

REPPLINGER Linda * OWEB

From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 3:28 PM
To: BETTINARDI Nicole * OWEB
Cc: REPPLINGER Linda * OWEB
Subject: Public Comment

Some people who received this message don't often get email from oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

First and Last Name	Blaine Schoolfield
Phone Number	541-758-7597
Email Address	blaine@mrwc.org
I wish to provide (select one):	written comment
If you are providing VERBAL comment, how do you plan to attend the meeting (select one):	
I want to provide comment at (select one):	OWEB Rulemaking Advisory Committee (Small Grant Program Division 35)
Agenda Topic / Item Letter	Potential revisions to OWEB's Small Grant Program Administrative Rules
Type Comment Here (comments may also be uploaded below):	<p>Marys River Watershed Council would like to see the OWEB Small Grant Program recognize the importance of beaver co-existence work in our communities by including co-existence measures as an accepted funding opportunity. These measures include things such as flow devices to manage pond levels, fencing to prevent beavers from building on culverts and wrapping of trees to prevent beaver herbivory. There is currently no funding source available for watershed councils to assess or respond to issues created by beaver-human conflicts in our area. This gap in available resources for affected landowners can lead to beaver being trapped off the landscape. We feel it is imperative to get ahead of this issue by having the resources available to proactively assist landowners with beaver co-existence resources rather than having to respond to degraded ecosystems caused by the removal of beaver. Additionally, we would like to see the Beaver Restoration Guidebook (USFWS, et al.) added to your list of accepted technical resources. This guidebook, which is currently undergoing updates led by Dr. Brian Bangs (USFWS), is widely accepted as best practice by both scientists and practitioners in the field. Finally, we see that changes to the funding cap for the Small Grant Program are under discussion. While we think it would be very beneficial to raise the funding cap, we also feel it is important to keep a cap in place so that one project cannot absorb the entirety of the available funds. We are also concerned about the additional time required for Small Grant</p>

	<p>teams to review and process applications if they are made available to a wider applicant pool, and encourage OWEB to support staff time for this purpose with additional funding, while maintaining the available project funding for each region. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
--	--

Submission ID: 946b969b-3766-4af6-82ad-c41b5d8516d3

Record ID: