB application submittal, 30% designs incorporating both dam removal and habitat features were provided. As part of the phased BPA grant review process, BPA removed most of the habitat features from the project design to encourage fish to move past the project area to the cooler habitat upstream instead of holding in downstream pools that can dry up and cause fish stranding. Ultimately, removing this critical barrier is key to improving steelhead production and reduce mortality and will result in significant ecological benefit.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$62,774

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$62,774

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6022-19562

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: South Fork Fire Grazing Management

Applicant: South Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$117,860

Total Cost: \$499,461

Application Description

This project is located throughout the South Fork John Day River Watershed, replacing allotment pasture fences on the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area (PWSWA) and Prineville BLM, that burned beyond repair during the 2014 South Fork Fire. This fire was over 66,000 acres, and burned in mixed ownership, 8 miles South of Dayville, Oregon. This area is habitat for the Threatened Mid-Columbia Steelhead, including critical habitat for that species and areas where they spawn annually. This area is high value habitat for wildlife as well, including the Murderers Creek Mule Deer Initiative Area, Murderers Creek Wild Horse Territory, Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area, and South Fork John Day Conservation Opportunity Area. 47 miles of the South Fork John Day is designated Wild & Scenic, containing unique wildlife, botanical species, geologic, recreational and scenic values. The South Fork Complex Fire impacted/damaged approximately 55 miles of allotment boundary and pasture fencing. Pastures impacted by the wildfire were rested from livestock grazing for 2-4 years so post fire rehabilitation actions (seeding, spraying weeds and fence repairs) could be completed. The project area includes 4 grazing allotments administered by the Bureau of Land Management and Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area. The burned fences were surveyed to determine exactly how much will need to be repaired. Over the last 6 years, the BLM has accomplished replacing 39 of these 55 miles and permittees have repaired 9 miles. The remaining fence miles are critical to complete because they restrict livestock and wildhorse access to the South Fork John Day, Deer Creek, Cougar Gulch, and Murderers Creek, which are salmon and Steelhead Critical habitat. OWEB funds are being requested to complete construction of the last 7 miles of fence, also removing down fence. Project partners include the ODFW PWSWA, Prineville BLM, and South Fork John Day Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly defines objectives and describes appropriate methods to achieve measurable ecological benefits.
- The project is shovel-ready, with permitting compliance completed for both BLM and ODFW lands.
- The proposed project builds on completed work by installing the remaining seven of 55 miles of pasture fence burned by the South Fork Fire Complex.
- After the South Fork Complex wildfire destroyed fences, livestock and feral horse trespass into riparian areas was evident. Completing this fencing is critical to protect those sensitive areas.

- The fence is designed to use all metal components to withstand future wildfires, increasing the lifespan of the investment.
- Grazing on these units is highly managed and monitored to assure the grasslands are trending upward in both functionality and health.
- The area around Murderers Creek and the South Fork John Day River provides high value habitat for steelhead, Chinook salmon, freshwater mussels, and numerous species of terrestrial wildlife.
- The applicant has high capacity and a proven track record for completing projects, and effectively collaborating with both private and public landowners in the South Fork John Day River Basin.

Concerns

- The budget appears to have standard rates for fencing; however, it is unclear if the estimated rate will cover current costs of fencing in difficult and remote locations or if partners are prepared to cover any shortfall.

Concluding Analysis

In recent years, restoration on both private and public lands in the South Fork John Day Basin has accelerated. The proposed project finishes the last remaining sections of critical livestock fencing in both the ODFW Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area and the neighboring BLM land. The fences will help control the numerous feral horses that roam the area and aid in managing livestock distribution, which increases the control of range utilization and prevents cattle from getting into riparian areas.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$117,860

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$117,860

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6023-19540

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Walla Walla River Forks Floodplain Reconnection and In-stream Enhancement Implementation

Applicant: Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$300,000

Total Cost: \$1,250,382

Application Description

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) is preparing to implement a habitat restoration project on the Walla Walla River at the confluence of the North and South Fork Walla Walla Rivers. The project area is approximately 5 miles SE of Milton-Freewater, OR in Umatilla County, OR. The project site includes approximately 1,600 feet of the mainstem Walla Walla River, downstream of the confluence; 1,600 feet of the North Fork channel upstream of the confluence; and 800 feet of the South Fork channel upstream of the confluence. The project reach lacks important salmonid habitat including large wood, pools, and low velocity environments. Various site constraints exist along the North Fork, South Fork, and mainstem Walla Walla River, which limit floodplain connectivity and contribute to lack of geomorphic complexity. This project will reconnect the relict channels by removing strategic portions of the mainstem levee, add habitat complexity with the addition of large wood structures, and improve two irrigation diversions, one on the North Fork which acts as a fish passage barrier during low flows and one on the mainstem which can cause juvenile fish entrainment due to the fish bypass pipe becoming disconnected from the mainstem post flood. This project incorporates the primary touchstones described in the 2008 Umatilla River Vision (Jones et al. 2008) while addressing limiting factors identified by other regional plans. CTUIR has partnered with the four private landowners and BPA for the design and implementation of this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides clear objectives and detail about project components needed for a comprehensive project review.
- The design submitted with the application is well-thought out and incorporates features to withstand the Walla Walla River's flashy nature and significant bedload movement.
- The locations and number of log structures will provide significant aquatic habitat for steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout.
- Historic habitat in side channels will again be utilized, once opened to stream flow.
- Allowing high flows to access the floodplain helps to reduce water velocity and the erosive nature of this river on the project reach and extending downstream.
- The project addresses limiting factors, including water quality and degraded habitat, identified in numerous assessments and regional plans listed in the application.

- The applicant will continue to monitor the site and adjust restored stream features based on impacts by future flows.
- The budget provides significant detail that aligns with the project components discussed in the narrative.

Concerns

- The application for moving the point of diversion (POD) has been initiated but is not very far along in the process. This may impact the project timeline if the transfer is complicated.
- The diversions, especially the one on the North Fork Walla Walla River, may need continued maintenance resulting from significant bedload movement characteristic of this river.
- The designs for the South Fork diversion do not include a head gate, which is critical for managing water use and preventing bedload from entering the irrigation ditch system.

Concluding Analysis

The Walla Walla River has a history of erosive, flashy flood events. The river has shown its power at the confluence of the North and South Forks by recreating channels, taking out old cottonwood groves and severely eroding banks. The proposed complex restoration design will use that power to reengage historic floodplains, open new fish habitat and disburse energy across a broader surface area. Also, improving two irrigation diversions by moving and enhancing delivery mechanisms assure fish continue to have upstream passage accessing cooler habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$300,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$300,000

Staff Conditions

POD transfer application(s) must be included with the first fund request; final transfer paperwork shall be provided with the final PISR.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6024-19502

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lost Fawn Meadow and Spring Enhancements

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$111,627

Total Cost: \$208,284

Application Description

1) This project is located on the Longview Ranch in the upper Rudio Creek (HUC 12 -170702021005) and Johnny Creek (HUC_12-170702011402) watersheds near the town of Kimberly in Grant County, Oregon. The proposed project area encompasses the upper ~1 mile of Lost Fawn Creek and ~.45 miles of Johnny Creek.2) Lost Fawn Creek is a tributary to Rudio Creek which provides spawning and rearing habitat for both Chinook salmon and ESA listed Mid-Columbia River steelhead. Johnny Creek is a tributary to the John Day River and is listed as a rearing and migration stream. Both streams are hindered by up to 7 limiting factors throughout most of the listed fish bearing habitat (CTWS 2014). Lost Fawn Creek and Johnny Creek contain historic wet meadows and headwater springs that provide critical upland water sources to both watersheds. However, past management activities have resulted in overstocked forest stands, overgrazing, streambank erosion, noxious weed spread and degraded meadow conditions in both upland and riparian areas of these headwater drainages.3) This project aims to improve wet meadow habitat and upland process and function across ~720 acres of the Lost Fawn Creek and Johnny Creek drainages through the following actions:- Noxious weed assessment and herbicide treatments - Broadcast seeding with a native/introduced grass/forb mix.- An Integrated grazing management approach involving a 1 year livestock exclusion period and rotational placement of salt licks.- Exclusion fencing around an existing aspen stand - Seeding/vegetation monitoring.4) Monument SWCD, Longview Ranch, OWEB

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The ranch is contributing to the proposed work, indicating a vested interest in the project being successful.
- The budget provides sufficient detail to review project costs.

Concerns

- The monitoring project component is unclear both in the utilization of game cameras to monitor grass growth, and how monitoring data will inform effectiveness in the long term.
- The application lacks detail on how the wet meadows and riparian areas will be protected from livestock grazing. Without fencing to protect stream banks, it is unclear how stream bank erosion concerns will be addressed.

- The wet meadow treatment is likely to have limited success because the seeding mix does not include appropriate native wet meadow species; however, on the virtual site visit, the applicant stated the seed company recommended including non-native seed to quickly establish plants and outcompete invasive weeds.
- Photos in the application show sites occupied by grass, but the application lacks an explanation describing what grass species exist on the project site. If these are native grass stands, more detail is needed to evaluate the restoration approach. For example, how will the seeding and harrowing component impact the established stand? If there are invasive annuals, how will site prep be handled to maximize a successful seeding?
- The project site, as shown in photos, may be challenging to harrow because of the numerous rock outcroppings and debris that may inhibit successful soil to seed contact and damage equipment. More information is needed to evaluate the likelihood of success for the selected methodology.
- The project addresses symptoms rather than causes of watershed degradation affecting the wet meadows and riparian corridor ecosystems.
- The ecological benefits from the proposed project will be limited due to the lack of riparian fencing or some other recognized method of exclusion and without riparian planting. The application includes an explanation indicating that fencing would not prevent Corriente cattle from accessing the riparian zone. It is unclear if fencing alternatives were considered.
- The application overstates fish use on the streams within the project footprint. More detail is needed to explain how benefits from this project site extend to downstream reaches.
- The buck and pole fencing design does not appear to allow any expansion of the aspen clone.

Concluding Analysis

The application lacks enough detail to evaluate the project and determine the likelihood of success in achieving the identified ecological benefits.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6025-19585

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Quant Ranch Upland Restoration

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$149,872

Total Cost: \$220,482

Application Description

1) This project is located in the Service Creek - John Day River watershed approximately 17 miles North of the town of Mitchell in Wheeler County. 2) Western Juniper encroachment has increased over the years due to historic wildfire suppression creating both a water quality and quantity concern. Between the loss of native vegetation and forage yields this has resulted in degraded wildlife habitat lacking in food and cover. 3) This project seeks to reduce the negative impacts Western Juniper imposes on the watershed functions by mechanically cutting and piling 157 acres, hand cutting 312 acres, enrolling 40.8 acres of a tributary to Girds Creek into CREP, treat 7 acres of invasive weeds, and provide off-site stockwater in 6 locations, including a pumping plant into a well. 4) Project partners include the USDA Farm Service Agency, Wheeler SWCD, and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes detailed maps and photos with descriptive captions, which is useful in reviewing the project objectives.
- Removing encroaching juniper has proven upland benefits, such as improving grassland species, reducing erosion, and increasing infiltration of rainfall.
- The budget provides significant line-item detail.

Concerns

- The project has low ecological return for the requested investment. The extent of ecological benefits resulting from fencing off an ephemeral gully are unclear, and if any benefit will extend downslope to where this gully connects with the creek.
- The objective related to riparian restoration may be overstated since Girds Creek, as the major and perhaps the only perennial stream in the area, is not included in the restoration footprint.
- The application did not reference any change in grazing management nor strategies to address the resource concerns this project proposes to resolve.
- Wildlife is noted as benefitting from the restoration, yet there is no clear link to the objectives. Consulting a wildlife expert as the proposal is developed would provide added detail useful in the review.
- Steelhead use in Girds Creek is questionable because of numerous barriers, including significant jump height barriers and dry reaches disrupting habitat connectivity.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is likely to provide upland ecological benefits by removing juniper and developing springs as upland water sources. The application, however, lacks information needed to evaluate the likelihood of success for the riparian component and to better understand the cost benefit of this work to the watershed.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6026-19580

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Swale Creek Allotment Fencing

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Morrow

OWEB Request: \$132,854

Total Cost: \$167,497

Application Description

1) This project will take place on the Swale Creek Grazing Allotment in the Heppner Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest. The project area encompasses portions of Swale, Alder, Ditch, Bear and Little Bear Creeks within the Potamus and Wall Creek subwatersheds. 2) Electric fencing within the Swale Creek Allotment has been part of the livestock management for the allotment since the late 1990's. Currently, creeks within the allotment are protected by seasonal electric fences. During the grazing period electric fences can occasionally malfunction allowing livestock access to designated critical habitat for ESA listed Mid-Columbia summer steelhead. Permanent fencing will be more effective at keeping cattle out of sensitive areas and protecting the existing, robust riparian vegetation facilitated by over two decades of the electric fence program while reducing the long-term costs. 3) This project seeks to install approximately 6.5 miles of permanent 3 and/or 4 strand barbwire fences along 5 creeks in the Swale Creek Grazing Allotment. Permanent fencing aims to exclude cattle from sensitive riparian areas as well as to completely exclude Swale Meadows, a wet meadow along Swale Creek. The creeks to be protected by fencing are all known steelhead and chinook rearing streams with existing, robust riparian vegetation. 4) This is a cooperative effort between the North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), the Heppner Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest (UNF) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). NFJDWC will provide project coordination, UNF will provide technical assistance and materials, and ODFW will provide technical assistance, project oversight and materials. This project represents an opportunity for strong collaboration between a federal, state, and nonprofit entity .

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Replacing temporary electric fence with permanent fencing provides resiliency and long-term protection of significant natural resources and habitat for multiple species.
- The project is technically sound, and the application included objectives likely to lead to restoration with ecological value.
- The fencing design incorporates consideration of the challenges associated with heavy snow load and safe wildlife passage.
- Swale Creek is an important cold-water tributary for steelhead and provides water quality benefits to other water courses downstream that provide habitat for juvenile chinook salmon.
- Habitat, within the existing exclusion, is on an upward trend and this pro-active project assures that habitat remains on that positive restorative trajectory.

- Exclusion fencing and protecting the entire meadow system provides numerous habitat and water quality benefits, as noted in the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Restoration Strategy Plan.
- Public partnerships in the project are demonstrated in the application by letters of support.
- The permittee has a successful track record of maintaining fence integrity and managing livestock through a restorative lens in this remote location.
- The watershed council has the capacity and proven track record implementing similar restoration projects.

Concerns

- The application lacks significant detail describing other restoration work implemented in the Swale Creek area, such as the work in the meadows to aggrade channel incision.
- The applicant is encouraged to engage in conversations with the USFS about decommissioning the road through the meadow to reduce vector opportunities for weeds, eliminate ruts, mud, and sediment during wet seasons, and prevent the increased potential for trespass livestock with road gates being left open.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is another example of collaboration to expand the restoration footprint in public lands. This project is identified as an USFS priority to continue to protect and enhance sensitive riparian and wet meadow areas, while maintaining adjacent grazing use for the permittee. By working with the local watershed council to oversee the project and pursue funding, the USFS is assured the project will be successfully implemented.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$132,854

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$132,854

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6027-19576

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Zwegart Irrigation Efficiency Project

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$113,387

Total Cost: \$155,134

Application Description

This project seeks funding support to purchase and install a total of 19950 feet of 6" Gated PVC pipe: The project involves two ditches located on the property: Roberts Creek Ditch and Graham Creek Ditch; both divert water from the named creeks and are steelhead bearing tributaries of the John Day River. The Zwegardt family has begun installing and using gated pipes to control irrigation on Graham Creek Ditch along the small irrigation ditches on his property; this proposal seeks cost share funding to continue the effort along the Roberts Creek Ditch. This project will greatly improve efficiency and reduce erosion. Roberts Creek Ditch has been the subject of a project of the district previously to implement proper fish passage and efficiency. The current systems include open delivery and irrigation ditches, these ditches are causing inefficiency from two needs: a) The first major need to control water volume. Without control over how much water and where the water is being placed at any given time, this contributes to increased erosion. b) The second need is to reduce maintenance of the ditches. With the small irrigation ditches, the landowner has to clean out or regrade these ditches which also contributed to erosion and sediment in the lower ditches that then drain into the upper mainstem of the John Day. The proposed work includes: a) Site preparation, which includes regrading the area to allow for the piping to operate properly and stay in place' b) Installation of 6" gated PVC pipe and c) System management to meet program objectives. The project partners include landowner and operator Lance Zwegardt, landowner Tobe Zwegardt, the Grant Soil, and Water Conservation District, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project objectives include reducing erosion and improving irrigation efficiencies.
- The landowner has already installed and is effectively using several sections of gated pipe.

Concerns

- It is unclear what the water right is for the irrigated fields, and how much water will be distributed through the gated pipe. Documentation that these fields are the legal areas for irrigation water use would be beneficial to the review process in determining the likelihood of successful implementation.
- The application lacks an irrigation management plan providing critical detail on irrigation sets, timing of return, crops, and soils needed to evaluate project technical soundness.

- It is unclear how this investment will result in the ecological benefits of reduced erosion and improved water quality due to the distance to the streams from the project site.
- The application lacks designs, which are needed to assess technical aspects or efficiencies that could be realized by the project.
- Extensive use of gated pipe is proposed for a large area; more detail is necessary to determine if this approach is technically feasible based on the water right, distance, and landform. The proposed approach will require substantial management and expense.
- The application lacks detail explaining how gated pipe on the steepest sections will reduce erosion. It is unclear if existing irrigation ditches will be filled in, or if they will still convey the water to the gated pipe sections, and how the water will get from the ditch to the pipe.
- The contributions to improved fish passage are overstated in the application. None of the stated objectives or actions relate to fish passage. Additionally, there is no fish screen on Graham Creek, and it is not clear if there is a headgate or other method of control for measuring the water right.
- The project property is within the NRCS focus area, but it is unclear from the application whether NRCS is engaged as a partner to help offset cost and provide critical technical input on irrigation systems.
- With the recent increase in pipe costs, the budget may not be sufficient to complete the project.
- Alternatives are described in the application; however, cost is the only identified limiting factor in considering other more efficient irrigation delivery systems.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project has unclear ecological benefit due to the lack of designs or detail needed to determine technical feasibility and watershed benefit for the cost.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6028-19494 **Project Type:** Restoration
Project Name: Hole In The Ground Upland Health
Applicant: South Fork John Day WC
Region: Mid Columbia **County:** Grant
OWEB Request: \$167,960 **Total Cost:** \$223,999

Application Description

The area known as Hole in the Ground is located on the Izee Ranch, in Grant County, Oregon. This area has been selected based upon its high wildlife habitat value, and previously funded OWEB Technical Assistance grant for Aspen Inventory, and Juniper Prioritization. The landowner has also enrolled this area in the South Fork John Day Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), based upon its high priority Juniper ranking, and upland water source development. Hole in the Ground ties together 3 different completed upland water, Juniper, and aspen protection projects funded through OWEB, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. The Izee Ranch has also completed a large scale effort to boost the bitterbrush and perennial grass population by reducing the sagebrush through timing herbicide application to target sagebrush and not harm bitterbrush. We are requesting support from OWEB in order to match the Juniper removal and water development under RCPP, removing an additional 400 acres of Juniper, and protect the 3 aspen stands within the project area using Buck and Pole Fencing and conifer removal. Project partners will include; NRCS, Izee Ranch, and SFJDWC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes comprehensive ecological site descriptions that provide a clear assessment of the property conditions, habitat, aspect, and slope.
- Clear objectives are provided with reasonable actions to achieve them.
- This is a technically sound juniper removal and aspen enhancement project with appropriate ecological benefits described.
- Treating the juniper while it is still small is both efficient and protects existing shrub and grass communities from becoming degraded by encroaching juniper competition.
- The project area has a tremendous bitterbrush community, which provides significant feed that mule deer and elk depend on in the winter, but that is not fire resistant. The application proposes an alternative to prescribed fire for removing phase one juniper.
- NRCS RCPP funds will be leveraged to expand the restoration footprint and multiply the benefits of the project.
- A landscape approach will be used to control juniper by working on parcels adjacent to previously cleared lands and lands to be treated using matching RCPP funds.
- The aspen colonies targeted for restoration were identified from an OWEB-funded technical assistance grant for the SFJDB Aspen Inventory.

- The applicant has a proven track record of implementing similar projects and continues to improve their restoration approach by incorporating lessons learned from previous projects.
- The landowner participated on the site visit, providing context, and indicating commitment to long-term success of the project.
- The budget provides sufficient detail, is reasonable and aligns with current costs for juniper removal work.

Concerns

- Plans for long-term stewardship to prevent juniper from re-establishing are unclear and will be challenging due to the large size of the ranch and the large number of acres where juniper has been removed.
- It is unclear from the application whether ODFW wildlife biologists were consulted during proposal development. The project site is located in the ODFW Mule Deer Initiative area and ODFW expertise could be beneficial to the project design.
- No letters of support are provided in the application indicating appropriate partners will be engaged in the project, such as ODFW to integrate potential wildlife benefits.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is a result of two OWEB-funded technical assistance projects. One project identified and prioritized aspen communities and the second project assessed and identified areas for juniper treatment that will provide the highest ecological benefit. The landowner is committed to maintaining restoration investments by annually fixing buck and pole fences around aspen clones, keeping spring developments working as designed, and continually expanding juniper removal efforts. The area provides critical mule deer and elk winter habitat in the Izee area, where winters can prove challenging to wildlife.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$167,960

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$167,960

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6029-19639

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Nelson Creek Forest Restoration

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$169,835

Total Cost: \$268,797

Application Description

1) This project is located in the Bridge Creek Watershed, near where Nelson Creek leaves the Ochoco National Forest and enters privately owned property, approximately 2 miles South of the town of Mitchell Oregon, in Wheeler County. 2) Historic logging practices and increased fire suppression has led to the over-stocking of timber stands and allowed for the expansion of invasive Western Juniper. This has resulted in a forest setting that is highly vulnerable to disease and infestations, with large fuel loads that increase the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Additionally, historic grazing practices have resulted in a nearby riparian area being nearly void of any woody species. 3) This project seeks to thin stands of Ponderosa Pine back to healthy density, eradicate all Western Juniper, restore the riparian area through the USDA/FSA's CREP program, and develop two springs for stockwater use. 4) Project partners include the USDA Farm Service Agency, OWEB, Wheeler SWCD, and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes maps that provide helpful context to the project review.
- From the photos provided, the site clearly needs a reduction in overstocked conifers, and the application is clear in both the stated objectives and the actions to achieve those goals.
- The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) will be used to install the buffer, increasing the ecological benefit of the project to include stream function and riparian improvement.
- The seeding component follows reasonable protocols using a range drill, improving germination success by increasing soil to seed contact.
- Nelson Creek is incised and will benefit from removing livestock from the riparian zone and increasing the numbers and diversity of native riparian vegetation.
- When appropriate, junipers will be felled into the channel to increase complexity and capture sediment to help aggrade the stream channel.
- The project builds on other juniper projects completed on the ranch and the adjacent BLM property.
- Removing juniper will provide water quality benefits downstream once perennial grass stands are established that will reduce erosion and increase the infiltration of rainfall.
- Landowner commitment to the project is demonstrated through match contribution.
- The project costs are reasonable based on the project components listed in the application.

Concerns

- It is unclear from the application whether the spring sources will be protected by fencing.
- Fisheries benefits are overstated in the application. While steelhead may have historically used Nelson Creek, fish access is currently blocked by a head cut barrier downstream.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan is referenced but additional detail on how this project fits in with the plan would be useful to evaluate technical soundness and watershed context.

Concluding Analysis

White Butte Ranch has a history of restoration, and this project expands on those efforts to increase multiple ecological benefits. Pairing with the Farm Bill Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to fence, plant and protect Nelson Creek is a first step in improving ecological function and potentially bringing fish back to the system. The forest thinning and strategic spring developments will aid in improved grassland health and livestock distribution, reduce watershed damage from future wildfires, and potentially increase stream flows.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

4 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$169,835

Review Team Conditions

Spring sources will be required to be protected by fencing.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$169,835

Staff Conditions

Spring sources will be required to be protected by fencing.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6030-19495

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Widows Creek Ranch Upland Health

Applicant: South Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$65,118

Total Cost: \$134,418

Application Description

The Widows Creek Ranch is located halfway between Mt. Vernon, and Dayville on the Upper Mainstem John Day River, in Grant County, Oregon. The Ranch has been very active in restoration efforts, fencing riparian areas, clearing Juniper, developing upland water, working on forest health, and strategically grazing livestock. They are seeking assistance to enhance, protect, and develop upland water, to draw livestock away from sensitive riparian habitats along Widows Creek, Bridge Creek (Steelhead Critical Habitat), Grouse Creek, and Dry Creek (Redband bearing streams). The Ranch has enrolled all of these streams in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), with NRCS. We are requesting funding to protect and develop 7 upland water sources, 1 acre of Aspen, and cut and pile 60 acres of Juniper. Project partners include the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, NRCS/Farm Services Agency, and Widows Creek Ranch.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous application evaluation concerns are addressed.
- Livestock will be dispersed across the ranch by strategically locating water sources, which will take pressure away from sensitive ecosystems.
- Widows Creek is a priority stream for spawning and rearing steelhead, and for juvenile Chinook seeking cooler flows.
- Most of the proposed project work will focus on tributaries of Widows Creek and the ecological benefits of cooler and cleaner flows from those tributaries continuing downstream.
- During the virtual site visit, the landowner clarified the restoration activities he has completed, and his vision for future improvements to fish and wildlife habitat on the ranch.
- The budget is appropriate based on the project elements and provides details and justification necessary for evaluating the project cost effectiveness.
- The cost of the project is reasonable for the resulting ecological benefits.

Concerns

- Maps showing locations of water developments in relation to pasture fences and ranch grazing strategies would help to better understand the potential project benefits.

- The large uploads are confusing and do not add value for understanding the proposed project. To help navigate information in uploads, the applicant is encouraged to include a cover letter as a part of each upload that explains what the uploaded document is and why it is pertinent to the project; then reference specific details by the document name and page number in the application narrative.
- The aspen protection fence focuses on excluding only livestock and is not designed to deter wildlife from browse. It is unclear from the application whether there are plans to address wildlife browse if it becomes a problem to long-term stewardship of this restoration investment.

Concluding Analysis

The Widows Creek Ranch has a history of restoration across a large landscape. All perennial streams on the ranch are now enrolled in CREP, protecting the riparian areas from livestock. This project builds on those efforts by providing upland water developments to benefit both wildlife and livestock, removing priority juniper to help improve the hydrologic function on upslope aspects, and fencing to protect sensitive aspen habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$65,118

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$65,118

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6031-19534

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Camp Creek Targeted Restoration

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$87,950

Total Cost: \$112,003

Application Description

1) This Project is located on the east side of the upper Camp Creek in NW Grant County, approximately 13 miles south of Monument, Oregon. 2) Camp Creek provides rearing and migration habitat for salmonids and flows into the Cottonwood/Fox Creek drainage ~1.5 stream miles below the opening to Fox Valley. Cottonwood Creek is a critical spawning and rearing tributary for ESA listed (Threatened) Middle-Columbia River steelhead that drains into the NF John Day River. Monument SWCD's Cottonwood Creek Focus Area Action Plan has identified the Camp Creek drainage as likely to adversely affect water quality through the Water Quality Land Condition Assessment with western juniper encroachment being a contributing factor. Fire suppression and climate change have resulted in juniper encroachment across much of eastern Oregon. Studies show juniper removal to result in greater water quantity, quality and spring flow while also benefitting wildlife habitat and rangeland health (Ochoa et al 2018). Approximately 1/3 of the proposed project area approaches or exceeds 30% juniper canopy cover and contains at least 4 springs that could benefit water quantity and quality with a targeted juniper removal effort. Furthermore, the juniper removal and associated monitoring in this project would expand the watershed-scale benefits of adjacent projects and inform future restoration related to upland function and catchment flow regimes. 3) This project will see to 5 primary objectives:- hand cut, pile and burn 247 acres of western juniper - Re-seed burn pile areas and spring sites with a native grass and forb mix.- Monitor stream flow and temperature prior to treatment and continuing for two years following juniper removal- Monitor vegetation growth at selected re-seeding areas.- A flow monitoring results comparison of this targeted juniper removal vs. the landscape-scale Boag Creek juniper removal (OWEB 219-6003). 4) Monument SWCD, Vaughn Ranches, CTWS and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes a grazing management strategy plan and a long-term juniper management plan, helping to assure the investment will be sustained into the future.
- The objectives and actions provide sufficient detail to evaluate the project.
- The project is within the SWCD's ODA Focus Area and will address many of the priority concerns identified in the Camp Creek watershed.
- The proposed project builds on other restoration activities done in this watershed and on the landowner's property, expanding on the ecological benefits accrued across the landscape.

- The detailed budget provides a breakdown of specific costs which help to assess whether costs are reasonable and necessary for the proposed work.
- Using a game camera is an innovative way to monitor stream flow in remote locations and may prove useful in monitoring other projects in the future.

Concerns

- More detail on the specific phases of the juniper stands identified for treatment is needed to understand the extent of the ecological benefits and assess reasonable costs for the proposed project. Juniper treatments are identified by percent cover, which does not fully describe the site conditions of the proposed treatment areas.
- Although a grazing management strategy is provided with the application, it lacks details to determine whether the grazing schedule will allow sufficient time for the seeding to establish.
- It is unclear how the target ecosystems will be protected without including in the project design exclusion fencing around the meadow or the riparian zones; without those protections ecological benefit of the investment may be compromised.
- The monitoring component may not answer the project effectiveness question in such a short time frame.

Concluding Analysis

The project, located on land adjacent to a previous restoration project on the same landowners' property, will remove juniper with the goal of improving wet meadow and riparian habitats and potentially increase flows to Camp Creek, a significant tributary to Cottonwood Creek. The ecological benefits from the proposed restoration actions, however, are uncertain if riparian and wet meadow habitats are not protected by fencing or an accepted alternative. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to explain strategies for how livestock management will serve to increase the health of wet meadow and riparian ecosystems.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$87,950

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6032-19581

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Middle Alder Creek Watershed Improvement 1

Applicant: Bridge Creek WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$91,101

Total Cost: \$121,477

Application Description

The Alder Creek watershed is a smaller watershed within the LJD-Kahler Creek HUC in north central 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 339 acres of western juniper, treat 34 acres of weeds, primarily medusahead, reseed 34 acres and develop five springs for off-channel water sources. Partners include OWEB, NRCS, Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council and the two private landowners in the watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes both a grazing management plan and long-term juniper management plan, indicating the investment will likely be maintained into the future on this technically sound project.
- NRCS consulted on the seed mix that will establish a grass base to outcompete any invasive annual grass species onsite and ensure future plant succession that provides native perennials the opportunity to become established.
- ODFW identifies Alder Creek as a productive steelhead stream for spawning and rearing.
- Ecological benefits resulting from the proposed project will be leveraged to a broader, landscape scale because NRCS and the Umatilla National Forest are completing similar restoration projects on both public and private land.
- Photos provided in the application show perennial grass stands present under the existing junipers, indicating the land has not “tipped over” into a degraded condition, making the restoration efforts more likely to be successful.
- The applicant has a proven track record of accomplishing similar types of restoration in the basin.
- The budget uses NRCS rates for treatments, an established method of estimating costs, leverages partner funds, and appears reasonable based on the project objectives and components.

Concerns

- The application has minor inconsistencies in the number of landowners involved. Clarification provided during the virtual site visit indicated that one landowner dropped out of the project just before the application submittal deadline and the narrative was not updated to remove those components. The budget and metrics, however, were corrected and accurately reflect the project.

- It is difficult to determine whether the landowners or restoration stakeholders in the basin support the project without letters of support in the application.

Concluding Analysis

The project goals focus on treating invasive juniper and degraded forest health across the watershed to address altered hydrology, degraded water quality, and imbalanced sediment processes. The project is the fourth proposal resulting from an outreach collaboration with NRCS to solicit restoration in this watershed; the other three OWEB projects are either in implementation or monitoring stages.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$91,101

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$91,101

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6033-19629

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Seneca 96 Ranch Enhancements
Project Phase I

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$272,595

Total Cost: \$680,588

Application Description

The Seneca 96 Ranch Enhancements include multiple existing pastures. The Seneca 96 Ranch is located in Bear Valley, which is north of Seneca Oregon (18 road miles), and west of Highway 395. The project addresses a need to decrease erosion and livestock pressure along Jack Creek, Scotty Creek, and Little Scotty Creek, which are habitats for Interior Redband trout, a sensitive species on the Malheur National Forest and within the Harney Basin Watershed. Jack, Scotty, and Little Scotty creeks run year-round; the others are seasonal. It also addresses a need to improve water quality, absorption, and reduce fire fuels of the ground in timberland which has been recently harvested/thinned. The installation of seven wells, stock water systems, new fencing, and seeding are proposed to better distribute livestock within the pastures of the Seneca 96 Ranch and allow the development of smaller pastures for rotational grazing. The combination of cross fences and upland water will allow the landowner to better manage the number of livestock that will be in the creeks for water by either making smaller pastures, so there are fewer cattle, or by providing additional water sources to create new pastures and direct livestock away from creeks. By reseeding the otherwise bare ground in the recently harvested/thinned forest ground and redeveloping the understory, the water would not erode the soil and would be uptaken by the ground whilst providing higher quality forage for livestock and wildlife. It also provides a healthier and cleaner forest floor that can compete against invasives species especially annual grasses that provide additional fire fuels. All project partners would include Seneca 96 Ranch's owners Layne and Brent Jackson, the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- According to ODFW, the ranch has red-band trout habitat within its borders.
- The landowner is relatively new to ranching in this area and is enthusiastic about improving habitat conditions on the ranch.
- The applicant has a proven track record for successfully implementing similar projects.
- Significant secured match from the landowner indicates they have a vested interest in the project and increases the likelihood the project will successfully be completed.

Concerns

- The ecological value of this restoration investment is unclear because the application lacks detail describing current site conditions, the wildlife and fish species that use the property and future habitat conditions likely to result from the project.
- It is challenging to evaluate technical soundness due to the lack of designs for the wells, solar systems, and other technical components.
- More detail on the aerial seeding approach is needed to assess the likelihood of establishing a successful grass stand. For example, detail describing prior success using this method or an explanation on how seed will penetrate the pine needle duff would be helpful to understand the approach.
- Without fencing off the streams on the ranch, any grazing during the hot season is likely to negatively impact the condition of both the riparian zone and the stream channel itself.
- The photos supplied with the application indicate riparian and stream conditions are in a degraded state; the application lacks proposed strategies to target and restore these sensitive ecosystems.
- Ecological benefits resulting from this project are minimally described and not fully developed in the application.
- There is no back up plan if the wells result in dry holes or do not provide sufficient flow for the numerous troughs.
- Alternatives discussed in the application focus only on seeding or springs and do not include alternatives to the numerous wells proposed, such as, combining some of the wells and using one or fewer pumps and a series of cisterns to minimize overall cost and achieve the same results.
- It is unclear from the application how constructing well houses in pasture settings is necessary in achieving the proposed ecological benefits from this project.

Concluding Analysis

The landowner has demonstrated commitment to pursuing restoration on the ranch property; however, the proposed project may not be ready for implementation. The application lacks details necessary to evaluate the likelihood that the project will produce significant ecological benefits to fish and wildlife habitat, or to water quality improvements. If resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address the concerns noted above.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6034-19591

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: John Day Basin Partnership Upland Prioritization

Applicant: South Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$35,805

Total Cost: \$64,485

Application Description

The 8,100 square mile John Day River Basin is one of the most important undammed river systems in the West and hosts two of the last remaining intact wild anadromous fish populations in the Columbia River System. ESA listed Middle Columbia summer steelhead and spring run Chinook salmon, in the Columbia River System. The John Day Basin Partnership (Partnership or JDBP) currently consists of 30 organizations who are implementing an action plan to increase the pace, scale, and impact of watershed restoration in the John Day Basin. Per the JDBP's Strategic Action Plan (SAP), watershed restoration is viewed as a ridgetop-to-ridgetop effort. Due to the size and variety of landscapes in the John Day, upland habitat restoration is traditionally implemented opportunistically as resource or agricultural needs arise. This project proposes to develop an 'Upland Prioritization Framework' to serve as a road map for organizations & land managers to identify priority restoration actions and project locations to implement conservation practices. This technical assistance project will build off of work completed by the GIS Specialist funded through that grant and shift its focus to the uplands prioritization process. The project partners include all partners within the Partnership. Members of the JDBP Technical Working Group include: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Gilliam SWCD, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Sustainable Northwest (SNW), North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC), and Morrow SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application presents a clear pathway to future restoration with significant ecological benefits resulting from the proposed high-elevation assessment focusing on native terrestrial wildlife and plant communities.
- The application describes a comprehensive effort, addressing priorities in the upland portions of the John Day Basin using a well-developed and proven strategy to evaluate ecological factors.
- The proposal complements the work the John Day Basin Partnership accomplished using the Atlas process to prioritize instream, riparian, and floodplain ecosystems for the entire basin. When completed, a true ridgetop-to-ridgetop restoration tool will be available for use in implementing the John Day Basin Partnership Strategic Action Plan.
- Multiple partners in the project, including tribes, state and federal agencies, SWCDs, watershed councils, and NGOs, indicate the project team has both the technical capability and the expertise necessary to successfully complete the project.

- Considering the size of the John Day Basin, the cost is reasonable to hire a contractor to assist in the process.
- Efficiencies and lessons learned from the previous process for prioritizing aquatic habitat are incorporated into this effort and will feed into the existing John Day Basin GIS Data Directory.
- The information gleaned from the process will be available to the entire John Day Basin Partnership, an organization of over 30 stakeholders, as well as to the public via multiple avenues through the partnership's JDBP Project Tracker website.

Concerns

- The application lacks detail describing the ranking criteria that will be used to prioritize future upland habitat restoration.
- Utilizing the Atlas Prioritization Framework to prioritize upland restoration may be experimental because the Atlas process is designed for streams.

Concluding Analysis

The John Day Basin Partnership is taking next steps to achieve the goals set out in their Strategic Action Plan by completing an initial analysis of restoration potential of upland ecosystems. Using experience gained through the Atlas process to identify aquatic priorities for restoration, the proposal focuses on both native terrestrial wildlife and plant communities from the toe of the floodplain to the ridgeline across the 5.2 million acres of the John Day Basin. This high-elevation process is a critical first step for identifying opportunities based on limiting factors and potential ecological uplift.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$35,805

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$35,805

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6035-19554

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper John Day River Aquifer Management Feasibility Study

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$583,212

Application Description

Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) derives that the stream systems and groundwater aquifers within Grant County, Oregon are primarily charged by winter precipitation in the form of snow. This seasonal fluctuation in precipitation creates an uneven stream flow discharge which peaks in the spring and is lowest during the summer months when irrigation and aquatic species needs are at their highest level. The unique ecological characteristics of the John Day River Basin further limit viable application of surface water storage impoundments to address this water availability imbalance. This proposal seek funds to cost share with an OWRD Feasibility Grant to assess, prioritize, and locate groundwater aquifer recharge and recovery projects within the Upper Mainstem John Day River Basin to benefit summer stream flows. The project will undertake the specific application of an Airborne Electromagnetic Method (AEM) survey to create a 3D hydrogeologic framework for the selected area to supplement and correlate existing hydrogeologic and borehole data resources to forecast aquifer characteristics, groundwater flow paths, potential recharge areas, and calculate water storage capacity. The AEM findings will be incorporated into a weighted suitability analysis with existing applicable data sets and appraised for localized limiting factors to identify most desirable groundwater recharge and recovery projects. Once identified, additional funding and partnership networks will be developed to support the implementation of pilot projects dedicated to addressing critical flows needs. Successful performance of these introductory projects will inform the creation of an ongoing aquifer management program to be managed by the project sponsor, Grant Soil and Water Conservation District (District). Along with the District, project partners include Bureau of Reclamation Technical Services, along with OWRD and pending OWEB grant resources.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides clear objectives laid out in a logical sequence.
- The product will prioritize projects and aid in obtaining implementation funds.
- Airborne Electromagnetic Method (AEM) is a technically sound approach to get data suitable to identify both aquifer recharge (AR) and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) project sites.
- The applicant has a proven track record for successfully leading and completing complex projects and is partnering with Bureau of Reclamation technical staff to assist with the aquifer framework model and analysis.

- The project cost is efficient for the proposed work.

Concerns

- More information on the mechanics of ASR and how it will be used in the upper John Day Basin is needed to clarify the scope and ecological benefits expected from resulting projects.
- Detail on how or if surface flow water rights can be legally protected by utilizing ASR for irrigation demands is missing from the application. That information is critical to evaluate the ecological benefits resulting from the project.
- It is unclear what percentage of water rights in the upper basin are senior, what volume (cfs) those rights entail, and how far downstream flows will potentially be protected before coming to an older water right. Including these details will help determine whether future restoration projects will result in significant ecological benefit.
- It is unclear from the application if this model could also inform whether the possibility of using wells in the upper basin for irrigation could be an alternative to offset surface water use.
- The ranking criteria and analysis for project prioritization is unclear.
- The level of collaboration with basin partners in the prioritization process, such as ODFW, is unclear in the application.
- The application lacked information about outreach with landowners in the upper basin, if any has been initiated about this project or how communication with the public, before and during the flight, will be handled.
- More detail is needed on the different kinds of restoration that will result from this analysis to evaluate technical soundness. The application named AR, ASR, and irrigation efficiency as potential projects but did not provide detail on how those types of projects translate into protected instream flows or significant ecological benefit.

Concluding Analysis

The upper John Day River limiting factors include diminished flows and high stream temperatures. This innovative modeling using Airborne Electromagnetic Method and GIS technologies will incorporate subsurface data overlaid with other data layers to locate priority sites for future restoration, such as aquifer recharge, aquifer storage and recovery and irrigation efficiency projects with the goal of putting and protecting surface water rights back instream. Without knowing more details on the process and feasibility of protecting instream flows gained from AR, ASR and irrigation efficiency projects, it is difficult to evaluate the extent of ecological benefits from future restoration projects.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6036-19596

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Ferry Canyon/Hay Creek Floodplain
Analysis and Prioritization

Applicant: Gilliam SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Gilliam

OWEB Request: \$49,999

Total Cost: \$183,198

Application Description

1) The project is located within the Hay Creek and Ferry Canyon watersheds in Gilliam County, and are tributaries to the lower John Day River 2) The recovery planning process conducted by the John Day Partnership was used to identify restoration opportunities using the John Day Basin Partnership Atlas multi-criteria decision analysis tool. Within these watersheds, finer spatial scale (i.e., 500 m – 1 km) watershed condition assessments capable of prioritizing the distribution of limited restoration funding are currently lacking. Further, current restoration planning within the lower John Day does not currently leverage contemporary spatial analysis tools and frameworks. This mismatch between recovery planning assessments and the scale at which riverscape restoration actions are implemented makes the allocation of restoration resources difficult and potentially inefficient. 3) Funding under this TA grant application would be used to prioritize the location of riverscape restoration actions within the Hay Creek and Ferry Canyon watersheds. The prioritization will be based on quantification of the current vs. potential floodplain (i.e., recovery potential) extent throughout 51 miles of the Hay Creek and Ferry Canyon watersheds networks that are considered essential salmonid habitat. Specifically, the funding will be used to identify locations where channel and floodplain connectivity, the expansion of salmonid habitat, and riparian vegetation distributions can be maximized. 4) Partners include Gilliam-East John Day Watershed Council, ODFW, BLM, USFS, CTWS, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides a technically sound approach to assessing watershed condition at a finer scale that will inform restoration project prioritization and facilitate leveraging funds within a NRCS RCPP work area.
- The data gleaned from this process will update the Atlas aquatic process used by the John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP) Strategic Action Plan.
- The model uses LiDAR to indicate where floodplain expansion and enhancements can provide maximum benefit to stream flows and salmon habitat.
- The process is based on a similar approach being implemented in the Thirtymile basin, under the JDBP FIP.
- The methodology will be available to the JDBP to replicate in other watersheds as a GIS-driven prioritization tool.
- The data will be utilized to narrow specific restoration within two watersheds and provide baseline data to use for effectiveness monitoring on future restoration projects.

- The applicant has a proven track record for implementing successful restoration, and a high degree of GIS analysis expertise, as well as thorough knowledge of the landscape and the landowners.
- The proposed project builds on a recently completed stakeholder engagement grant that engaged and recruited landowners along essential steelhead streams within these two watersheds.
- The proposed project will provide an overview of stream features, such as wide floodplain, elevations, and infrastructure, which will be useful for conceptualizing future restoration projects.

Concerns

- As proposed, there is no plan for ground-truthing once analysis is complete. The model will benefit by including some field work to confirm analysis accuracy.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant proposes to make use of LiDAR flown and funded through the NRCS RCPP award. Modeled after a similar approach in the Thirtymile watershed, the methodology can be replicated throughout the John Day Basin to identify opportunities for floodplain restoration. Gilliam SWCD, as an integral partner in the JDBP, guarantees sharing of the methodology to other partners looking to replicate efforts in other watersheds.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,999

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$49,999

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6037-19626

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper John Day Valley Private Forest Lands Assessment

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$112,064

Application Description

The project area is located in the Upper John Day River Valley and encompasses sixteen, 6th field Hydrologic Units; the District estimates there are approximately 52,000 acres of private forestlands and juniper dominated range-ground. In 2016, Grant SWCD secured Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funding from NRCS to treat private forestlands and juniper within watersheds containing US Forest Service Stewardship Projects, specifically, the Magone, Dad's Creek and Headwater Projects. Demand from private landowners for this program was overwhelming; funds anticipated to support five years worth of projects lasted only three years. During this time, the extent of need became readily apparent; properties with desirable stocking rate of 200 to 300 stems per acre were found to be well over a thousand. Such conditions have a profound, negative impact on watershed health affecting not only the vegetation, but, also the numerous and complex hydrologic processes that transform precipitation into streamflow available for use by at-risk aquatic species. This proposal seeks cost share funding to support an assessment of private forested lands that will be conducted by OSU to 1) prioritize areas for treatment, 2) develop prescriptions for treatment and 3) provide a better understanding of the complex interactions between the treatments and watershed hydrology. This information will form the basis of a Joint Chiefs proposal to treat both private and public forested lands as well as similar future efforts to be conducted by the District and our partners. Partners include landowners, Oregon State University (OSU) Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Fire Program, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Malheur National Forest, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Blue Mountain Forest Partners (BMFP) and Jerome Natural Resource Consultants, Inc.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project will provide information needed to pursue a NRCS/USFS Joint Chiefs grant in the future and inform an existing NRCS RCPP focus on forest health.
- The proposed model is successfully used in the Klamath Basin to identify key areas to restore forest health and to provide compelling data to pursue competitive funding opportunities.
- The forest lands assessment will identify areas in upper John Day Basin where forest treatments may help mitigate critical stream flow limiting factors necessary for steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout habitat.
- Landowners will receive a copy of the assessment done on their lands to use as a tool for identifying improvements to forest health and best management practices.

- A high level of support for the project is documented in the application by a comprehensive set of partners.
- OSU staff with previous experience using the proposed model have the qualifications necessary to accomplish the proposed work.
- The applicant is qualified to manage the project and participate in the analysis and has a proven track record of implementing and completing successful grants.

Concerns

- The need for this information and how it will differ from what landowners already know about their land is unclear. Due to fire, insect damage, and other impacts to the forest, conditions may be changing at a faster pace than the assessment can document for future restoration.
- The application is not clear on where the inventories will be done. More information on the process for determining those locations will be helpful to evaluate technical soundness.
- Without more detail, it is not apparent if post-fire acres will warrant an inventory or treatment.
- The application focuses mainly on GIS modeling, but it does not explain how this modeling will capture diseased trees nor insect infestation that is causing widespread mortality. This appears to be covered by proposed on-the-ground field work, but the application lacks detail on who will do the field work, their qualifications, what funds cover the cost, and when and where such field work will be done.
- The budget category for contracting is a lump sum and does not provide enough detail to determine whether there are enough funds requested for ground-truthing a landscape-scale endeavor, producing the model, data analysis, or production of the final product.
- More detail is needed for objective 7 in the application on the process of linking forest treatments to potential hydrologic benefits.

Concluding Analysis

Grant County, along with the rest of Oregon, is concerned about wildfire. The tremendous impact the 2015 Canyon Creek fire had on the landscape motivated landowners and state and federal agencies to look for solutions to reverse degraded forest health. The proposed technical assistance is one method to prioritize locations for forest treatments. Similar efforts using this model have been successful in the Klamath Basin, both in identifying priority areas for treatment and leveraging multiple sources of funds. Additional detail in the budget and activities is needed to evaluate the project and determine the likelihood of success that the proposed technical assistance will lead to future restoration with meaningful ecological benefits.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6038-19642

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Grass Valley Canyon
Structural Restoration_CLONE

Applicant: Sherman SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Sherman

OWEB Request: \$30,000

Total Cost: \$61,274

Application Description

Lower Grass Valley Canyon (LGVC), the lower 16 miles of Grass Valley Canyon, is a tributary to the Lower John Day River in Sherman County. The stream is historic summer steelhead spawning and rearing habitat and beaver habitat, as well as current habitat for redband trout, redband shiner, dace, sculpin, suckers, and possibly Pacific lamprey. Due to land use changes, historical overgrazing, and catastrophic floods, LGVC has eroded, incised, and straightened, leaving the lower 7 miles ephemeral for much of the year. In part due to the loss of riparian vegetation, Grass Valley Canyon has been on the 303(d) list for temperature since 1998. Compounding these problems, a past landowner realigned the mouth decades ago, and the mouth now impounds with sediment and becomes a fish passage barrier for most of the year. Though, most of the stream and adjoining draws are enrolled in CREP and landowners improved upland conservation practices, the riparian and in-stream conditions have not improved. This project builds off a 2006 watershed assessment and a 2012 restoration action plan to design in-stream restoration. We will design riparian and in-stream restoration projects on 4.99 stream miles. We will develop measurable restoration objectives; craft a multi-phase restoration design and implementation plan; and submit permit applications for restoration implementation. This project will have a large-scale benefit for Mid-Columbia steelhead habitat. Partners in this project are private landowners, Western Rivers Conservancy, Sherman County Area Watershed Council, Sherman County SWCD, Anabran Solutions, ODFW, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Most of the concerns noted in the previous evaluation are addressed.
- The goal of the proposal is to move this stream from being intermittent to perennial, as has been done successfully in adjacent lower basin tributaries to the John Day River.
- The application was developed from an OWEB-funded assessment and restoration priorities identified in an action plan that followed.
- Sherman County has minimal steelhead streams; however, this lower basin tributary historically was a steelhead stream. Improving flow and enhancing riparian vegetation may encourage future fish use.
- CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) has been implemented on upstream reaches. By enhancing connectivity of live stream flow, those protected reaches could be accessed and used by fish.

- Reconnecting the floodplain using low-tech, process-based structures will improve riparian vegetation establishment.
- The project will be a strong catalyst for other instream projects in the basin and offers significant outreach potential because of Western Rivers' involvement as the landowner.
- The requested amount is reasonable for the proposed work.

Concerns

- The application lacks details on how the passage barrier at the mouth will be addressed.
- The application budget appears lean for engineering a complex solution to the passage barrier at the confluence.
- The application lacks specific details on the types of treatments that will be considered.
- ODFW surveys this stream for steelhead use and have not found any recent redds; however, they plan to continue to survey this stream.

Concluding Analysis

Grass Valley Canyon has a history of providing steelhead spawning and rearing habitat. Currently steelhead access depends on connectivity at the mouth impacted by stream flows, which are dependent solely on precipitation in this low-elevation watershed. By implementing low-tech, process-based designs, floodplains will be reconnected, storing high flows, and returning hydrologic function to the upstream sections. Resulting stream connectivity, and increased riparian vegetation will improve water quality, reduce temperatures, encourage beaver to recolonize, and ultimately restore steelhead to this stream. The seasonal barrier at the confluence with the John Day River will be explored but is likely to require a more complex solution in a future application.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$30,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$30,000

Staff Conditions

The completion report will include an alternatives analysis for solutions to the seasonal barrier at the mouth.

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6039-19619	Project Type: Monitoring
Project Name: Murderers Creek Mussel Monitoring	
Applicant: South Fork John Day WC	
Region: Mid Columbia	County: Grant
OWEB Request: \$182,154	Total Cost: \$270,353

Application Description

Murderers Creek is an important watershed for wild steelhead populations in the John Day River system. The Murderers Creek Ranch Enrichment (220-6021) project to improve late season flow to support steelhead rearing and juvenile survival has been developed and is scheduled to be implemented by the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, ODFW, and Bureau of Reclamation in 2022. It is located about 3 miles upstream of the confluence with the South Fork John Day River and extends another 2.5 miles along Murderers Creek. In the Summer of 2020, Xerces Society biologists met with South Fork John Day Watershed Council staff, through their OWEB Stakeholder Engagement Grant “Conserving Mussels in Aquatic Restoration,” and to conduct a survey at the Murderers Creek restoration site. This survey, and follow-up surveys within the restoration project reach through their companion OWEB Technical Assistance Grant, revealed the presence of an extremely high abundance of freshwater mussels (an estimated 70,000 within the approximately 2.5-mile stretch of the creek), including both western pearlshell (*Margaritifera falcata*) and floaters (*Anodonta*). We propose to implement a freshwater mussel monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and to document the resulting effects of the Murderers Creek habitat restoration project on freshwater mussels, their habitat, and their host fish. To do so, we will monitor survival of mussels onsite and at relocation sites using mark-recapture methods prior to the habitat restoration project, in months following the project (when survival rates may be the most impacted), and for a period of 5 years. We will also monitor the effects of the project on host fish species by conducting annual monitoring, as well as changes in the habitat onsite by repeating CHaMP protocol data collection. Project partners includes; South Fork John Day Watershed Council, Xerces Society, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the lack of knowledge of stream restoration impacts to freshwater mussels and builds on the previous mussel survey that was completed in this location.
- The proposed project leverages the fish and habitat monitoring that is to be completed by ODFW.
- The study design to use PIT tags to investigate the various relocation strategies provides a non-intrusive approach that will yield valuable information on freshwater mussel survival and displacement.
- The applicant is contracting with qualified consultants to collect the freshwater mussel and fish/habitat data.

- The mussel data will be stored in the Western Freshwater Mussel Database that Xerces maintains and makes available to a wide audience.
- The applicant is working with a diverse group of practitioners active in restoration in the John Day Basin to relocate the mussels prior to restoration and serves as an opportunity to learn how these mitigation efforts affect survival and displacement.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The fish and fish habitat data that are proposed to be analyzed with the freshwater mussel data are not well described or integrated in the application description.
- The application does not describe the fish and habitat monitoring methods and only cites a report that has used modified CHaMP and fish monitoring protocols that was uploaded to the application.
- The application lacked clarity about how the habitat data would be analyzed to interpret the freshwater mussel data. The habitat metrics, specifically the substrate data collected in the CHaMP protocol, may not translate to the level of detail needed for freshwater mussels.
- The application mentions that all the monitoring data will be stored in OWRI, but this is not an appropriate database to store monitoring data (it contains only restoration data).
- The application does not describe if a final report will be written to summarize the interpreted results from the analyses and if or how such a report would be made available to the public.
- The short-term changes in fish hosts may not impact the mussels since they are so long lived.
- The budget included lump sums for the contractors, lacking detail about how the expenses were calculated.

Monitoring Team Comments

none

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed monitoring will fill an information gap for mussel relocation and salvage in relation to restoration actions. The project is timely to gather pre-implementation baseline data of a large-scale restoration project on Murderers Creek.
- Xerces Society is a partner and has the required expertise and proven track record for collecting data and integrating mussel and mussel habitat considerations into the restoration culture, protocols, and publications.
- ODFW provides an integral part of the monitoring by handling the CHaMP and BACI fish monitoring components.
- The resulting data will provide insights into the correlation between mussel and juvenile steelhead abundance that will improve baseline knowledge of the steelhead life cycle.
- The proposal is technically sound using Xerces Society's proven best management practices and protocols.
- The costs are in-line for a four-year period and are reasonable based on the amount of salvage and monitoring that will occur at a remote location.
- The application is the result of contacts made from Xerces Society's OWEB-funded stakeholder engagement and technical assistance grants.

Concerns

- The scale and feasibility of tagging and relocating thousands of mussels is unclear from the application and more detail on crew numbers, volunteer pool, and timing of each phase of work is needed to better understand how the proposed work will be implemented.
- The budget for contracted services is a lump sum; however, the narrative following the budget provides some detail on how costs were determined.

Concluding Analysis

The South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC) contacted the Xerces Society after hearing about their methods of salvaging mussels during restoration. The council is involved in a large-scale restoration instream and riparian project on Murderers Creek on ODFW Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area. During an initial survey by Xerces Society and the SFJDWC, over 70,000 mussels of two species were located. This opportunity to salvage and gain more data related to mussels and the impacts of restoration will result in replicating best management practices for mussels and salvage techniques into future restoration planning. The SFJDWC is an active participant in the John Day Basin Partnership, so this knowledge will be shared and available across the John Day Basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$182,154

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$182,154

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6040-19541

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Hydrological Trend Monitoring in the Walla Walla Basin

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$86,954

Total Cost: \$125,985

Application Description

This project is located in the Oregon portion of the Walla Walla Basin in Umatilla County near the town of Milton-Freewater. The project will measure water temperature and stream flow in the Walla Walla River, its tributaries and distributaries, and also measure water levels in the underlying shallow alluvial aquifer during a 2 year period. Data are needed to guide current planning efforts aimed to address the Basin's inadequate water supply to meet the needs of aquatic life as well as agricultural and municipal uses. The Walla Walla Watershed is utilized by ESA-listed bull trout, summer steelhead, and reintroduced spring Chinook salmon, which are limited by lack of summertime flow and high water temperatures. Monitoring will document current conditions and describe trends to inform development of projects to restore watershed function and increase in-stream flows. BPA will be the source of match for this project and project partners (non match) include private landowners, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Oregon Water Resources Department, City of Milton-Freewater, Hudson Bay District Improvement Company, Walla Walla River Irrigation District, Fruitvale Water Users Association, and members of the Walla Walla Water 2050 project and Bi-State Flow Enhancement Study.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes the historic data collected across the basin by the applicant and partners such as OWRD, USGS and WDOE.
- The application describes how this project complements current and planned efforts as part of the Walla Walla Basin Water Plan 2050 with additional monitoring from those organizations listed above.
- The applicant proposes straight-forward monitoring objectives and questions, which the monitoring methods, data management, and data analysis should be adequate to answer.
- The applicant has a DEQ approved Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and they will update the SAP and submit it to DEQ for approval.
- The applicant has the software necessary to manage the continuous data and plans to submit water temperature data to DEQ and water quantity data to OWRD.
- The applicant developed this application in coordination with its board of directors, which represents a diverse group of local stakeholders and water resources professionals/experts.
- The application describes a number of ways the data and final report will be made publicly available. Related to this, multiple state, tribal and federal partners provided letters of support.

- The application proposes to continue a long-term monitoring project with a previous track record of success.
- The large number of sites proposed in this application requires the applicant to maintain private landowner agreements to provide access, which demonstrates the capacity to engage community stakeholders.
- The proposed costs seem appropriate to accomplish the objectives proposed in the application, given that two years of data collection will occur across many sites for which existing monitoring infrastructure has created cost efficiencies.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacked detail about how the data they have collected to date informs their current monitoring plan. It was not clear what the applicant has found to date from the monitoring and how this informs the need for additional data at the sites proposed in the application.
- The application mentions that data gaps exist, but little detail was provided about what or where they are.
- It was not clear how the trend data will be interpreted to better understand the restoration actions that have occurred and how that can specifically inform applying this information to future restoration or acquisition projects.
- The application did not describe the overall process for reviewing, grading, and publishing the different data sets that are proposed to be collected.
- The study design did not identify the parameters and describe data collection frequency to answer the monitoring questions.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is a continuation of long-term water quality monitoring in the Oregon side of the Walla Walla River Basin.
- The data resulting from this monitoring is used by various stakeholders in the basin and is available on the Watershed Council's website.
- The application clearly outlines objectives and monitoring questions and includes specific actions necessary to answer those questions.
- The applicant has the necessary field equipment and analysis software, the technical expertise and experience to implement the proposed work.
- A significant number of partners and landowners are engaged in this monitoring program, as evidenced by letters of support for the project.
- The applicant maximizes cost effectiveness with existing infrastructure and efficiencies incorporated from past monitoring experiences.
- Monitoring sites were analyzed when preparing the application to ensure sites are not duplicative with other monitoring efforts occurring in the basin.

- This information can feed into multiple Walla Walla Basin water planning processes currently underway.
- The proposed monitoring is critical for learning about the basin “re-set” occurring in response to impacts from the recent 100-year floods in the Walla Walla Basin and continuing assessment of water quality trends.

Concerns

- The application lacked trend analysis from previous monitoring efforts that would provide helpful context for evaluating the proposed monitoring project.

Concluding Analysis

The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council has a long history of collecting water quality monitoring data in the basin and providing access to this data to stakeholders, including ODFW, irrigation districts, agricultural producers, the City of Milton-Freewater, and the Confederated Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). The watershed council also participates in the Bi-state Flow Enhancement Study, the Walla Walla Water 2050 project, and the USGS groundwater study where this information may prove useful.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$86,954

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$86,954

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6041-19560

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: John Day Watershed
Macroinvertebrates

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Gilliam

OWEB Request: \$81,232

Total Cost: \$102,032

Application Description

Macroinvertebrate populations are an important base for the food web in freshwater ecosystems and can be used as indicators of water quality. This project will monitor macroinvertebrate populations at three restoration sites in the John Day watershed. Two of the sites are currently under restoration through a Focused Investment Partnership – Thirtymile Creek and Bull Run Creek. The third site, Hay Creek, is the one we will focus on for this proposal. The Hay Creek restoration project, located on the main stem at the lower end of Cottonwood Canyon State Park, is led by Oregon Natural Desert Association and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. We will sample at ten sites on Hay Creek. The sampling sites are located in relation to currently installed Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs). Nine sites were selected based on where the restoration partners have placed HOBO temperature recorders and one site is upstream from the restoration area. The restoration partners are interested in changes that occur over time in the macroinvertebrate populations in relation to the restoration efforts, particularly the BDAs and vegetation. Sampling will occur three times during the year, in mid-April, mid-June, and mid-September, and will follow the standard protocols for macroinvertebrate sampling adopted by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Sample collection will be led by Eastern Oregon University (EOU) biology faculty, Joe Corsini, PhD who will be working with a college-level student intern and, for one sample set, students in a field studies course. All samples will be sent to a certified lab to identify the organisms that are collected. Data will be uploaded to a public access database and results will be summarized and reported by the student intern with supervision and support from Professor Corsini. The project management will be led by Julie Keniry, Program Manager for the Rural Engagement and Vitality Center, a partnership between EOU and Wallowa Resources.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This proposed project will leverage the continuous water temperature monitoring data that ONDA currently is collecting, with the proposed macroinvertebrate monitoring being paired with those monitoring sites.
- The applicant proposes to follow DEQ sampling methods and send the macroinvertebrate samples to a certified lab for identification and enumeration.
- The applicant is working with a professor at Eastern Oregon University who will lead the sampling effort and has the technical capacity to implement this project as proposed.

- The applicant also is working with the restoration implementer (ONDA), the landowner (OPRD), DEQ, and Mt. Hood Community College to collaborate on this project and leverage existing data.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It was not clear why the proposed data collection is needed. The application does not describe how monitoring data could be used to modify the existing restoration project based on the monitoring results or inform future restoration efforts in Hay Creek.
- The application does not include a map to illustrate where the work is occurring and how the sites are distributed across the restoration project.
- The study design does not have pre-restoration macroinvertebrate data, and it is not clear if the “above” restoration project site’s characteristics represent a “before-restoration” condition to compare with the “below” restoration data.
- The application does not include an objective or monitoring question that addresses the need to collect basic water quality parameters or how these data will be incorporated into the analyses to interpret the macroinvertebrate findings.
- The application does not describe how the data will be analyzed to answer the second question posed at the end of the application regarding correlating changes in macroinvertebrate assemblages to the revegetation and BDA actions.
- The application does not describe why macroinvertebrate samples need to be collected three times in one year to answer the monitoring question, given the proposed project’s intent to track changes related to the restoration project across three separate years.
- The applicant did not elaborate on the quality assurance procedures and references a draft DEQ Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). It was not clear if the applicant incorporated time and expenses to cover development of a site-specific sampling and analysis plan (SAP) for this project, which would need to be developed before data is submitted to DEQ.
- The budget included expenses for water quality probes, yet the application did not describe how the information would be used to answer the monitoring questions.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendations:

- Applicant should contact DEQ early in the project to develop a SAP for review and approval by DEQ.
- Funding of the purchase of water quality probes is not recommended by the OPMT, since it is unclear how the data gathered with these probes would be used.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A partnership with OSU will provide expertise and capacity needed to implement the proposed work.
- The travel budget is reasonable given the remote location.
- Letters of support from partners indicate that information resulting from this effort complements other ongoing monitoring actions on Hay Creek.

- The data collected will fill a data gap in understanding how macroinvertebrate communities react over time at locations where Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs) are installed.
- The schedule provided in the application appears reasonable.

Concerns

- The application lacks comprehensive maps showing the actual location of proposed monitoring in relation to the installed BDAs, where the control sites are located, and the location of existing beaver colonies.
- More detail describing the monitoring protocol as it relates to BDA placement is needed to understand technical soundness of the monitoring approach to answer the monitoring questions.
- A Before After Control Impact (BACI) type protocol may be a more appropriate approach for learning about the impacts of BDAs on macroinvertebrate communities. For instance, incorporating pre-restoration baseline monitoring sites on the lower reaches of Hay Creek prior to installing BDAs will provide detail on the density and diversity of the current macroinvertebrate population.
- It is not clear in the application why macroinvertebrates were selected to gauge the effectiveness of BDA restoration techniques. BDAs encourage formation of pools and the accumulation of sediment, which are not habitat features that normally promote diverse communities of macroinvertebrate taxa.
- More detail describing monitoring site stream features such as presence of pools, riffles, and glides, how monitoring results will be analyzed, and whether more than one control site will be used would be helpful information for understanding the technical soundness of the monitoring approach.

Concluding Analysis

Macroinvertebrates are a critical component to streams as both a food source for fish and wildlife and as a water quality indicator. With the increase in use of low-tech, process-based restoration techniques, monitoring the impacts to the macroinvertebrate communities could provide information important to siting BDA structures and ancillary benefits to the aquatic population. If resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address all the concerns noted.

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-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6042-19590

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Combining Methods to Monitor John Day Steelhead Migration and Overshoot

Applicant: Gilliam SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Gilliam

OWEB Request: \$203,161

Total Cost: \$703,120

Application Description

Approximately 60% of adult steelhead returning to the John Day River "overshoot" the John Day River mouth and are detected 119 km upstream in the Columbia River at McNary Dam. After crossing McNary Dam, John Day adult steelhead must "fallback" in order to return and spawn in the John Day River. Adult overshoot past a hydroelectric dam can directly (via physical injury during fallback) and indirectly (via increased energy expenditure) reduce the survival and reproductive capacity of returning adults. The current proportion of adult steelhead overshooting the John Day River contributes to a 7-year mean Bonneville Dam to South Fork John Day conversion probability of 50%, and is a limiting factor for steelhead population recovery. This means that only half of the adult steelhead arriving at Bonneville Dam survive and return to their natal stream to spawn. Life-cycle models indicate substantial risk of quasi-extinction for a John Day steelhead population if this status quo conversion probability continues. The quasi-extinction risk diminishes to near zero if conversion rate increases to 70%. In order to increase the probability of John Day steelhead returning to their natal stream, we propose a third phase of a three phase monitoring for John Day adult steelhead overshoot. To do this, we leverage existing acoustic data and receivers (ODFW-Sturgeon and OWEB funded Phase One of this study) and new Passive Integrated Transponder antennas (funded by ODFW's R&E Board - Phase Two of this project). This combination of antennas positioned in the Columbia and John Day rivers will detect tagged adults and allow us to map migratory routes and relate adult steelhead migration to environmental parameters that restoration can influence such as stream discharge, velocity and temperature. We will compare fate of steelhead by migratory route to identify relationships between migration route and environmental parameters. Gilliam SWCD and ODFW will be the lead partners.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The proposed project leverages equipment and effort from other tagging projects, such as the sturgeon monitoring project and other existing acoustic and PIT arrays in the Columbia and John Day rivers. It is able to use the existing PIT tagging of outmigrant juveniles to maximize the effort to place acoustic tags in John Day River steelhead.
- The application's monitoring questions are very specific and the study design description accounts for how each question will be answered. Data analysis is well described to understand how data will be processed to answer the different questions posed, and the application includes a few examples to better explain how the questions can be answered.

- The application cites professionally accepted protocols and includes a few reports that describe how the data are collected and analyzed for the different components of the project.
- The applicant is working on developing a sampling and analysis plan for the water temperature monitoring data and they will submit the data to DEQ.
- The acoustic tag data will be stored in various databases and will ultimately be made available in an ArcGIS Online account maintained by the John Day Basin Partnership.
- The PIT detection data will be loaded to the PTAGIS database and the Columbia River DART website, which requires metadata, backed up, and made available to the public.
- The staff and contractors (ODFW) working on this project have extensive experience working in this area and collecting and reporting similar data. The progress to date on Phases 1 and 2 of the project is proceeding as proposed, which likely will result in this project being implemented in a successful manner, if funded.
- The applicant is engaging OSU fisheries professors to recruit a graduate student to work on this project and is collaborating with the EPA cold water refuge experts to leverage existing data to better understand how steelhead are migrating upstream and downstream of the John Day River mouth.
- The data will inform a variety of different efforts to improve watershed conditions and manage the hydroelectric dams that may reduce steelhead overshooting the John Day River.
- The budget is based on the previously funded monitoring grant, allowing the applicant to estimate realistic expenses needed to complete the project as proposed.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The proposed project leverages equipment and effort from other tagging projects, such as the sturgeon monitoring project and other existing acoustic and PIT arrays in the Columbia and John Day rivers. It is able to use the existing PIT tagging of outmigrant juveniles to maximize the effort to place acoustic tags in John Day River steelhead.
- The application's monitoring questions are very specific and the study design description accounts for how each question will be answered. Data analysis is well described to understand how data will be processed to answer the different questions posed, and the application includes a few examples to better explain how the questions can be answered.
- The application cites professionally accepted protocols and includes a few reports that describe how the data are collected and analyzed for the different components of the project.
- The applicant is working on developing a sampling and analysis plan for the water temperature monitoring data and they will submit the data to DEQ.
- The acoustic tag data will be stored in various databases and will ultimately be made available in an ArcGIS Online account maintained by the John Day Basin Partnership.
- The PIT detection data will be loaded to the PTAGIS database and the Columbia River DART website, which requires metadata, backed up, and made available to the public.
- The staff and contractors (ODFW) working on this project have extensive experience working in this area and collecting and reporting similar data. The progress to date on Phases 1 and 2 of the project is proceeding as proposed, which likely will result in this project being implemented in a successful manner, if funded.
- The applicant is engaging OSU fisheries professors to recruit a graduate student to work on this project and is collaborating with the EPA cold water refuge experts to leverage existing data to better understand how steelhead are migrating upstream and downstream of the John Day River mouth.
- The data will inform a variety of different efforts to improve watershed conditions and manage the hydroelectric dams that may reduce steelhead overshooting the John Day River.

- The budget is based on the previously funded monitoring grant, allowing the applicant to estimate realistic expenses needed to complete the project as proposed.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation:

This is a complex project in terms of the phasing and how all of the pieces come together in Phase III to ultimately produce a less expensive means for monitoring in the future. A recommendation for reporting, if this project is funded, is for the applicant to diagram how the various phases come together, clarify how different investments are leveraged, and describe how various funders' expectations are met (e.g., for OWEB, discuss how this work will inform future restoration actions).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes how the proposed monitoring ties into the previous two phases, and incorporates lessons learned to maximize both leverage and efficiencies in equipment and personnel sharing.
- Information gleaned from the proposed monitoring is crucial to improving ESA-listed steelhead numbers returning to their natal streams.
- The methodology and data will be transferable to analyzing overshoot for other species, including Chinook.
- The application includes comprehensive details on how data will be analyzed, stored, and shared.
- The project integrates with restoration work being done in the John Day Basin benefitting aquatic species at risk, specifically ESA-listed steelhead.
- Data relating to temperature and velocity will inform restoration actions in the John Day River, cold-water refuge along the Columbia, and other tributaries to the Columbia River.
- The stakeholders involved in this process have the technical expertise and capacity to achieve the goals and objectives of this proposal, and successfully complete the project.

Concerns

- The deliverable is dependent on the outcomes from the previous two phases to provide sufficient analysis.

Concluding Analysis

Gilliam SWCD and ODFW partner on this innovative and ambitious monitoring project to help determine the nuances of steelhead as they return to their natal rivers. Determining the impacts of temperature, velocity, and other environmental conditions at the confluence of the John Day River with the Columbia River on the movement of steelhead will inform multiple efforts to keep this species from continuing to decline.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$203,161

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$203,161

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6043-19600

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: North Fork Walla Walla River
Effectiveness Monitoring

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed
Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$25,287

Total Cost: \$33,709

Application Description

The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council is seeking funds to conduct project effectiveness monitoring on the North Fork of the Walla Walla River from the confluence with the South Fork to the Little Meadows Canyon, outside the town of Milton-Freewater, Oregon, in Umatilla County. The project includes the collection of water temperature, streamflow, turbidity, and riparian inventory data to document current conditions, flood impacts, and produce a baseline data set for evaluating project outcomes in the future. Data will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed habitat improvements on the private property above the end of the North Fork Walla Walla River Road. Monitoring of water temperature, streamflow, and turbidity will be conducted according to methods described in WWBWC's standard operating procedures. Riparian monitoring will be conducted according to Oregon's Riparian Assessment Framework, which is included in the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. Bonneville Power Administration will be assisting in funding this work. The project is supported by the property owners, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Walla Walla Ranger District.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The proposed monitoring will complement the hydrology and water temperature data collected in the entire Walla Walla Basin as part of the USGS hydrology study and the baseflow assessment and inventory currently underway and planned in the South Fork and North Fork.
- The applicant proposes to follow professionally accepted monitoring protocols and will produce a sampling and analysis plan (SAP) and submit it to DEQ for approval.
- The applicant will store manage and store data using specialized software for time series data and make the data available on web.
- The water temperature will be submitted to DEQ, and the applicant will write a report summarizing results, submit this to OWEB, and make the report available to partners and on their website.
- The applicant is engaging the community and state and federal agencies, and secured access by the private landowners in the area to be monitored. The application includes letters of support that demonstrate the community stakeholder engagement and interest in these data.
- The applicant has the necessary experience in data collection of this nature, and has a good track record completing similar projects and generating reports to summarize findings.
- The proposed costs are appropriate for the monitoring the applicant proposes over one year.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application does not describe other monitoring efforts in the North Fork Walla Walla River that could complement this proposed monitoring project, such as fish, habitat and geomorphology.
- The project proposes to track changes associated with future restoration actions, but the application does not explain the geomorphic context to understand if geomorphology will be monitored. This is an important consideration, given that extensive changes occurred recently due to flooding and conditions are likely to continue to change over the short term.
- One year of pre-restoration data (i.e., vegetation, stream flow and turbidity) will limit the comparison to post-restoration conditions over time.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation:

Follow up with OWRD on a recently established gage in this monitoring reach (OWRD gage #14010800).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project follows two recent 100-year flood events in the Walla Walla Basin and is a well-planned monitoring effort.
- The application clearly describes the goals and objectives and the related actions to achieve them.
- The North Fork of the Walla Walla River is in an important production area for ESA-listed steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout.
- The maps and drone footage provide an understanding of the landscape to be monitored.
- Obtaining pre-restoration baseline information will aid in the restoration design process, as well as provide an opportunity to determine the effectiveness of future restoration on the North Fork Walla Walla River.
- The applicant has a proven track record of successfully implementing monitoring in the basin. Staff have both the capacity and the technical expertise to collect and analyze the data.
- Four of the five landowners along this reach are engaged and approve this monitoring to be done on their land.
- The application has a letter of support from the National Forest, managers of the public land upstream of this monitoring reach.
- The budget is reasonable for actions described in the proposal.
- This effort complements the WWBWC stakeholder engagement proposal, submitted during this application cycle.

Concerns

- There are no significant concerns.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant noted that post-flood water temperatures are higher compared to previous data collected from a monitoring site at the confluence with the main stem Walla Walla River. This information has spurred efforts to restore this reach of the North Fork, which provides habitat and serves as a conduit to critical cold-water refuge in the National Forest for steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$25,287

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$25,287

Staff Conditions

Have grantee follow-up with OWRD on a recently established gage in this monitoring reach (OWRD gage #14010800).

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6044-19615

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Walla Walla Basin Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$42,080

Total Cost: \$60,479

Application Description

The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC) seeks to engage stakeholders in and around Milton-Freewater, Oregon in the Walla Walla River (WWR) Basin, with a focus on the upper WWR, Couse Creek, Little WWR system and connected alluvial aquifer. Engagement activities will support projects aimed at addressing some of the basin's hydrological and ecological issues, including degraded stream flows, floodplain connection, surface-groundwater interaction, water quality, fish passage, riparian conditions, and aquatic habitat complexity. To address fish passage and habitat issues, the WWBWC and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) will engage directly with landowners to identify potential project partners on the upper WWR and Couse Creek. WWBWC will engage with individuals throughout the basin who possess senior water rights in order to develop partners for irrigation efficiency projects directed at protecting water in-stream via Oregon's Allocation of Conserved Water program. Stakeholders will be sought to partner in pursuing the goals of replicating floodplain connection, recharging the shallow aquifer, and improving related ecological and hydrological system functions. Additionally, various stakeholder engagement activities will be carried out to familiarize potential stakeholders with the WWBWC's work, the basin's hydrological and ecological issues and the potential for projects. The aim of these engagement activities is to develop future partners and projects necessary to address the basin's degraded hydrological and ecological systems. In various capacities, the WWBWC will seek to partner with landowners, holders of water rights, CTUIR, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Little WWR Working Group, local irrigation districts and other stakeholders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has a proven record of engaging the community in restoration and watershed health in the Walla Walla River Basin.
- Utilizing multi-directional communication as proposed in the application is likely to be effective.
- The application describes clear objectives and actions to achieve the stated goals.
- The proposed project builds on the applicant's years of serving landowners and highlights the level of trust resulting from these continuing relationships.
- The project costs are appropriate for the stated actions.
- This proposed project complements the other stakeholder engagement application from the Farmers Conservation Alliance for the Little Walla Walla River.

Concerns

- There are no significant concerns.

Concluding Analysis

The application focuses on efforts to develop projects that address hydrological and ecological issues in the Walla Walla Basin. The team at the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council will work with both the community and stakeholders in the area to share knowledge and opportunities about watershed health.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$42,080

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$42,080

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2021 Spring Offering

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 221-6045-19571

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Walla Walla River Irrigation District
Modernization Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA)

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$31,135

Total Cost: \$45,537

Application Description

The proposed stakeholder engagement project would occur within Walla Walla River Irrigation District (WWRID) and along the waterbodies that are affected by WWRID's operations in Umatilla County. Competing agricultural, environmental and community water demands in the Walla Walla Basin have created challenges for both instream and out-of-stream water uses in the basin. Out-of-stream uses have contributed to decreased streamflows in the Walla Walla River and its tributaries. Correspondingly, increased groundwater demands and reduced recharge have contributed to declines in both the regional aquifer and the shallow aquifer that feeds many springs and creeks in the Walla Walla Basin. Together, these changes have reduced habitat quantity and quality for and limited populations of Endangered Species Act-listed steelhead and bull trout. Limited water supplies in WWRID associated with voluntary streamflow restoration have correspondingly limited agricultural production. The proposed work will focus on developing potential on-the-ground water conservation and management projects in WWRID would meet both agricultural and environmental water needs. Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) and WWRID propose to engage stakeholders through individual and, if appropriate, small group meetings to better understand where their goals, objectives, and priorities align in a manner that would accelerate the development of successful projects. Stakeholders would include local, state, and federal agencies; tribes; nonprofit organizations; and landowners with an interest in WWRID or the resources that would benefit from water management and conservation projects in the district. FCA has partnered with WWRID to complete the proposed work, and this work will both complement and inform a parallel technical assessment of potential projects that will be funded through other sources.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The goal of enhancing and protecting instream flows in the Walla Walla River is a priority for stakeholders concerned about ESA-listed steelhead, bull trout, and reintroduced Chinook.
- The application describes the ecological benefit likely to result from engaging 250 water users, some with the most senior water rights in the Little Walla Walla River system, to protect approximately 25 cfs of instream flow.
- The Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) has a proven track record of working with landowners on water transfers and implementing irrigation efficiencies.

- The application includes letters of support from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, indicating an effective start for collaboration with established watershed health stakeholders in the basin.
- FCA has completed a preliminary assessment of the irrigation district identifying modernization opportunities in the irrigation system. Stakeholder engagement is the next step for contacting both farmers and urban residents who are impacted by the Little Walla Walla River canal system.

Concerns

- The application does not include an upload of the FCA assessment, which may have been useful in reviewing the application by providing a better overall understanding of the long-term plan for developing irrigation efficiency projects.
- Details related to the Walla Walla River Irrigation District's loss decree and how that approach works with the State's Allocation of Conserved Water (AOCW) program is missing. Without that detail, the likelihood of success in obtaining protected flows is unclear.
- It is not clear in the application how or if the approximately 250 water users in the district may be impacted by the resulting water saving efforts.
- The application lacks a detailed map of the Little Walla Walla River irrigation system that would provide landscape context to better understand the proposal.

Concluding Analysis

The Farmers Conservation Alliance will work with the Walla Walla River Irrigation District to develop conservation projects that lead to protected instream flows. At times, the canal system within Milton-Freewater floods urban residents who live next to the canal. These urban residents, as well as farmers using the district's irrigation water, will be engaged through phone calls, mailings and in-person meetings to come to a consensus on conservation and restoration projects within the system.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$31,135

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$31,135

Staff Conditions

N/A



Agenda Item G supports OWEB's Strategic Plan Priorities 3, 4, and 7.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Post-Fire Recovery Funding
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the General Fund appropriations to OWEB during the 2021-2023 biennium in support of post-fire natural resources recovery in 2020 fire impacted areas. Staff request the board approve receipt of these General Funds for the purposes outlined in House Bill (HB) 5006 and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through appropriate agreements.

II. Background

Wildfires of historic proportion ravaged Oregon in 2020, affecting approximately 1.2 million acres. Impacts from these fires continue to pose great risks to natural resources around the state. The Governor's Office and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management activated the state's disaster recovery plan in response to the fires. In September 2020, interagency and intergovernmental coordination on fire recovery began to occur through the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force (NCRRTF), convened by OWEB and the Oregon Departments of Forestry (ODF) and Environmental Quality. The NCRRTF summarized information about fire impacts to natural and cultural resources (NCR) and identified high-priority actions needed in the next two years to help address and mitigate for NCR impacts. This assessment synthesis built upon rapid assessments for federal lands, along with Erosion Threat Assessment/Reduction Team reports and a Water Quality/Drinking Water Supply Resource report, which assessed impacts and needed actions on state and private lands.

The assessment synthesis summarized impacts and high-priority actions related to two critically important risks—human life and safety, and protection of drinking water/source-water supply areas. To reduce risk, several priority actions—such as storm proofing roads, replanting burned areas, and restoring floodplains to reduce post-fire flood risks—were identified. NCRRTF also developed an estimate of state funding needed to address several high-priority NCR actions in a two-year period. This estimate totaled \$86 million.

At the request of the Governor's Office and Chair Brian Clem of the House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery, NCRRTF co-conveners presented the assessment synthesis findings and information about the cost estimate during multiple meetings of the House committee during the 2021 Legislative Session. These discussions resulted in resources being included in HB 5006 that appropriated \$26 million in NCR recovery funding to OWEB, ODF, and Oregon Department of Transportation.

III. Post-Fire Recovery Funding and Grant-Making

The Legislature appropriated a total of \$19.75 million in General Funds to OWEB to administer three categories of grants for 2020 wildfire recovery and restoration:

- \$10.75 million for riparian and upland restoration, focused on replanting and associated activities in locations that will pose risks to water quality and important aquatic habitat due to post-fire erosion if not restored;
- \$5 million for floodplain restoration and reconnection, focused on more complex projects that restore and reconnect rivers to floodplain areas, re-establishing hydrologic and ecological functions in ways that help reduce post-fire impacts; and
- \$4 million for one or more pass-through grants to the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB), focused on work by EWEB, in coordination with its local partners, to restore and/or acquire riparian and floodplain areas to reduce post-fire risks.

The legislative intent for use of these General Funds to support grant-making by OWEB is well articulated in HB 5006 and supporting materials from the Legislative Fiscal Office. These documents noted that OWEB will leverage its granting infrastructure to develop targeted grant offerings for the explicit purposes outlined above. Local partners currently eligible for OWEB's existing programs can access these offerings. Granting process steps will include project solicitation using tailored grant applications; evaluation by an interagency team of experts; grant award and oversight; and project implementation and reporting, including regular updates about progress and, ultimately, outputs and outcomes that address post-fire natural resources concerns and provide community benefits.

Staff are developing the grant applications and guidance for these offerings, in addition to grant agreement templates in coordination with Oregon Department of Justice, designed to specifically address legislative intent of the General Funds for post-fire recovery grants. In addition, the grant offerings will encourage engagement with Tribes and consideration of equity and climate related issues.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve receipt of \$19.75 million in General Funds, as appropriated in OWEB's 2021-2023 biennial budget, to support grants for the purposes of post-fire natural resources recovery as described in House Bill 5006 (2021), and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of August 6, 2021.

Attachment

A. Memo from Matthew Garrett, Governor's Wildfire Recovery Director

Governor Kate Brown



October 27, 2021

Liza Jane McAlister and Barbara Boyer, Co-Chairs
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
775 Summer St NE #360
Salem OR 97301

Subject: Governor's Priorities Funding

Dear Co-Chairs McAlister and Boyer,

Let me begin by sharing Governor Brown's appreciation of OWEB's assistance with recovery from the devastating 2020 wildfire season. The agency played an important role in helping to convene the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force, bringing together state and federal agencies and Tribes to identify fire impacts to natural and cultural resources and articulate the recovery actions and funding needed to address these.

As a result of the Task Force's work, the Oregon Legislature was able to clearly understand these impacts and allocate funding to begin to address them. The allocation of nearly \$20 million in General Funds to OWEB to support natural resources recovery in the fire impacted areas is a testament to the good work of the agency in administering public funds with transparency and accountability.

Now it is time that we repay the confidence shown by the legislature and deliver on these critical wildfire recovery investments. I strongly encourage and support OWEB board actions to advance its approval of the receipt of this funding and the delegation to the Executive Director at the October board meeting. This prompt action will ensure proposals for on-the-ground restoration work can be expeditiously solicited and reviewed, and grants awarded to local partners that are working diligently to protect and restore their fire affected watersheds. These post-fire recovery grants are specifically intended to address concerns around water-quality impacts to drinking water supplies and aquatic habitat, and human life and safety concerns such as post-fire flood risks. The grant program developed by OWEB staff adheres to the legislative intent of these General Funds, and will include regular reporting by grantees that enables periodic updates to the Governor's Office and Legislature regarding on-the-ground progress being accomplished with the investments.

Your actions in post-fire recovery through the recently secured General Funds is key to advancing critically important work that will help communities around the state restore their watersheds and build back better.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to this recovery effort.

Matthew L. Garrett
Director of Wildfire Recovery
Office of Governor Kate Brown
Matt.Garrett@oregon.gov

Cc: Renee Davis



Agenda Item I supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Miriam Forney, Acquisitions Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – April 2021 Land Acquisition Grant Offering Awards
October 26-27, 2021, Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the April 2021 land acquisition grant offering and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards.

II. Land Acquisitions – April 2021 Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The April 2021 grant offering is the first of two land acquisition grant cycles for the 2021-2023 biennium. Due to revenue reductions in 2020, the planned October 2020 land acquisition offering was postponed. With revenues fully restored in the approved 2021-2023 budget, the board asked that delayed offerings be moved earlier in the biennium whenever possible, so the land acquisition solicitation opened in April 2021 instead of October 2021. To evenly space offerings, the second offering of the biennium will occur in October 2022. The land and water acquisition-spending plan includes \$9 million for the biennium. Four land acquisition applications were received in April 2021 requesting \$8,688,167. The applications are summarized in Attachment A. Application evaluations are included as Attachment B.

Following technical reviews, land acquisition applications 221-9900, 221-9901, and 221-9903 are recommended for funding with conditions. Land acquisition application 221-9902 is not recommended for funding.

B.R eview Process

The land acquisition applications were reviewed in accordance with administrative rules for the program, most recently revised in 2019. 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.

Staff and teams of ecological reviewers consisting of subject matter experts selected by the applicant and chosen by staff from the standing regional review teams conducted site visits.

Each ecological reviewer completed a project evaluation form, and staff summarized the input of all ecological reviewers.

A team consisting of staff, the land acquisition program's due-diligence technical assistance contractor, and the Oregon Department of Justice conducted project soundness reviews. 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 Committee met with staff during the evaluation process. The purpose of the meeting was for committee 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 clarifying questions about the applications.

III. Staff Funding Recommendation

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 \$3,079,073.

Attachments

- A. Summary of Land Acquisition Applications and Recommended Awards, April 2021 Grant Offering
- B. Land Acquisition Project Evaluations
- C. Project-specific Funding Conditions (*to be provided to the board in advance of the meeting*)

April 2021 Offering - Land Acquisition Applications and Staff Recommendations

Application #	Application Name	Applicant	\$ Requested	\$ Recommended
221-9900	Oak Creek Preserve	Greenbelt Land Trust	\$1,027,390	\$1,027,390
221-9901	Mt Ashland Forest Climate Resilience Project	Pacific Forest Trust	\$1,128,010	\$1,128,010
221-9903	North Fork Siuslaw	The Nature Conservancy	\$923,673*	\$923,673*
221-9902	Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement	Wild Rivers Land Trust	\$5,212,524	\$0

Total	
Recommended:	\$3,079,073*

* The recommended award for application 221-9903 includes, and is contingent upon receipt of \$490,000 in USFWS Coastal Wetlands funds. If federal funds are not awarded, the OWEB award for 221-9903 will be \$433,673 contingent upon the applicant securing \$490,000 in other match funds.

SPRING 2021 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	221-9900-19489		
Project Name:	Oak Creek Preserve		
Applicant:	Greenbelt Land Trust	Region:	Willamette
Basin:	Willamette	County:	Benton
OWEB Request:	\$1,027,390	Total Cost	\$2,060,130

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

Oak Creek Preserve, a 143-acre site located in NE Benton County, offers unparalleled opportunities for connecting habitat restoration and trails, and preserving waterways in the Oak Creek Watershed. This high-visibility property is essentially the 'missing puzzle piece' to connect over 12,000 acres of protected lands, and has been identified as a site critical for protection for decades.

Greenbelt Land Trust is a trusted conservation partner, with over 30 years of consistent, demonstrated success at navigating complex acquisitions, pioneering large-scale habitat restoration, and building community support for our work. Oak Creek Preserve is a stone's throw from the land trust's Bald Hill Natural Area, Bald Hill Farm, Mulkey Ridge, and Fitton Green Natural Area properties. The addition of Oak Creek Preserve to this expansive portfolio of protected lands will effectively solidify our legacy in this region of connecting lands and resilient habitats for generations to come.

The future vision for Oak Creek Preserve includes a mosaic of wetland, prairie, and oak woodland habitat, and engages the community through recreation and volunteerism. Imagine a dynamic site where endangered grassland birds nesting amid tufted prairie grasses, acorn woodpeckers peeking out from the trunks of legacy oak trees, with riparian swales collecting into a marshy wet prairie that is bursting with camas in the Spring.

Support for Greenbelt's acquisition of Oak Creek Preserve is at a fever-pitch. The attached list of supporters includes federal and state conservation partners, local government, tribes, regional conservation nonprofits, and neighbors. These letters give voice to the countless additional community members who are championing this acquisition - collectively we know that the protection of Oak Creek Preserve is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and that this site will be a keystone property for Greenbelt, for our regional conservation goals, and for Oregon Watershed Enhancement.

REVIEW

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

The Oak Creek Preserve land acquisition project will protect and restore wet prairie, upland prairie-oak savannah and oak woodland habitats, which historically made up the majority of the Willamette Valley. Today these habitats are the top three declining habitats in the Willamette and are now mostly gone from the landscape. The acquisition property also has a small portion of Oak Creek, which is listed on the 303(d)

list of water quality impaired water bodies. With the development that has already occurred in the Oak Creek watershed, much of the original wetlands and floodplain connection have been lost to impervious surfaces, infrastructure, and agricultural land use. Preserving the remaining oak woodland, upland prairie-oak savannah, wetland, and wet prairie habitats is a high priority in the Willamette to rebuild ecological connectivity needed to support species relying on these habitats.

Value of Habitat Connectivity to Species Recovery

The Oak Creek Preserve property provides an unmatched opportunity to connect a corridor of upland prairie and oak habitats in the Corvallis and Philomath area because of its location adjacent to and within proximity of a network of properties protected for ecological values. The large size of the property and connection to other conservation sites significantly increases the ecological benefit gained from protecting this site to prevent permanent alteration and loss of habitats needed for protected species recovery. The value of this habitat connectivity cannot be overstated for the target species that will benefit from protected high value habitats, especially fauna, because maintaining resilient populations for many of them simply requires large, unfragmented areas.

The proposed acquisition site has potential to provide suitable habitat for several rare and declining species, including Federal and State listed species. These species include Fender's blue butterfly, Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, Willamette daisy, Kincaid's lupine, and Nelson's checkermallow. "Corvallis West" is the second-most important Fender's blue butterfly habitat in the Willamette Valley according to USFWS. There are already endangered Fender's blue and Taylor's Checker spot butterflies present in the neighborhood of the property, and so it is reasonable to expect these species to utilize the property once it is restored. The site will also provide habitat for many grassland and oak-dependent species identified by conservation partners, including western meadowlark, chipping sparrow, vesper sparrow, white-breasted nuthatch, western bluebird, and acorn woodpecker. The property provides an opportunity to reintroduce listed plant species and contribute to species recovery goals. The proposed land acquisition project site combined with the adjacent conservation properties is likely to contribute unfragmented habitat needed to establish resilient plant populations and a corridor of uninterrupted habitat connectivity for threatened and endangered bird and butterfly species.

Risk to Habitat Connectivity

The Oak Creek Preserve property is located within the Urban Growth Boundary for the City of Corvallis and is zoned for housing development. Testing has already been completed to determine the suitability of the property for home sites, and the primary home sites would be placed in the oak woodland portion of the property where there are many legacy oak trees. Other nearby properties that once had similar habitats like the Oak Creek Preserve site are now town houses, residential neighborhoods, or student housing blocks for Oregon State University. There is a high likelihood for the project property to be developed if it is not acquired for conservation. The opportunity to restore and preserve high priority habitats and expand habitat connectivity will be lost, and further habitat fragmentation of these habitats will impact landscape efforts to recover listed species. Permanent protection is the only way to restore and manage the priority wet prairie, upland prairie-oak savannah and oak woodland habitats. Unlike stream restoration projects where restoration goals can typically be achieved within a finite period, these habitats require long term investment to maintain restoration gains. The threats posed by development of the site into housing, along with the associated roads and other impervious surfaces, would disrupt habitat and forever block the recovery of natural ecological system processes on the Oak Creek Preserve site.

Opportunity for Habitat Restoration

The oak woodland portion of the Oak Creek Preserve is currently in good condition with the presence of multiple large legacy oak trees and no fir trees creeping into the oak stand and threatening to over top the

oaks. Very little restoration is needed to maintain the ecological values of the oak woodland that already support key target species, such as the acorn woodpecker.

Most of the remainder of the property has no native plant community and a significantly altered hydrology. Restoration work will be necessary to recover natural ecological systems and functions, and to re-introduce native plant species in the abundance and diversity with which they would naturally occur. Due to the project site position on the landscape and recent agricultural management, restoration has a high likelihood for succeeding in recovering target habitats, improve plant biodiversity and structure, and increase wildlife diversity and abundance.

This project reflects a common conservation theme in the Willamette Valley in which land use must be changed completely, often from agriculture, and starting from scratch to restore historic conditions to the maximum extent possible. The property is located in the transition zone from the valley bottom to upland habitats, such as the oak woodland. There is significant opportunity to establish wetland and upland prairie, both of which are habitats listed in the ODFW Conservation Strategy. The site historically contained a large area of wetlands and wet prairie that is currently limited due to alterations made to accommodate agricultural practices. Seasonal tributaries and seeps have been ditched to quickly transport water off the grass fields. Most of the area is in annual ryegrass production. Annual ryegrass fields are easier to restore compared to old pastures. Pastures tend to have a variety of invasive plant species mixed in with native plants, while annual ryegrass acts as a cover crop that breaks the weed cycle. The ryegrass fields provide a blank slate for restoration that is relatively clean of weeds, which is often more cost effective because conversion to habitat can be done at an economy of scale.

Restoration and maintenance plans for the property are well thought out, site-appropriate, and in line with the current knowledge and approach taken by restoration practitioners for restoring the multi-habitat mosaic once common to the Willamette Valley. The wet prairie restoration planned will reverse the current conditions caused by ditched and channelized tributaries that were designed to move water quickly out of the floodplain. This will restore floodplain connection by reconnecting ephemeral tributaries and create vernal pools that will promote groundwater recharge needed to support wet prairie plant and wildlife species, including migratory birds and amphibians. Restoring wetland filtering functions is likely to improve water quality in Oak Creek by providing slow subsurface cold-water releases during warm months and filtering overland runoff.

The applicant has the expertise and capacity to undertake the necessary restoration to achieve the desired ecological outcomes. They have experience specifically in restoring oak habitat and restoring prairie habitats from former agricultural fields. Their restoration work on the adjacent Bald Hill Farm site is a “Gold Standard” for oak restoration in the Willamette Valley.

Opportunity to Increase Community Awareness

With its close proximity to Corvallis, the proposed land acquisition project location provides an opportunity for community outreach that showcases conservation at work. It will be challenging to maintain high ecological values that are not compromised by a likely high demand for public use. The applicant has significant experience in balancing public use and ecological values on the adjacent Bald Hill Farm and has already contracted to develop a conceptual plan for a boardwalk that will restrict access and link with other trails. The accessible and culturally sensitive trail system planned for the site will serve an important role in social connectivity and access for the community to learn about the importance of the diverse habitats and species on Oak Creek Preserve and the need to protect them in the long term.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

The acquisition is a relatively uncomplicated purchase of fee simple title. GLT has completed several significant due diligence items, including obtaining an option and appraisal and analyzing certain title-related matters. One due diligence item in particular, the potential for a major road, as described in the local comprehensive plan, to be built through the property, needs to be thoroughly investigated and the risk determined to be minimal for the project to be consistent with the purpose of OWEB's funds. An existing title encumbrance also appears to include a right to construct roads on the property, which requires a risk analysis. One of the property's boundaries is adjacent to several small-acreage rural ownerships, where boundary encroachments may be an issue. The boundary should be surveyed and any encroachments should be resolved. The property's rental agreement for agricultural use will need to be carefully considered to ensure compliance with relocation-related laws.

Completed and additional due diligence would need to be reviewed and approved by OWEB if the application is awarded funds. GLT is likely to complete the process in an efficient manner because of their experience with OWEB's requirements.

GLT is requesting \$1,000,000 from OWEB for the property purchase price and needs to raise \$500,000 for the remainder of the purchase price. GLT also needs to secure a stewardship fund for the property. GLT estimates it needs to raise \$500,000 for the fund to generate sufficient income for annual stewardship of the property, although additional information is necessary to confirm this. GLT has started a fundraising campaign that it reports has generated significant community interest so far. GLT appears confident that it will raise the necessary stewardship funds and additional purchase funds by OWEB's 18-month due diligence deadline.

Reviewers identified a long-term project soundness concern pertaining to potential extensive public use of the property. The use needs to be managed effectively and in a manner that protects the restored ecosystems and complies with OWEB's conservation easement. Infrastructure related to public use on OWEB-funded properties is typically minimal. Infrastructure and its use must not impede the ability of the property to meet the purpose of OWEB's land acquisition grant program, which is the protection and enhancement of native fish and wildlife habitat.

The application proposes updating the property management plan every 10 years. However, GLT will need to review the management plan every five years and update it if needed in accordance with OWEB's management plan guidance.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states that community benefits include high-value native habitat, clean water for fish and wildlife in the Oak Creek Basin, cleaner drinking water for communities that draw water from the Willamette River (Adair), trails designed to reduce barriers to the outdoors, and opportunity to build partnerships around restoration/management of the land.

These benefits have a high likelihood of being realized if the application is funded. While the drinking water benefit would be challenging to quantify given the scale of the drinking water supply watershed, the Willamette River, the benefit is nevertheless important, particularly given the public visibility of the property and neighboring conservation properties.

A concern regarding public access noted in the soundness review will be important with respect to the trails benefits described in the application. The benefits of public access to restoration of prairie habitat, which is needed in the Willamette Valley, will need to be balanced by managing public access in such a way as to minimize impacts to wildlife habitat.

A public hearing was held July 8 to provide an opportunity for community comments on the application. No members of the public attended; a neighboring landowner submitted an email comment in support of funding the application.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The Greenbelt Land Trust is an accredited Land Trust and is following best management practices in accordance with the accreditation. The organization's portfolio includes nearly 4,000 acres across more than 20 properties, many of which have been acquired with OWEB funds. The proposed property aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy. GLT does have several outstanding reports associated with other OWEB acquisition projects, which would need to be addressed prior to entering into a grant agreement.

The project team has the necessary expertise to complete this transaction and to ensure the long-term stewardship, management and monitoring of the property. GLT has an experienced stewardship team with the knowledge and skills to successfully manage this property; however, the application does not provide sufficient detail on the overall obligations of the team and how staffing and financial resources will be distributed across the many properties to meet the organization's overall stewardship, management, and monitoring obligations.

SUMMARY

The application provides an opportunity to permanently protect a key property connecting to a significant network of protected lands with oak woodland/oak savannah habitat. The property's location near an urbanized area makes it vulnerable to development threats that would eliminate the possibility of habitat restoration and protection. GLT has the depth and breadth of experience in property transactions and habitat restoration on similar properties to make the likelihood of success on this property high. While GLT will need to balance public access with habitat protection and restoration, they have demonstrated ability to do this effectively on similar properties.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the Board award \$1,027,390 for the project in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with GLT to finalize project-specific conditions, which will be provided to the Board at its October 2021 meeting.

SPRING 2021 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	221-9901-19497		
Project Name:	Mt. Ashland Forest Climate Resilience Project		
Applicant:	Pacific Forest Trust	Region:	Southwest Oregon
Basin:	Rogue	County:	Jackson
OWEB Request:	\$1,128,010	Total Cost:	\$2,300,185

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

Pacific Forest Trust (PFT), an Accredited Land Trust, is seeking OWEB funds to acquire 960 acres of forestland (the Property) on the Siskiyou Crest that is part of the 1675-acre Mt. Ashland Forest Climate Resilience Project (the Project), a broad conservation partnership. We are also seeking funds for acquisition costs, baseline information, and planning for ecological management. The Project's Phase 1 was completed in 2020 with the acquisition of 555 acres from Siskiyou Timberlands by Mountcrest Forest, which charitably granted a conservation easement to PFT. OWEB funds will be matched 100% by a combination of cash and in-kind contributions, including the Phase 1 conservation easement value, the fee value of a 160-acre portion of the Project and other expenses being funded by a secured grant from the LTA Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative.

The Property is in the heart of the Siskiyou Crest Conservation Opportunity Area and contains priority habitats for this COA. It is adjacent to Mountcrest Forest and is the largest remaining unprotected private tract in the Neil Creek drainage, comprising many of its headwater springs. The Property provides critical connectivity within a large network of protected lands allowing for wildlife migration across the landscape for species seeking to adapt to climate change. Its habitat types include the notably biodiverse Siskiyou mixed forest, meadows, palustrine forest and wetlands. The Property supports many imperiled species including northern spotted owl, coho and steelhead, fisher and gray wolf.

Conserving the Property will prevent it from being developed for residential/recreational uses as well as intensively logged, degrading ecological functionality. PFT's conservation management will maintain and enhance habitats and improve resiliency to climate change stressors. We intend to use the Property as a hub to engage stakeholders in learning about ecological forest management for climate resiliency.

REVIEW

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

Strengths

The goals listed in the application are consistent with successful protection and preservation outcomes within this type of environment. This acquisition could provide significant benefits for connectivity, climate resiliency, and sensitive species conservation.

The acquisition addresses the board-adopted conservation principles of protecting sites with exceptional biodiversity values, improving connectivity, and complementing existing networks of conserved areas. This property is a vital undeveloped link for connectivity of wildlife. This area has been rated as one of the most important biological corridors in the western United States. Acquisition mitigates for potential risks due to logging, fragmentation, and habitat loss, and provides opportunities for landscape scale, cohesive management of late seral forests for wildlife and other benefits, enhancing connectivity within the project area and protecting significant biodiversity resources.

The property consists of a high-quality mosaic of habitats from early to late seral as well as wetlands and meadow networks. The area is an ecological critical habitat area of concern, surrounded by the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) Late-Successional Reserves, spotted owl critical habitat, and spotted owl and fisher detections. The proposed management of the property is consistent with the USFS NWFP and BLM Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument conservation principles.

This property provides intact natural and undeveloped sections that are important to wildlife movements. The property includes significant and rare habitat types that are in functional condition and provides important habitat features for wildlife including snags, wet meadows, uneven-aged stands, canopy gaps, bare ground, and rock outcrops. Promoting and protecting older forest characteristics will enhance and restore complexity and habitat values for species associated with intact and mature forests, as well as forest-associated resident and neotropical migratory songbirds. Nevertheless, plant communities are poorly characterized in the application, and an inventory would improve the understanding of potential at risk-communities on-site.

Keeping the landownership contiguous provides an opportunity for a more comprehensive and large-scale management approach to address forest resiliency and climate change. Having larger tracts managed with climate change in mind is necessary because of the magnitude of the stressors and megafire possibilities in our forest ecosystems. Having more intact and restored forest ecosystems keeps options open to allow for adaptively managing for increasing threats.

The strategic location and proposed management objectives of the acquisition plus adjacent forest properties under PFT management will enhance the conservation value of this location from the standpoint of maintaining a species-habitat connectivity bridge among multiple physiographic provinces (i.e., Oregon and California Klamath, Oregon and California Cascades). This forest connection will provide for important meta-population dynamics for multiple at-risk and federally listed species. Focusing on forest resiliency and climate change in this location is expected to help keep the forest community and connectivity with similar habitat intact or at least reduce stressors at the regional level.

The property is at the heart of the Cascade-Siskiyou ecoregion, directly linking the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. This habitat-connectivity bridge is beneficial to spotted owls, Pacific fisher, wolves, and Coastal marten. Further, the on-site diversity of springs and wet meadows is essential for pollinators and amphibians. This landscape mosaic for the fisher provides for foraging and dispersal across the larger forested context and serves as important steppingstones for population viability of the northern California and southern Oregon Pacific fisher populations. The subject property has both the strategic location and diversity of habitats to hasten recovery and conservation of the spotted owl, Coastal marten and fisher. Protection of this area (and anticipated future management), coupled with the conservation benefits of the adjacent areas will provide for resilient forests in adapting to climate change across this biologically rich area.

Other species of concern include the western bumblebee and the Franklins bumblebee, a species listed as endangered, and only found in the Mount Ashland area. This property provides potential habitat for both of these species. The meadows also provide habitat for a plethora of early seral species. The wetlands provide for many aquatic species including beaver, pond turtles, western toad and mountain beaver. Ungulates like

deer and elk use this property extensively during the summer. Late successional habitat provides closed canopy habitat for species like the black salamander, hermit warbler, various woodpeckers, bald eagle, as well as various mollusk and other invertebrates of concern.

Aquatic species that may benefit are cold water trout and ESA-listed coho salmon, as Neil Creek is Coho Designated Critical Habitat in the lower reaches. There are other aquatic species of concern, such as red tailed frog and pacific giant salamander.

Concerns

This is an extremely important ecological area with fragile habitats. Too many educational or management activities could disturb this condition. Educational and management activities should be limited as much as possible to avoid disturbing the incredibly diverse and sensitive flora and fauna of the area.

While the applicant organization has a history of successful and engaged conservation action on the Siskiyou Crest, it will be critical that adequate field staff time and availability to implement the proposed restoration and management actions be allocated.

The application indicates a high level of planned timber harvest (25% every 10 years). This level of harvest could be detrimental to the desired habitat outcomes expressed in the application, and a management plan will need to reflect how this level of harvest can be completed while still meeting outcomes.

Strategic active forest management under PFT's management plan of the forested areas, particularly the younger forests, will be necessary to achieve more structurally complex and resilient forests. Ongoing restoration of the open meadows will be needed to address encroachment as will addressing the threat of invasive plant species.

Additional plant and invasive species inventory work and site assessment would inform the refinement of management plan goals and actions.

Concluding Ecological Analysis

The property provides valuable habitat connectivity, high biodiversity, and high ecological function within a large regional area when considering adjacent conservation properties and federal ownership that is managed for conservation. This is an important ecological transition area with different species from high to low elevations mixing at fine scales and at the landscape scale, a transition zone of habitats that come from the great basin, California chaparral, coastal west zone and the northern boreal forest.

The ecological condition and function of the property is excellent currently and rare for this area. There is relatively minimal restoration that needs to be done and the emphasis should be on preservation for the known and unknown rare plant and animal species present and for protection of the multiple micro-habitats found throughout the property.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

If the application is funded there are several title encumbrances that need to be addressed:

- i) a current lack of insurable access;
- ii) a mineral reservation that PFT asserts does not apply to the property but has not been removed from the title;
- iii) rights of the public to use the property's roads; and
- iv) rights of other parties to construct roads on the property.

Another potential complication is the potential for the seller's expectations for the deed to diverge from OWEB's requirements. OWEB will require a deed that cites only specific encumbrances affecting the property, consistent with OWEB's current title guidance. The current appraisal will need to be updated, incorporating OWEB's appraisal requirements.

PFT's intended timing for the transaction is not clear, although the application states that PFT can reobtain previous approval of a bridge loan if its option period terminates before all of OWEB's funding conditions are met. In such case, it will be important for PFT to ensure it has met OWEB's requirements for the initial closing and understand that closing in advance of receiving OWEB's funds does not guarantee OWEB's funds will later be released.

If the application is awarded funds, PFT will need to work with OWEB to ensure that all property it intends to use for match for the OWEB award meets OWEB's requirements for permanent protection.

Reviewers identified long-term soundness concerns related to PFT's plans for a stewardship fund and management of the property, which will be PFT's first fee simple ownership. The proposed annual stewardship budget appears to be a general estimate of costs related to monitoring, as opposed to a calculation of costs based on planned stewardship time and activities. Furthermore, the application states that initial stewardship expenses will be funded through grants and PFT's operational funds until a stewardship fund can be established.

The application states that PFT plans to harvest the property's timber to have an adequate fund for typical stewardship activities such as weed control. PFT intends to remove up to a quarter of the property's timber inventory every ten years. This plan needs to be assessed by an independent subject matter expert familiar with the property to confirm that this level of harvest will be consistent with the purpose of OWEB's funding, which is the protection and enhancement of native fish and wildlife habitat.

The application proposes updating the property management plan every 10 years. However, PFT will need to review the management plan every five years and update it as needed in accordance with OWEB's management plan guidance.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states that as the last privately-owned property in Neil Creek watershed, the project will continue to generate economic, wildlife, watershed, scenic, scientific and educational values for the surrounding communities, the region and the state in perpetuity. Specifically, the application states that these benefits include: cold water fish habitat, fuels reduction that will reduce wildfire threats, and a learning opportunity for climate resilient forest management.

While there are potential climate resilience benefits that could be achieved on a forested property within a diverse ecosystem, the application would have benefited from more specific descriptions of how the applicant intends to achieve climate resilience benefits and how those benefits may be transferable to other properties in the region.

Nevertheless, the applicant is a leader in forest management in the Pacific Northwest and has the capacity to implement harvest strategies that could accrue climate resilience benefits.

A public hearing was held on July 1 to provide an opportunity for public comment on the application. Two members of the public attended and stated their support for the application due to its significant ecological benefits. One written comment was received expressing concern for potential fire risk and other risks associated with public use of the property.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

PFT received its accreditation in 2010 and is following best management practices in accordance with the accreditation. The organization's portfolio includes management responsibility for over 100,000 acres spread across more than 30 project sites in two states. This project would be PFT's first fee simple

ownership. The organization has completed one previous project with OWEB's acquisition program and is currently up to date with OWEB acquisition related reporting requirements. The proposed property aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy.

The project team has the necessary expertise to complete this transaction and to ensure the long-term stewardship, management and monitoring of the property. The stewardship team does seem stretched thin across many projects in multiple states. PFT might be nearing maximum staffing capacity to meet its stewardship needs and might need to consider additional staffing resources in the future to continue meeting its stewardship and management goals.

SUMMARY

The application presents an opportunity to permanently protect a key property within a larger regional context of conservation properties in the Cascade-Siskiyou ecoregion. Since the proposed outcomes are dependent upon the forest management strategy, it will be important to ensure that harvest strategy aligns with the long-term goal of restoration of a forest with late seral characteristics. While the property would be the first fee simple acquisition for PFT, their long-term experience managing forests for conservation purposes indicates a high likelihood of success for perpetual habitat conservation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the Board award \$1,128,010 for the project in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with PFT to finalize project-specific conditions, which will be provided to the Board at its October 2021 meeting.

SPRING 2021 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	221-9902-19498		
Project Name:	Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement		
Applicant:	Wild Rivers Land Trust	Region:	Southwest Oregon
Basin:	South Coast	County:	Curry
OWEB Request:	\$5,212,524	Total Cost:	\$10,488,024

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

The Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement Project is the purchase of a conservation easement on the 783-acre Wahl Ranch which is located on the southern Oregon Coast in the lower Elk River watershed. The Ranch is located about three miles north of Port Orford, about ½ mile west of Hwy 101, and immediately southeast of Cape Blanco. The Project will perpetually protect 783 acres, including ~250 acres of fish and wildlife habitat, ~1.1 miles of the Elk River which includes the Elk River estuary, large portions of two low-gradient streams (tributaries to Elk River), several wildlife ponds, and 0.6 miles of Oregon coastline.

This project presents an opportunity to protect a large family ranch and an ecologically critical piece of this remarkable landscape for generations to come. The need for this project is significant given the development pressures. The Ranch is in a 20 mile stretch of scenic coastline consisting of ten ranches owned by eight families, and public parks or natural areas. It is the longest stretch like it left on the Oregon coast and is known as the “dark coast” by sailors for lack of lights from development. None of the ten ranches has converted out of ranching in four generations, but significant residential and commercial development pressures have now reached Oregon’s south coast. The project will also ensure that the investments that the Ranch has made to restore and protect the ecological areas supporting fish and wildlife into Ranch operations are secured, including major restoration efforts on Cedar and Swamp Creeks, with additional restoration work planned for both.

Partners include the Wahl Ranch, Wild Rivers Land Trust, The Conservation Fund and the Natural Resources Conservation Service through their Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. The project supports the recommendations of the SONCC coho salmon recovery plan and the ODFW Sixes River-Elk River Conservation Opportunity Area to protect wetland and estuarine habitats.

REVIEW

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

Strengths

The project involves many of the South Coast Basin priority ecological systems listed in the 2004 OWEB Ecological Priorities for Land Acquisition by Basin (OEPLAB): CA-Southern OR coastal bluffs and headlands, deciduous swamp, freshwater emergent marsh, lowland riparian woodland and shrubland, Sitka spruce forest, and South Coast grassland. The OEPLAB identifies the Cape Blanco area as a priority place to address biodiversity conservation because of its at-risk species and unique coastal habitats. The project area has

preferred stream conditions for projects intended to benefit native fish: low gradient, unconfined channels, tributary junctions where smaller streams enter a much larger river, and estuarine channels.

The project area is situated at an ecologically diverse zone encompassing several habitat types for fish and wildlife including riparian and stream corridors, estuary, and headlands. Protecting these ecologically sensitive areas that provide critical habitat is vital as ranches consider conversion to more intensive land uses posing risks of habitat fragmentation, water quality impacts, and higher carbon emissions.

Conversion of the Ranch to other uses would reduce the quality of fish and wildlife habitat and the value of the completed restoration work, as well as the management practices implemented to support it. The forest and upland habitat quality could suffer if the Ranch was subdivided, but the restored and enhanced aquatic habitat, aside from perhaps narrower buffers, would likely persist given land use laws.

The property is a large, intact ranch with significant biodiversity. In particular, the ranch includes significant, and functioning, overwintering habitat for coho in Swamp and Cedar Creeks, and summer habitat for Chinook in Elk River estuary. Protecting that habitat with a conservation easement is consistent with state and federal plans for the conservation and recovery of coho and Chinook salmon.

Historical impacts on the property include overgrazing/ground disturbance followed by significant gorse invasion, ditching and simplification of Swamp and Cedar creeks, and loss of floodplain connectivity. Current management of the ranch over the last 20 years has included improved grazing practices, protection and ongoing restoration of riparian areas, completion of fish passage projects, and improved floodplain and wetland connectivity. The landowners clearly understand the long-term benefits that restoration and proper management can provide. They have dedicated a lot of time and funds to improve the ecological condition of this property. While fish habitat has not completely recovered from historical impacts it has recovered to a functioning condition, with potential for additional improvement. The quality and size of riparian buffers is large and as the vegetation matures it will provide excellent habitat for wildlife and shading of Cedar and Swamp Creeks. As temperatures continue to rise due to climate change, cold water refugia maintained through shaded corridors are going to be critical habitat for fish.

Concerns

Ensuring that the management plan strikes the balance of having flexibility for the landowner and achieving and maintaining ecological outcomes is critical to project success. This is especially critical for the areas that will remain in agriculture. The easement will not provide the long-term ecological and carbon sequestration benefits if the agricultural management practices diminish from the current state. Current practices are excellent and yield strong ecological outcomes, thus it is key that the management plan captures the goals and strategies clearly to ensure the integrity of the easement is maintained in perpetuity over the course of land ownership changes.

The gravel operation, while not proposed to be included in the easement, borders it and drains into Cedar Creek. This could have adverse impacts to water quality in Cedar Creek. It is unclear whether there is a current gravel extraction plan that safeguards water quality and ecological function.

Although there are fish passage measures in place at the Swamp Creek dams, ideally if protected in perpetuity the dams would be eliminated to restore Swamp Creek to its natural state. Also, if the dams remain in place it could pose management challenges in the future for the landowner and/or WRLT if the dams impact the desired ecological outcomes. It would be helpful to have more information on the scope of work proposed for the 2021-2022 Swamp Creek project that is referenced in the application. As such, it is difficult to evaluate the extent of remaining restoration needed on Swamp Creek. Based on the information provided it appears that this is the last major area of the property that would need restoration and site stabilization work completed. All other areas of the proposed easement zone appear to have well-functioning restoration projects (based on application information and site visit).

Without seeing the final management plan it is hard to evaluate in detail the extent of ecological benefits achieved; however, the application provides assurance that the WRLT and partners will work intentionally to develop a plan that is achievable, enforceable and aligns with the ecological goals for the property.

Invasive plant species are the primary threats to the composition of the plant communities and will continue to be a management issue.

The inclusion of additional information would make the application stronger. For example, quantify what it means that the area's "rugged beauty attracts new recreation and home site developers annually," and give specifics when mentioning that two of the ten "dark coast" ranches are in the process of converting to other uses. While properties don't need to be named, it would help to understand what specifically is driving these conversions, how many acres are involved, where are these conversions relative to the Project, and how will these conversions affect ecological outcomes?

Other areas where additional detail would be helpful center around Swamp Creek. How does Swamp Creek compare to other winter rearing habitat within the watershed in terms of size and habitat quality? A bit more context, even at the sub-watershed scale, would be helpful. How does Swamp Creek restoration actions align with the long-term ecological goals of the property. Additional information on the dams on the creek and details regarding how they will be addressed would be helpful because although there are fish passage measures in place at the Swamp Creek dams, ideally if protected in perpetuity the dams would be eliminated to restore Swamp Creek to its natural state. If the dams remain in place it could pose management challenges in the future for the landowner and the land trust if it impacts the desired ecological outcomes. It would be helpful to have more information on the scope of work proposed for the 2021-2022 Swamp Creek project that is referenced in the application.

The potential for discovery of cultural resources would have benefitted from a detailed process discussion in the application.

Concluding Ecological Analysis

The Project overlaps many of the South Coast Basin's priority ecological systems in an area that sees a growing threat of development.

The property is situated in an area of coast with several distinct habitat types including coastal headland, estuary, wetland, riparian forest, and tributary streams. Protecting this diversity is a significant need in a region that is facing increased development pressures. The easement would protect these benefits in perpetuity which is a critical need in the face of ESA-listed species declines, climate change, and development pressures in the area.

This property showcases the compatibility of working lands and conservation. The property has had several successful restoration projects and the landowners are committed to sustainable and ecologically sound agricultural practices. Protecting this property with an easement will bring great ecological benefits to this area for high priority species including salmon and lamprey, native birds, mammals such as beaver, and native plant communities. The current management of the property is highly beneficial for water quality, fish and wildlife. This demonstrates that working lands and conservation can be complementary on a ranch property. Moreover, if not protected the potential risk for diminished ecological function is high due to development pressures in the area or a change in agricultural practices when landownership changes.

The current state of the property indicates that conservation is a recognized important aspect of this landscape by the landowners. Prior utilization of conservation programs on the ranch property, as well as their approach to working land and livestock management, show that they are heavily invested in protecting important ecological communities. The projected benefits to both aquatic and terrestrial communities are extremely likely in this scenario, and much needed on the southern coast.

Ensuring that the management plan strikes the balance of having flexibility for the landowner and maintaining all ecological outcomes. This is especially critical for the areas that will remain in agriculture. The easement will not provide the long term ecological and carbon sequestration benefits if the agricultural management practices diminish from the current state. Current practices are excellent and yield strong ecological outcomes, thus it is key that the management plan captures the goals and strategies clearly to ensure the integrity of the easement is maintained in perpetuity over the course of landownership changes. Overall, there are several well implemented and maintained projects on the property that contribute significantly to ecological function. It will be imperative that the WRLT and landowners work collaboratively to adaptively manage the property to sustain these current and future ecological outcomes.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

The application and review process identified significant soundness challenges that would need to be addressed to meet OWEB's due diligence requirements and achieve the long-term outcomes of the proposed project.

The project application's soundness challenges include:

- i) differences in owner information between the application and title materials;
- ii) a lack of an articulated structure and process for inclusive landowner decision-making during due diligence and under the easement;
- iii) a lack of a well-developed easement purchase price estimate;
- iv) a lack of preparedness to mesh NRCS and OWEB requirements such as requirements for a grazing plan and completion of the baseline and management plan before closing;
- v)a relative lack of easement drafting and management planning work specific to the property;
- vi) a lack of clear ecological goals and monitoring plans for the property's agricultural areas;
- vii) uncertainty about the intended easement zones and the amount of the property that will be dedicated to the purpose of OWEB's land acquisition program;
- viii) an inadequate budget for management plan development for a working lands easement, which must include a grazing plan component;
- ix) potentially complex and expensive survey work necessary to create the legal description for the conservation easement;
- x) public rights to portions of the property, including the beach and cemetery and difficulties in achieving easement protections in those areas;
- xi) uncertainty regarding future plans for the property's water rights;
- xii) uncertainties around title encumbrances, which are often incomplete in a status of record title such as the one included in the application;
- xiii) a windfarm lease that, if not able to be removed from title, must be allowed to expire before the conservation easement is granted; and
- xiv) a proposal in the application to establish separate tracts of record for gravel resources and the beach is unclear.

Reviewers identified long-term soundness concerns related to WRLT's plans for a stewardship fund and easement monitoring, with inadequate funds based on standard stewardship fund analytical tools and a frequency of monitoring that is likely too low to ensure high-quality outcomes under a working lands easement.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states the project will help achieve community benefits described in the Elk River Strategic Action Plan for Coho Salmon Recovery, including: self-sustaining habitats and fish and wildlife populations; healthy forests, streams, ranches, farms, and fisheries; a high quality of life for residents, workers, and visitors; a diverse economy anchored in the sustainable use of natural resources, which can adapt to 21st

century needs and opportunities; a community in which families can make a living, children do not have to leave to find jobs, and elders can enjoy a fulfilling life; and a culture that embraces the interdependence of ecology, economy, and community.

While the project is likely to contribute to many of the non-habitat benefits listed above, there is concern among some members of the community, as expressed in written comments from Curry County and the Curry County Farm Bureau, that the project could drive up the cost of farmland, making it more challenging for new farmers or those who would like to expand operations. This perception, however, is based on the estimated cost of the easement included in the application. Since OWEB can only fund an easement that follows strict appraisal guidelines, the purchase price would simply reflect market value. There may be a need for community engagement around succession planning issues faced by agricultural operators in the region and the state.

A public hearing was held July 9 to provide an opportunity for public comment on the application. Seven members of the public attended, with one providing verbal comments/questions that centered on how a conservation easement will impact neighboring properties and whether the conservation organizations planned to acquire additional easements. Representatives of WRLT and The Conservation Fund responded that the current landowners would continue to interact with neighbors as they have in the past and that WRLT would have limited contact with neighbors. The Conservation Fund indicated that the South Coast is a priority area for conservation, and that they only work with willing sellers.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

WRLT received its accreditation in 2019 and is following best management practices in accordance with the accreditation. The organization's portfolio includes 6 easements and two fee properties totaling just under 600 acres. The organization has completed one previous OWEB acquisition and is currently up to date with OWEB acquisition related reporting requirements. The proposed property aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy. The acquisition project team seems sufficient to accomplish the complex transaction. The team includes WRLT staff, Conservation Fund staff and consultants.

WRLT Conservation Director will be the lead on the long-term stewardship and management of the property and will work in partnership with the Curry Watersheds Partnership (CWP). The addition of this property to the organization's portfolio might be challenging given the complexity of this property and the other stewardship and management responsibilities of the organization. However, the proposed partnership with CWP, which has significant restoration and monitoring expertise, would increase the likelihood of the long-term successful stewardship, management and monitoring of the property. The application does not clearly articulate the on-going stewardship costs for this site. Additional information is needed on how WRLT plans on budgeting for annual stewardship and securing the funds to fulfill its responsibilities.

SUMMARY

The Wahl Ranch has demonstrated effective practices to improve long-term soil health on sheep pastures resulting in increased productivity while at the same time reducing or eliminating the need for artificial inputs. The property includes a small portion of the Elk River as well as two tributaries that provide significant coho and Chinook habitat.

Grassland is not a native habitat type for this area, which, while not insurmountable, presents challenges for OWEB to invest in a conservation easement for the purpose of habitat protection and restoration, particularly where the larger portion of the property appears to be pasture rather than proposed conservation zones. This makes the partnership with other, agriculturally focused funders critical. Up front

clarity in roles of all parties (funders, CWP, WRLT, landowners) and funding requirements will be key to making this project a success.

If ownership structure and other soundness issues identified in the evaluation can be addressed, the applicant is encouraged to more fully develop a proposal to mesh funder priorities with proposed easements, providing distinction between agricultural areas subject to a conservation easement to protect and sustain agricultural conservation and areas subject to a conservation easement for habitat purposes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the evaluation above, staff do not recommend the board award funding for the Wahl Ranch Conservation Easement.

SPRING 2021 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	221-9903-19500		
Project Name:	Siuslaw (Large)		
Applicant:	The Nature Conservancy	Region:	North Coast
Basin:	North Coast	County:	Lane
OWEB Request:	\$433,673 Lottery and \$490,000 Coastal Wetlands		
Total Cost:	\$1,320,243		

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

The subject property sits on the North Fork Siuslaw River approximately three to five miles from the confluence with the main Siuslaw. The property is 247 acres in size and is bordered by the North Fork of the Siuslaw River along approximately 2.6 miles of the western edge. It is the second largest unprotected property remaining in the Siuslaw estuary, and the largest remaining diked pasture in the estuary.

The property is disconnected from the river by a series of levees and tide gates and has been maintained for agriculture for most of the last century. Agricultural management, levee maintenance and the resulting land subsidence will continue if no action is taken.

The acquisition represents an opportunity to radically change the ecological trajectory of the property. Once acquired, the McKenzie River Trust, with the assistance of TNC and members of the Siuslaw Coho Partnership, will immediately begin working to realize the vision outlined in the Restoration Feasibility Assessment. This includes re-creating tidal hydrology on a majority of the property and will result in lateral connection of approximately 236 acres. As lateral floodplain connectivity is restored and secondary channels reform, habitat complexity and diversity will increase - creating conditions for diverse estuarine flora and fauna including critical juvenile nursery habitat benefitting multiple anadromous species.

There is broad support for the project among conservation partners in the area. IN addition to TNC, the core partners for the project include those participating in the Siuslaw Coho Partnership:

- Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Siuslaw SWCD
- USFS
- BLM
- Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
- MRT
- ODFW

REVIEW

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

The Siuslaw (Large) project will protect and restore an array of diverse estuarine habitats, including critical habitat for juvenile salmon. Estuaries are one of the most ecologically rich and important habitat types in Oregon and have been significantly impacted through historical land use practices. The Siuslaw estuary has lost nearly 67% of its tidal wetlands over the last century, and this project represents a unique opportunity to return tidal influence and estuarine function to a relatively large area. The property is notable for its size, its location within an existing network of conserved lands, and its restoration potential.

Priority Location and Habitat

The parcel has been identified by numerous local and regional assessments as a high priority for acquisition and restoration. The site is located within a larger complex of conserved properties, and its acquisition will tie together a network of high-quality estuarine habitat that will add to the overall health and resilience of the Siuslaw estuary. The property itself constitutes a significant portion of the estuary on the North Fork Siuslaw and is a collaboration with a willing landowner who recognizes the challenges of continuing agriculture activities in a rapidly subsiding former tidal wetland. Physical processes will be restored in this tidal system among an atmosphere of local cooperation and support.

Restoration of estuarine habitat is an identified priority by restoration practitioners and conservation planners along the coast. There are limited sites of this size available in Oregon estuaries that are suitable for habitat restoration. Restoration of both this specific site and the proposed habitat type is an identified priority by the Siuslaw Coho Partnership. The site was also highlighted as a priority for restoration by recent technical assistance work on landward migration zones that was partly funded by OWEB.

Restoration Opportunity

Restoration of this property will restore tidally influenced habitat managed to preserve and improve natural habitat function. Site conditions at this property were identified by the landowner to be unsuitable for agriculture, presenting an opportunity to restore high priority estuarine habitat with a willing landowner. Dike and tide gate removal are proposed and will be among the most beneficial restoration actions for the site. The applicants are proposing significant increase to tidal exchange in both the northern and southern portions of the property and habitat quality is likely to be immediately improved as a result. The desired marsh surface elevation and channel network formation may take a long time to develop, but the information in the application provides confidence that the project team aims to restore hydrologic processes to the greatest extent possible. Restoration of tidal flows will allow the site to begin accumulating sediment that will help buffer the effects of sea level rise on estuarine habitat.

The preliminary restoration approach is appropriate for the site and is likely to achieve the desired future conditions. The conceptual design is informed by site specific data and hydrologic modeling that was completed as part of a 2018 Restoration Feasibility Study, which was a comprehensive effort that included a study of the trajectory of habitat function in recently restored properties nearby. The study indicates that restoration on the site is feasible given the site constraints and outlines the key habitat types that can be restored.

Some concerns with the proposed restoration were identified during review. The description of expected changes to the existing dike footprint lacked detail, especially how the project partners might address stabilizing the locations where the length of dike will remain after restoration. The proposed timeline in the application also may be overambitious for a complex estuarine restoration project of this nature, given that similar restoration efforts have taken extended periods of time to implement and stabilize. Despite these concerns, the application provided evidence that the project team has conducted appropriate due diligence, understands the complexities involved, and is poised to design and implement a successful restoration project.

Benefits to Fish, Wildlife, and Watershed Function

The ecological benefit possible with this project is contingent on the successful restoration of tidal hydrology. Restoration of the proposed 236 acres of estuarine habitat, once completed, could provide immediate benefits to a large variety of fish and wildlife species, water quality parameters, and native wetland plant communities. The trajectory in the estuary will also be improved for long term ecological benefits such as carbon sequestration, flood storage, and combatting sea level rise. Restoration of tidal connectivity will result in the proliferation of tidal marsh and swamp plant communities, which will contribute to increased biodiversity and foster the growth of native plants with valuable cultural impact.

The habitat improvements that will result from the successful restoration will increase winter rearing habitat within the Siuslaw estuary, which is a primary limiting factor to ESA-listed Oregon Coast coho salmon. The expected ecological benefits will also be significant to a wide variety of other aquatic species, including Chinook salmon and steelhead.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

The acquisition is a complex transaction that involves, among other things, the proposed use of USFWS Coastal Wetlands funds. Coastal Wetlands funds require:

- i) MRT to be added to the OWEB-TNC grant agreement;
- ii) OWEB to obtain USFWS approvals including approval of the appraisal and a notice of federal participation; and
- iii) TNC to comply with USFWS's due diligence timing requirements which are more stringent than OWEB's.

Additional transactional matters that will need to be addressed if the project is funded include:

- i) the transfer of title from TNC to MRT, necessitating a conveyance agreement, an additional deed, and additional title insurance;
- ii) land use approval necessary to separate the property being purchased from land being retained by the seller;
- iii) the need to confirm that existing utility lines and utility easements will be addressed in a manner that allows for the restoration described in the grant application;
- iv) unclear access rights and obligations of the party that owns the property, other parties, and the public;
- v) the need to confirm that all adjacent property owners, including all parties that have rights to use access roads on the property, support the restoration described in the grant application, including road relocation, if any, necessary to accomplish the restoration; and
- vi) intended access rights of the seller to land the seller is retaining.

The application reasonably demonstrates, despite the transaction's complexities, that the acquisition team has the requisite experience to complete the acquisition in a sound and timely manner; however, the application did not provide clear information about team member roles. If the application is awarded funding, an MOU will be necessary to establish roles and responsibilities for the transaction, property transfer, restoration, and long-term management phases of the project. There is also a need to establish an understanding about MRT's intentions to be the long-term owner of the property.

The application states that TNC intends to purchase the property before the end of OWEB's due diligence period. If the application is awarded funds, it will be important to establish an understanding with TNC that if it closes the transaction without OWEB funds, it will:

- i) coordinate with OWEB to ensure approval of certain transaction items in advance; and
- ii) not transfer the property to MRT until TNC and OWEB are ready to proceed with the grant funds as a reimbursement, at which time TNC will grant OWEB the conservation easement, record the notice

of federal participation, and convey the property to MRT. TNC will also need to understand that closing in advance of receiving OWEB's funds does not guarantee OWEB's funds will later be released.

Reviewers identified long-term soundness concerns related to MRT's plans for a stewardship fund. The stewardship fund appears to not be secured and the application does not indicate what amount needs to be secured to return enough income each year to cover the estimated stewardship expenses. If the application is awarded funding, this information should be required, along with evidence that the fund will be in place by closing or a specific timeframe soon after.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states that acquisition and subsequent restoration will provide permanent protection to a critical piece of Siuslaw River estuary ecosystem and will contribute to the recovery of Chinook, Oregon coast Coho and the health of other native salmonid populations. This will benefit recreational and commercial anglers and the local economy as a result. Tidal restoration will help slow velocities and reduce downstream flooding. In addition, MRT has memoranda of agreement with both the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, and protection and restoration of the property will benefit several culturally significant species for the Tribes.

A public hearing was held July 13 to provide an opportunity for public comment on the application. Four members of the public attended, with one, the current landowner, providing comment, stating that when he bought the property 15 years ago, he did not envision restoring wetlands. He found that the property is challenging to work for agricultural purposes and is best suited to being wetlands.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The Nature Conservancy has the necessary expertise to complete this transaction and the staff will work closely with MRT staff throughout the process. After the completion of the purchase the property will be transferred to MRT. MRT, accredited since 2015, is following best management practices in accordance with the accreditation. The proposed property aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy. MRT does have several outstanding reports associated with the Waite Ranch property.

MRT is a member of the Siuslaw Coho Partnership, which has been involved in the development of the project and will be involved in the long-term stewardship of the property. The application indicates the intent to hire a Central Coast Conservation Program Manager; follow-up information indicates this position has been hired. The addition of this position will increase the capacity of MRT and enable the organization to provide for the long-term stewardship and management of this property. The application clearly articulates the proposed stewardship costs and but does not provide information on how the organization will secure and maintain an adequate stewardship fund.

SUMMARY

In a previous application submitted by MRT for this project, the evaluation noted that uncertainty regarding the hydrologic impacts of needed restoration on neighboring properties, and therefore the potential to achieve restoration, rendered the application premature. In this application, TNC has partnered with MRT, who led a comprehensive feasibility study that answers the questions posed in the previous evaluation and determined that restoration of tidal wetlands is feasible at the site. Opportunities for tidal restoration at this scale are rare and worthy of OWEB investment. TNC has been a leader in tidal restoration on the Oregon Coast and MRT has extensive habitat restoration experience. If the project is funded, it will be important for TNC and MRT to clearly delineate the roles of each organization in a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the proposed restoration.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the Board award \$923,673 pending receipt of \$490,000 in Coastal Wetlands funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, or, if the Coastal Wetlands application is unsuccessful, receipt of secured match funds from another eligible source, for the project in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with TNC to finalize project-specific conditions, which will be provided to the Board at its October 2021 meeting.

**221-9900-19489 Oak Creek Preserve
Funding Conditions****Initial Funding Conditions:**

The following Initial Funding Conditions must be satisfied before OWEB will review due diligence items or reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above or the Secondary Funding Conditions below.

- A. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- B. Grantee obtains confirmation from the City of Corvallis that the Transportation System Plan road described in the Property appraisal will not be constructed on the Property. If Grantee determines, and OWEB agrees, that such confirmation cannot be obtained, Grantee demonstrates, to OWEB's satisfaction, that the risk of the road being constructed on the Property is negligible.
- C. Grantee clarifies intentions regarding the Property's agricultural rental agreement dated November 1, 2020 and confirms that: i) the agreement will not be terminated before the end of the term specified in the agreement; and ii) if the term of the agreement is extended, the Owner will subsequently terminate the agreement only in consultation with OWEB and in a manner that does not result in Uniform Relocation Act compliance concerns.
- D. Grantee describes its rationale for the expected rate of return on the Property stewardship fund, including the performance of Grantee's existing stewardship funds.
- E. Grantee completes a staff workload analysis of restoration and long-term stewardship for the Property. The analysis must demonstrate that Grantee has the capacity to add the Project to its operating budget and the existing workload of its staff.

Secondary Funding Conditions:

OWEB will review due diligence items and reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above and the following Secondary Funding Conditions only after Grantee has satisfied the Initial Funding Conditions above.

- A. Grantee obtains OWEB's approval on all significant project documents prior to signature, including, but not limited to the warranty deed.
- B. If Grantee's due diligence will entail any ground disturbing activities, Grantee completes a consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office prior to undertaking the activities.
- C. Grantee maps (where possible) and analyzes the exceptions in the preliminary title report (PTR) for the Property, including Exceptions 8-14 contained in the PTR submitted with the grant application. The analysis must demonstrate, to OWEB's satisfaction, that the encumbrances that are expected to remain in the title insurance policy pertain to the Property and will not materially affect Grantee's ability to restore and protect the Property's Conservation Values.
- D. Grantee works with the title company to prevent Exception 15 of the PTR from being included in the title policy for the Property.

**221-9900-19489 Oak Creek Preserve
Funding Conditions**

- E. Grantee confirms with the Office of the Secretary of State that it does not have any financing statements on file for the Property.
- F. Grantee obtains: i) OWEB's approval on the scope of work for the Property's boundary survey prior to signing a contract with the surveyor; and ii) OWEB's review and approval of the draft survey.
- G. Grantee confirms completion of fundraising for the Property's stewardship fund at or before Closing.
- H. Grantee agrees that the management plan required by OWEB's standard form conservation easement will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - i. Removal of all grazing-related infrastructure and debris from the Property in a manner that minimizes impacts to water courses and other sensitive areas.
 - ii. A detailed plan and schedule for restoration of the Property, including obtaining all permits and consultations required by law.
 - iii. A chemical/pesticide use plan that accounts for the intended public use of the Property.
 - iv. A detailed plan for intended recreational use of the Property, including:
 - a. An infrastructure development plan that minimizes impacts to the Property's Conservation Values, including any revisions of the draft trail plan determined to be necessary to minimize impacts;
 - b. A monitoring plan that includes a minimum of quarterly inspections of the Property, and adequate staffing, funding, and actions to detect and respond to impacts to the Property's Conservation Values, including but not limited to public use impacts;
 - c. An adaptive management plan for responding to impacts to the Property's Conservation Values, including but not limited to restricting recreational access to the Property as necessary to protect the Conservation Values;
 - d. A communications plan for ensuring that the public is aware of recreational use restrictions; and
 - e. Safeguards for protecting minors while interacting with Grantee and while on the Property without Grantee oversight.
 - v. Steps for reviewing, and if necessary updating, the management plan every five years in accordance with OWEB's management plan guidance.
- I. Grantee agrees that the Project Progress Report will include but not be limited to a log of Grantee's quarterly Property inspections and a description of the actions Grantee took to resolve any Property impacts documented in the inspections.

**221-9901-19497 Mt. Ashland
Funding Conditions**

Initial Funding Conditions:

The following Initial Funding Conditions must be satisfied before OWEB will review due diligence items or reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above or the Secondary Funding Conditions below.

- A. Grantee agrees that: (i) the level of timber harvest described in the management plan outline submitted with the Grant Application will not be included in the management plan required by OWEB's standard form conservation easement; and (ii) forest management actions on the Property, including but not limited to the level of timber harvest, will be informed by goals for protecting and enhancing the Property's Conservation Values and not by unrelated considerations such as revenue generation.
- B. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- C. Grantee completes a budgetary and staff workload analysis of stewardship for the Property, including maintenance activities and travel time. The analysis must demonstrate that Grantee has the capacity to add the Project to its operating budget and the existing workload of its staff.
- D. Grantee clarifies its plan for securing an adequate stewardship fund for the Property, including: i) the amount of funds that will be secured; ii) the source of the funds; iii) confirmation that the stewardship fund will generate adequate interest to pay for annual stewardship costs including maintenance activities; iv) the rationale for the expected rate of return on the stewardship fund, including the performance of Grantee's existing stewardship funds; and v) confirmation that the stewardship fund will be secured by the Closing Date or a specific date shortly thereafter.
- E. Grantee provides an explanation for, and receives OWEB approval of, the assignment of easements the grant application indicates will be completed as a work element of the Project.
- F. Grantee confirms with the U.S. Forest Service ("USFS") that it will accept fee title ownership of the Tolman parcel encumbered with the OWEB-required title restriction that ensures the property will be protected and managed for the purpose of maintaining or restoring watersheds and habitat for native fish or wildlife. If USFS will not accept the Tolman parcel encumbered by the title restriction, Grantee retains ownership of the Tolman parcel or does not use the property as Match.
- G. Grantee obtains OWEB and seller approval of the warranty deed.

Secondary Funding Conditions

OWEB will review due diligence items and reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above and the following Secondary Funding Conditions only after Grantee has satisfied the Initial Funding Conditions above.

- A. Grantee obtains OWEB's approval on all significant Project documents prior to signature.

**221-9901-19497 Mt. Ashland
Funding Conditions**

- B. Grantee obtains an appraisal update that complies with OWEB’s appraisal guidance and establishes discrete values for the Property and for the Tolman parcel if it will be used as Match.
- C. Grantee maps (where possible) and analyzes the exceptions in the preliminary title report (PTR) submitted with the Grant Application, including Exceptions 10, and 14 – 21. The analysis must demonstrate, to OWEB’s satisfaction, that the encumbrances that are expected to remain in the title insurance policy pertain to the Property and will not materially affect Grantee’s ability to protect the Property’s Conservation Values.
- D. Grantee removes title exceptions that do not pertain to the Property including, but not necessarily limited to, Exception 23 in the PTR.
- E. Grantee works with the title company to document and insure legal access to the Property and remove Exceptions 12 and 13 from the PTR.
- F. Grantee works with the title company to prevent an “unrecorded leases” exception from being included in the title policy for the Property, using a seller affidavit, if needed, to satisfy this condition.
- G. Grantee confirms with the Office of the Secretary of State that it does not have any financing statements on file for the Property.
- H. Grantee obtains an updated Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA). The ESA must distinguish the Property from any other property in the report, including but not limited to clearly depicting the Property boundary on maps.
- I. Grantee agrees that the management plan required by OWEB’s standard form conservation easement will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - i. A detailed plan and schedule for forest management actions that protect and enhance the Property’s Conservation Values, including accelerating the restoration of late-seral forest conditions.
 - ii. A written analysis establishing that the forest management actions, including but not limited to the planned level of timber harvest, will protect and enhance the Property’s Conservation Values as required by Secondary Funding Condition I(i).
 - iii. Review and confirmation of the appropriateness of the forest management actions and analysis by a knowledgeable independent party approved by OWEB.
 - iv. Adaptive management actions that will appropriately account for the Property’s changing ecological conditions over time.
 - v. A detailed plan and schedule for routine maintenance of the Property, including but not limited to weed surveys, mapping, and control.
 - vi. A plan to monitor, maintain, and where feasible, decommission, the Property’s roads to prevent erosion and other impacts to the Property’s Conservation Values.
 - vii. A plan for any public use of the Property, including:
 - a. A commitment of staffing and funding necessary to inform and monitor use activities for the purpose of preventing impacts to the Property’s Conservation Values; and
 - b. A chemical/pesticide use plan that accounts for the intended public use of the Property.

**221-9901-19497 Mt. Ashland
Funding Conditions**

- viii. Plans for construction of any low-impact lodging or other structures on the Property.
- ix. Steps for reviewing and, if necessary, updating the management plan at least once every five years in accordance with OWEB's management plan guidance.
- x. A plan for addressing the legal rights of others to cross the Property (e.g., monitoring and enforcement of easement and maintenance agreement terms and conditions).

221-9903-19500 Siuslaw Funding Conditions

Initial Funding Conditions:

The following Initial Funding Conditions must be satisfied before OWEB will review due diligence items or reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above or the Secondary Funding Conditions below.

- A. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- B. Grantee submits a MRT workload analysis for restoration and stewardship of the Property, including but not limited to travel time and routine maintenance activities. The analysis must demonstrate that MRT's staff have the capacity to add the Project to their existing workload.
- C. Grantee submits a plan from MRT for securing an adequate stewardship fund for the Property, including: i) the amount of funds that will be secured; ii) the source of the funds; iii) confirmation that the stewardship fund will generate adequate interest to pay for the annual stewardship costs described in the Grant Application; iv) the rationale for the expected rate of return on the stewardship fund, including the performance of MRT's existing stewardship funds; and v) confirmation that the stewardship fund will be secured by the Closing Date or a specific date shortly thereafter.
- D. Grantee submits a statement from MRT that clarifies its intention to own the property permanently. The statement must acknowledge in writing that any future transfer of ownership from MRT to another party: i) will be conducted under OAR 695-045-0210 and OWEB's established procedures for property transfers; ii) must be determined by OWEB to be sound; iii) must include a determination by OWEB that the proposed owner has the capacity to own and manage the Property in a manner that is consistent with the Project Purpose; and iv) will include any restrictions or conditions determined by OWEB to be necessary to maintain its interest in the Property if the Property is transferred to a tribe.
- E. Grantee provides written confirmation from the holder(s) of the Property's utility easements that it is willing to cooperate in relocating or burying the utility lines built on the Property or, Grantee demonstrates to OWEB's satisfaction that relocating or burying the utility lines is not necessary to accomplish the restoration described in the Grant Application.
- F. Grantee provides written confirmation from the holder(s) of the Property's utility easements that it does not intend to exercise other rights, if any, to install utilities on the Property. If the holder(s) of the Property's utility easements indicate that certain title or survey work must be completed before they provide such confirmation, this funding condition will become a Secondary Funding Condition and Grantee will prioritize the work necessary to obtain the required confirmation.
- G. Grantee provides written confirmation from all adjacent property owners, including all parties known by Grantee to have rights to use access roads on the Property, that they support the restoration described in the Grant Application, including road relocation, if any, necessary to accomplish the restoration. If title or survey work determines that additional parties have rights to use access roads on the Property, Grantee will, upon

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Funding Conditions

completion of the title and survey work, provide written confirmation that the additional parties support the restoration described in the Grant Application, including road relocation, if any, necessary to accomplish the restoration.

- H. Grantee clarifies with the seller of the Property that an appraisal will be prepared in compliance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions (UASFLA) and amends the Property purchase agreement to include this information and the precise purchase price when it has been determined.
- I. Grantee describes the process, requirements, and timeline for accomplishing the lot line adjustment or partition that is necessary to separate the Property from property being retained by the seller, and keeps OWEB informed of developments.

Secondary Funding Conditions

OWEB will review due diligence items and reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above and the following Secondary Funding Conditions only after Grantee has satisfied the Initial Funding Conditions above.

- A. Grantee obtains OWEB's approval on all significant project documents prior to signature, including, but not limited to the partnership agreement, survey, warranty deeds, access easement for the parcel retained by the seller, and any road maintenance agreements.
- B. Grantee enters into a binding partnership agreement with MRT that clearly delineates the acquisition, restoration and stewardship roles and responsibilities of the parties.
- C. 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 and its successors to certain Project outcomes required by USFWS in exchange for National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant Program ("Coastal Wetlands") funds.
- D. Grantee signs, and obtains MRT's signature on, an OWEB-prepared conveyance agreement for the purpose of authorizing the transfer of the Property from Grantee to MRT and committing MRT to ongoing obligations under the OWEB Grant Agreement.
- E. Grantee agrees, and obtains MRT's agreement, to meet all Coastal Wetlands funding and reporting requirements.
- F. If Grantee purchases the Property prior to the release of the Grant Funds, Grantee: i) complies with Secondary Funding Condition A; and ii) agrees that it will not transfer the Property to MRT until OWEB is ready to release the Grant Funds, at which point Grantee will grant OWEB a conservation easement prepared by OWEB, record the NOFP, and convey the property to MRT.
- G. Grantee obtains the services of a professional land surveyor to: i) determine whether the survey of the property completed in 1999 aligns with the legal description in the PTR; and ii) prepare a survey necessary for the seller-retained parcel.
- H. Grantee obtains: i) OWEB's approval on the scope of work for the survey prior to signing a contract with the surveyor; and ii) OWEB's review and approval of the draft survey.
- I. Grantee provides OWEB with a copy of the adjoining landowner map referenced in the Grant Application.

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Funding Conditions

- J. Grantee addresses the following items included in the preliminary title report (PTR) submitted with the Grant Application:
- i. Grantee ensures that taxes (Exceptions 7-13) are paid at Closing;
 - ii. Grantee works with the title company to remove the mobile home exception (Exception 14) from the PTR if a mobile home is not present on the Property;
 - iii. Grantee provides OWEB with MRT's plan for future property tax payments, including how it will not incur tax penalties from changed use of the Property (Exception 15);
 - iv. Grantee analyzes, and maps where possible, the rights of the public and governmental bodies to the Property (Exceptions 16 and 18), including government and public rights to areas of the Property that will be below the highwater mark after completion of the restoration described in the Grant Application;
 - v. Grantee maps (where possible) and analyzes Exceptions 19 – 22. The analysis must demonstrate, to OWEB's satisfaction, that the encumbrances that are expected to remain in the title insurance policy will not materially affect MRT's ability to complete the restoration described in the Grant Application and protect the Property's Conservation Values;
 - vi. Grantee determines which title encumbrance(s) will provide access to Grantee and MRT as owners of the Property and confirms the sufficiency of the access to OWEB's satisfaction.
 - vii. Grantee: i) maps and analyzes all existing rights of other parties to access the Property, including Exceptions 23-26; ii) provides OWEB with a copy of the legal agreement pertaining to the bridge over the North Fork Siuslaw River and any other access documents that may be unrecorded; iii) seeks the termination of any access easements that are no longer needed; and iv) demonstrates to OWEB's satisfaction that the rights of access will not materially affect MRT's ability to complete the restoration described in the Grant Application and protect the Property's Conservation Values;
 - viii. Grantee ensures the deed of trust and its modification are removed from the Property's title at or before Closing (Exception 27);
 - ix. Grantee works with the title company to prevent an unrecorded leases or periodic tenancies exception (Exception 28) from being included in the title policies for the Property, using a seller affidavit, if needed, to satisfy this condition; and
 - x. Grantee confirms with the Office of the Secretary of State that it does not have any financing statements on file for the Property.
- K. Grantee provides OWEB with a PTR that pertains only to the Property after the intended lot line adjustment or partition is complete and addresses any items in the PTR that are of concern to OWEB.
- L. Grantee provides OWEB with a draft of the access document that will benefit the parcel being retained by the seller. The terms and conditions of the access document must be

**221-9903-19500 Siuslaw
Funding Conditions**

clearly consistent with the protection and restoration of the Property's Conservation Values and should address shared maintenance costs.

- M. Grantee obtains proforma title insurance policies that are acceptable to OWEB and obtains insurance for Grantee and MRT consistent with the policies.
- N. Grantee prepares baseline inventory documentation that includes, among other items required by OWEB, a description of future restored conditions on the Property that reflect the restoration described in the Grant Application including high-quality tidal wetlands to the maximum extent feasible ("Description of Restored Conditions").
- O. Grantee agrees that the management plan required by OWEB's standard form conservation easement will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - i. A detailed plan and schedule for restoring the Property to conditions that are consistent with the Description of Restored Conditions.
 - ii. A detailed plan and schedule for routine maintenance of the Property, including but not limited to road maintenance and weed control.
 - iii. A plan for any public use of the Property, including:
 - a. A commitment of staffing and funding necessary to inform and monitor use activities for the purpose of preventing impacts to the Property's Conservation Values; and
 - b. A chemical/pesticide use plan that accounts for use of the Property by the public.
 - iv. A plan for addressing the legal rights of others to use the Property (e.g., monitoring and enforcement of access and maintenance agreement terms and conditions).
 - v. Steps for reviewing and updating the management plan at least every five years in accordance with OWEB's management plan guidance.



Agenda Item J supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 6: Coordinated Monitoring and Shared Learning.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – *Telling the Restoration Story* Grants Update
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Telling the Restoration Story is a targeted grant offering that helps OWEB and grantees better communicate the ecological outcomes of restoration funded by the agency. At the October 2021 board meeting, staff will share information about Horsetail Creek restoration to learn what emerged from the board's investment in that effort. This is an information item.

II. Background

Telling the Restoration Story grants support compilation, analysis, and/or interpretation of existing data from a watershed restoration project or projects, and production of outreach materials that describe outcomes from that work. Outreach products aim to reach a broad audience, including board members and legislators. Grantees also identify specific audiences, so the materials developed can be used to communicate with landowners, restoration practitioners, and natural resource managers working to restore similar landscapes in Oregon.

Nine projects have been completed under this offering so far. An [online map](#) provides short summaries and links to completed products as they become available. Additional information is available on OWEB's [Highlighted Projects webpage](#).

III. *Telling the Restoration Story*: Horsetail Creek Restoration

Horsetail Creek is a small tributary of the lower Columbia River, located eight miles downstream of Bonneville Dam within the U.S. Forest Service's Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area lands. Horsetail, and nearby Oneonta, creek had problems due to the creation of a gravel pit turned pond during the construction of Interstate 84 (I-84). Oneonta Creek's flow was diverted through the pond, raising its water temperature to at/above the temperature of the Columbia mainstem. The culvert connecting Horsetail Creek to the Columbia River under I-84 was impassable to fish at a variety of stream flows. Instream habitat complexity in the creek was low and lacked beneficial riparian vegetation.

The Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration Project Phase 1 was undertaken by Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) in 2013. A second phase of restoration was recently initiated, and a third phase of restoration is now in the planning process. Restoration activities focused on

improving fish access to the site, increasing the quality and quantity of instream habitat, restoring riparian vegetation, and reunifying Oneonta Creek to its natural course along the floodplain. Restoration activities in the Horsetail Creek floodplain are helping to maintain summer site water temperatures below levels that can be dangerous to salmonids, in contrast to the Columbia River mainstem where summer temperatures often exceed these levels.

With *Telling the Restoration Story* funds, LCEP was able to compile, analyze and report the existing water temperature and fish monitoring data to create a technical report that includes conclusions and recommendations for future monitoring efforts. The resulting outreach products were highlighted on the LCEP website and through other community communications.

Telling the Restoration Story products for Horsetail Creek Restoration include 1) a GIS Story Map describing the historic impacts to the creek and the subsequent restoration efforts, including a summary of monitoring results; 2) a technical report including additional detail about methodologies and data collected (see Attachment A); and 3) a short video summarizing the restoration project, monitoring results, and plans for future restoration efforts.

The technical report is available at [OWEB's highlighted projects page](#). GIS story map is available online at [Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration](#) and the short video is available at: [Horsetail Creek Restoration Project](#).

More information about this project and the LCEP is available on the [project website](#).

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachment

A. Executive Summary: Water Temperature and Fish Monitoring Summary Report

Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration: Water Temperature and Fish Monitoring Summary Report



Technical Contact: Sneha Rao
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Executive Summary

The Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration Project was undertaken by Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership in 2013 in partnership with the US Forest Service Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and Oregon Department of Transportation, and with funding from Bonneville Power Administration, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, US Forest Service, Oregon Community Foundation and East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. The Horsetail Creek floodplain had undergone severe anthropogenic modifications throughout the past century (Figure 3) which had negatively impacted ecological functions at the site. Several studies in the Lower Columbia indicate that this site is frequently used by Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmon, lamprey and other non-salmonid species as migration and rearing habitat. Restoration activities were focused on:

- Improving access to the site for all life stages of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead and lamprey over a wide range of hydrologic conditions by modifying passage through a highway culvert.
- Increasing the diversity, quality, and quantity of instream habitat by adding large wood structures.
- Reducing stream temperatures by restoring riparian habitats and eliminating the diversion of Oneonta Creek through the gravel pond.

The project was the first phase of a multi-phased restoration project. Restoration activities included restoring the historic alignment of Oneonta Creek (Figure 2), converting an existing gravel pond into an emergent wetland with a network of open water channels, and adding native vegetation and large woody debris to improve habitat complexity. The culvert beneath I-84 was also modified to improve fish and lamprey passage (Figure 4). This report presents findings of pre- and post-restoration temperature and fish use monitoring at the site undertaken to determine the effectiveness of the restoration project. The goal of this summary to provide a brief overview of the study and results.

Stream temperature

We collected hourly water temperature data by deploying Hobo dataloggers at seven monitoring stations (Figure 5) at the Horsetail Creek restoration site from 2010 and 2014-2016 and again between 2018 and 2019. Loggers were placed at stream junctions to evaluate the temperature influence of various flow inputs, at the beginning and ends of stream reaches to evaluate heating through these sections, and in the gravel pond/wetland complex. No temperature data was collected in 2017 as the site was inaccessible due to high water levels throughout most of the summer of that year. 7-day average daily maximum (7-DADM) temperatures were calculated for each monitoring station between June to September or over the available time-period. These were summarized as yearly maximum and average 7-DADM temperatures.

Pre-restoration monitoring data are very limited. Due to this and other factors discussed below, the results of our study into whether restoration actions were effective at cooling site temperatures are inconclusive. Pre-restoration monitoring was performed in one year only, 2010, whose summer months were notably cooler and wetter relative to both historical conditions and post-construction monitoring years. Post-restoration 7-DADM summer water temperatures at the site were seen to frequently exceed 16°C, an optimal temperature threshold defined by both Oregon and Washington state water quality

standards (Core Coldwater Habitat: [OR DEG Water Quality Standard Implementation IMD, April 2008, Table 3-2](#); Core Summer Salmonid Habitat: [Washington Administrative Code 173-201A-210, Table 200 \(1\)\(c\)](#)), for all years monitored. We observed the highest post-restoration summer water temperatures in 2015 and 2019, and the lowest in 2016. In 2014, 2015, and 2019, 7-DADM water temperatures throughout the site frequently exceeded the adult migration and juvenile rearing temperature threshold of 18°C (same standards as cited above for OR and WA) throughout the summer. When summer ambient air temperature and precipitation data were compared to site water temperatures, we observed that while the ambient air conditions varied widely on a year-to-year basis, water temperatures at the site remained within a narrower range (12.7°C – 20°C), suggesting that the resiliency of the site may be improving. The native vegetation planting and large wood placements helped encourage beaver activity and improve habitat quality. Post-restoration monitoring indicates that Oneonta Creek was successfully realigned during construction and while average summer water temperatures remain within a constant range (12.7°C – 20°C), it is expected that temperatures throughout the site will decrease as plantings mature. Restoration activities in the Horsetail Creek floodplain may also be helping to maintain summer site water temperatures below levels that can be dangerous to salmonids, in contrast to the Columbia River mainstem where summer temperatures often exceed these levels.

While the study was able to determine the general summer water temperature characteristics of the site after restoration, several questions remain unanswered and certain patterns observed at some of the monitoring stations could not be resolved. To assess the complete temperature evolution of the site since restoration, year-round temperature and flow data are required. However, temperature data is available only for the summer (June–September) for most monitoring years and flow measurements were made only instantaneously between 2010 and 2014–2016. These measurements do not allow us to draw conclusions on the current flow patterns of the site, which are ever changing due to increased beaver activity after restoration. The study also does not consider the effect of several groundwater seeps that were discovered during restoration and year one post-restoration monitoring.

It is recommended that future monitoring efforts include regular flow measurements at the monitoring stations and collection of year-round temperature and water surface elevation data to provide an in-depth analysis of temperature reduction efforts. A comprehensive study will help in understanding other potential areas for future restoration at the site and provide insight into thermal assessments for potential cold water refugia in the area.

Fish Monitoring

We collected fish presence data for five years post-restoration (2014–2019) using a passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag detection system installed at both ends of the culvert that carries Horsetail and Oneonta creeks beneath I-84, installed after construction in 2013 (Figure 8). Each year the array was operational from late March or April to October or November.

Salmon from throughout the Columbia River Basin were detected at the Horsetail PIT array. Chinook salmon were the most numerous species detected of juvenile fish and coho were the most numerous species detected of adult/jacks. The mid-Columbia Basin was the origin of the largest number of PIT tagged salmon detected at Horsetail. Juvenile residence times were relatively short with most lasting

less than one day and in most cases less than one minute. However, steelhead, spring/summer run and fall run Chinook showed greater variability in residence times with several fish residing five or more days. For adult/jack salmon detected at the Horsetail array, residence times did not have the same range as for juveniles. Coho salmon had the longest residence times with a maximum of 18 days followed by steelhead with a maximum of 12 days. Residence times were impacted by whether salmon successfully navigated the culvert. Combining juveniles and adults, the median residence time for salmon that did not pass the culvert was 5 minutes, whereas the median residence time for salmon that did pass the culvert was 33 hours. In summary, juvenile and adult salmon have the potential to access and benefit from the cold water refugia at the Horsetail Creek restoration site. Whether a salmon can access the site depends on the time of year and water levels, as the culvert may block access during times of low water levels.



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Agenda Item K supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 1: Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – 2019-2021 Oregon Plan Biennial Report: Update and Approval of Board Recommendations
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update about the agency's development of the 2019-2021 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The board will be asked to approve recommendations to include in the report, which will be submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office by January 15, 2022.

II. Background

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. The report must address each drainage basin in the state and include information about watershed and habitat conditions, voluntary restoration activities, board investments, and recommendations from the board for enhancing effectiveness of the Oregon Plan, among other topics. Attachment A provides the executive summary of the 2017-2019 biennial report, including the board recommendations. Staff are currently working with partner agencies in developing the content to be included in the biennial report.

III. OWEB Board Recommendations

The board has developed a robust committee structure over the past two years. Staff have been working with the board climate, water, focused investments, and monitoring committees to each develop one brief theme to include in the board recommendations piece of the biennial report. The theme on diversity, equity, and inclusion was addressed by the board coordinating committee, which is composed of the co-chairs and the chairs of the other committees. The themes developed by each committee are included in Attachment B for full board consideration at the October meeting.

Upon board approval of theme content, staff will work with the co-chairs on weaving together the themes and the final text for inclusion in the 2019-2021 biennial report.

IV. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the recommendations found in Attachment B for inclusion in the 2019-2021 Biennial Report for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

Attachments

A. 2017-2019 Oregon Plan Biennial Report Executive Summary

B. Proposed Committee Themes for the 2019-2021 Oregon Plan Biennial Report



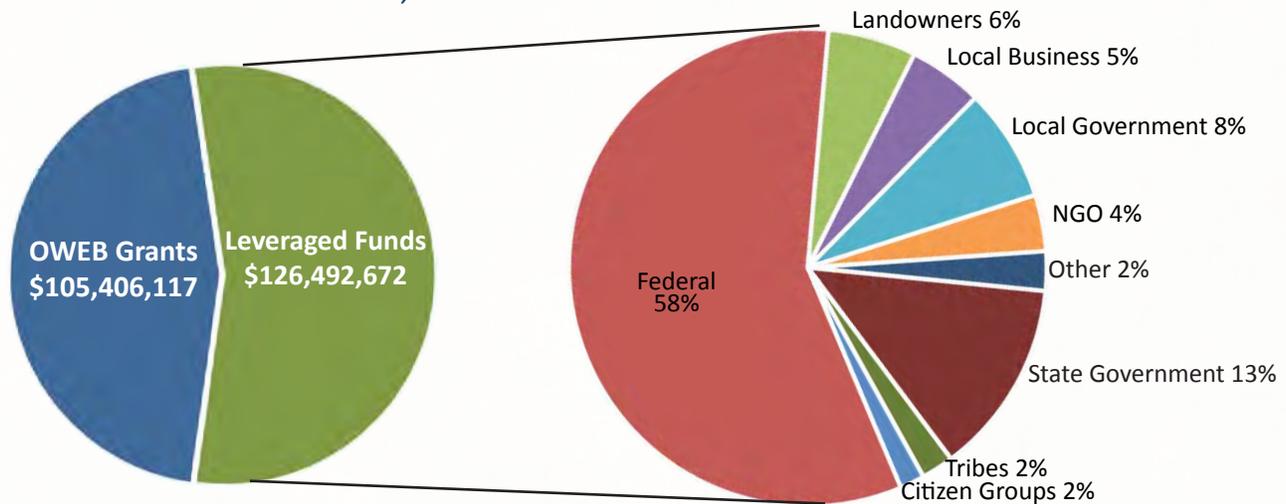
2017-2019 BIENNIAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

Since 1997, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds has provided a framework for grass-roots stewardship enhancing water quality and restoring habitat for the state's native fish and wildlife. The Oregon Plan supports diverse local economies and enriches communities through local, voluntary restoration.

The Oregon Plan Biennial Report describes activities implemented under the plan for the 2017-2019 biennium (per Oregon Revised Statute 541.972). This Executive Summary highlights key investments and accomplishments; coordinated actions among Oregon Plan partners; and recommendations from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). The full report can be found online (<https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Documents/OPSW-BR-2017-19.aspx>) and includes specific information about each of the fifteen Oregon Plan Reporting Basins. Additional examples of quantified restoration success are available through OWEB's new grant offering, Telling the Restoration Story (<https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7bc381f4422944778431a65f2b9b7fd6>).

OWEB Awarded Grants, 2017-2019



Grants awarded by OWEB, the amount of matching funds leveraged by grant participants, and the percentage of leveraged funds contributed by different partners (from 7/1/17 through 6/30/19).

Watershed Metric	OWRI	BLM	USFS	Total
Riparian Miles (e.g., streamside plantings)	291	36	189	517
Instream Habitat Miles (e.g., wood placement)	89	56	114.5	260
Miles of Fish Habitat Made Accessible	86	36	198	320
Stream Crossings Improved for Fish Passage	62	22	62	146
Push-up Dams Retired to Improve Fish Passage	4	-	-	4
Fish Screens Installed on Water Diversions	37	-	-	37
Upland Acres (e.g., juniper thinning, seeding)	71,196	3,049	-	74,245
Wetland Acres (e.g., wetland habitat created)	1,325	-	1,244	2,569
Miles of Road Closures and Decommissionings	11	5	47.2	64
Miles of Road Improvements (e.g., erosion control)	37	8	59.3	134
Miles of Riparian Invasive Treatments	291.2	-	-	291

Watershed restoration activities completed from 1/1/17 to 12/31/18 as reported to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI), maintained by OWEB; U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and U.S. Forest Service (USFS).



2017-2019 Investments and Accomplishments

During the 2017-2019 biennium, OWEB invested over \$105 million for watershed enhancement projects throughout the state. This total includes funding from the Oregon Lottery, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, salmon license plate revenues, and other sources. These dollars leverage significant funding that is provided by other agencies and partner organizations, increasing the impact of OWEB funding. Oregon Plan partners include landowners, non-profit organizations, local businesses, tribes, and all levels of government.

Coordinated Agency Actions

Collaboration is the heart of the Oregon Plan, and coordinated efforts across the state's natural resources agencies continued throughout the 2017-2019 biennium. Highlights include:

- ◆ Launching Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision, an ambitious approach to prepare a secure, safe, and resilient water future for all Oregonians
- ◆ Updating Oregon's climate change adaptation framework
- ◆ Implementing the Greater Sage-Grouse Action Plan
- ◆ Addressing challenges with tide gates along the coast
- ◆ Identifying efficiencies in water monitoring through interagency teams

OWEB Board Recommendations

Oregonians have chosen to permanently invest in healthy watersheds, which allow local partners to test bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds. In 2018, the OWEB Board adopted a strategic plan that celebrates all that OWEB and its partners have accomplished over the past twenty years, and sets a course for the next ten. OWEB's investments support non-profits, tribal nations, local governments, universities, and others to work with farmers, ranchers, forestland owners, and local contractors to provide clean water for Oregonians and healthy habitat for our fish and wildlife and benefits to local economies.

Looking ahead to the next ten years, the board recommends focusing efforts on strategic priorities:

- ◆ Working with partners we will continue to 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 landowner access to funding and technical support for conservation on their lands.
- ◆ 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 grants.



Proposed Committee Themes for the 2019-2021 Oregon Plan Biennial Report

Focused Investments Committee Theme:

Large-scale conservation efforts implemented by high performing partnerships are vital to addressing the various environmental challenges impacting our watersheds. The Focused Investment Partnership program is unique in Oregon, as it funds restoration at a landscape-scale for multiple years. Long-term restoration investments in communities also may have impacts beyond environmental, and further monitoring may explore the socio-economic benefits of landscape restoration.

Monitoring Committee Theme:

Collaborative monitoring and shared learning continue to inform watershed restoration. Climate change and wildfires pose new challenges and opportunities for those that study the science behind these issues, and for the restoration practitioners implementing projects in a changing world. It is critical for experts to share and translate knowledge in a manner that benefits all communities, as they work to address both long-standing restoration needs and emerging issues that face watershed restoration.

Water Committee Theme:

Cool, clean water and healthy forests, wetlands, riparian areas, streams, and estuaries provide essential natural processes that maintain and enhance water quality for fish and wildlife. These systems are fundamental to OWEB's Mission and the wellbeing of Oregonians. Through consultation with traditional and non-traditional partners, OWEB will encourage cross-agency decision-making in funding water projects, consider adopting ecological priorities related to water, identify investment gaps related to water quantity, water quality, and habitat, and promote natural infrastructure and processes as a critical focus of Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision and Oregon's update of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

DEI Theme (by Coordinating Committee):

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will be integrated throughout OWEB's operations and grant programs. Board and staff members will model diversity, equity, and inclusivity while ensuring that stakeholders and all potential partners are heard and engaged. OWEB will reach diverse audiences so that they are aware of the agency's grant programs, how they can participate, and to increase OWEB's understanding of the barriers to their participation. Within OWEB's granting programs, consideration needs to be given to how to incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice into how and where the agency provides grant funding.

Climate Committee Theme:

The impacts of climate change are being felt across Oregon. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is exploring how considerations associated with climate mitigation and climate-smart adaptation can be fully integrated into the agency's operations and grant-making. At the same time, it is vital to continue to provide stakeholders with the technical resources and guidance to view watershed conservation efforts through a climate-lens.



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Agenda Item L supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – Water Committee Objectives
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

As referenced in the water committee report, below are a set of objectives that the water committee has developed for board consideration as areas of focus for the committee moving forward. The committee recommends approval of these objectives, and requests the board designate the water committee as a standing committee to address these objectives.

II. Background

The water committee was established as an ad hoc committee at the October 2019 board meeting. The committee has met on a semi-quarterly basis since that time. The committee has developed a set of objectives for focus, and based on the long-term nature of the objectives, proposes to the board that the committee be moved from an ad hoc committee to a standing board committee.

Since the development of the committee, much of the work outlined in Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision was funded in the 2021 Legislative Session. This reinforces the need to have a standing committee that can engage with staff to ensure that OWEB's resources are appropriately reflected in conversations about Oregon's water future.

III. Objectives

Below are the objectives proposed for the water committee to tackle as a part of their work. These objectives may give rise to other important areas of focus as the state's water future conversations and Integrated Water Resources Strategy move forward.

- a. Providing encouragement to the state agencies to consider cross-agency decision-making structures when funding water projects.
- b. Providing examples of what the agency already does/funds that supports Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision.

- c. Thinking through whether the board might want to consider any ecological priorities related to water for project proposals based on input from the Vision.
- d. Identifying water investment gaps related to water quantity/habitat and water quality and how those gaps could be filled – either through OWEB funding or a different approach.
- e. Supporting the state’s update of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy and ensuring that both nature and natural infrastructure are top priorities for planning, investment, and management of the state’s water resources.

IV. Recommendation

The committee recommends the board approve the water committee as a standing committee and approve the set of objectives developed by the committee for future focus.



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Agenda Item M-1 supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Business Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M-1– DEI Discussion with OWEB Grantees
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

At the October meeting, board members will hear from OWEB grantees on their diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts. This is an informational item.

II. Background

Since the adoption of OWEB's strategic plan in June 2018, staff have been working to implement Priority #2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians. Strategy 2.1 is to listen and learn, which includes hearing from current grantees. At the October meeting, OWEB grantees will participate in a discussion with the board about their organizational DEI efforts and how they are incorporating these principles into their watershed conservation activities.

III. The Panelists

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will facilitate a discussion with Clinton Bagley, Executive Director, Long Tom Watershed Council and Kristen Larson, Executive Director, Luckiamute Watershed Council.

The panelists will provide a summary of the DEI efforts the councils have done with their staff and boards and how they are working to incorporate these practices into the activities they do in their watersheds.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item.



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Agenda Item M-2 supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Business Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M-2– Agency and Board DEI Updates
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the process to hire a consultant for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) work with board and staff and initiates a discussion with the board on the future status of the ad-hoc board DEI committee.

II. DEI Consultant for Board and Staff

In June 2021 staff posted a request for proposals (RFP) for a DEI consultant to work with staff and board. The RFP included the following tasks:

1. Develop and deliver DEI training and coaching for staff and board;
2. Guide board and staff in the development of an OWEB Equity Statement;
3. Develop recommendations for increasing engagement of under-represented communities in OWEB grant programs; and
4. Guide OWEB in development of equity lens for grant making.

Staff received 14 proposals in response to the RFP. Staff will update the board on the selection process at the October board meeting and discuss next steps.

III. Board DEI Committee

In October 2019 the board adopted a new committee structure including the creation of an ad-hoc DEI committee. With recent board member retirements this committee has been reduced to one board member. At the August coordinating committee meeting, members discussed the importance of this committee in relation to future work with the DEI contractor and its role in keeping DEI topics on board meeting and coordinating committee meeting agendas. The coordinating committee decided to recruit for membership of the DEI committee and recommended the board discuss making it a standing committee. Staff will initiate a discussion with the board in October.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item.



Agenda Item N supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan Priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Update about Climate Related Technical Resources
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will update the board about climate-related technical resources that were developed to assist applicants to OWEB grant types. This is an information item only.

II. Background

In response to growing interest in climate resilience, OWEB formed a Climate Committee in 2020. That same year, Governor Brown's Executive Order on Climate Action (20-04) directed state natural resources agencies, including OWEB, to implement climate-friendly practices and to account for the climate benefits resulting more clearly from their work. For example, OWEB funded projects contribute to carbon sequestration and adaptation, but these benefits currently are not quantified or described in detail.

The Climate Committee indicated their intent to help the board understand how effective restoration investments contribute to climate resilience, and potentially to ask the board to define climate goals for OWEB, in alignment with the agency's current Strategic Plan. The committee began by focusing on how to account for climate benefits more directly through OWEB's existing grant-making processes. To inform this work, the committee recommended the addition of several new questions to a subset of OWEB application types in the fall 2021 grant cycle (Attachment A). These questions are informational only and not used in project evaluation.

Staff compiled [Climate-Related Technical Resources](#) as a starting point to help applicants answer these questions. Many online planning tools have been developed by universities, governments, non-profits, and other organizations to bring together data about current and future climate impacts in searchable geographic format. The purpose of the Climate-Related Technical Resources document is to summarize information about climate impacts in Oregon and to provide some selected online climate planning tools.

III. Next steps

Following the fall 2021 Open Solicitation application deadline of November 1, staff will summarize information provided by applicants in their responses and provide this

information for consideration by the board. Information will also be summarized following the Spring 2022 Open Solicitation submissions.

Potential next steps for OWEB may include:

- Assess the climate benefits and begin to qualitatively understand emissions impacts of proposed restoration and conservation projects, as identified in applicants' responses.
- Consider adding new technical resources to an updated version of the document.
- Explore gaps in technical information needed to help applicants plan for climate impacts.
- Share and discuss the results with partners, applicants, and stakeholders.

While the questions added are informational only, the board may consider adding evaluative questions in the future, after necessary rulemaking processes. Ultimately, these steps will help OWEB more clearly demonstrate how its project activities contribute to climate resilience.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachment

A. Climate questions added to Fall 2021 OWEB applications

Climate questions added to Fall 2021 OWEB applications

The following questions were added to OWEB application types including Restoration; Water Acquisitions; Technical Assistance; Partnership Technical Assistance; Monitoring; and ODA Noxious Weed Grants.

Climate Considerations

OWEB is working with state agencies to comply with and implement Governor Brown's 2020 Executive Order on Climate Action (20-04). In addition, the OWEB board has indicated its intent to account for climate adaptation, mitigation, and co-benefits more directly in grant-making. To support these efforts, OWEB is beginning to gather information about climate impacts and proposed projects at the application stage and is providing a new Technical Resources document to assist applicants.

Your responses to these climate questions will be used for informational purposes only, not for project evaluation and ranking. OWEB will use the information to understand how project activities are already contributing to the state's climate goals, and to continue to develop technical resources for applicants. In the future, OWEB may refine and expand climate related questions and, after any necessary administrative rulemaking, use climate information as part of its grant evaluation process.

Briefly describe your understanding of how the characteristics and functions of the watershed where the proposed project will occur are anticipated to change due to climate impacts in the future. In particular, describe how species, habitat, and/or water quality variables relevant to the project site location are expected to be affected. (2000-character limit)

How have you accounted for these climate-impact considerations in your project planning, design, or implementation? Please describe briefly. (1000-character limit)

Are there any constraints on your ability to incorporate climate considerations into project planning? For example: Lack of information about climate impacts at the project planning scale; Gaps in understanding what nursery or seed stock to use given potential climate impacts; Gaps in accessing these stocks; Lack of methods to quantify climate benefits; Uncertainty about how to define a baseline for assessing potential change; Metrics for understanding climate resilience are not well-defined.

Yes

No

If Yes, then please briefly describe the specific constraints relevant to the proposed project activities (native species, habitat, water quality). (1000-character limit)

The State of Oregon is committed to identifying ways it can reduce impacts from harmful emissions. While the overall outcomes of OWEB funded projects may have many climate benefits, some necessary activities that occur during projects will result in increased emissions. To help us understand the current situation, please check all of the following that might apply to your project:

- Driving gas-powered automobiles, including trucks and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

- Operating gas-powered machinery other than automobiles (for example, chainsaws or other hand-held equipment)
- Operating gas-powered machinery larger than automobiles (for example, excavators)

- Boats
- Other
Please describe: (250-character limit)

- Not applicable to project activities
Optional: Please explain (250-character limit)

Are you considering alternative approaches that could reduce emissions (e.g., use of electric chainsaws or motors)?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, Optional: Please explain (1000-character limit)

The following question was also added to the Restoration and Water Acquisition grant applications:

Climate benefits from OWEB project activities can broadly be categorized into three types: (1) Carbon sequestration benefits (2) Mitigation benefits and (3) Adaptation benefits. Project activities may offer multiple climate benefits. Please review these categories below, select all the apply, and provide specific examples where possible:

Carbon sequestration (Capturing, securing, and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere), including:

Sequestration benefits from habitats: Project activities that avoid natural habitat conversion, or increase plant biomass within the habitat area, may contribute sequestration benefits. Select any that apply:

Upland forest

Riparian

Grassland

Wetland

Estuary

Other habitat

Please describe: (250-character limit)

Sequestration benefit through fire management/fuels reduction. Activities that help manage fire frequency and severity will help provide sequestration benefits, because catastrophic wildfires reduce the sequestration potential of upland habitats.

Other sequestration benefit

Please describe: (500-character limit)

Mitigation through reduced emissions

Yes

No

Please describe climate mitigation benefit: (500-character limit)

Adaptation Benefits. Project activities may offer multiple climate adaptation benefits for species, habitats and communities, and there may be some overlap in the terminology used to describe these benefits. Check all that apply below and provide additional and more specific description if possible.

Fish passage

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Instream flow

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Irrigation efficiency

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Wildfire risk reduction

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Forest-health treatments

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Wildlife habitat connectivity

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Wetland/floodplain reconnection

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Water temperature mitigation through shading, removal of inline ponds or other action

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Protection or creation of cold-water refugia for aquatic species

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Aquifer recharge

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Drinking water security

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Food system resilience, including activities that maintain abundance of tribal first foods

Optional description: (250-character limit)

Other Benefit

Please describe: (25-character limit)



Kate Brown, Governor



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Ken Fetcho, OWEB Tribal Liaison
Alli Miller, Portland State University, Master's of Public Policy Candidate
SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Results of OWEB's Assessment of Grant Practices' Impacts to Tribes
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the recent assessment that was completed to better understand how OWEB's grant practices impact federally recognized Tribes' ability to apply for and receive agency grants. At the October board meeting, staff, and our partner from Portland State University (PSU) for this project will present the quantitative results from an analysis of information from the OWEB Grant Management System (OGMS) and a qualitative analysis of subsequent interviews with Tribal staff. This presentation will summarize findings from this assessment, describe barriers for Tribes applying for and receiving OWEB funds, and recommendations from PSU about how OWEB may work with Tribes to address these barriers in the future.

II. Background

In July 2020, board members expressed interest in better understanding how OWEB can support federally recognized Tribes' ability to apply for and receive grant funding to meet their watershed enhancement goals and objectives. In response to this interest, staff initiated a partnership with a PSU graduate student to assist OWEB in performing a third-party review of its granting practices. Graduate student Alli Miller, a Master's of Public Policy Candidate from PSU, began work on this project in November 2020. OWEB's Tribal Liaison and former Executive Director assisted with project planning and support.

III. Assessment Process and Findings

The assessment focused on three OWEB grant programs and considered the level of engagement in these offerings by each Tribe. The three grant programs examined are Open Solicitation (also known in OGMS as Regular), Small Grant, and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP). By looking at which Tribes participate in each grant program, we can better understand how they choose to engage in OWEB's different programs. Since each grant program has its own unique features and requirements to access OWEB grant funds,

it was important to consider participation and level of engagement in these three programs by different Tribes.

The first task was to query OGMS to quantify the following components:

- Tribe's success rate when applying for funds, compared to other applicants, such as watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts and universities.
- The number of grant applications that Tribes submitted as the applicant.
- The number of grant applications that Tribes partnered on but were not the applicant.

Following this quantitative analysis, Tribal staff who are familiar with OWEB grant programs were interviewed by the PSU student to ask more detailed questions about OWEB's grant practices. The intent of these interviews was to better understand if aspects of OWEB's grant-making may create a disadvantage for tribes when applying for or receiving OWEB funding.

Results from this assessment are summarized in Attachment A. The findings were developed directly from the quantitative analysis of OGMS and the qualitative assessment of shared themes from interviews conducted with staff from each of the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, as well as the Nez Perce Tribe, which also operates in the state. The report's appendix includes information from the interviews but does not attribute comments to individuals or Tribes to maintain confidentiality. Using these quantitative and qualitative findings, the PSU student developed recommendations that OWEB may use to address barriers identified through the assessment. The recommendations from the PSU student vary from relatively simple and straightforward to those that may include fiscal and/or legal considerations. An overview of the findings and recommendations will be presented at the October 2021 board meeting.

IV. Next Steps

Following presentation of the assessment results at the board meeting, staff will work with the board's coordinating committee to discuss the findings from the assessment and determine options for next steps.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachment

A. Granting Practices Impacts on Tribes Report

2021

Granting Practices Impacts to Tribes

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT
BOARD

ALLI MILLER, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY, MASTERS OF PUBLIC POLICY

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Executive Summary

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands, and natural areas. OWEB's primary focus when administering grants is to fund grant projects that restore, conserve, and sustain healthy watersheds that best serve all Oregonians. Effective and equitable grant-making is difficult to achieve and is an ongoing, ever-adapting process. The watershed ecosystems of the land that is now Oregon has been stewarded and cared for by Native Americans since time immemorial. As a state agency, OWEB is responsible for creating inclusive opportunities for the community to support their watersheds using the best available science supported by local knowledge and involving Tribes and stakeholders broadly and in partnership.

The staff who participated in this assessment and were interviewed from the ten federally recognized Tribes that are eligible for OWEB grants had positive feedback for OWEB's current granting practices. For most, OWEB was consistently meeting and exceeding expectations as a funding agency. Interviewees said, "OWEB's continuous improvement mentality is wonderful and we really appreciate it.", and, "Overall, I have been satisfied with OWEB as an agency, and appreciate their work and hope they continue to be clear and transparent."

While there was positive feedback and insightful data captured from OWEB's internal database in regards to OWEB's granting practices, there are still certain challenges and barriers facing Tribes.

Background

In 2018, OWEB's strategic plan asserted that their mission is "to help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies". One of the agency priorities used to achieve this mission is to have a "broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds". This priority complements one of the many principles that make up traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). TEK is part of the worldview that indigenous people and Native American Tribes have been practicing for millennia. This body of knowledge, practice, spiritual belief system is a way of understanding the environment that is passed down through generations via cultural transmission about the relationships between humans and non-humans within ecosystems.

Partnering with Tribes goes beyond justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives. OWEB's Tribal Policy "recognizes and respects the sovereign status of the Tribes and their respective authorities on reservation, Tribal, ceded lands and established usual and accustomed areas and their co-management authorities over certain resources on non-Tribal lands." Interest in this assessment is motivated by OWEB's ongoing commitment to this policy and the agency's recognition of the importance of equity, inclusion, diversity, and justice in natural resource management.

Legally, OWEB as a state agency is required to work with Tribes. In 1996 Executive Order 96-30, established a process for state agencies to "assist in resolving potential conflicts, maximize key inter-governmental relations, and enhance an exchange of ideas and resources for the greater

good of all of Oregon's citizens.” In 2001, the Oregon Legislature institutionalized this Executive Order by enacting SB 770 (ORS 182.162-168) to formalize the government-to-government relationship that exists between federally recognized Native American Tribes in Oregon and the State of Oregon. This bill mandates that state agencies develop and implement policies on tribal relations.

It is important that OWEB staff and board acknowledge the individual and unique circumstances each Tribe has as a sovereign nation. As sovereign nations, all Tribes’ have a key role in co-managing land and watershed stewardship and conservation with regional partners. Each Tribe that works with OWEB also differ in their internal capacity to oversee or implement grant projects, and these differences between Tribes can help OWEB understand how to improve their granting practices towards each Tribe. Some Tribes have protected Treaty Rights, rights that are guaranteed in the establishment of their reservations, access to resources, protected hunting and fishing rights, religious freedom, and other qualities inherent to a sovereign nation, while other Tribes do not. These differences impact the ways in which Tribes can access, use, develop, steward, and protect their traditional and culturally significant homelands.

Collaboration is a key component of natural resource and watershed management. OWEB recognizes that through harmonious partnerships and cooperation sustaining healthy and resilient watersheds can be possible.

This assessment intends to review the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)’s granting practices to understand if there are existing barriers that impact federally recognized Tribes’ ability to apply for and receive funds that meet their watershed enhancement goals and objectives.

Assessment Process and Findings

To approach this research, a new framework for understanding tribal engagement in OWEB grant programs was developed: The Tiers of Engagement Model. This model challenges the conventional understanding of grantee engagement. In the Tiers of Engagement Model, receiving grants directly is only one type of engagement. Tribes can engage with OWEB in the following ways: as a grant applicant and recipient, a grant partner, as a grant technical review team member, or some combination of these. The assessment focused on three OWEB grant programs and considered the level of engagement in these offerings by each Tribe. The three grant programs examined are Open Solicitation (also known in OGMS as Regular), Small Grant, and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP). Using the OWEB Grant Management System (OGMS) database, every single grant on the systems dating back as far as 1996 through March 2021 was analyzed.

The data showed that Tribes as an aggregate have a success rate greater than the mean success rate between all grantee types for the Open Solicitation grant program. Watershed Councils, Soil and Watershed Conservation Districts, and Tribes all have a 66% success rate. The average success rate for OWEB grant applications across all grantees is 65%. Counties have submitted the same number of applications as Tribes (83) and have a slightly lower success rate (64%),

while Universities have submitted 68 applications and have a 57% success rate when applying for Open Solicitation grants.

When looking at the data in OGMS it became apparent that there are drastic and distinct differences between which grant programs Tribes chose to pursue OWEB funding. It is critical to not consolidate all ten of the Tribes into one entity. Some Tribes have not applied for any OWEB grants directly. There are some Tribes who have only applied for Small Grants, and there are Tribes who have been involved in FIPs and Tribes that have not. By looking at the OGMS data alone, it is difficult to determine if barriers are coming from OWEB grant practices because of the differences between how each Tribe pursues grant funding. Review teams offer another way for Tribes to engage with OWEB grants. All Tribes participate on Small Grant review teams and some Tribes participate in FIP and Open Solicitation technical review teams. Therefore, additional information was needed to better understand the differences between the Tribes to explain why some Tribes engage more frequently with OWEB than other Tribes.

This realization led to the development of a qualitative data collection component. Tribal staff who are familiar with OWEB grant programs were interviewed to ask more detailed questions about OWEB's grant practices. The intent of these interviews was to better understand if aspects of OWEB's grant-making may create a disadvantage for tribes when applying for or receiving OWEB funding and to learn if there are any recommendations to address them.

The report's appendix includes responses from the interviews but does not attribute comments to individuals or Tribes to maintain confidentiality. Interviews with Tribes offered insight into how Tribes manage internal capacity capabilities, strategize about how they pursue grant funding, manage regional partnerships, utilize other funding resources, and the importance of history and geography.

Key themes that emerged from the interviews included the following:

- **Quantity is not an indicator of grant practices quality.** Infrequent engagement as a lead applicant is not indicative of barriers within OWEB's granting practices. Tribes are more selective about the frequency with which they apply for grant funding.
- **Each Tribe is selective about the type of OWEB grant they pursue.** The process to apply for and receive OWEB grants can be rigorous with stringent requirements. For Tribes with a smaller staff, this additional work is challenging to complete, and because the grant process is competitive, there is no guarantee that the time and effort put into the application will deliver a desirable outcome.
- **Each Tribe is selective about the source of funding they pursue.** The overall consensus is that even if they are not utilizing OWEB funds directly, OWEB funding impacts the funding field available for watershed enhancement projects and helps Tribes collaborate on larger projects with more partners. As describe by one of the interviewees, *"OWEB funds work to complement federal or BPA funding and OWEB funding helps to increase the scale and scope of projects."*
- **Strategize first, then find grant funding- it's primarily about location.** Strategy alignment, relationship to existing work, tribal leadership prioritization, and timing are common factors for pursuing a grant program and project. This is usually predetermined

by each Tribe's government or council's strategic direction and priorities. One interviewee responded, *"I would say the majority of project proposals are not opportunistic."*

- **Collaboration rather than competition.** Many interviewees expressed that by limiting their applications for OWEB grants, they create opportunities for their partners and other organizations to pursue a much-needed funding source without creating competition. All Tribes are represented in engaging and accessing OWEB grant funds when taking a closer look at the partners involved in Open Solicitation grant projects. One interviewee stated, *"We feel OWEB is one of the more progressive state agencies. Yes, we feel involved in other organizations' projects funded by OWEB and we think other organizations reach out to work with us. Our region's projects are strong and well-developed because we are selective about which grant applications are submitted to OWEB."*
- **Resilient partnerships develop through reciprocity and early engagement.** There have also been some partnerships that can feel forced or mandated due to the partner's efforts to push for justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI), but the JEDI push has helped keep Tribes involved. Most Tribes said that they do not feel as though they are regarded as a second thought or hindrance to projects, their partners respect and appreciate the knowledge and information they have. Participants in the interviews, felt as though the Tribes have a considerable influence in their region, and the overall consensus is that efforts to improve JEDI have been astoundingly beneficial for each Tribe.
- **Time, effort, and organizational capacity is needed to apply for OWEB grants.** Partners that Tribes collaborate with on OWEB funded projects often have more time and infrastructure devoted to grant-writing than they do. Interviewees believed tribal contribution comes in the form of technical expertise, setting overall strategic goals, writing letters of support, and reviewing and improving existing grant applications.
- **Influence and oversight as powerful ways to shape projects and goals.** Each of the interviewees considers their physical and spiritual connection to a project location, and their Tribes' capability to successfully executive deliverables within a project scope. Interviewees said that there are times where the best organization to carry out the work is not them, and they will work to support another organization's leadership if their strengths are best suited for implementing the project.
- **History and geography matter.** The ceded lands and retained rights from treaties are binding, but often difficult for non-tribal partners to grasp and comprehend the significance of these treaties and the importance of the Tribes' spiritual and moral commitment to care for the water, land, plants, and animals. Tribes have to educate landowners, organizations, state and federal agencies about their historical claims to ceded lands, clarify their reserved and protected rights, and ensure minimum instream flows. It can be difficult to ensure that Tribes are included in areas where they are not always physically present.
- **The impact of termination.** The impacts of The Western Oregon Termination Act are visible in the data. Tribes that went through termination and restoration of federal

recognition faced difficulties that have altered their Tribes' internal capacity to execute natural resource management. Many of these Tribes, in addition to losing federal recognition, lost access and control of their treaty protected lands and access to their ceded lands and reserved treaty rights including where they were allowed to gather foods, hunt, fish, and access water. During the time between losing federal status and regaining it, many Tribes either sold their land to help their economies or their land was once again taken, making their current land base noncontiguous.

- **Geography can lead to differences in available funding opportunities.** Due to various funding opportunities, Tribes with land within the Columbia River Basin have access to additional funding sources helping to enhance their Tribes' influence in their region. Additionally, there are Tribes closer to public lands and are able to co-manage watershed projects with federal agencies and these opportunities lead to consistent partnerships and project continuity. One interviewee commented that, "Along the Columbia River using a combination of OWEB and BPA funding ensures projects can be well managed and well executed. OWEB funds are a significant help. They help to scale and enhance the scope of projects."
- **Resource distribution and regional population impact potential for watershed management.** Tribes within largely populated areas have unique watershed challenges when it comes to finding the space to accomplish project work as well as potential contamination and pollution. While Tribes in more rural parts of the state may have difficulties recruiting or retaining qualified staff, but they also have closer access to public lands managed by Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service or other federal or state agencies.

Challenges and Barriers

The interviews also provided Tribes the opportunity to describe challenges and barriers they face when applying for or pursuing OWEB grants. The following challenges and barriers were collated based on their feedback:

1. Some Tribes are hesitant to pursue land acquisition grants for habitat protection because of language in OWEB conservation easements.
2. Match funding requirements can be challenging and burdensome to meet.
3. There is confusion and uncertainty about applying the federally negotiated indirect rate to estimate grant administration expenses when developing budgets in grant applications.
4. Reporting on projects that are jointly funded by OWEB and Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) can be confusing and cumbersome.
5. There are Measure 76 requirements that have not been well articulated to Tribes, and it can be difficult to get a complete and accurate understanding of the State's constitutional requirements and definitions of what can and cannot be funded regarding natural resource management and cultural preservation.

Recommendations

Recommendations to improve OWEB's granting practices emerged from these interviews and fell into four broad categories:

Administrative

- Clarify eligible expenses included in grant funds and clarify that staff time is allowed to be included in grants.
- Incorporate tribal participation in evaluation and project ranking criteria.
- Include project ranking criteria that is meaningful to the Tribes and honors tribal knowledge and expertise
- Increase the amount of funds that can be requested in the Small Grant Program.

Communication

- Host and fund more opportunities for staff from both Tribes and OWEB at all levels to connect and have discussions together at annual meetings.
- Pursue opportunities to help OWEB staff and review team members be aware there are locations that hold significance to multiple Tribes.
- Reflect upon and recognize the impacts of history and geography on federally recognized Tribes' strategic plans.
- Utilize OWEB's position, influence, and resources to discuss re-occurring natural resources and watershed issues that are important to Tribes with other state agencies.
- Provide regular communication with OWEB staff and Tribes to discuss grant program eligibility and application timelines.
- Look to other states for ideas about innovative ways of offering grants.

Legal

- Make a portion of the grant funds available specifically for Tribes.
- Provide funding opportunities specifically encouraging the use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge to help revive and continue cultural connection to specific locations.
- Include language in the grant agreements that is specific for Tribes to make it easier for Tribal council and leadership to confidently sign the agreement.

Capacity

- Provide grant writing training for the Tribes specifically or pay for staff to attend training sessions on grant writing and using specific systems like OGMS.
- Provide staff from Tribes additional time to work with their leadership to approve grant applications before being submitted.

Opportunities for Future Investigation

Throughout this project additional ideas surfaced that were outside the scope of this project and were not pursued. Below is a list of recommendations for additional opportunities to investigate in the future:

- Develop a place in the grant application to identify a tribal partner on a project so it can be easily queried in the database.
- Examine match, both cash and in-kind, that Tribes contribute to OWEB grants to better understand how Tribes participate as partners on grants that other grantees manage.
- Further explore the discrepancies of tribal participation in OWEB grant programs to understand how they are related to capacity of all partners and how that varies across OWEB's six regions.

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for everyone who helped with this assessment. I truly value and appreciate the time and effort you all took to support this work. Foremost, thank you, Ken Fetcho, for leading and developing this project, providing me with access and data from the OGMS database, guiding and overseeing my progress throughout the duration of the project, and for your excellent management.

I want to thank my advisor at Portland State University, Dr. Jennifer Allen, for your guidance and assistance as I navigated this summative project. Thank you, Meta Loftsgaarden, for your support and counsel as Ken and I strategized how to best approach this work. A tremendous thank you to the OWEB staff who gave advice, participated in the initial round of interviews, laid the groundwork for the qualitative assessment, and made recommendations on whom to contact from Tribes: Liz Redon, Katie Duzik, Mark Grenbemer, Greg Ciannella, Coby Menton, Sue Greer, Miriam Forney, Kathy Leopold, and Andrew Dutterer.

I also want to extend my sincerest gratitude to the staff from the federally recognized Tribes who took time from their busy schedules to speak with me at the request of a funding agency. There is already a complicated power dynamic between potential funders and those who receive funding, and this potentially fraught situation does not go unnoticed. The information gained during these interviews is the foundation of the assessment, without which the findings and recommendations could not have been possible.

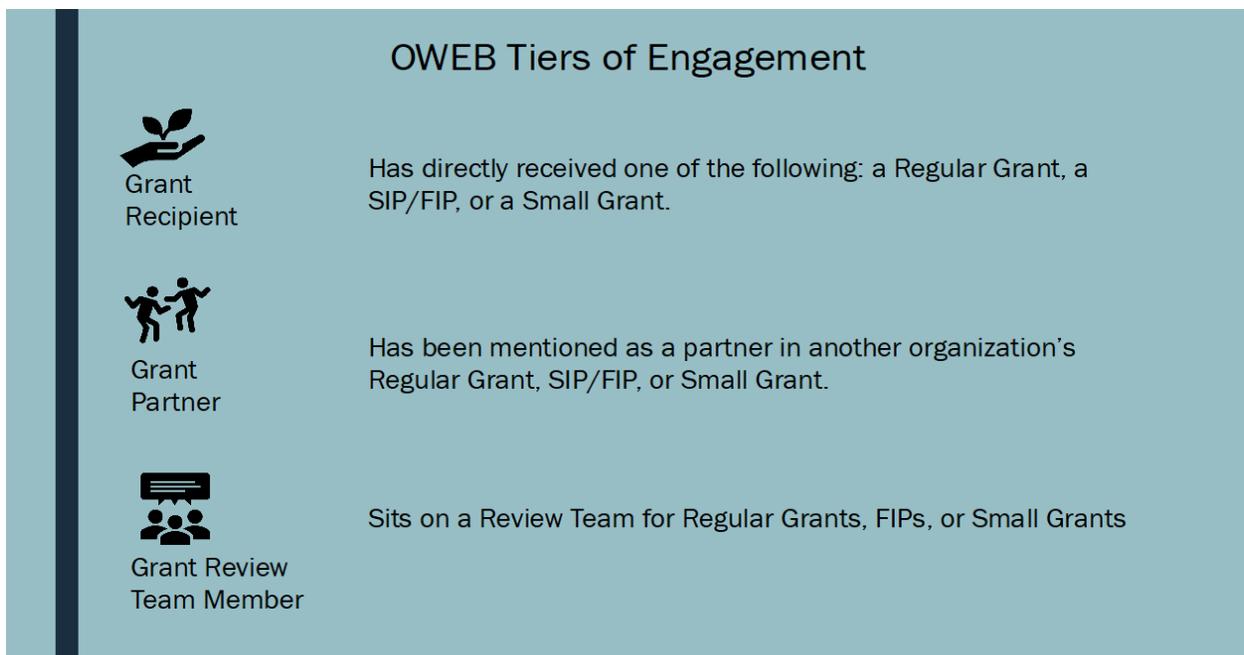
I appreciate everyone who participated in these interviews: Roselynn Lwyena, Brandy Humphreys, Lawrence Schwabe, Lindsay McClary, Stan Van de Wetering, Margaret Corvi, Jason Robison, Kelly Coates, Travis Mackie, Helena Linnell, Darin Jarnaghan, Kathryn Frenyea, Emmitt Taylor, Carter Crouch, Jason Fenton, Amy Charette, Scott Turo, Mike Lambert, Allen Childs, and Mark Buettner. Each of you provided valuable information for this assessment, but I personally learned and grew through my conversations with you all. Thank you. Additionally, several people I interviewed went above and beyond in sending me more detailed insights and additional resources after we spoke. I also want to recognize the folks who provided their edits, comments, and feedback when reviewing the draft report. To these individuals, thank you, I am so grateful for the help you provided.

Introduction

This assessment intends to review the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)'s granting practices to understand if there are existing barriers that impact federally recognized Tribes' ability to apply for and receive funds that meet their watershed enhancement goals and objectives.

To help guide this research, three broad categories of tribal engagement with OWEB grants have been identified:

1. Tribes directly receiving an OWEB grant as the primary applicant.
 - a. OWEB grants are further categorized into Open Solicitation (also known in OGMS as Regular), Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) previously known as Special Investment Partnerships (SIPs), and Small Grants.
2. Tribes specifically mentioned as a contributing partner on another organization's grant project.
3. Tribes participating on a technical review team that reviews and makes recommendations regarding grant applications.



By looking at how Tribes participate in each of the various opportunities OWEB offers, OWEB can identify and learn how each Tribe participates in their program. Additionally, representatives from the Tribes can participate on grant review teams for each grant program, offering the Tribes an opportunity to influence and oversee their region's overall watershed restoration strategy.

Table 1. Tiers of Tribal engagement in OWEB grant programs and processes

Tiers of OWEB Engagement										
Tribes	OWEB Region	Received Open Solicitation Grant	Received FIP Grant	Participate in Partnership Technical Assistance (TA) Grant	Received Small Grant	Partner on Open Solicitation Grants	Partner on FIP Grants	Partner on Small Grants	Small Grant Review Team (currently)	FIP/Open Solicitation Grant Review Team Member (currently)
Burns Paiute Tribe	3, 4, 5, & 6	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, Siuslaw Indians	1 & 2			✓		✓			✓	
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	2,3,& 4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	1, 2, & 3	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	5 & 6	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	3, 4, & 6	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coquille Indian Tribe	2				✓	✓			✓	
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	2	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Nez Perce Tribe	5	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓
The Klamath Tribes	4	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
TOTAL		8	4	7	5	10	5	3	10	6

Purpose

Through this assessment, OWEB will be able to understand where there are leverage points in their grantmaking to be more inclusive of Tribes, how to better support tribal grant applications, and in what ways Tribes want to utilize OWEB funding to meet their overall watershed enhancement needs.

As a result of this assessment, the intentionality and strategy behind how federally recognized Tribes apply for funding are articulated and demonstrated.

Background

Agency Information

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency that provides grants towards the conservation, restoration, protection, and enhancement of Oregon’s natural areas, streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands to support local communities and economies. In 1996 Executive Order EO-96-30, established a process for state agencies to “assist in resolving potential conflicts, maximize key inter-governmental relations, and enhance an exchange of ideas and resources for the greater good of all of Oregon's citizens.” In 2001, the Oregon Legislature institutionalized this Executive Order by enacting SB 770 (ORS 182.162-168) to

formalize the government-to-government relationship that exists between federally recognized Native American Tribes in Oregon and the State of Oregon. This bill mandates that state agencies develop and implement policies on tribal relations. Agency managers and other staff who communicate with the Tribes are to be trained in tribal matters, participate in annual meetings, and prepare annual reports.

OWEB revised their Tribal Relations Policy in 2018 which “recognizes and respects the sovereign status of the Tribes and their respective authorities on reservation, Tribal, ceded lands and established usual and accustomed areas and their co-management authorities over certain resources on non- Tribal lands.” The interest in this assessment is motivated by OWEB’s ongoing commitment to this policy and the agency’s recognition of the importance of equity, inclusion, diversity, and justice in natural resource management.

Tribes Eligible for OWEB Grants

OWEB consults and engages with Oregon State’s nine federally recognized Tribes:

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

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

Assessment Approach

To better understand how to better serve and collaborate with Tribes, OWEB began in late 2020, the recruitment process of a third-party research coordinator to lead this assessment. A number of graduate student candidates from Portland State University were interviewed for this position. A successful candidate was selected to carry out this assessment and who is utilizing this research experience as part of the required capstone project for the Masters of Public Policy program. The qualifications of the selected candidate include: previous experience reviewing and managing philanthropic private foundation grants and other non-profit grants, a strong commitment towards supporting the development of policies that are more inclusive of indigenous voices, particularly in the policy arena of sustainable ecosystems and natural resource management. Also, the candidate is interested in better understanding how groups of people can work in cooperation to reach political compromise, ecosystem protection and conservation, and ensure that there is equity in the distribution of and access to natural resources.

Methods

Beginning in early 2021, Ken Fetcho, OWEB's Tribal Liaison, assisted in the development of a two-part research plan consisting of quantitative and qualitative assessments to gather and analyze granting data.

Quantitative Portion

The first part of the assessment utilized OWEB's Grant Management System (OGMS) to gather grantmaking data that counted the number of grants Tribes have participated in either as a lead applicant or as a partner. The data captured from OGMS spans from 1996 until March 2021.

This data was collected across all grantee types, different grant programs, and grant types. The assessment broadens the definitions of engagement to include the various ways Tribes can indirectly shape the stakeholder network through review team participation. Grant types refer to the specific nature of the proposed grant project and includes:

- Land Acquisition
- Monitoring
- Restoration
- Stakeholder Engagement (formerly known as Outreach)
- Technical Assistance
- Water Acquisition

Data Management and Analysis

The data gathered from OGMS was organized to follow the first two tiers of engagement identified in the introduction: grant recipient and grant partner. The quantitative portion did a deep dive into what grant programs Tribes apply for: Open Solicitation, FIP/SIP grants, or Small Grants.

To sort, organize, and analyze the data, Microsoft Excel was used to create a series of Pivot tables. The total number of grants Tribes submitted as lead for Open Solicitation Grants, FIP/SIP grants, and Small Grants were calculated and compared to the quantity of grants other types of OWEB grantees submitted. Part of the OGMS search involved the number of grants submitted by individual Tribes. To find information about partnerships, an OGMS search was conducted for the word "Tribes" in the summary field as a way to identify Tribes that were mentioned as a partner in another applicant's grant application. This information was tallied, and other Pivot tables analyzed the relationship between Tribes and types of grants.

The success rate for all grant applications was calculated by filtering the grant status across all grantee types. Grants that had a status listed in OGMS as complete, open, and monitoring, are considered to be successful, while grants that have a status of not awarded, withdrawn, cancelled, ineligible were considered to be unsuccessful. For some of the searches there were a small number of grants in the pending status and these were not counted as either successful or unsuccessful.

The number of times Tribes were mentioned in a grant project summary, and which Tribe was mentioned were disaggregated and calculated. It was during this process it became clear that level of Tribal participation and engagement with OWEB grants could not be extracted from just the OGMS database. Through interviews we learned more about how Tribes choose to participate and engage with OWEB funding opportunities. Indirect involvement with OWEB grants is difficult to capture in the current database, applicants and recipients do not have a universally standardized way of describing the work Tribes do before, during, and after a grant project. This was noticeable while reviewing data about contributing or match funds Tribes made towards grant projects. However, due to time limitations, matching funds that were contributed by Tribes was not quantified to describe additional projects where they were a contributing partner on a grant.

In addition to the quantitative data, qualitative data was collected in order to have a better, more accurate sense of how OWEB funding and grant practices impacts Tribes.

Qualitative Portion

In the qualitative component of the assessment, targeted questions were developed to allow OWEB staff and Tribes the opportunity to speak confidentially and openly about their experiences with OWEB grants, articulate the strategies and conditions that impact how they pursue grants, and allow Tribes the opportunity to offer suggestions on how OWEB can make improvements that will better support the Tribes. One-on-one interviews with OWEB staff and tribal staff were performed to better understand the following:

- if there is anything inherent in OWEB's granting practices (applicant eligibility, application review process, grant administration and reporting requirements) that creates a disadvantage for Tribes to receive OWEB funding
- the approach taken to decide if they should pursue OWEB funding
- if they prefer to be the lead applicant or partner with another organization when applying for OWEB funds.
- how the different OWEB grant program influences the decisions to participate based on the role the Tribes want to have (Open Solicitation grant, Small Grant and FIPs)
- additional administrative or technical obstacles that create barriers or challenges to apply for and receive OWEB funds.

Interviews were conducted either by Zoom meeting or phone call and lasted approximately one hour. From the interview notes, a number of themes and findings were developed. Dispersed throughout the report are quotes from the interviews with Tribal staff. The questions and the responses gathered from Tribes are outlined in the appendix. It is important to note that while the report's appendix includes information from the interviews it does not attribute comments to individuals or Tribes to maintain confidentiality.

Interviews with OWEB Staff

The first part of the qualitative portion of the assessment began with OWEB staff interviews. I spoke with OWEB staff who oversee Open Solicitation, FIP, and Small Grant programs.

The answers provided by OWEB staff contained invaluable information, and educated me about the terminology and language used in watershed management, foundational concepts in natural resource management, clarity around state specific and regional watershed concerns and goals, and provided me with an overview of the other types of project funding available for tribal governments, non-profits, local governments, and institutes for higher learning. From OWEB staff, I gained insight into possible and potential regional differences as well as learned how each grant program operates. These interviews served as a means to provide in-depth context around how the grant-making process at OWEB is conducted and gave me the chance to learn who would be the best point of contact from Tribes to speak with regarding OWEB grants.

Once the OWEB staff interviews were completed, I conducted interviews with the recommended contacts of people who work for the Tribes and are familiar with OWEB grants. For some Tribes I was able to speak with multiple staff whereas for others, I was only able to speak with one staff member. Speaking with staff from the Tribes provided a more complete understanding of how Tribes choose to engage with OWEB, rather than the focus of OWEB's granting practices impacting Tribes in a one-way manner, the answers I received from staff clarified how autonomous the Tribes are and how their participation and engagement with OWEB is deliberate and methodical.

Interviews with Staff from the Tribes

After receiving the contact information for various staff from the Tribes familiar with OWEB grants, I had all interviewees interested in participating sign a consent form as part of the Portland State University student research guidelines to ensure their responses would remain confidential and non-attributable. I also received permission from the interviewees to record the conversation before conducting the interview, allowing me the ability to listen to their responses and accurately document and capture their responses.

A PowerPoint displaying the Excel pivot tables and some early observational notes from the quantitative portion of the assessment were shared with Tribes prior to their interviews. This data helped to shape and direct the conversation. This information provided a framework allowing participants to understand the goals of this assessment and allow them the opportunity to share their thoughts and reflections on the data and use their experiences and the data to guide their responses.

To analyze the responses from Tribes, OWEB staff shared the training they received from Steve Patty Ph.D. and his consulting firm, Dialogues in Action, titled "Project Impact", to develop a technique for consolidating, categorizing, and interpreting the qualitative and quantitative data. This training is designed to help execute practical program evaluation strategy and design.



During each interview, all responses were documented. All respondents answered nine interview questions. After conducting the final interview, the responses for each question were organized by common trends, pervasive qualities, patterns, and differences. These answers were coded on a continuum of similarity and the answer themes that were most commonly expressed were considered significant. This data was mapped based on what from the data appeared to be significant, how issues were discussed, and why there are certain elements enhancing or preventing engagement with OWEB grants.

Listed in the Appendix of the report are the nine questions asked during the interviews and the summarized responses from each interviewee. These responses in the appendix have been randomized to ensure integrity and maintain confidentiality.



The response data was synthesized and sorted into technical, descriptive themes that unified respondents' answers for each question. The themes were generated based upon the dominant features, ideas, and patterns that emerged during the interviews. Themes are considered to be pervasive qualities that tend to permeate and unify situations and objects. However, the representatives from the various Tribes articulated and described their own experiences, which varied dramatically based on their Tribe's watershed management priorities, geographic location, and overall organizational capacity to carry out grant projects. It is important that OWEB staff and board acknowledge individual and unique circumstances each Tribes has as a sovereign nation. A range of two to six themes were developed for each of the questions in the qualitative assessment.



Themes were then synthesized into findings, going from a technical scientific description towards more evocative, memorable lessons, that OWEB staff and board will hopefully be able to utilize in their work moving forward.



The last phase involves incorporating the findings from this assessment into recommendations for OWEB to change or alter their granting practices, or hone in on specific findings and continue to investigate if these are leverage points to improve grant practices or what type of accommodations can be made to avoid, or minimize any difficulties that the Tribes described.

Results

The driving question behind this assessment is to see if there are specific challenges and barriers in OWEB's granting practices that disproportionately prevent Tribes from applying for and receiving grant funds. The first step in the evaluation was to see if there are any

discernable patterns, discrepancies, or irregularities with the amount of grants federally recognized Tribes receive through the OGMS grant database.

The findings below were developed directly from the data gathered from the OGMS database and the shared themes found across the interviews conducted with staff from each of the ten Tribes OWEB works with.

It is important to emphasize that each Tribe has their own perspective and their own unique relationship with OWEB. During this assessment, each tribe's unique thoughts were expressed and recorded accurately, and these results are categorized by similar ideas and themes. These similarities are noted within the findings described below, and they are intended to reflect the individual perspectives of the tribal staff interviewed. In the appendix, all interviewee responses have been documented, and are organized by question.

NOTE: All quotes used in this report came directly from the tribal interviewees and are not directly attributed to the individual or Tribe to retain confidentiality. These quotes are shared in this report to reinforce what was learned and can better articulate what was heard rather than summarizing their words.

Quantity is Not Necessarily an Indicator of Granting Practices Quality



Grant
Recipient

As part of OWEB's granting practices, all applications are reviewed in a highly competitive process that include a large field of eligible applicants: local governments, institutions for higher education, non-profit organizations, city, county and tribal governments. Combing through and analyzing the OGMS data did not reveal conclusive information about specific barriers that impacted

Tribes more than other grantee applicants. Instead, data showed that **Tribes as an aggregate entity have a success rate greater than the mean success rate between all grantee types for the Open Solicitation grant program (see table 2 below).**

- Success is defined as the status = complete, awarded, monitoring, open
- Not successful is defined as the status = cancelled, not awarded or withdrawn
- Watershed Councils, Soil and Watershed Conservation Districts, and Tribes all have a **66% success rate**
- The average success rate for OWEB grant applications is **65%**
- Counties have submitted the same number of applications as Tribes (83) and have a slightly lower success rate (64%)

Rather than viewing infrequent or less engagement as a lead applicant for grants to be indicative of barriers within OWEB's granting practices, it appears as though Tribes as grantees are more selective about the frequency with which they apply for grant funding. It is critical to not consolidate all ten of these Tribes into one entity. Each Tribe is a sovereign, indigenous nation with their own government, and their own strategies and plans for natural resource management and protecting and enhancing water ecosystems.

Table 2. Tribes' success rate when lead applicant for Open Solicitation Grants compared to other OWEB grantee types

Grantee	Complete	Funded	Monitoring	Open	Pending	Not Awarded	Withdrawn	Cancelled	Ineligible	Total Grant Applications	Successful Grants	Success Rate
City	45		11	4		39	6	3	1	109	60	55%
Corporation / Partnership	423	1	126	111	4	337	41	16	9	1068	661	62%
County	42		8	3		24	2	4		83	53	64%
Soil & Water Conservation Districts	945		101	119		542	22	44	3	1776	1165	66%
Special District	40		7	4		41	2	1		95	51	54%
Tribes	35		11	9		23	1	4		83	55	66%
University / School District	35		3	1		29				68	39	57%
Watershed Council	1599		159	288		1004	25	30	8	3113	2046	66%
Total	3164	1	426	538	4	2040	99	102	21	6395	4129	65%

From looking at this data alone it is difficult to say if barriers towards grants funds are coming from OWEB procedures and requirements. Therefore, using the information from this table, interviewees were asked to think of reasons why Tribes choose to participate or engage with OWEB with less frequency than other grantee types.

Each Tribe is Selective about the Type of OWEB Grants they Pursue

When considering the Tribes individually, there are very stark contrasts between the ten federally recognized Tribes OWEB works with regarding the number of applications submitted and the types of grant programs of interest to Tribes. Noticeably, there have not been any grants where the ***Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians*** or the ***Coquille Indian Nation*** were the lead applicant for an Open Solicitation grant because they have never applied to be the lead for these types of grants. The process for OWEB grants can be rigorous with stringent guidelines. For Tribes with a smaller staff, this additional work is challenging to complete, and because the grant process is competitive, there is no guarantee that the time and effort put into the application will deliver a desirable outcome and get awarded the grant.

Another pattern revealed while analyzing the OGMS data was that Tribes who have applied as the lead applicant for Small Grants are not applying as frequently for Open Solicitation grants, and the Tribes applying for open solicitation grants are not always the same that are applying for small grants, see tables 3 and 5. For example, the Coquille Indian Tribe did not apply as a lead applicant for Open Solicitation grants, but have applied for Small Grants and received that funding. The Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians have only received funding when applying as the lead applicant for Small Grants across all types of grant opportunities, as they were not successful when they applied once for an Open Solicitation Grant. Interestingly, all the Tribes that applied as the lead applicant for a FIP (formerly SIP) Grant, have also applied as a lead applicant for an Open Solicitation Grant, see tables 3 and 7, which may demonstrate a need for increased capacity to pursue these grants.

Technical assistance, monitoring and restoration are the most pursued grant types in the Open Solicitation Grant Program, see table 3. It is important to note that to date, none of the Tribes have applied for water acquisition or stakeholder engagement (formerly known as outreach) grants. Some interviewees noted that land acquisitions would be more appealing without conservation easements as that would provide Tribes more autonomy and self-determination to have the opportunity to convert this land from “fee” to “trust” status with the federal government.

Table 3. The number of Open Solicitation grant applications that Tribes have submitted as the lead applicant by grant type

Grantee	Type of Grant				Total
	Land Acquisition	Monitoring	Restoration	Technical Assistance	
Burns Paiute Tribe		1	4	2	7
Confederated Tribes Warm Springs		2	27	2	31
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	3		3	2	8
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	1	1	2	2	6
Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation		1	8	4	13
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians				1	1
Nez Perce Tribe		3	4	4	11
The Klamath Tribes	1	4	1		6
Grand Total	5	12	49	17	83

Based on the interviews some Tribes stated that Small Grants may not be worth the administrative requirements for limited funds, but these grants can be useful if there is a very specific project and no other funding available. Small Grants can be easier to handle and implement. A salient proposal from Tribes about the Small Grants program was to increase the amount of funding for this category so that it can be worthwhile for Tribes to apply to Small Grants to implement identified projects or supplement funding from other sources for restoration efforts.

Table 4. Grantee types as the lead applicant for Small Grants

Grantee Type	Cancelled	Complete	Monitoring	Open	Pending	Total
City		2				2
Corporation / Partnership	1	73		1		75
County		6				6
Landowner	6	392				398
Soil and Water Conservation District	160	1232	136	87	1	1617
Special District		10				10
Tribe		12		3		15
University / School District		7				7
Watershed Council	66	927	103	78		1174
Grand Total	234	2661	239	167	1	3304

Table 5. Specific Tribes that have applied for Small Grants as the lead applicant

Tribe	Complete	Open	Total
Burns Paiute Tribe	1		1
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	1	3	4
Coquille Indian Tribe	4		4
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	5		5
The Klamath Tribes	1		1
Grand Total	12	3	15

Conversely, Tribes noted that FIPs are attractive because of the size and scale of the projects and how great the impact can be. FIPs can be difficult to manage and have all the partners cooperate, but if facilitated correctly, they are a great funding opportunity. FIP grants can help to build engagement with stakeholders from the ground up.

Table 6. Grantee Types that have submitted applications as the lead applicant in a FIP/SIP

Grantee Type	Complete	Funded	Monitoring	Open	Not Awarded	Pending	Withdrawn	Cancelled	Total
City Corporation / Partnership	3			5				2	10
County	61	3	33	60		3	2	32	193
Individual Soil and Water Conservation District	1		1					1	3
Special District	13		9	38		1		5	66
Tribe	3			4		1		2	10
University / School District Watershed Council	1							1	2
	104	1	17	73	2	3		43	243
Grand Total	186	4	60	184	2	8	2	89	535

Table 7. Specific Tribes that have applied for a grant as the lead applicant in a FIP/SIP

Tribe	Cancelled	Complete	Open	Pending	Total
Confederated Tribes Warm Springs	1		3	1	5
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	1				1
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation			1		1
The Klamath Tribes		3			3
Grand Total	2	3	4	1	10

Each Tribe is Selective about the Source of Funding they Pursue

In both the quantitative and qualitative portions of the assessment, the emphasis of strategic, thoughtful, and deliberate funding strategies was emphasized. OWEB funding is pursued when it aligns with Tribes' strategic goals, if there are no other funding opportunities available, or if administrative capacities are not well-suited for pursuing OWEB grant funding. Federal funds and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funds that Tribes are eligible to receive are generally thought to be more consistent, less competitive, award larger dollar amounts, be less onerous, and these funds are more readily available for Tribes than OWEB funds.

All interviewees reported that OWEB funding fills a variety of important needs in the watershed restoration funding field, even if they are not directly applying to OWEB for grants.

Interviewees states that OWEB funding helps provide for match funds for larger projects. OWEB funding is critical towards supporting regional partnerships that Tribes enter by directly funding watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and other stakeholders. Interviewees believe OWEB funds supplement niche strategy goals especially when federal funding opportunities are tied to specific species, habitats, or geographic location.

Many interviewees felt that working with OWEB helps to establish relationships with private landowners, and allows for greater collaboration in the field with other watershed partners. OWEB is also one of the few non-federal grant programs available, which is important for ensuring that there are a variety of funding sources available to help with watershed enhancement projects across the state.

"OWEB funds work to complement federal or BPA funding and OWEB funding helps to increase the scale and scope of projects."

Tribes reported they often write letters of support for OWEB grant applications that their partners apply for and these grants allow for partners to be in ongoing communication with Tribes.

The overall consensus is that even if they are not utilizing OWEB funds directly, OWEB funding impacts the funding field available for watershed enhancement projects and helps Tribes collaborate on larger projects with more partners.

Strategize First, then Find Grant Funding - It's Primarily about Location

Between all participating Tribes the desire to be the lead applicant on a grant is dependent on where the project is located- if it is on tribal lands or if the area has a high cultural or historical significance to them, they will try to be the lead applicant. A fundamental factor in determining whether Tribes applied as lead applicant is dependent upon where the project is located. If the project is located on tribal land, ceded lands, or any land that has a particular cultural or spiritual significance to the Tribe, each Tribe will be the lead applicant and take on the administrative and technical work to oversee the project.

Another key factor is if the project has a high likelihood of success. Each Tribe has their own unique watershed enhancement strategic plans, goals, and priorities and if the project is critical to those pre-determined strategies, they will apply for the funding and the grant type that best suits their needs.

Other key factors that determine if a Tribe will be the lead applicant for an OWEB grant include:

- Staff time,
- Organizational capacity,
- Project fit,
- Direction from Tribal leadership,
- Species or groups of species involved,
- Ecosystem or habitat of intended project
- and the ability for smooth coordination between collaborators and partners

Throughout the state, Tribes participate with regional stakeholders to plan and conceptualize watershed enhancement framework, goals, and projects. Some Tribes lead these efforts to convene interested stakeholders and others mention actively being recruited to participate in regional planning efforts. Once this happens, different organizations determine and assign projects leads and supporting roles at this early stage of conception and strategy development.

"I would say the majority of project proposals are not opportunistic."

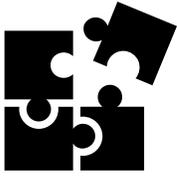
Strategy alignment, relationship to existing work, tribal leadership prioritization, and timing are common factors for pursuing a grant program and project, and this too is usually predetermined by each Tribe's government or council's strategic direction and priorities.

Collaboration Rather than Competition



Grant Partner

As part of the strategic grant-seeking approach, the staff working for the Tribes recognize that there are funding sources from federal agencies that better suit their needs and are less competitive. Interviewees stated that BPA funding, Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery (PCSRF) funds and other Tribe-specific grant opportunities are often more enticing, consistent, and the application process for these funds is not as onerous on Tribes. Therefore, many interviewees expressed that by limiting their applications for OWEB grants, they create opportunities for their partners and other organizations to pursue a much-needed funding source without creating competition. This allows for regional partners to plan out and align which proposed project ideas should seek out a particular funding source, creating a dynamic and interactive network of projects, partners, and funders.



“We feel OWEB is one of the more progressive state agencies. Yes, we feel involved in other organizations’ projects funded by OWEB and we think other organizations reach out to work with us. Our region’s projects are strong and well-developed because we are selective about which grant applications are submitted to OWEB.”

Another tier of engagement is reflected in how Tribes’ partner with other OWEB grantees. **All Tribes are represented in engaging and accessing OWEB grant funds when taking a closer look at the partners involved in grant projects.** Tribes are mentioned as partners on Open Solicitation grants, Small Grants, and FIP grants. There is full representation of all federally recognized Tribes eligible for OWEB grants when looking into the occurrences where Tribes are specifically mentioned in the Project Summary. However, there is a wide range in the number of grants each Tribe is mentioned.

Table 8. Grant applications where Tribes are listed as a partner in the project summary of another organization’s Open Solicitation Grant application

Tribes Mentioned as Partners	Count of Project ID
Burns Paiute Tribe	6
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	106
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians	18
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	16
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	22
Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation	44
Coquille Indian Tribe	4
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	4
Nez Perce Tribe	35
No Specific Tribe Named	14
The Klamath Tribes	11
Grand Total	280

Partnerships are essential in watershed and natural resource management, and strong collaboration and coordination between stakeholder and user groups are necessary for impactful projects. Generally, Tribes will encourage or support other partners to apply for OWEB funds for a variety of reasons. Responses from Tribes described that the applications

deadlines are hard to meet, the grant programs are highly competitive, and this is not guaranteed, and Tribes have limited staff capacity to prepare a competitive grant application. These funds increase engagement, involvement, and collaboration across their regions. OWEB funds encourage other organizations to reach out to Tribes earlier in the project development phase and it serves as an opportunity for Tribes to understand big picture projects happening in their region. OWEB applicants are required in the grant application to indicate when and how they plan to reach out to a partner on a project. This also provides Tribes the opportunity to teach their partners about the importance of cultural resources and culturally significant areas.

“There are very few funding sources outside of federal funds and BPA grants, so OWEB serves as such an asset to provide additional funds for partners like Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Councils. Plus, OWEB offers grants for certain opportunities that we might also be interested in and then we will apply for the grants directly.”

Resilient Partnerships Develop through Reciprocity and Early Engagement

Most Tribes responded they feel involved to some extent in OWEB projects and feel that other organizations reach out to include them. The engagement from partners works best when it occurs at the onset of a project idea, not part-way through implementation. Partnership engagement that is reciprocal works best. Other organizations need to support the Tribes in their region with their endeavors: offer letters of support, staff time, knowledge, and cash and in-kind match. These high-quality partnerships take time to develop. The ability to collaborate, and co-manage projects are related to being influential in the direction of their region’s watershed management plans.

Engagement can be a double-sided sword. Sometimes partners reach out too frequently and do not recognize that many of the Tribes do not have the capacity or ability to be highly involved in every project, but they also still appreciate being informed. Many Tribes that participated in the interviews felt that it could be difficult to convey to partners the spiritual or cultural meaning behind certain motivations or interests.

There have also been some partnerships that can feel forced or mandated due to the push for justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI), but the JEDI push has helped keep Tribes involved. From the responses during the interview process, most Tribes do not feel as though they are regarded as a second thought or hindrance to projects, but feels as though their partners respect and appreciate the knowledge and information they have. Participants in the interviews, felt as though the Tribes have a considerable influence in their region, and the overall consensus is that efforts to improve JEDI have been astoundingly beneficial for each Tribe.

Time, Effort, and Organizational Capacity is Needed to Apply for OWEB Grants

Applying for and managing grants can be time consuming. Many interviewees stated the partners they collaborate with on grant projects often have more time and infrastructure devoted to the act of grant-writing than their Tribe does. Interviewees said that partner

organizations have the resources and have staff dedicated to apply for and secure grant funds. Interviewees also felt that their project partners had the ability to apply and acquire the additional permits needed for large watershed restoration projects.

Interviewees believed their contribution to their partners comes in the form of technical expertise, setting overall strategic goals, writing letters of support, and reviewing and improving existing grant applications.

Influence and Oversight as Powerful Ways to Shape Projects and Goals



Grant Review Team Member

While speaking with staff from the Tribes, they enthusiastically felt their Tribe’s influence in their region came from their leadership and ability to review other grant proposals, applications, and work collaboratively with partners in an advisory role. There is full representation of all ten Tribes as part of the Small Grants Review Teams. This type of leadership allows each Tribe to offer their opinions, share their knowledge and expertise with others, and understand the full scope of their region’s shared water and ecosystem goals without having to be responsible for the day-to-day management.

Tribal participation is strongly promoted in OWEB’s administrative rules. For example, the Small Grant Program Oregon State Administrative Rules, 695-035-0020 (4), states that “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, and the Nez Perce Tribe, with reservation, tribal, ceded lands, or usual and accustom areas located partially or entirely within the Small Grant Area to appoint one representative to a Small Grant Team. Participation on a Team is voluntary.”

This advisory and consulting capability is seen as a more ubiquitous influence, and allows Tribes to engage with OWEB and other stakeholders in a more powerful way.

Many of the interviewees felt that their Tribe’s involvement in shaping ideas, guiding and directing regional goals, and agenda setting helped to off-set some of the limitations their Tribe may have in implementing projects such as limited staff capacity, a lack of financial resources to commit to projects, and other perceived hindrances.

“We are knowledgeable leaders in our region and help design, strategize, and prioritize region-wide projects. We review and oversee projects as well. It feels as though the tribal perspective is embedded across projects throughout the region.”

Building resilient and adaptive networks is tantamount for collective action and cooperation. Engagement with OWEB grants can be viewed in a more holistic manner, rather than solely seeing engagement with OWEB through the lens of applying directly for and receiving grants. Engagement is also linked to how OWEB helps facilitate partnerships and maximize resource distribution and access. After speaking with Tribes, each of the interviewees considers their

Tribes' positionality, meaning their Tribes physical and spiritual connection to the project location, and their Tribes' capability to successfully execute deliverables within a project scope. Interviewees said that there are times where the best organization to carry out the work is not them, and they will work to support another organization's leadership if their strengths are best suited for implementing the project.

By strengthening networks, working in partnerships, and considering their strengths and the strengths of their partners, each Tribe serves as regional leaders and conveners while strategically utilizing their funds and funding sources. There is an incentive towards allowing partners to access OWEB as a funding source and for Tribes to help oversee and contribute towards OWEB projects through writing letters of support and offering match contributions, technical assistance and expertise, and other types work.

This does not, however, eliminate OWEB's responsibility to proactively engage with Tribes and continue to improve internal grant making processes and change practices. There are still leverage points in OWEB's granting practice to be more inclusive of Tribes, and ensure that when Tribes submit grant proposals, they are competitive.

History and Geography Matter

The most predominant and pervasive theme from the interview discussions with Tribal staff was how critical it is that history and geography be considered in watershed and natural resource management work. Environmental justice needs to be at the center of this work. The impact of history and geography is constantly being felt and is always relevant in the context of watershed management. The ceded lands and retained rights from the treaties are binding, but often difficult for non-tribal partners to grasp and comprehend the significance of these treaties and the importance of the Tribes' spiritual and moral commitment to care for the water, land, plants and animals. Treaties are not upheld if Tribes are unable to hunt, gather foods, and fish as specified in the treaties, which includes ensuring the ecosystems are supported and healthy in perpetuity.

The history of genocide and displacement is felt and acknowledged by all of the staff working for the ten Tribes eligible for OWEB grants. Many federally recognized Tribes are composed of different bands of people who were displaced and relocated. The genocide of indigenous people has led to a loss of cultural knowledge and connection to the places from where they originally came from. Place based trauma impacts how traditional ecological knowledge is practiced which directly affects conservation and protection.

Tribes have to educate landowners, organizations, state and federal agencies about their historical claims to ceded lands, clarify their reserved and protected rights, and ensure minimum instream flows. This justification can be an additional hurdle and impede field work and prevent projects being done on time. It can be difficult to ensure that Tribes are included in regions where they are not always physically present. There is a strong desire shared between respondents for their Tribe to have a pulse on key areas outside of reservation on ceded lands or just lands with historical significance.

Interviewees note that there has been improvement over the past several years to be more open-minded and understanding about cultural preservation, but it can still be difficult for

Tribes to convince partners to support land acquisitions or other types of water and land management for primarily cultural reasons rather than straightforward restoration and/or conservation.

Compared to other types of OWEB grantees, Tribes have an additional need for due diligence to inspect properties and land that falls outside of their immediate purview and require additional consultation during the grant proposal process to their Tribal councils and government leaders. While this is not necessarily a limitation for Tribes, many interviewees felt this aspect differentiated them from other grantee types and impacts the speed and manner Tribes implement watershed projects.

Part of the services Tribes offer their members, includes participating in cultural practices and events. People can be affiliated with multiple Tribes and be living all across the state and still need to access critical areas for cultural ceremonies and activities and the Tribes utilize and need resources to provide these members with access to particular places and overcome certain restrictions by federal, state or private owners. Many Tribes' historical and cultural heritage sites might span across jurisdictions adding complexity around the availability and ease of access. These additional responsibilities are not typical of other OWEB grantee types, such as watershed councils, but they are significant land management considerations interviewees stated directly impact their internal land management plans, budgets, and bandwidth to carry out other watershed management work.

The Impact of Termination

The ramifications of the Western Oregon Termination Act are ongoing and directly impact the ability of the Tribes that went through termination the ability to influence, manage, and steward lands. Several participants noted during the interview that the granting data that was shared with them was fascinating but not terribly surprising. When probed as to why this data was not revelatory, respondents noted that the impacts of The Western Oregon Termination Act are visible in the data. Tribes that went through termination and restoration of federal recognition faced difficulties that have altered their Tribes' internal capacity to execute natural resource management. Many of these Tribes, in addition to losing federal recognition, lost access and control of their treaty protected lands and access to their ceded lands and reserved treaty rights including where they were allowed to gather foods, hunt, fish, and access water. During the time between losing federal status and regaining it, many Tribes either sold their land to help their economies or their land was once again taken, making their current land base noncontiguous.

It is difficult to manage noncontiguous lands and have the same impact as watershed projects on contiguous lands. Within divided land parcels there may be upstream issues that can lead to more issues downstream and Tribes on noncontiguous land may be unable to access headwaters for conservation work. Termination of federal recognition left some Tribes without their reservation lands and had to gain them back, leading to burdensome controversies with private landowners or other federal entities when trying to hunt, fish, and gather foods in traditional and accustomed ways.

When working with Tribes, OWEB staff need to be aware that there are places that hold deep, spiritual connections for more than one Tribe. Boundaries regarding notable cultural places are not always clear. There are certain areas that hold significance to multiple Tribes and it is often difficult to agree on who gets to steward and manage watersheds in these regions. This knowledge can help ensure OWEB staff and review team members engage in conversations with Tribes across regions before awarding a grant to fund a project that may impact the management of a culturally significant site.

Geography Can Lead to Differences in Available Funding Opportunities

Due to various funding opportunities, Tribes with land along the Columbia River Basin have access to additional funding sources helping to enhance their Tribes' influence in their region. The Tribes who live in the Columbia River Basin have additional capacity because of BPA funding, in coastal basins, and other locations where there are salmon. Locations further away from the Columbia River Basin and areas without salmon runs are not able to access the same types of federal grants.

"Access to BPA dollars can be tricky, but through tributaries we can make it work, but due to the geographic boundaries it can be tricky to find funders for specific work"

"Along the Columbia River using a combination of OWEB and BPA funding ensures projects can be well managed and well executed. OWEB funds are a significant help. They help to scale and enhance the scope of projects."

Additionally, there are Tribes closer to public lands and are able to co-manage watershed projects with federal agencies and these opportunities lead to consistent partnerships and project continuity.

Resource Distribution and Regional Population Impact Potential for Watershed Management

The intersection of geography and history is felt regularly, but hard to capture through quantitative data. For some tribes their office location and field offices may be very far from area of cultural and historical significance because they are located on ceded lands. The drive time and capacity needed to properly oversee certain properties can be taxing on staff. Even though it is part of their cultural and historical territories, Tribes may not be able to directly manage those lands because of logistics.

Tribes within largely populated areas have unique watershed challenges when it comes to finding the space to accomplish project work as well as potential contamination and pollution, but with more people comes additional opportunities for partnerships, financial resources, and staffing availability. Tribes in more rural parts of the state may have difficulties recruiting or retaining qualified staff, having the financial resources available on hand to address complex issues, and encounter challenges with consumptive water or vegetation issues. Tribes in more rural regions have closer access to public lands managed by BLM, the National Forest Service or other federal or state agencies.

Opportunities for Future Investigation

While conducting the quantitative portion of this research, the tiers of engagement model challenged the conventional approach OWEB had for assessing their granting practices impacts on Tribes. In trying to gather data around ways the Tribes participate as partners, it was difficult to pull reports that showed partnerships; for example, details of the grant summaries were inconsistent. The word “Tribe” was sometimes mentioned in a project summary, but there was no specific Tribe listed as a partner. It was also challenging to query the OGMS database to find information regarding the frequency with which Tribes contribute or serve as a match for project funds.

Capturing this type of data could be useful for future research to see the partnerships formed within OWEB’s grantee network. Tracking the way partners write letters of support or match funds would allow there to be more data on how reciprocal the partnerships between organizations are. Additionally, OWEB could examine match, both cash and in-kind, and have this information documented on grants in OGMS so that the contributions Tribes make towards other grantee projects can be documented and this type of Tribal participation can be added as another tier of engagement.

Another avenue to explore around the discrepancies in tribal participation in OWEB grant programs would be to examine how Tribal capacity and other grantees’ capacity varies across each of the six OWEB regions.

Existing Barriers on Tribes’ Engagement with OWEB Grants

During the interview, when asked about specific barriers or challenges, interviewees expressed several concerns about where there are issues in OWEB’s current granting practices:

1. OWEB’s language used in conservation easements can hinder placing land from “fee” into federal “trust” status. Which would allow greater sovereign management of a parcel of land. This language can signal a lack of confidence towards the Tribes to manage these lands over the long term and can feel paternalistic. Tribes would like to access land acquisition funds for habitat protection without OWEB holding a conservation easement on those lands.
2. Match funding requirements can be challenging and burdensome to meet.
3. There is confusion and uncertainty about applying the federally negotiated indirect rate to estimate grant administration expenses when developing budgets in grant applications. Some Tribes are under the impression that federally negotiated indirect rates for Tribes are above what OWEB allows for grant agreements. OWEB can’t accept outdated indirect rates and it takes time for Tribes to negotiate a new indirect rate with the federal government, so many Tribes have an outdated indirect rate.
4. Reporting on OWEB, PCSRF, and ODFW funds can be confusing and cumbersome.
 - a. When issues have occurred, Tribes impacted by this dilemma felt that OWEB had unduly placed the responsibility onto Tribes to revise the reporting metrics despite Tribes not being aware of the specific reporting issues.

5. There are Measure 76 requirements that have not been well articulated to Tribes, and it can be difficult to get a complete and accurate understanding of the State's constitutional requirements and definitions of what can and cannot be funded regarding natural resource management and cultural preservation.
6. Staff from Tribes need additional time to work with their leadership. Interviewees are uncertain if OWEB staff factor this consideration into their work.

These six areas warrant additional investigation and ongoing conversation between OWEB and Tribal staff and leadership.

Recommendations from the Staff Working at the Tribes Eligible for Funding on Ways to Improve

Below are the most salient recommendations from the qualitative interviews with Tribes:



Administrative

- Clarify eligible expenses included in grant funds and clarify that staff time is allowed to be included in grants.
- Incorporate tribal participation in grant application evaluation and project ranking criteria.
- Include project ranking criteria that is meaningful to the Tribes and honors tribal knowledge and expertise.
- Increase the amount of funds that can be requested in the Small Grant Program.



Communication

- Host and fund more opportunities for staff from both Tribes and OWEB at all levels to connect and have discussions together at annual meetings.
- Pursue opportunities to help OWEB staff and review team members be aware there are locations that hold significance to multiple Tribes.
- Reflect upon and recognize the impacts of history and geography on federally recognized Tribes' strategic plans.
- Utilize OWEB's position, influence, and resources to discuss re-occurring natural resources and watershed issues that are important to Tribes with other state agencies.
- Provide regular communication with OWEB staff and Tribes to discuss grant program eligibility and application timelines.
- Look to other states for ideas about innovative ways of offering grants.



Legal

- Make a portion of the grant funds available specifically for Tribes
- Provide funding opportunities specifically encouraging the use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge to help revive and continue cultural connection to specific locations.
- Include language in the grant agreements that is specific for Tribes to make it easier for Tribal council and leadership to confidently sign the agreement.



Capacity

- Provide grant writing training for the Tribes specifically or pay for staff to attend training sessions on grant writing and using specific systems like OGMS.
- Provide staff from Tribes additional time to work with their leadership to approve grant applications before being submitted.

These recommendations provide ample opportunity for OWEB to consider how they might modify their granting practices to be more inclusive of Tribes. One to consider is the possibility of Tribe-specific grant opportunities. While speaking with staff from Tribes, many interviewees reiterated that the OWEB grant process is highly competitive. Tribes do not want to jeopardize partnerships with other organizations to pursue the same grant funding. Tribes with smaller staff felt pursuing OWEB grants was not the most effective use of their limited resources. As they could directly and indirectly benefit from allocating their time, knowledge, and resources elsewhere and better support their partners.

Interviewees felt that if OWEB were to evaluate and re-examine the laws and policies concerning conservation easements and Measure 76 funding limitations it would help to incentivize more participation from Tribes who are not capable or interested in navigating those legal hurdles. If the practice and implementation of these laws and policies cannot be changed, OWEB could provide at a minimum easy to access information listing how to best support Tribes encountering these challenges and work together closely to find a way to move forward on grants or projects.

Lastly, investigating possible solutions for match funding and federally indirect cost rate requirements could provide an opportunity for OWEB to be a more equitable funder. This is also an opportunity for OWEB to continue to discuss various federal reporting challenges and the best way to work around these reporting requirements.

Final Notes

Throughout the interviews, participants each expressed positive experiences working with OWEB and for staff that have been working in their position for many years. All noted that there have been improvements made over the years. They also noted that OWEB staff is accessible and available for conversations and questions.

“OWEB’s continuous improvement mentality is wonderful and we really appreciate it.”

“Overall, I have been satisfied with OWEB as an agency, and appreciate their work and hope they continue to be clear and transparent.”

Appendix

Below are the questions and responses from the interviews held with staff representatives from the ten Tribes who work with OWEB. All identifiers have been removed to ensure tribal anonymity. All responses will remain anonymous to as part of a confidentiality agreement established with all participants, and any information that would identify either a specific person or Tribe has been redacted. It is important to clarify that each of the ten Tribes interviewed is unique in their watershed restoration management and while similarities have been organized together to develop the themes and guide the results, the goal of this assessment is not to group each Tribe together, this assessment recognizes that no one Tribe can speak for another.

Question 1- How would you characterize your Tribe's and other Tribes' influence in your region?

Tribe	Responses (summarized)
1.	I think our influence is pretty extensive, it is important that you understand the history and there is a significant impact if you are part of a treaty tribe vs an executive order tribe. Treaty Tribes have protected access to ceded lands to practice traditional ceremonies and hunt and gather in usual and accustomed manners. The reservation and the ceded lands offer us to have influence over this region and there is a lot of collaboration between partners in this area. Being along the Columbia River we are eligible to access to BPA which helps us do large scale restoration work with partners. There are lots of partnerships in the region with districts and councils.
2.	I would say we are influential because we focus on land restoration. We have a long history of managing and stewarding these lands, but the loss of federal recognition impacted our ability to manage the land and access parts of the watershed. We have regained the rights from the original treaty, but it can be difficult to ensure it is upheld and honored. We have reservation lands where our influence is the greatest and we are once again present on the ceded lands and with the re-recognition many partners and other leaders are becoming more and more aware of the knowledge we have and our influence has grown.
3.	The Tribes are an influential partner with land and water management in this basin. We co-manage and work closely with the federal government on federal lands, we receive federal grants that allow this work to move forward. The Tribe was terminated but has since been restored and treaty rights are recognized, this has been hard to overcome but overtime we have developed strong partnerships.
4.	Our influence can be seen in the quality of our partnerships and committee involvements. We work closely with the watershed districts. We are knowledgeable leaders in our region and help design, strategize, and prioritize region-wide projects. We review and oversee projects as well. It feels as though the tribal perspective is embedded across projects throughout the region.

5.	I think the Tribe has a huge influence, especially on the reservation and the ceded lands. The Tribe's historical territory is throughout the Columbia Basin. I also feel as though the Tribe is heavily involved in partnership projects, not just collaborating, but helping to shape ideas early on. We are also part of review teams.
6.	The first treaty reduced the land base followed by another treaty that also diminished and reduced the Tribes' land, but now there is a process to submit claims and access exclusive use area and retain the fishing and hunting rights outlined in the original treaty. The Tribe has a strong partnership with the Forest Service and have a strong influence as co-managers with lots of partners and other Tribes.
7.	The Tribes have ancestral territory in a basin that is not near our reservation, where we are allowed to oversee and help with managing the area by sitting on boards and through strong partnerships with others in the field like NGOs, federal and state agencies. We get to do work in two basins that are very important for cultural reasons.
8.	We always have a seat at the table when it is time to plan upcoming projects, but we can't always take advantage of that offer. We rely on our partners to keep us aware of things that are happening when we can't be there, but our influence in the region is really strong, it is just we can't always be the ones doing the work.
9.	When the tribe was terminated, our influence in the was small and so was our department of natural resources. Our ancestral lands overlap with other Tribes and when many bands of other Tribes were being re-located, they became part of our nation so there are many folks who have historical ties to land on the other side of the state. We have strong ties to a basin that is not part of our reservation and we have noncontiguous lands which make our influence dispersed, and we rely on our partners to keep us included in the regions where we are not always physically present for, and the partners do an excellent job. Our treaty rights were not consistently recognized for many years, we were terminated and there were issues with restoration of our rights, but we are working to become more active in the region. We have done incredible work and have a lot of knowledge and people in our region respect what we have to say and the direction we may want certain projects to go in.
10.	We have lots of watershed partners and I would say that we are influential in the region along with other Tribes. Culture is so important to how the land is managed. Water is life and I believe that all of us have the same goals, which is to protect and preserve these important places and resources. Deliberate and inclusive measures and efforts are made by our partners but we are small and can't always participate in all of the watershed councils, but federal and state agencies come to Tribes to seek input in planning, sometimes it may be a little, but as people begin to think more about diversity and inclusion, we become more involved earlier on in the process, which is beneficial to everyone.

Question 2- How do you pursue or utilize OWEB funding to accomplish their long-term watershed restoration strategies?

Tribe	Response
1.	OWEB is a true competitive grant. BPA grants, PCSRF grants are more consistent for us. We are part of a FIP review team and help with strategy development. We need to balance the quantity and the quality of the grant projects we take on. We also want to support other organizations in our region to understand what’s going on in the field. We try to apply for grants that fit with our strategy. BPA funds and Forest Service funds are larger than OWEB funding, but OWEB dollars can be used to tie projects together in the region and spread out the scope of work. Working with partners leads to better projects and OWEB funds help those partners. OWEB could also maybe help work with private landowner cooperation.
2.	Yes, OWEB funding helps with collaboration in the region and can fit into our overall strategy for management plans. We typically support other entities with their OWEB grants. The process can be onerous and if our partners are able to do that work, we can focus on other projects and support their projects as needed and offer counsel. OWEB is an important state agency able to disperse resources, so I would hate to see BPA funding always be used in lieu of BPA funding or something like that.
3.	OWEB is an important source of match funding for other programs like BPA, Fish and Wildlife Services, Bureau of Reclamation. One of the few non-federal grants available. But it’s very competitive with NGOs and other partners.
4.	OWEB funding can help advance goals and help with the goal of having functional floodplains at a technical and program level. The FIP includes monitoring and technical assistance and evaluation work. We fit in OWEB funding based on our need and are not opportunistic when applying for grants.
5.	We use NOAA and PCSRF for the subbasin as a top priority, so OWEB is not our main priority, but being involved at the technical advisory level, the review team, and board levels is more important to us than receiving an OWEB grant directly. We can use the time to write letters of support for partners, contract with the watershed council so they can do the work to get the permits, grants, other logistics and then we can focus on specific projects.
6.	The Tribe has a Department of Natural Resources plan for strategy and implementation funds. OWEB has diverse funding options and a can help with a wide array of projects and very detailed fisheries plan. We use OWEB funds when we need to address all of the fish in the area, right now only some species are tied to funding.
7.	We receive project funding through PCSRF and NOAA. OWEB funds we hope go to our partners and we work with our partners to develop comprehensive strategies early on and try to work together to enhance projects. Tribes in the Western part of the state have a

	smaller land base and so I think we work with more partners and have more partners available. There are differences between treaty and restored Tribes that impacted how we can access important lands. OWEB funds are limited and competitive. PCSRF dollars are easier, so we think it is more strategic and we get a larger return on investment. We are often used as a match for partnership projects with OWEB funding.
8.	OWEB grants help with upland management. BPA funding helps with habitat work, Natural Resources Conservation Service helps to support with properties and we often partner with the National Forest Service for other funds.
9.	More money is available through federal agencies. All grants that we apply for are based on our internal capacity to apply for grants as well as carry the projects. Monitoring money from OWEB is important and we often work with partners to write proposals so they can receive the funds.
10.	We work with watershed councils and help them receive OWEB funds through our letters of support and stay engaged in the FIP. OWEB funds can be utilized for riparian fish restoration and this fulfills an important need.

Question 3- How do OWEB grants impact the funding field available for Tribes? Does it help implement larger projects or help Tribes collaborate with a larger group of partners?

Tribe	Response
1.	Yes, OWEB offers additional funds for partnership projects, but OWEB grant applications are more competitive. Along the Columbia River using a combination of OWEB and BPA funding ensures projects can be well managed and well executed. OWEB funds are a significant help. They help to scale and enhance the scope of projects. Our FIP is a great example of this and it has unified partners in our region. Really great for restoration.
2.	Yes, existing partnerships are enhanced and applications are done together and planned ahead of time. OWEB applications help build Tribes into the planning process. This can sometimes feel like a checkbox that folks must do, but when partners are engaging sincerely it increases how our region improves. If we give a letter of support, we expect to have ongoing communication regarding the project post award, but it has helped with critical cultural area protection, In the past, organizations didn't reach out to us ahead of time and it cost them.
3.	As our capacity for grant writing increases, we hope to use more OWEB funding. projects. OWEB is one of the few non-federal sources available. Right now, OWEB grants are a little too competitive and we would rather our partners work and apply for them and provide support to their grant projects. When we don't apply for OWEB grants, we are not

	competing with our partners for the same grant funds. OWEB funding helps to prioritize basin-wide work.
4.	OWEB funds help leverage large scale restoration work and can work alongside BPA funding to fill in gaps and have flexibility for meeting budget needs on individual Cost share outside of BPA, especially for projects outside of BPA's interests.
5.	Yes, there is an emphasis on partnerships. OWEB assists with getting to work with private land owners involved with monitoring and restoration. Monitoring is an important part of OWEB funds. It adds another funding source to consider. Funding for technical assistance and restoration can be hard to find. We track all funding sources available and match them to our upcoming, potential projects. Uplands restoration money is hard to find
6.	For ambitious plans there needs to be a whole suite of efforts and funding sources available to do that.
7.	Yes, definitely a core funding source that leverages projects for partners and they are critical funds for drawing in other funds into larger projects. It solidifies the base of partners for example we may use federal funds and partners use OWEB funding.
8.	Yes, for watershed restoration work having more funds and more reasons to work collectively has no downsides. We work often with the Bureau of Land Management and on state lands (cattle rights) through ODFW to re-vegetate and these partnerships are possible through funding options.
9.	Yes, OWEB funding helps partnerships because it adds to the pot available. Funding natural resource work is tough and any funds dedicated to this work is needed.
10.	Yes, I think it helps in the field. The Small Grants help with specific, targeted projects but we generally pursue federal funding because it is more cyclical, consistent and less competitive, but OWEB grants can be used to help build up Tribes' internal capacity.

Question 4- How are you involved in other grantee projects funded by OWEB? Do you think other grantee organizations are reaching out to Tribes when developing projects- why or why not?

Tribe	Response
1.	We feel OWEB is one of the more progressive state agencies. Yes, we feel involved in other organizations' projects funded by OWEB and we think other organizations reach out to work with us. Our region's projects are strong and well-developed because we are selective about which grant applications are submitted to OWEB.
2.	Yes, and yes, other organizations reach out to work with us and we reach out to other organizations.

3.	We write letters of support and I feel like we have other organizations reach out to us for good reasons.
4.	OWEB FIPs have helped the sub basin develop strong partnerships. Sometimes lots of partners can be a mixed bag when coming together for a project but generally it provides good structure for long-lasting relationships. We have strict standards for giving out letters of support to ensure the other projects align with spiritual mission of protecting the landscape and the purpose is holistic. Sometimes the spiritual significance can be hard to convey to partners.
5.	Yes, the watersheds in our region engage frequently and meaningfully. We can't always be a partner or involved due to limitations on our side with internal capacity or not enough staff, etc.
6.	Yes, we feel very involved in other grantee's projects. We try not to be in direct competition with our partners which is why we don't always apply for OWEB funds. However, sometimes the engagement from partners can be inauthentic.
7.	Yes, I feel like there is genuine outreach from other OWEB grantee organizations. Sometimes though we wish they would reach out sooner or contact us in the initial stages, but sometimes we are not available to be involved.
8.	Our partners depend on OWEB funds and there is an uphill curve for understanding quality partnerships- they take time. Partners need to reciprocate and allocate their funds and money when we need assistance. However, DEI efforts are working and it is good but sometimes the Tribe's capacity is not always considered.
9.	We have excellent partners and we feel involved them and aware of OWEB projects. We partner primarily with BLM and the Forest Service and they are great about getting us involved early.
10.	We participate and feel involved with OWEB through working with the watershed councils and partners are very eager to work with us. Sometimes the relationship with OWEB feels paternalistic and we feel like there is not always true co-management. There's a power imbalance between partners and it can be frustrating to have them dictate how Tribes manage land and use money. We are less likely to apply and receive OWEB funds directly because they're competitive and our partners will also apply for them.

Question 5- What are the factors you consider when determining if your Tribe should be a lead applicant or a partner on an application to pursue OWEB funds (i.e., Open Solicitation grants, FIPS, Small grants)?

Tribe	Response
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1.	The biggest factor is if it is a project on our lands and we will be the lead then, and if there are projects where we want more control.
2.	Small Grants can support large projects. We will take the lead on a grant application if it is on tribal land or if the area is culturally significant. It can be an administrative burden to be the lead on a grant project if the parcel of land is not culturally significant or if it not on tribal lands.
3.	We are the lead applicant in areas significant to the Tribe and as a partner we look at the letter of support requests. We like to consider if the area is critical and if there is no one else there doing work. Monitoring responsibilities can also influence if we are the lead or not depending on what we have going on. The Tribe has its own priorities and if the project is on reservation land, we would take the lead. Throughout the basin we partner well with other organizations and have close coordination. We also like to consider the likelihood of success and if it looks likely, we will be the lead. The Tribe would like to be more active in land acquisition projects of properties they'd like to own. We also consider the Tribal council's strategic goals and how well a grant project aligns with it or not.
4.	With our core partners and long-term collaborators, we build in who leads a specific effort/project. We choose to be the lead if it is critical to our internal goals otherwise, we leverage partnerships and offer to help others. We try to be judicious about our applications.
5.	Our region plans early on with all of the stakeholders about taking the lead on various efforts. We do it when it is the most logical.
6.	We consider project location, staff time, capacity, project fit, direction from tribal leadership before applying for a grant. Small Grants are easier to handle and implement.
7.	It depends on what tribal leadership would like to see happen, our ability as a limited staff to do the work, other projects we are currently involved with and leading. Tribes are sovereign nations and have their own governments and the priorities for the DNR are high, but everything is taken into consideration.
8.	The size of the grant is not a factor for us we primarily don't want to compete with watershed councils. OWEB seems to offer limited funds outside of monitoring and restoration.
9.	It depends on the scenario what the project involves dictates if we are the lead or not. For example- it is easier to plan for a project where there are annual or consistent things done so we can better predict the cost of the project or what staffing requirements or overhead costs are involved. Time to do the project work as well as the administrative work is another factor. We have limited staff and resources so we try to be selective. If the project is happening on land valuable to the Tribe that would take priority.

10.	We consider where the project will happen then the ecosystem relationship- how does this project impact the ecosystem it is in and how can we understand the impacts of the project down the road or on other habitats? Project coordination capabilities, cost, and capacity are also very important considerations as well as tribal council and the pace the project needs to be.
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Question 6- What are the factors you consider when deciding which OWEB grant programs (i.e., Open Solicitation grants, FIPS, Small grants) to pursue?

Tribe	Response
1.	FIPs are attractive because of the size and scale of projects, as well as the chance to work with so many partners and develop regional clarity and goals. Everyone starts from the ground up and it builds engagement.
2.	When invited, we enjoy being part of FIPs. I also discuss with tribal leadership and my team the Open Solicitation options as a group and see if any of those funds make sense for a project we have in mind, but this is not done too often
3.	Out of the options we focus on the Open Solicitation grants like monitoring and restoration to avoid working with private landowners
4.	We think about our grant writing capacity as the main factor with OWEB grant programs and think if there is a partner who could do the work. Our agency can't do it all.
5.	If the grant program looks like it fits with our current strategy and we have a project in mind that isn't already paired or part of a federally funded project we would consider Open Solicitation or Small Grants. Timing is also a big factor.
6.	(During the interview, this question was combined with question #5 due to meeting time constraints)
7.	(During the interview, this question was combined with question #5 due to meeting time constraints)
8.	Location is a big consideration for us as a factor and the type of project we want to do will impact the size and the type of collaboration needed. Sometimes the feedback on OWEB grant applications can be surprising. The biggest factor for any of the projects we do or grants we apply for come down to the Tribes' interests and moves from there.
9.	For us we develop the project after we think of big picture goals then we think of the grant we need to get it done. We also consider how it relates to existing work.

10.	(During the interview, this question was combined with question #5 due to meeting time constraints)
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Question 7- How does history and/or geography impact your tribe’s capacity to implement watershed restoration? [This question is intentionally open-ended, feel free to describe your Tribe’s capacity and how that may be based on where they are located or what has happened historically.]

Tribe	Response
1.	<p>We are immensely impacted by geography. The Tribe covers important grounds in the state connected to the Cascades and the Columbia River. When there is drought, we are heavily impacted. Our community has aging infrastructure that becomes hard to use and repair which affects fisheries’ success. The reason new infrastructure or better repairs on infrastructure aren’t happening is because of the high costs and also the Tribe has so many priorities- while everyone agrees the fishery is important, so is having clean water and that takes precedence. These conversations are difficult to have and it takes time to build trust. There is a long history of state agency’s ignoring treaties and reserved rights, and the federal gov agencies say we’re equal but there’s a huge power imbalance. We are invited to tables but we don’t get to set them. There is tension over ceded lands in the basin. This area is huge and requires all partners to cooperate and participate. Some counties are harder to work with than others but all users care about these issues- it’s all very personal. Building trust with organizations and private landowners is hard, and their private landowners can have anti-government feelings with other agencies or not want to work with us because of discrimination. The discrimination is part of the history but also still exists.</p>
2.	<p>Geography and history impact everything. A small example is our office location and proximity to projects- it can be tough to do the work we want to see happen on ceded lands that are far from our offices on the reservation because our staff needs the resources to be able to go to these places and do work, and that’s additional money. The cultural and spiritual significance of many places is not just history but something always present and it is difficult to be removed from those places and have to advocate for access or get permits. We have interest in areas that may not be obvious but because of our history there, we are invested in its protection but we don’t have the ability to do the work because of capacity restraints. We want to make sure that even if a property is far away that we will manage it well and not have it wither away. Access to BPA dollars can be tricky but through tributaries we can make it work, but due to the geographic boundaries it can be tricky to find funders for specific work. This area is very populated and this means more organizations and funders available, but also tougher issues.</p>

3.	<p>The Tribes historically had the Reservation in the basin which gave them control over land and water management. That went away when the reservation was lost. However, the Tribes retained their water rights associated with hunting, fishing, and gathering on the historic reservation. The Tribes have a responsibility to protect, restore, and steward tribal treaty resources including plants, wildlife, and fisheries. The Tribes have good working relationships with the state and federal agencies and have input on watershed restoration on state and federal lands and water projects. We do not have good relations with private landowners that have been impacted by the Tribes water calls. Our habitat restoration program is small (one restoration project manager) and only existed for a few years. Now there are several other restoration entities to help coordinate the work and serve as a cooperative type of leadership, but the Tribes have had to handle other government issues before DNR. The Tribes' attuned to protect and enhance health of watershed. We have influence over the management of restoration, but the history of the region can't be overlooked or forgotten.</p>
4.	<p>The Tribes have the ceded areas and the reservation within the Columbia River basin and we have access to BPA dollars which brings flexibility with agreements, salmon policy levels, and this area is protected and co-managed with the federal government. This gives us the capacity from a funding side to hire and have highly technical people hired by tribe so we have the ability to complete solid applications and great work. There's difficulty in other locations is due to capacity funding. If you can't support staff hard to get a volunteer to write application to get project on the ground. Our DNR admin ability is strong- The Tribe did not go through termination and the tribal government capacity is somewhat strong and a large governmental staff.</p>
5.	<p>All of the areas we oversee are equally important. We were displaced in the 1860s through forced removal and onto reservation lands. This greatly shapes where our influence has been over time. In addition to working towards accessing lands and doing grant projects, we also have to educate folks, our own people and others about the history and connection and spiritual essence to these places. It's extra work. We have multiple offices and it can feel disjointed. Water is huge and there are lots of irrigators that impact fisheries. Using a science-based approach rooted in traditional knowledge is critical, especially during monitoring and the landscape shows that our knowledge has been missing, but it is returning.</p>
6.	<p>Historically the treaty was signed in the 1850s and then about 100 years later the Western Oregon Indian Termination act was signed and federal recognition was lost and even more resources were lost it wasn't until more recently did the Tribe regain federal recognition. This directly impacted our ability to oversee and manage lands and fundamentally have an identity as a people. The land base in not contiguous, Congress has had to return land that was previously BLM land and logistically difficult to take on big restoration projects without the internal staff and resources. Because</p>

	<p>the land is non-contiguous we are not always at the headwaters and being downstream of structures has downstream impacts. We have an additional level of due diligence when working on certain parcels. Could not do Stage 0 work because there wasn't a large enough parcel and in populated area.</p>
7.	<p>Historically, the Tribe used to own and manager more land than they do now. The landscape would look differently if tribe owned what they once did- extrapolating that out to contracts would be more money coming in to do more work, geography might impact staff ability and cost of gas amount of driving of living in rural area. However, we have access to larger parcels of land and that helps us and most landowners are cooperate and we partner regularly with BLM or the Forest Service. Stage zero work- fewer people may make it easier.</p>
8.	<p>In terms of geography, it can be a challenge having all the members of the Tribe be together and take part in culturally important events like hunting, fishing, gathering foods. The DNR ensures that the culture is preserved through these traditions and practices. Our department needs assistance with cultural preservation and make sure people across the state access these activities and traditional knowledge. The ability to access culturally important resources, specifically accessing natural resources is very important and that importance is difficult to explain because it goes into the realm of spiritual. It is easier to have people come onto properties to gather food and that's less controversial than hunting, and whenever we bring people out and they're excited to step on acquired land. We are interested in acquiring land and restoration for cultural resources that not may be an interest of our partners. Review teams want to know if there are things like Coho there, etc., but that may not always be our top priority. For areas that we are not physically close to but have a historical and cultural legacy in the area we want to keep a pulse on the activities there and usually offer letters of support and speak with other natural resource teams to know what is happening there.</p>
9.	<p>For geography, we manage non-contiguous parcels and it can be difficult to manage and the reason we have non-contiguous land access is because of past policies and history. National forests lands in our region also protect riparian areas but they are able to generate revenue from their services per capita, and for us we have to provide service for the Tribe without the same type of revenue. The impact of genocide and forced removal and combining disparate bands of Tribes from across the state and lots of history has been lost overtime. Place-based trauma has repercussions and the way we move past it is through re-connecting with our history and culture and the way we do that is through activities like gathering basket materials. These events are healing for us and allow us to practice ecological restoration as well. When we gather materials to make baskets it is done in reciprocal, ecologically beneficial ways.</p>

10.	A lot to say- historically this community has had its land taken and was then abandoned when the treaty rights were ignored and because a lot of the land was taken away it caused problems. The tribe had trouble continuing their way of life. This is why environmental justice is so important it is about restoring the ecosystem, including the people who live here. Geographically, there is a lot of land we have ancestral ties to, alongside neighboring Tribes, that we are all interested in using. There are many people in this region affiliated with more than one Tribe and the physical boundaries we have now are not the same as they used to be, but it is hard to go back. Working with agency partners like the Forest Service and BLM to access public lands and we are working with them and other entities to talk about issues like damming and dredging.
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Question 8- Are there are any administrative or technical obstacles that create barriers that prevents you from applying for OWEB grants? If so, do you have any recommended solutions to address these barriers? [Hoping to develop recommendations about where the weight points are in process for grants]

Tribe	Response
1.	An administrative obstacle for us is the rule about the indirect rate- we've had trouble with the federally negotiated indirect rate so we have to handle and incur administrative charge to have additional help with processing and can't get funds from OWEB right now because there is no current indirect rate.
2.	Funds get dispersed widely throughout the Columbia Basin and not targeted to all the habitat components downstream of the dams. Fish passage in our region is still a primary goal and sometimes that is hard to do when piecing together the puzzle piece of grants. If there was a way grants could be less competitive that would help significantly.
3.	I have only applied a couple times- not very experienced for doing OWEB grants, I usually apply for federal grants. Tribal specific programs are easier and more successful to apply for those- less competition. Some people are very savvy and experienced at applying for grants and are more successful at preparing proposals. It takes a lot of time and energy can be put into grant proposal prep work. OWEB does not have any tribe-specific prioritizations. OWEB applications are more onerous in terms of requirements and the review process is more rigorous than other grant programs, which is understandable when so many potential parties are interested in the funds. OWEB's process is transparent and well documented, they give good guidance, I would like to see opportunity for tribal specific grants funds. Sovereign immunity and the state does have tribal trust obligations and make it more unique as a state stakeholder. More state provided training on how to put successful application together. When asked, OWEB always offers help and they are very accessible and provide feedback. OWEB could support through advocacy and political means.

4.	<p>Largest hurdle- meeting the indirect rate for OWEB – right now there’s no solution but we’ve created our own solution. Most Open Solicitation grants are contract related- funding portions/parts of sub contracts to avoid overhead and indirect costs otherwise we couldn’t compete. More clarity around reporting requirements. We use to go after more grants (pre FIP) but got tired of hurdles and the time it took to apply. Still onerous compared for federal programs and the Columbia basin fish program- theirs is automated and easier to prepare and keep track of. The large projects in FIP make administrative hurdles worth it, but it wouldn’t be worth it for smaller grant amounts. It is wonderful that OWEB has specific monitoring grants- not many programs fund monitoring- even BPA has cut back on those funds. So, OWEB grants have been worth the effort. Sometimes it feels like being an employee, when we fill out applications and reports, sometimes the way OWEB asks for things like how to report metrics, can be frustrating. It’s tricky because if we don’t fix things as OWEB wants, there’s the expectation that if you don’t do what they ask you may lose your funding. OWEB could assign line items for billing for records or how to report temperatures in a monitoring project, knowing the formatting requirements ahead of time would be useful and save us time, cost, and aggravation.</p>
5.	<p>OWEB applications can be time consuming. It would be easier if OWEB streamlined the process for Tribes or organizations that have applied for multiple grants, but even though they’re lengthy they’ve improved and changed over time. They’re approaching the balance between thorough and concise. If there could be simpler ways to report for OWEB grants that overlap with PCSRF and NOAA funding that would be wonderful.</p>
6.	<p>It would be nice if there were a pot of money for just Tribes- it is difficult to be competing with partners. Our experience with Small Grants has been positive. An issue has happened regarding the federally negotiated indirect costs rate- max at 10% with OWEB. Grants and finance staff navigated this. Measure 76 requirements and reporting are difficult</p>
7.	<p>OWEB grants are competitive and they take time funding opportunities for the Tribes specifically or region-specific grants could help ease the burden.</p>
8.	<p>More feedback for restoration grants, and specific language in the grant agreements done for Tribes would be helpful.</p>
9.	<p>Match grants are a struggle, staff could charge time and materials w/ other funding, funders have restrictions on funding staff. The Indirect rate requirement is an issue- federally negotiated indirect cost rate- preferred rate rather than 10%</p> <p>Depending on the grant it can be difficult to know what you can apply for or if the only funding source and can’t get another (for land acquisition their own rate could make it difficult and we would need additional funding)</p>
10.	<p>OWEB gives equal opportunities to anyone who qualifies which is good. Some limiting factors- the administrative burden of the grants, difficult to know when or how the grants</p>

	are announced, it is very competitive process so the lengthy applications make me hesitant- what if I do the work and not receive the funding?
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Question 9- What can OWEB do more to help you pursue OWEB funds?

Tribe	Response
1.	OWEB can leverage their position as a state agency and maybe try involving other agencies like ODOT or something into projects and think big picture about climate change. Keep these conversations going and try to help connect Tribes with each other. OWEB could actively seek out grants from Tribes- not sure about Open Solicitation since it is so competitive. Set up regular meetings with tribal leaders, resource staff and OWEB staff.
2.	In our region doing work along one mile is huge and so are the costs for restoration. grants have become less onerous overtime so that's good. (Had to end the meeting, due to time constraints).
3.	Offer training for effective grant proposals. Having a FIP or other funded opportunity for this region. It would be nice if there were funds for Tribes so that we did not have to compete with other groups; OWEB grants are extremely competitive and some groups are much more proficient in preparing successful proposals. The State of Oregon has tribal trust obligations because we are a Sovereign Entity. Make a portion of the funds available specifically for Tribes. Provide additional points in the ranking if the lead agency is a Tribe; provide grant writing training for the Tribes.
4.	OWEB right now I don't have anything negative to say. They've made program changes and do trainings and send emails to improve communications. Good relationship as an agency. OWEB does a good job of trying to help and distribute funds we would love to have another local FIP- we need all the help to keep moving needle. An OWEB pro and con on the Open Solicitation grants is the qualitative way of evaluations- I feel they're not super open- quantifiable in a sense regional directors do a great job of input for groups to be more competitive. But I feel it all depends on review team with lots of biases. In SE WA the Snake River salmon recovery board-- each region has quantifiable way to select proposals different resource needs. This model could be utilized. Thank you, OWEB, for doing this! Trying to get tribal input is great and we really appreciate your sincere efforts.
5.	Stay communicative and fair and transparent!
6.	Develop a specific grant opportunity for the pacific lamprey like PLCI another way to balance BPA funds and fish habitat funding.

	Score higher with Tribes in established partnerships or try to involve the Tribes early in process- weary as a requirement- groups that don't understand the process will take time and then they will check the process and say we are a partner without hearing our concerns about their project. We can't always say yes. OWEB funds use by watershed councils/partners help to keep their doors open.
7.	Pretty satisfied with the work OWEB is doing and I feel comfortable reaching out to their staff.
8.	Continue working to improve relationships and stay flexible and receptive.
9.	Recommended for the watershed councils too, but OWEB should have a meeting where all recent recipients of OWEB funding to have annual meetings with Tribes they serve or are in the same area- gets everyone on board and meeting each other
10.	I would like if there was more coordination from OWEB on training like on how to understand what all of the expectations are clarification about what OWEB asking for in applications or projects to avoid redundancy in the application. Overall OWEB is good funding agencies and they work hard to try to involve everyone in participating in public sessions and with their grant peer review process.



Agenda Item P supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 1: Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item P – Board Meeting Format: In-person and Virtual
October 26-27, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update about in-person and virtual options for future board meetings. The board will be asked to approve a format that includes meeting in-person either two or three times per year once it is safe to do so.

II. Background

The board generally meets quarterly. Prior to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, meetings were all held in-person, and were rotated across the OWEB regions. With the onset of the pandemic, the board transitioned to virtual meetings exclusively. Virtual meetings have been an effective means to conduct board business, and all future meetings will have the option for board members to participate remotely.

The OWEB executive team has determined that in addition to offering a virtual option for board member attendance, that all January board meetings should be held virtually as the weather and travel at that time can be hazardous.

Along with the January virtual meeting, there is also an opportunity to hold another regularly scheduled board meeting as virtual-only. One option for a second virtual-only board meeting is for the meeting typically held in July.

III. Discussion

There are several potential benefits of having the July board meeting as virtual-only, including:

- Reduce climate/environmental impacts of travel. This is also consistent with Executive Order 20-04, which directs agencies to prioritize actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Reduce agency travel/lodging expenses during the peak vacation/travel season.

- Due to board member vacations, meeting quorum has occasionally been an issue for the July meetings. An all-virtual meeting may alleviate that concern; however, the virtual option for each meeting also may address the issue.

There are also potential benefits of having the July board meeting in-person, including:

- Summer is a good time to hold field tours with local partners, which is an opportunity for board/staff members to learn about local conservation efforts and to engage with the community.
- Opportunities to meet in person build board/staff camaraderie, through formal and informal avenues.
- With appropriate van/carpooling to the meeting locations and tours, the carbon footprint associated with meetings may be lowered, which is also consistent with Executive Order 20-04.

IV. Staff Recommendation

Staff feel that the benefits associated with a virtual-only July board meeting outweigh the benefits of holding it in person, and recommend the board approve a meeting format that includes in-person meetings (with a virtual option) in October and April, and virtual-only meetings in January and July.