



Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Awarded \$444,178 to the Smith River Basin: High Priority Passage Improvements Project. This includes \$250,000 of funds from the sale of Salmon License Plates.

For More Information:

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(Douglas County) – The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) selected The Smith River Watershed Council to receive a Salmon License Plate grant at their October 23-25 board meeting in Klamath Falls.

The Smith River Basin: High Priority Passage Improvements Project will correct fish passage impediments on three streams in the Smith River watershed to improve fish passage to upstream spawning and rearing habitat. The OWEB grant award totals \$444,178.

Salmon License Plate revenues are generated from the extra fee Oregonians pay when they purchase Salmon Plates for their vehicles.

“Salmon License Plate dollars are a great way for Oregonians to be a part of improvements in salmon habitat,” says Lisa Charpilloz Hanson, OWEB’s executive director. “Healthy rivers for fish are also healthy rivers for communities.”

In addition to the Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project, the OWEB Board selected one other project to be awarded \$250,000 in Salmon License Plate funding:

- The Freshwater Trust was awarded a total of \$439,900 for the Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project. This project will increase the abundance and productivity of Sandy basin salmon and steelhead populations by restoring access to habitat and accelerating the recovery of naturally functioning conditions within the stream channels and floodplain areas of the Zigzag River.

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Salmon License Plate income totaled \$500,000 for the grant cycle, which was apportioned equally between the two identified projects. The rest comes from a combination of Lottery and federal funding.

In total, the OWEB Board awarded 69 grants totaling \$12,461,865 to local organizations statewide to support fish and wildlife habitat and water quality projects using Lottery, Salmon License Plate, and federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery funding provided by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration at their October meeting. A listing of all awarded grants 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@oregon.gov.

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