



Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem OR 97301-1290
www.oregon.gov/oweb
(503) 986-0178

NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2023

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Awards \$252,269
for Post-Fire Recovery and Sage-grouse Conservation in Lake County**

Board invests Lottery revenues in grants to assist Oregon's greater sage-grouse

For More Information:

Eric Hartstein

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

503-910-6201

eric.hartstein@oweb.oregon.gov

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) selected the Fort Rock/Silver Lake Soil and Water Conservation District to receive a grant of \$252,269 at their October 23-25, 2023 board meeting.

Located in core sage-grouse habitat, the Fort Rock/Silver Lake Soil and Water Conservation District's Brattain Post-Fire Restoration Effectiveness Project will complete a study within the 2020 Brattain fire scar to determine the effectiveness of post-fire seeding compared to allowing natural regeneration of vegetation to occur. The study aims to assess strategies to help areas of important sage-grouse habitat recover and become more resilient to wildfire.

"This project is a wonderful investment of Oregon Lottery funds. It supports local communities in their response to wildfire, while looking at how treatments might benefit species like sage-grouse," says Lisa Charpillouz Hanson, OWEB's Executive Director.

At its April 2015 meeting, the OWEB Board adopted a policy to make available at least \$10 million through its granting programs over the next 10 years in support of projects located in Oregon's sage steppe ecosystem directed to improve habitat. Total funding awarded to sage-grouse projects since 2015 has surpassed the \$10,000,000 goal with \$14,254,493, including the recent grant awards made this October.

The OWEB Board awarded 69 Restoration, Technical Assistance, Monitoring, and Stakeholder Engagement grants totaling \$12,461,865 to local organizations statewide to support fish and wildlife habitat and water quality projects using Lottery revenue funding and federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery funding provided by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration at their October meeting. A listing of all awarded open solicitation grants from the October 23-25, 2023 board meeting is available at: <http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/Documents/2023-Oct-Board-Awards.pdf>

For additional information about OWEB's grant programs, contact Eric Hartstein at eric.hartstein@oweb.oregon.gov.

###