Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Materials

for

April 24-25-26, 2017
Board Meeting

Salem, Oregon

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
April 24-26

Monday, April 24, 2017

Chemeketa Eola NW Viticulture Center
215 Doaks Ferry Road NW

Salem, OR 97304

Directions: http://www.chemeketaeventservices.com/eola.html

Business Meeting – 3:00 p.m.

During the public comment periods (Agenda Items E, F, G, H, L, M, O, P, and Q), anyone wishing to speak to the Board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the Board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the Board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the Board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.***

A. Board Member Comments

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

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

C. Board Co-Chair Election

The current term of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Co-Chair Dan Thorndike ends in April 2017. Co-Chair Randy Labbe will lead a discussion and vote by Board members to elect one Board Co-Chair position for a new two-year term. *Action item.*

D. Board Subcommittees Updates

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

E. Public Comment [approximately 4:05 p.m.]

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

F. Outreach Grant Rulemaking Update

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 4:20 pm

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will update the Board on the outreach grant rulemaking and application revision process, including the progress made by the rules advisory committee. The Board will hear public comment on outreach grant rulemaking. *Information item*.

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

During the public comment periods (Agenda Items E, F, G, H, L, M, O, P, and Q), anyone wishing to speak to the Board is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the Board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the Board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the Board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes*.**

G. Spending Plan Presentations and Discussion
NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 10:35 a.m. and 11:55 a.m.

Following an introduction by Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden, the Board will hear staff presentations on items in the OWEB spending plan. Presentations will feature a brief history of each item, the demand and future need for the item, and recent highlights and accomplishments with the OWEB spending plan line item. The Board will hear public comment on the spending plan. *Information item.*

H. Public Comment [approximately 2:50 p.m.]

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

I. CREP Effectiveness Monitoring Update

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho will present to the Board the Final CREP Effectiveness Monitoring Report. *Information item.*

J. OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grant Rule Amendments

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide the Board an update on the rulemaking process for amending the OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grant rules, including public comment received. (Note: public comment associated with this item may be heard during a general comment period. However, this item has already been the subject of a formal public hearing. Further public testimony may not be taken except upon changes made to the item since the original public comment period, or upon the direct request of the Board members in order to obtain additional information or to address changes made to proposed rules following a public hearing.) *Action item.*

K. Executive Director's Update

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

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

During the public comment periods (Agenda Items E, F, G, H, L, M, O, P, and Q), anyone wishing to speak to the Board is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the Board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the Board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the Board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes*.**

L. Public Comment [approximately 8:00 a.m.]

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

M. Water Acquisition Grant Awards

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 8:30 a.m.

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy will request Board action on water acquisition grant applications that were received during the December 2016 grant cycle. The Board will hear public comment on water acquisition applications. *Action item*.

N. Coastal Wetlands Grants- Permission to Apply for 2018 Federal Grants

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy will request permission to apply to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program for funding in 2018. *Action item*.

O. November 2016 Open Solicitation Grant Cycle

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 11:20 a.m.

Introduction

Prior to the introductory presentation for the November 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle, Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will request the Board approve the 2017-2019 Open Solicitation grant schedule. Following approval of 2017-2019 schedule, Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives will provide background information on the November 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle.

Public Comment

This time is reserved for public comment on pending restoration and technical assistance 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. The Board will not accept any written materials at this time. Any written comments pertaining to pending grant proposals must be received by agency staff by the **April 11, 2017 deadline**.

Board Consideration of Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications
The Board will consider grant applications submitted by the November 1, 2016 application deadline for restoration, technical assistance, monitoring, and outreach grants. Proposals, evaluations, and funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the Board. Action item.

P. Land Acquisition Grant Awards

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 2:15 p.m.

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Acquisitions Coordinator Miriam Hulst will request Board action on land acquisition grant applications that were received during the October 2016 grant cycle. The Board will hear public comment on land acquisition applications. *Action item.*

Q. OWEB Strategic Plan Update

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Principal Consultant Steve Patty and Associate Consultant Jessamyn Luiz with Dialogues in Action will engage in a discussion with the Board on recent developments to the strategic planning process. The Board will hear public comment on the strategic plan. *Information item*.

R. Other Business

Meeting Rules and Procedures

Meeting Procedures

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

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

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

Voting Rules

The OWEB Board has 17 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and six are ex-officio. For purposes of conducting business, OWEB's voting requirements are divided into two categories – general business and action on grant awards.

General Business

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

Action on Grant Awards

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

Public Testimony

The Board encourages public comment on any agenda item.

A public comment period for ***pending Open Solicitation grant applications*** will be held on *Wednesday, April 26 at 11:20 a.m*. The Board will not accept any written materials at that time. Any written comments pertaining to pending regular grant proposals must be received by the April 11, 2017 deadline. People wishing to speak to the Board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes

General public comment periods will be held on *Monday, April 24 at 4:05 p.m., Tuesday, April 25 at 2:50 p.m.* and *Wednesday, April 26 at 8:00 a.m*. for any matter before the Board. Comments relating to a specific agenda item may be heard by the Board as each agenda item is considered. People wishing to speak to the Board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). *The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes*.

Tour
The Board may tour local watershed restoration project sites. The public is invited to attend, however transportation may be limited to Board members and OWEB staff. Any person wishing to join the tour should have their own transportation.

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

More Information
If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call Darika Barnes, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Darika Barnes (503-986-0181) as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Laura Masterson, *Board of Agriculture*
Ed Armstrong, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Bob Webber, *Fish and Wildlife Commission member*
Vacant, *Board of Forestry*
John Roberts, W*ater Resources Commission*
Jason Robison, *Public (tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Will Neuhauser, *Public*
Randy Labbe, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Dan Thorndike, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Karl Wenner, *Public*

Non-voting Members

Rosemary Furfey, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Debbie Hollen, *U.S. Forest Service*
Kathy Stangl, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Ron Alvarado, *U.S. National Resource Conservation Service*
Alan Henning, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Contact Information

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

2017 Board Meeting Schedule

January 24-25 in Madras
April 24-26 in Salem
July 25-26 in Boardman
October 24-25 in Lebanon

2018 Board Meeting Schedule

January 30-31, in Florence
April 24-25, location TBD
July 24-25, location TBD
October 30-31, location TBD

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

OWEB Strategic Direction and Principles

OWEB's Mission: To help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies.

Goals

Goals from OWEB's 2010 Strategic Plan

In 2010, the OWEB Board approved a strategic plan with five goals. With the passage of Constitutional Measure 76 and permanent Lottery funding, the Board continues to operate under the strategy.

Goal 1: Adaptive Investment
Restore and sustain resilient ecosystems through program and project investments that enhance watershed and ecosystem functions and processes and support community needs.

Goal 2: Local Infrastructure Development
Support an enduring, high capacity local infrastructure for conducting watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Goal 3: Public Awareness and Involvement
Provide information to help Oregonians understand the need for and engage in activities that support healthy watersheds.

Goal 4: Partnership Development
Build and maintain strong partnerships with local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners for watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Goal 5: Efficient and Accountable Administration
Ensure efficient and accountable administration of all investments.

Long-Term Investment Strategy

OWEB's Framework for Grant Investments

In 2013, the Board adopted a Long-Term Investment Strategy that guides its investments of Lottery, federal and salmon plate funding. All of OWEB's investments in ecological outcomes also help build communities and support the local economy. The Board also approved a direction for the investments outlined below. They will continue operating capacity and open solicitation grants and continue focused investments with a gradual increase over time.

Operating Capacity
Operating Capacity Investments support the operating costs of effective watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts. Councils and districts are specifically identified in OWEB's statutes.

Open Solicitation
OWEB offers responsive grants across the state for competitive proposals based on local ecological priorities.

Focused Investments
OWEB helps landscape-scale collaborative partnerships achieve collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes.

Effectiveness Monitoring
OWEB evaluates and reports on the progress and outcomes of watershed work it supports.

OWEB

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

As the Board developed the Investment Strategy, they did so under established principles for how any changes in OWEB's programs would operate.

Build on accomplishments. The commitment and work of our local partners have resulted in a nationally and internationally recognized approach with unmatched environmental accomplishments. OWEB will build on this foundation.

Effective communication. OWEB is committed to active, two-way communication of ideas, priorities, and results with its staff, partners, potential partners, and the public as a means for developing and maintaining a strong investment strategy and successful cooperative conservation.

Transparency. OWEB values transparency and develops its Long-Term Investment Strategy through an open, transparent process that involves input and dialogue with stakeholders and staff.

Maximize service, minimize disruption. The Board considers how OWEB's grant portfolio impacts partner organizations and staff resources to maximize effectiveness without adversely affecting service delivery.

Responsive. The Long-Term Investment Strategy will adjust to changes in revenue and be responsive to changes in ecological priorities from the Governor, Legislature, the Board, and local partners.

Adapt based on monitoring and evaluation. OWEB's staff and Board monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of the Long-Term Investment Strategy. The Board shall adapt and modify the strategy as needed to meet its desired goals and outcomes and to improve overall investment success.

Phase-in Change. OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy will guide future efforts, is designed to accommodate changes and adjustments made by stakeholders and OWEB staff, and will be periodically revisited.

Operating Principles

Operating Principles to Enhance OWEB Team Work

We will do all we can, individually and as a group, to:

- **Use Good communication--at all levels and in all directions;**
- **Operate with a Team approach;**
- **Follow through on conversations in order to build and maintain needed trust;**
- **Empower staff wherever it is appropriate to do so; and**
- **Have fun while doing important work!**

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
January 24, 2017
OWEB Board Meeting
The Inn at Cross Keys Station Conference Room
66 NW Cedar St.
Madras, Oregon

MINUTES

OWEB Members Present	OWEB Staff Present	Others Present	
Furfey, Rosemary	Barnes, Darika	Beamer, Kelley	Nicolescu, Jerry
Henning, Alan	Ciannella, Greg	Bell, Dan	Nye, Brad
Hollen, Debbie	Davis, Renee	Bellis, Natasha	Perle, Mathias
Labbe, Randy	Dutterer, Andrew	Borgias, Darren	Ryan, Zola
Neuhauser, Will	Fetcho, Ken	Coordes, Regan	Sanders, Gary
Quaempts, Eric	Gunville, Katy	Faucera, Jason	Sitz, Angela
Roberts, John	Hartstein, Eric	Fitzpatrick, Kate	Smith, Brenda
Stangl, Kathy	Hatch, Audrey	Foster, Lee	Sparks, Edwin
Thorndike, Dan	Leiendecker, Karen	Gannon, Chris	Stahl, Tom
Webber, Bob	Leopold, Kathy	Karges, Chad	Steele, Jesse
	Loftsgaarden, Meta	Klock, Clair	Suter-Goold, Marty
	Redon, Liz	McGinnis, Cheryl	Taylor, Bruce
	Shaff, Courtney	Morford, Shawn	
	Williams, Eric	Mundy, Sarah	

The meeting was called to order at 8:05AM by Co-Chair Dan Thorndike.

A. Board Member Comments

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

Dan Thorndike stated that this would be the final official meeting for Public and Tribal Board Member Eric Quaempts, and affirmed his important contributions to the board over many years. Quaempts presented a letter he prepared for the board and executive director listing his outgoing recommendations to the board. He highlighted a few of the key points in his letter related to the importance of floodplain restoration. He reflected on his first board meeting and expressed appreciation for the board's support for the Umatilla Tribes' First Foods Mission and River Vision.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the October 25-26, 2016 board meeting in Ashland were presented to the board for approval. There was no discussion and no changes were requested.

> *Co-Chair Labbe moved the board approve the minutes from the October 25-26, 2016 meeting in Ashland. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously.*

C. Board Subcommittees Updates

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

Focused Investment Committee: Will Neuhauser said the Focused Investment subcommittee met in December to discuss a variety of topics. The capacity building grantees are making progress, with regular meetings and progress made to develop strategic action plans. Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) is working on a survey of the FIP partnerships (capacity building and implementation) which will provide for candid reporting on progress and effectiveness in order to help the board evaluate the program. The committee is eager to see their results.

Monitoring Committee: Rosemary Furfey said the Monitoring Committee has been very active since the last meeting. She said monitoring was one of the key items discussed at the Ashland meeting. At a November meeting, the committee discussed how OWEB fits in the statewide monitoring structure, and a discussion of the agency's approach toward monitoring investments. They talked about revising the monitoring application guidance to get higher quality monitoring projects for funding. At a December meeting, the committee discussed the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership and the presentation that ODFW will be providing at the January board meeting. She expressed appreciation to committee members and staff for their efforts.

Open Solicitation Committee: Bob Webber said the Open Solicitation committee met in November to discuss a variety of topics. They began by prioritizing the topics to look at: 1) Outreach grants, 2) the Small Grant Program, 3) evaluating the funding line process for Open Solicitation grants, and 4) the Regional Review Team process. Regarding Outreach grants, Measure 76 (M76) removed education programs and included a requirement that outreach projects be "necessary for carrying out" eligible restoration or acquisition projects. The board prioritized amending the outreach application to address the revised eligibility language during the 2015-17 biennium. The committee would like to better align Outreach grants with M76 requirements, while also informing stakeholders and applicants of the limits of M76 grants and alternative funding sources that might assist their programs. In the Small Grant Program, the committee is discussing a number of issues. One issue is the question of whether the existing $10,000 cap is a realistic limit. The other issue is how to deal with unspent funds. Right now when funds are unspent they become unavailable until the next cycle. The committee would like to explore a mechanism for making those funds available sooner. Small Grant Coordinator Kathy Leopold addressed the board to say she estimates $500,000 per biennium is left unspent for various reasons. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden said there is still a need for these

funds, but there is no mechanism to redistribute these within the biennium. She said the committee will analyze options to distribute unspent funds among the 28 small grant teams.

Operating Capacity Committee: Debbie Hollen said the Operating Capacity Committee met in early January to talk about the 2017-2019 Council Capacity Grants. The deadline for eligibility review was in November. They received 59 councils that submitted materials were considered eligible, and will be considered in March when formal grant applications are submitted. These Council Capacity awards will be made at the July board meeting. Hollen said they also discussed the statewide Conservation Partnership, which will be covered in more detail with the board later in the day. She said the committee also received an update form staff on the focused investment partnership learning process, which the board will learn more about later in the day.

D. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

E. Conservation Partnership– Funding Request

OWEB's Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff, the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (Network) Executive Director Shawn Morford, the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) Executive Director Jerry Nicolescu, the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) Executive Director Kelley Beamer, and the Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network (OCEAN) President Jason Faucera updated the board on the activities of the Conservation Partnership. Together they requested the board provide supplemental funding to the 2015-2017 partnership capacity grant and delegate authority to the Executive Director for distribution of those funds.

Shaff provided background on the existing $300,000 award made by the board in July 2015, which was split into two $150,000 grants for each year of the biennium. Shaff praised the progress of the partnership in meeting the 2015-2017 grant deliverables. She then discussed the request for $33,000 in additional funds to expand the organizational partnerships, and explained that the funding would come from the Building Capacity grants line item in the spending plan. Shaff said OWEB asked the partnership at the beginning of the biennium to continue working collaboratively to deliver the services they are providing to their stakeholders, and to be a model statewide for partnerships. She said this takes more resources in the short term, as there are unforeseen expenses.

Beamer explained how the partners have been meeting regularly for the last year to craft a work plan and MOU to identify where their missions overlap and they can collaborate to enhance each other's work. They used Land Trust Alliance's Advancing Conservation Excellence Grant funds to hire consultants with expertise in "impact networks" to identify five areas of collaboration: 1) Communication and awareness, 2) professional education and networking, 3) government relations, 4) funding, and 5) collaborative planning and implementation. This is their map to work together and maximize those areas where it makes sense to connect.

Beamer said COLT is requesting funding to help produce their 2016 "State of the Lands" Report. She explained how the report highlights the collective impact of voluntary land conservation,

gathers quantifiable data from members and partners, and provides illustrative stories about how land conservation impacts local communities. COLT uses this tool with elected officials, community leaders, foundation partners, and the general public. She distributed copies of the report from 2015 and talked about the progress of the 2016 report, which she expects to be available in March.

Faucera provided an overview of OCEAN, which is run by volunteers from districts throughout the state to help OCEAN deliver capacity support, networking, technical training, and leadership development. The CONNECT annual workshop is OCEAN's main delivery for technical training. They have worked with other groups in the partnership to combine conference schedules to save resources while making it more affordable to stakeholders. Faucera said that OCEAN is requesting funding to provide scholarships to CONNECT and to bring in the speakers for the conference. Dan Thorndike asked for clarification about who "members" are. Faucera explained OCEAN originally started as an employee's association in 1992 and transformed to an educational organization in 2008. He confirmed membership is made up of district employees, but that they also have associate memberships to include other partnering organizations.

Morford talked about the strength of the partnership's collaboration. She also presented some of the feedback of their constituents, who desire services and a statewide voice to promote voluntary conservation as an effective tool for conservation outcomes. Their constituents would also like more remote opportunities for learning, so the partnership has been providing webinars. If the additional funding is approved, the partnership will hire an intern from Pacific University to handle webinars. This will free up the other members of the partnership to build partnerships and be more strategic statewide.

Nicolescu talked about the importance of the partnership and his appreciation for the cooperation of each member organization. He talked about the impact the additional funding will have, particularly in light of leadership and staffing changes. He said the partnership is also looking for additional resources. New partners widen their field of impact to continue to promote voluntary conservation.

Dan Thorndike provided a historic reference point of when statewide conservation groups were more "siloed." He talked about the importance of movement to the current partnership framework and how there can be unforeseen events that require additional resources to keep the partnership moving forward effectively. Eric Quaempts asked about sustainability and funding security for the future for the partnership. Morford said she always balances the need to provide services to constituents, who pay dues to keep things working, with the need to diversify by reaching out to new partners and new funders. Rosemary Furfey asked about the State of the Lands Report and whether it was primarily for Oregon Land Trust members or for all four organizations. Beamer said the data is from land trusts projects, but the stories feature local communities, collaboration, and impact on the ground. Furfey referenced the "What We Do" section of COLT's report and asked if there was a vehicle for the synthesizing and sharing of science that might complement the expansion of OWEB's monitoring. Morford agreed there is a real need to bring together salient literature that speaks to the impact of voluntary conservation as the best intervention. Nicolescu said the partnership is working with OSU to

help provide solid documentation on voluntary conservation. Alan Henning expressed appreciation that the partnership is taking the time and resources to seek clear direction and expand, and asked for future updates. John Roberts asked about the number of watershed councils being closer to 60 than 90. Shaff explained that OWEB funds a subset of the state's watershed councils, 59 total, that are eligible for funding. Roberts also asked if merging to one larger organization would benefit the effectiveness of the partnership. Nicolescu said when they formed the partnership they agreed to retain their individual organizational identities. He said there are definitely benefits and trade-offs to being separate small organizations. Roberts asked what each of the partnering organizations gets as a percent of operating funds from OWEB. Shaff explained that OWEB funds the conservation partnership budget, but not the full budget for each organization in the partnership. Roberts asked about other funding sources are utilized to maintain their organizations. Beamer talked about COLT's operating budget being supported by membership dues, other foundation partners, and some fee-for-service. She said they are also looking at other state association models that have a strong diversified funding base. Faucera said OCEAN's operating expenses are minimal, utilizing volunteers, and supporting only technical service and one event per year. Morford said that in the past her position at the Network was funded completely by OWEB funds, but they have been successful at fundraising. Nicolescu said OACD collects membership dues and tries to shift funds in and out of the partnership when that is feasible. He said it is fairly equitable between the Network and OACD. Meta Loftsgaarden also briefly talked about how federal and state agencies benefit from these four partnership agencies who relay information what their membership is saying about how agencies accomplish their work.

There was not a quorum present for voting on award action items. However, Co-Chair Dan Thorndike asked for a sense from the board if they would recommend adding $33,575 of Building Capacity funds to existing award 216-8006-12263 for the expansion of the Conservation Partnership's collaboration and deliverables in 2017 as described in the staff report and as corrected regarding the university providing an intern being Pacific University and not Willamette University. The sense of the board was that the motion would pass.

On Wednesday, January 25th, Gary Marshall joined the board to create a voting quorum. Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board recommend adding $33,575 of Building Capacity funds to existing award 216-8006-12263 for the expansion of the Conservation Partnership's collaboration and deliverables in 2017 as described in the staff report and as corrected regarding the university providing an intern being Pacific University and not Willamette University. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously.

F. 2017-2019 Spending Plan Discussion

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden led the board through an initial discussion of the 2017-2019 Spending Plan. She provided background on the spending plan, which is based on the Long Term Investment Strategy. She said staff is not asking for a vote, but is looking for a sense of the board on the percentages allocated to each category. This will help staff fill in specific line items which can be brought back to the board in April for another review, and then be voted on by the board in July.

Loftsgaarden reviewed the board's 2015-17 Spending Plan. She then presented the 2017-19 Spending Plan timeline to the board and walked through the proposed allocations to each grant program. She said the board will look at each line item in detail at the board meeting in April. She explained an expected increase in grant funds for 2017-19, due to a projected increase of 11% in lottery revenues, even though the state has had to make cuts to other important programs. She said staff would like to provide cost of living increases to watershed councils. She pointed out how the board has indicated a preference to increase focused investment spending over time, and that in the 2019-2021 biennium, FIP may account for over 25% of the spending plan. She said it is possible to hold some funding back in the 2017-19 biennium to help cover that bump in the following biennium.

Bob Webber asked how the increase from 20% to 25% in Focused Investment spending would impacts Open Solicitation projects. Loftsgaarden reviewed prior board discussions, and stated that this would be a simple shift of funds because they are basically the same grant types and many of the same grantees. Webber also asked about Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF) and what categories of grants they are allowed to fund. Loftsgaarden explained they are spread between Open Solicitation and Focused Investments (FIPs) and go explicitly to projects that meet strict PCSRF requirements for eligible activities (i.e., restoration and design-type technical assistance) that benefit ESA-listed anadromous fish species. Alan Henning asked if staff is seeing a drop in Open Solicitation grant applications in FIP regions. Loftsgaarden said we are too early in the process to have data analysis yet, but will likely have something to look at in the next year. She said some of the big-ticket projects that would have gone through open solicitation are now going through Focused Investments. Karl Wenner noted the fixed budgets for the existing FIPs, and asked how the increase in available grant funds would impact those fixed budgets. Loftsgaarden explained how the board will be able to flex, based on available revenues, but will set the fixed values for each new biennium. Dan Thorndike asked about the timing for when PCSRF funding is announced. Loftsgaarden said the announcement is made in June. She said OWEB is very cautious about bringing the dollar amount up for board allocation until the funds are available, but staff may be able to present estimates to the board in advance of the PCSRF announcement. Randy Labbe asked if staff see a critical mass of good FIP Capacity Building partnerships in early stages to meet our goals. Loftsgaarden confirmed this. She said OWEB has funded eight Capacity Building FIPs, each of which are doing a tremendous job, and three similar projects under the Coast Coho Business Plan. She said OWEB would likely fund at most three new Implementation FIPs in each biennium, beginning in 2019-2021. OWEB invests in these partnerships because it is good for all funders, and we will see high quality Open Solicitation projects come out of this and additional funding because there is good strategy in the state. Eric Quaempts said he appreciated the staff bringing this before the board early in the year to provide time for the board to think about it.

Loftsgaarden asked the board to state their questions about the spending plan at this meeting so staff may do research and be prepared to answer them at the April board meeting.

OPEN SOLICITATION

OUTREACH:
Rosemary Furfey asked if we are now looking at what we can fund for this category within the guidelines of Measure 76.

SMALL GRANTS:
Rosemary Furfey asked how small grants are evolving based on evolving need, and how they will affect budget. John Roberts asked if staff intend to come back to the board with a suggestion to increase the small grants cap above $10,000. Randy Labbe asked if there was there potential to look at OWEB rules and determine if flexibility could expand the use of small grants. Will Neuhauser requested to learn more about the objective of the small grants program, and if it could be made more clear.

ACQUISITIONS:
Will Neuhauser noted there is a perception that OWEB does not receive as many applications as we used to. He requested information about whether this perception is accurate, and whether a small number of applicants indicates the program is difficult to apply to.

FOCUSED INVESTMENTS
No additional questions were asked.

OPERATING CAPACITY
John Roberts asked for information on demand on OWEB's grant programs, and potential areas for increases. Rosemary Furfey asked whether there is enough funding in this category. Dan Thorndike asked about the history of building capacity grants as a separate line item and whether we still need it.

CONSERVATION RESERVE EHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)
There were no questions.

OTHER
Loftsgaarden said the Governor's office will come and discuss where they would like to focus these funds at the April meeting. Karl Wenner asked if the board drives that number or the Governor drives that number. Loftsgaarden said the dollar amount is driven by the board, but the Governor establishes the priorities. She clarified that this presently includes four items: Sage-grouse, Coast Coho, Working Lands, and Clean Water Partnership.

Neuhauser asked for clarification about how the $1 million allotted to Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) is spent. Loftsgaarden explained that SIAs are a partnership between OWEB and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) which have established a process for meeting water quality requirements in the state, utilizing both voluntary and regulatory mechanisms in certain focused watersheds. Once areas are identified on farms and ranches that need improvement, the SIA program may provide funding for these projects through local councils and districts so restoration action can occur. This program was tested in the current biennium

and was developed through a legislative budget note. Rosemary Furfey noted that it would be good to know about SIA effectiveness. Alan Henning asked if the SIA grant program is OWEB funding or whether SIA funds that come through ODA. Loftsgaarden said that the SIA grant program use OWEB funds.

Loftsgaarden asked the board to voice ideas for any new line items for consideration in April. She said input will also be accepted up to the next board meeting.

Karl Wenner said every biennium there are always items that come up which are outside of the spending plan. He asked whether it was possible to have a discretionary category to hold onto funds until something comes up to spend it on. Loftsgaarden explained the spending plan belongs to the board. The board can develop a spending plan that is smaller than the budget, but she cautioned that the discretionary fund may receive a lot of pressure from stakeholders.

Rosemary Furfey stated how the strategic planning process OWEB is beginning could impact the decisions and ideas for the future. Loftsgaarden encouraged the board to use the current strategic plan and long term investment strategy to guide the current spending plan.

Bob Webber asked for clarification about the legislatively adopted budget versus the OWEB spending plan. Loftsgaarden confirmed that the legislature approves the OWEB budget and may provide some direction about how to spend some of the funds, but that the board sets the spending plan for the biennium.

G. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Monitoring Update

Deputy Director Renee Davis and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Conservation and Recovery Program Manager Tom Stahl updated the board on ODFW's monitoring activities, including those supported by PCSRF.

Davis provided an overview of OWEB monitoring activities including grants, OWEB-initiated effectiveness monitoring, and monitoring done by other natural resources agencies supported by PCSRF and/or Measure 76 (M76) operating funds, allocated by the legislature. She said the State of Oregon, via OWEB in a joint application with ODFW, has applied for PCSRF every year since 2000 to support restoration activities and complementary monitoring. ODFW takes the lead on the monitoring work accomplished with PCSRF funds. Davis acknowledged the board's keen and increasing interest in better understanding the results of OWEB investments through monitoring, and to adaptively manage future investments.

Stahl explained how ODFW engages in monitoring actions. He said there are a number of ODFW programs and projects conducting monitoring in the state, and discussed different aspects of monitoring in which these groups engage. He discussed the ODFW monitoring budget and the sources of funding for each category. He talked about monitoring outcomes and how ODFW uses the data to inform harvest decisions, to make adjustments to hatchery programs, to set habitat priorities, and to measure restoration effectiveness. He said ODFW is looking at more explicitly linking the information they get with ODFW management decisions about conservation approaches. To go along with an emerging "science-for-management" framework at the agency, ODFW is also looking at new and advanced sampling techniques on the landscape and analyzing samples in a more efficient way. Information needs are always

increasing while funding is not, so ODFW is seeking more efficient ways to collect data including environmental DNA, drones, sonar, and remote sensing. In addition, ODFW is seeking better analytical and statistical modeling tools. ODFW is undertaking a significant effort on centralizing information management called the Four-Dimensional Oregon (4DOR) approach. 4DOR accounts for which resource is being managed in specific locations, how information gathered by the agency is being used to inform management, and how to track adaptive management of management decisions through time.

Dan Thorndike asked for clarification about the difference between monitoring and effectiveness monitoring and how each ties to different OWEB funding categories. Renee Davis explained that the spending plan category for a monitoring line item under Open Solicitation refers to monitoring grants for project specific actions like rapid bio-assessments and species status/trend monitoring. Stahl said it's a matter of scale: effectiveness monitoring can help measure the impacts of a restoration project or help answer broader questions about basin-scale restoration efforts.

Will Neuhauser expressed appreciation for the explanatory distinctions. He said the outcomes of one specific project may be easier to obtain by simply asking if the project met its objectives. However, measuring the net effect or impact over time of several projects in one area with a common goal is more difficult. He would like to learn more about the net effectiveness of restoration projects around the state. Stahl provided an example of long-term monitoring in the Smith and Siletz River basins. He stated there is a significant investment of time and money to monitor every project, so it is important to prioritize projects for monitoring. Stahl said ODFW is looking at better ways to do this in a larger part of the landscape, while integrating water quality and quantity information, and what it means for fish. Davis said inter-agency communication and pooling of information is critical and results can feed back to how the board would use the information to adaptively manage future investments.

Rosemary Furfey asked how the information presented today is shared with watershed councils, districts, and other conservation organizations. Stahl said data is being shared through a number of different methods of dissemination to interested parties. He also feels there is a lot of on-the-ground sharing of information. Davis said OWEB receives several applications that demonstrate a close collaboration with ODFW.

Alan Henning asked if ODFW has developed a long-range model of impacts for riparian buffers in coastal areas. Stahl said ODFW has not developed such a model, but is aware of a model developed through EPA that may capture long-range models.

Randy Labbe asked if it would be possible to incorporate into models outside factors such as ocean conditions, spring runoff, or other outside factors that could explain your results in a more sophisticated way. Stahl said yes, ODFW is attempting to incorporate other models into what is being developed.

Eric Quaempts asked how monitoring can help identify which project activities are good investments. Stahl said protecting cold-water sources and habitats is good strategy for addressing climate change. He said ODFW is seeing the importance of effectiveness monitoring of projects at a basin scale. He said it is helpful to look at the whole watershed and then

consider what suites of actions are proposed to see a response at the fish level. Quaempts also asked about how ODFW's monitoring budget might increase to handle the increases in data management. Stahl said ODFW is not expecting a budget increase, but a funding task force may recommend an increase in the monitoring budget. Davis added that PCSRF has a 10% cap on the budget that can be allocated for monitoring purposes.

H. Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) Program – Implementation Initiatives Update

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams welcomed representatives from each of the six FIP Implementation partnerships to provide the board specific updates on the progress of their initiatives. Williams said these updates would be valuable to the board to help understand what has happened in the past year, where things are headed for each partnership, and to inform decisions on the next biennium's spending plan. He then provided background and timeline on the FIP program.

Will Neuhauser said he appreciated the attachments that were included for each FIP that show what projects are occurring for each initiative. Allen Henning asked whether the Technical Review Teams (TRTs) that evaluate FIP projects are the same as Regional Review Teams (RRTs). Williams said that some members may overlap between a TRT and a RRT, but the composition of the teams are different.

Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer presented the three partnerships related to native fish recovery: The Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group, the Deschutes Partnership, and the Upper Grande Ronde Initiative. He said each partnership addresses the board priority of aquatic habitat for native fish species. He then summarized each partnership's biennial award, expected leveraged funds, ecological outcome goals of each partnership's work, and other details about each partnership..

Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group:

Dan Bell from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and chairperson of the Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group thanked the board for their support and for the opportunity to talk about what the partnership has been doing. Bell mentioned how the Willamette Special Investment Partnership (SIP) provided some momentum for the current FIP, and the past year was spent modifying the process and adapting their approach under the FIP to fit into and leverage their other major funding sources, Meyer Memorial Trust and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). He spoke about the differences between the open solicitation competitive process of ranking individual projects and the partnership approach to selecting projects. This has led to working in hybrid form. The partnership now ranks and evaluates projects within the FIP geography. They have prepared a report that includes all of the projects that have come through this year and are in the process of getting grant agreements into place now. Bell said the application process has worked very well. There was a some frustration at the start of this program for how to set up and get things off the ground, and some funding opportunities were missed, but there was a lot of change happening and the program was just being developed. He said they will continue to find ways to better integrate the TRT members much earlier on in the development stage. They are very cognizant of the

work burden involved in the application process. The process includes a pre-proposal, site visits, feedback from the TRT, and a full OWEB application. A lot of information is duplicated in this process and the partnership wonders if there is a way to streamline the process to eliminate some information that is already collected in their FIP application. Bell also talked about inevitable staffing and leadership changes that will affect a partnership. He acknowledged Dutterer and OWEB staff who helped keep things moving forward.

Alan Henning asked for clarification about who can apply for their grants, wondering if it is only organizations that belong to the partnership. Bell said that only core partners may apply, but there are pathways of participation for organizations that are not core partners. Henning also asked what kind of impact the FIP time frame had on the partnership. Bell said the partners realistically approached the calendar of projects from the beginning so there were no real surprises or hindrances.

Dan Thorndike asked about the benefit of the partnership having ability to shift projects, rather than having to come back to the board for approval. Bell acknowledged that the process may be complex, but thus far the partnership has shown a strong commitment to the concept of putting together a roster of projects that are the highest priority for the group.

Rosemary Furfey asked for an example of measuring ecological outcomes and lessons learned that might be useful for another FIP. Bell said the partnership's strategic plan and application provided for a robust and ambitious monitoring framework. However, there has been a real gap in effectiveness monitoring. He said over the next two years they have a multi-agency team that will develop a framework for effectiveness monitoring focused on gravel transport, channel complexity, inundation, and many things which are challenging to measure, but which are the very substance of what the partnership is trying to achieve.

Upper Grande Ronde Initiative:

Grande Ronde Model Watershed Executive Director Jeff Oveson and Project Coordinator Jesse Steele presented on the Upper Grande Ronde Initiative. Oveson opened with a comment about recognition by his partners about a tangible and positive shift in culture at OWEB, and expressed his appreciation for staff. He also called special attention the work and cooperation of Dutterer. Oveson then talked about the history of watershed restoration in his region and the regular gathering of a set of watershed professionals since 1992. This group is the original Model Watershed (a term they have always used for their restoration group), which was initially a coordination and funding entity that selected project proposals for funding using BPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funds and following a series of unrelated plans for guidance. This fostered fierce competition among partners for funds, requiring the Model Watershed to choose from among opportunities instead of selecting projects that were more strategically identified and designed. Over time, with the development of the local guidance documents and with more firm science established, their program became more collaborative and effective. The group eventually morphed into the core partners for the Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership, and became a perfect fit for a FIP. He believes the partnership will add a couple of important partners over the next year: The Freshwater Trust and Trout Unlimited. Overall he is very pleased with the FIP and the work coming out of it.

Oveson discussed the issue of costs associated with engineering. Eric Quaempts asked why the design costs are increasing, wondering if it has to do with the more remote parts of the basin, or other reasons. Oveson said it was more about the need to create a restoration economy in the basin. However, a part of the restoration economy is consultants, which often charge high fees. Oveson said they want their contractors to be profitable, but the rate of acceleration of fees is not sustainable.

Oveson discussed floodplain restoration and reactivation, and the building of beaver habitat to accomplish restoration. Karl Wenner said he found it interesting that the partnership is taking interest in building beaver habitat, and wondered if there is resistance from landowners. Oveson talked about using beavers to restore dry meadows to wet meadows, not installing beavers next to human infrastructure. Wenner asked if the work is being accomplished on federal lands and if they are cooperative. Oveson said quite a bit is on federal land and they are very receptive to having more beavers.

Steele summarized the list of projects slated for this biennium. He said the partnership got off to a slow start in the fall and the bulk of projects have just started their implementation process. They anticipate implementing 15 projects over this next year. Steele talked about projects that were complete which then inspired other landowners to seek assistance from the partnership. He said they anticipate spending over $6 million in their basin this year to meet their ecological outcomes laid out in their application.

Will Neuhauser asked if there is something about being a FIP that makes the application process difficult. Oveson said they look at the FIP as a bigger source of funding that goes into the restoration pot. He said they use same prioritization method, the same selection process, and the OWEB application, so it's not that much more complicated.

Alan Henning asked how the timing of deliverables in getting things going affected their operation. Oveson said they have had to accelerate everything. He talked about their drone program which includes one drone with a good camera on it, and the demand for that service from partners is incredible.

Randy Labbe asked whether there have been any opportunities for publicity with the local county newspapers or the significance of this FIP award to the local community. Oveson said the local papers are very responsive, accepting invitations to tour projects. They often include quotes from local landowners, which makes the stories much more interesting.

Deschutes Partnership:

Representing the Deschutes Partnership initiative were Chris Gannon from the Crooked River Watershed Council, Brad Nye from the Deschutes Land Trust, Natasha Bellis from the Deschutes River Conservancy, and Mathias Perle from the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council.

Nye provided a very brief background and history of their partnership. He suggested that the FIP program offers OWEB a great way to "tell the story" of voluntary restoration, and he encourages continued investment in strategic conservation and restoration. He commented on the ability to be flexible with their slate of projects. This is a game-changer when considering the timing of project progress, how funds are allocated as they ripen, and when funds can be

leveraged as match funding becomes available. Nye also said the transition from SIP to FIP for the partnership has been smooth. Nye expressed great appreciation for the assistance of Dutterer and Williams. He said the paperwork burden has increased, and he joins Dan Bell in wanting to streamline that process. However, the review team process has evolved to become very transparent and meaningful. There is a programmatic lens now that helps the review process to be more effective.

Karl Wenner asked whether land acquisition funding is earmarked for the FIP or separate. Nye said it is part of the FIP. Nye said their suite of projects is slightly back-loaded so there will be many applications in March, but they are on track to meet their ecological objectives and spending allocation for the biennium.

Nye shared highlighted the Opal Springs project, which the board has discussed for many years. He said the project is finally coming together with two seasons of construction, starting this year, with expected fish passage in 2018. He talked about how the partners are tied to each other's success. Something they say within their partnership is "None of us can be successful without all of us being successful." He thanked OWEB for investing in partnership capacity as it really frees up human energy for implementation. He encouraged the support of other FIPs in that same way in the future.

Karl Wenner said he appreciated the comment on how the process was onerous, but successful. He hopes OWEB will continue to refine the application process.

John Roberts asked for clarification about a comment in the staff report regarding the different enthusiasm levels of partners. Nye said there is a spectrum of approaches and philosophies in terms of how you go about restoring a stream. He feels these are issues of communication, but working through these challenges have been productive and will strengthen the partnership.

Dan Thorndike asked for clarification about streamlining the paperwork process. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden explained what is required by statute, but noted that staff are attempting to find efficiencies in the process.

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein presented the three FIPs implementing restoration in dry-type forest, sagebrush/sage-steppe, and closed lakes basin wetlands habitats: The Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration Partnership, the Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse, and the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative. He reviewed each partnership's biennial award, expected leveraged funds, ecological outcome goals of each partnership's work, core partners, FIP geographies, and additional details about each partnership.

Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration Partnership:

Darren Borgias from the Nature Conservancy and Chris Chambers from the City of Ashland came before the board to represent the Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration Partnership (AFR). Chambers attributed the success of the AFR Partnership to being collaborative partners and bringing complementary assets to the restoration equation. They have a high-functioning, high-capacity partnership, and have enjoyed a lot of success.

AFR's work has expanded to a 58,000-acre landscape. OWEB funds are aligned with USFS dollars that have been dedicated to AFR under the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Project. This brings USFS and NRCS together to fund cross-boundary work that embodies the National Cohesive Wildland Management Strategy which is a key piece of policy that brings together local, state, and federal agencies into one cohesive strategy to manage fire, fuels, and habitat across the landscape. Chambers identified public support as a key to success. A lot of time and energy has been invested into public engagement. The partnership operates with a very open and transparent process and they provide a lot of opportunities for communication with their population. He mentioned how grateful the partnership is to be working with Hartstein, who has been very helpful.

Borgias thanked the board for supporting the Ashland Forest FIP. He provided background on how AFR has worked to change the landscape behavior of fire. Their biological goals unite protective conservation with active restoration, and change the landscape behavior of fire. Their monitoring program looks at areas that are protected, how many acres are being treated, and where those acres reside on the landscape to be effective in ameliorating fire risk. The program also looks to preserving the structured elements of the forest, tracking wildlife with the help of various partners, and changing the fuel model so that when the fire arrives it is beneficial fire that helps sustain the system. The best measure they have for landscape resilience is the proportion of open forests and closed forests.

The Ashland Forest FIP has 17 properties lined up with informal agreements for technical assistance, waiting for the official agreement to be finalized before they enter into more formal contracts. Borgia said AFR is beginning to plan for the next biennium, focusing on how to continue to grow their strategic design, expanding on AFR, with strategic fire management zones. Like the other FIPs, they have been slow to get started with the application processes, but they have not encountered any barriers and the work is being integrated very well with other funding sources and ongoing work. He said the Ashland Forest FIP is very pleased and grateful to have the board's added support.

Loftsgaarden asked about the 'one implementation grant' concept. She asked if that is working with the types of prescriptions AFR is doing in terms of efficiencies. Chambers said having the ability to bundle properties together under one grant will work well on the implementation side. He felt that additional efficiency would come with the ability bundle the various other elements of the initiative into one grant as well, but could see how that might not be statutorily feasible.

Alan Henning asked about the use of proceeds from tree thinning, and if those are funds returned into a stewardship program at the project level. In the same vein, he wondered if private landowners would keep the proceeds from tree thinning. Chambers said that on the federal lands, the proceeds are returned to the project. He said this issue will be more challenging on private land. He talked about how they plan to balance funding without creating a profit for private landowners on grant-funded projects. They will seek the assistance of their city forester, but these projects won't come into play until the second biennium. Dan Thorndike weighed in on the potential complications around financial and tax consequences for private landowners that could sneak up at the end of a project. Chambers agreed there are a lot of

small details to work out. AFR wants to help private landowners, even if only to provide technical expertise.

Alan Henning asked about the level of detail for each private landowner agreement. Borgias said the details will be further developed in the agreements. However, at this time it is clear for each property owner that there are important opportunities to perform specifically non-commercial treatments that will make a significant difference in terms of opening stands and changing the fuel model. This doesn't mean there couldn't be additional work added to each project, but the partnership needs to work out how to leverage the commercial value of the tree thinning on private lands to offset the beneficence of public grant funds.

Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse:

Justin Ferrell from Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District, Angela Sitz from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lee Foster from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Marty Suter-Goold from Harney Soil and Water Conservation District presented to the board on the Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse initiative.

Angela Sitz provided details of the partnership's progress. She said when work is complete they will have 125 landowner plans enrolled in Harney, Lake, and Malheur counties with a sizeable waiting list of landowners who have interest in enrolling. Sitz calculates a potential for enrolling 3.5 million acres in all seven eastern Oregon counties with about 12% of those acres being in the highest priority sage- rouse habitat.

Suter-Goold complimented Region 5 Regional Program Representative Karen Leiendecker, Loftsgaarden, and Hartstein for their understanding, cooperation, and effort. She felt the partnership was initially at a disadvantage with implementation because they were at the start of a learning curve and had made some very specific habitat targets and measurable objectives. To stay on target they were grateful to include a number of projects into one restoration application. She said they have a very competitive contractor market, which has resulted in lower bids and the opportunity to conduct additional restoration. This has provided a great opportunity to reach out to strategic partners in Harney County coordinate on projects. Suter-Goold said this is an example of how the FIP allows partners to work strategically to ensure restoration objectives are being met, and that the partners meet at least quarterly. She noted the partnership application made some very aggressive commitments for 2017, but the partnership is performing at a very high level and fully expects to meet their objectives.

Suter-Goold said the partnership agreed to break up the funding by habitat type, then spoke briefly about project progress. She wanted to acknowledge Mustang Manufacturing and the fence marker program as a very positive by-product of what has come out of OWEB funding of this partnership. There will be a YouTube video on this project coming out this summer. She also said nothing has changed in their strategic action plan, barring any issue on the federal side with staffing and project approvals, so the partnership is on target to meet their objectives. She is confident the partnership will be able to demonstrate a great success to Oregon.

Rosemary Furfey said she appreciated the partnership's very candid description of the challenges, as well as their very action-oriented approach. She asked if there was anything else

to discuss with regard to lessons learned. Suter-Goold said the resolve is still there with private landowners, and relationships are continuing to grow because they have been able to communicate and work through challenges. Karl Wenner asked if all of the work being done is on private land. Marty said currently it is all on private land, but they are planning to work with federal partners on a project on public land.

Eric Quaempts talked about using some good case studies, particularly the outreach YouTube video, to dispel the myth that relationships with agencies and private landowners can only be negative. He appreciates hearing about their progress and commitment to working together.

Loftsgaarden asked if the concern noted in the attachment around the timing of the first round of applications was addressed for the future. The partners agreed that it has been addressed and they are comfortable with the timeline.

Will Neuhauser asked about a pending lawsuit with the BLM. Suter-Goold explained that Harney SWCD filed a suit in federal court challenging an aspect of the BLMs resource management plan. She provided a brief background on the lawsuit, and discussed the relationships and continuing communication between all entities involved.

Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative:

Ed Sparks from the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative, Chad Karges from the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), and Brenda Smith with High Desert Partnership a presented the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative. Smith talked about the impact of the events of the 2016 occupation of the Refuge, and the resiliency of the partnership and community in Malheur County. She thanked Hartstein for being a true partner. She proceeded to speak about the background of the partnership and their outreach events and efforts. Their project encompasses 500,000 acres. She likened their basin to a huge bathtub with Malheur Lake being the drain, in a county of 10,000 square miles with about 7,000 people. The Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative is only one initiative supported by the partnership. It also supports a Forest Collaborative and a Youth Initiative. Smith said they have worked the past year to develop capacity and work on outreach, and the partnership has added staff to make this successful.

Sparks talked about the two ecological outcomes that involve improving aquatic health. He discussed carp and their impact on habitat, then talked about studies being conducted to establish baseline data for this invasive species. Sparks also spoke about securing 6,500 acres of flood-irrigated spring migratory water bird habitat through conservation easements or practices that improve management ability. The partnership is targeting flood-irrigated wet meadows through infrastructure improvements and efficiencies with new structures.

Karges, manager at the Refuge and board member for the High Desert Partnership spoke to the board about how partnerships are based on relationships. He touched on the 2016 occupation, and the endurance of the relationships in the community to maintain unity. He said the partnership is continuing to find creative ways to move forward, in spite of challenges.

Dan Thorndike asked if there were efforts that needed to be restarted due to the hiatus on project work created by the occupation. Karges said staff turnover at the refuge due to the occupation was the biggest issue as it takes time to bring new staff up-to-speed. Thorndike said

he visited the partnership in the past and came away with a very positive outlook. He attributed the cohesion of the partnership post-occupation to the strong and positive relationship of the partners that has existed for many years.

Karl Wenner talked about the support for the community in the region. He expressed appreciation for the magnitude of their second and third ecological outcomes, and he encouraged the partnership to build out a framework for planning into the future to fully achieve those objectives.

Randy Labbe asked about lowering the carp threshold by controlling them, rather than eradicating them. Karges talked about different strategies they are developing to manage carp, including working on infrastructure for an effort to commercially control carp (via a local fertilizer plant). Karges said the lake will be higher this year so there will be a different approach to catching and controlling them.

Alan Henning asked if the eDNA work being done on carp is to better define their range so areas of control may be targeted. Karges said this project will result in allows for targeting specific areas for carp control. Henning asked if he will see a change with low water supply versus a higher supply. Karges said barriers change between low and high water, so he expects the carp will be able to repopulate areas they could not reach during the drought cycle.

Related to all of the FIPs, Williams said Deputy Director Renee Davis and her Technical Services staff are working on an application module that will allow FIP partnership coordinators to tailor specific grant applications for FIP projects.

I. Executive Director's Update

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

I-1. Tribal Involvement within OWEB Programs

Loftsgaarden thanked Eric Quaempts, the board's tribal representative, who has helped the board think through and improve OWEB's effort on involvement with and outreach to Oregon tribes. She then introduced Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho, who is OWEB's Tribal Liaison. Fetcho briefly discussed his background and interest in tribal government and then presented highlights from OWEB's Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) Report that demonstrates how Oregon tribes are active in pursuing OWEB grant funding, receiving funding awards including new FIP investments, and cooperating with OWEB programs as review team members. OWEB will be partnering with archaeologists at the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to provide Cultural Resource Compliance Awareness at the CONNECT Conference in Pendleton to help grantees understand state and federal permit requirements for performing ground disturbance activities associated with restoration to better protect cultural resources.

Quaempts talked about how OWEB started doing outreach to tribes in 2015 to determine their success and limitations in accessing OWEB grant funds. A survey was conducted by e-mail with outreach to all natural resource directors for Oregon tribes to encourage participation in the

survey. He feels this is a good process and believes it should continue. Loftsgaarden stated that the new OWEB tribal representative will be Jason Robison from the Cow Creek Tribe. He comes with an endorsement of nearly every tribe in the state. He will join the board meeting informally in April and, pending legislative confirmation, he will officially join the board in July. Quaempts provided additional information on Robison's background as evidence for his particular qualification for the tribal representative to the board.

I-2. Legislative and Budget Update

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein updated the board on the legislative concept to revise OWEB's statutes. The concept was approved by the Governor's Office to move forward, and has been assigned as House Bill 2327. In addition to general statutory cleanup, the bill provides two substantive changes related to 1) adding U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an ex-officio member to the board, and 2) removing language that allows DAS to provide liability coverage for watershed councils, based on the fact that OWEB is putting in place stronger requirements for all grantees.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden discussed the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP), which includes succession planning for farmers and ranchers, payments for conservation plans implemented on privately owned properties, granting programs to build the technical ability for land trust conservation districts and others to hold working land easements, and funding for working lands easements. She said OAHP was not approved in the Governor's Recommended Budget. COLT's Kelly Beamer, a member of the OAHP working group, then addressed the board and said the OAHP work group is still active and very committed to moving the program forward in the legislative session. The group is working with Representative Brian Clem, who is chairing the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee in the House, to introduce OAHP as a committee bill in the session. OAHP currently has strong bipartisan support. She discussed the work group's goals, which includes minimal funding to establish a commission and rules advisory committee for the program. Beamer thanked Loftsgaarden for her incredible leadership and support of the work group.

Alan Henning asked where the OAHP intersects with the Oregon Agricultural Water Quality Program. Loftsgaarden said the two programs are distinctly separate, but OAHP could provide benefits through the implementation of conservation management plans. Rosemary Furfey asked whether it would impact OWEB staff if an OAHP commission was established. Loftsgaarden said the way the concept is now structured; OAHP would be mostly self-operating with minimal impact to OWEB.

Loftsgaarden noted the project $1.8 billion deficit in the state's budget for the 2018-2019 biennium, stemming from a range of things, including PERS reforms and ballot measures passed in the 2016 election without new sources of revenue to support them. She said the Governor has proposed corporate tax increases for a balance of cuts to the budget and increases in revenues, and that the initial Ways and Means Committee Co-Chairs budget proposed an all-cuts budget. Loftsgaarden said lottery revenues are trending better than general funds, and are generally protected.

Deputy Director Renee Davis provided an overview of OWEB's biennial budget in its Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) phase, which will be presented to the Legislature at a hearing with the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources in March or April. Davis discussed which policy packages from the Agency Request Budget were retained in the GRB and which were dropped. She walked the board through all critical budget issues as laid out in Attachment B. As part of the budget submission process, the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) requested reduction scenarios of 5% and 10%. After the December GRB submittal, LFO asked for an additional reduction scenario of 15% from all agencies. Davis also said a discussion of the Key Performance Measures (KPMs) will also be a large part of OWEB's presentation to the subcommittee.

Loftsgaarden thanked the board for their hard work on OWEB's KPMs and reminded them that KPMs are ultimately the legislature's decision to approve. She clarified that the biennial budget and the spending plan numbers will not match because they are slightly off-cycle from each other. She also briefly covered the potential 15% budget cut. Although unlikely, if the 15% cut does come through, it will mean a consolidation of two regions. The Co-Chairs budget does not have additional cuts for OWEB, so it is not likely to impact OWEB.

I-3. Rulemaking Update

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided an update on rulemaking to the OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants administrative rules. Hartstein said, based on an initial meeting with the Rules Advisory Committee (RAC), staff are refining the rules revisions and will discuss the changes with the RAC in the coming weeks. Staff will file notice with the State and seek public comment before coming back to the board for final approval of the rule amendments in April 2017.

I-4. Oregon Plan Biennial Report

Deputy Director Renee Davis provided an overview and background on the Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (Biennial Report). She said OWEB is statutorily required to submit this report in January of odd numbered years. The Biennial Report highlights partner agencies in the Oregon Plan, and highlights how they are accomplishing restoration across the state for the benefit of salmon and watersheds. Davis walked the board through the two-page Executive Summary of the full report, and then she explained the contents of the full report and where it is available online.

Karl Wenner recommended the results of the University of Oregon economic study on restoration impacts should be distributed more often as it highlights the jobs created through conservation and restoration actions. He said restoration might be the most effective jobs program per dollar, and that can't be underestimated in value. Loftsgaarden said that economic impact statement is currently in use on every two-page county fact sheet handed out to legislators and others. Dan Thorndike suggested an update to the data to make it more applicable. Randy Labbe also suggested providing the fact sheets to county commissioners, who often don't know what OWEB has funded in their counties. Davis said the board provided funding as a supplement to the Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed

(IMW) for revisiting the complementary socio-economic study, which might also provide a good example and place to start since Grant County is representative of much of rural Oregon. Alan Henning agreed the University of Oregon (UO) study was excellent and asked if the report could be updated. Loftsgaarden suggested OWEB review the results of the IMW socio-economic report, when completed, then determine if an update of the past study is needed. Davis notes that the UO results are consistent with other, subsequent studies, such as one completed in Washington State. Debbie Hollen said the U.S. Forest Service has engaged the university system, as well, to study what kind of restoration economy that agency is generating, so there are other reports out there from which additional results can be drawn.

I-5. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Monitoring

Davis provided an update on the progress of FIP Monitoring through the April 2016 board award to Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF). BEF is assisting OWEB in setting up a system by which the agency can track progress toward ecological outcomes on FIP Implementation initiatives, and the critical lessons learned that will help inform the board as it contemplates future FIP awards. Davis said BEF has developed a progress monitoring framework. This framework articulates a very clear path using a results chain to enable each individual Implementation FIP to identify inputs (restoration actions), outputs (acres, miles, etc.), and the indicators that track, through time, how the initiative is progressing toward ecological outcomes. This process also helps to identify gaps in existing monitoring that is needed to track progress. BEF has gone through each Implementation FIP's application and strategic action plan to develop a draft results chain. They are now meeting with each partnership to discuss their interpretation of the draft and discuss whether this is the proper path to tracking progress of the initiative toward meeting outcomes. The next steps will be to analyze existing monitoring and determine if additional monitoring will be needed. She said staff will provide an update to the board in April. BEF will be at the July board meeting to present what they have developed to date with each of the six Implementation FIPs. This work will inform the board not only about how progress toward ecological outcomes will be tracked, but also what monitoring gaps might need to be filled in.

Rosemary Furfey asked if there was a sample of the results chain that could be shared with the board. Davis said they would be happy to share a sample, but warned the board that results chains are very complicated and detailed, and not usually intended for broader distribution for that reason. Loftsgaarden agreed, and noted that while the science in a results chain is in-depth and engaging, the presentation is not for the layperson. She said BEF and the team will also help develop materials that are best presented to the general public.

J. Other Business

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams requested the board authorize an update to OWEB's Outreach grant program rules to align with Measure 76, and to designate the outreach application stakeholder work group as a RAC. He noted that the board recommended this topic be addressed in the 2015-17 biennium, and he reviewed the recent discussions of the Open Solicitation subcommittee on this topic. He talked about the need for the RAC to assist with

updating administrative rules to synchronize with the new outreach application and associated process.

Bob Webber asked if the board might consider changing the name of the grant type from "Outreach" to a more descriptive term. Williams said he will relay this concern to the work group, and it will be the charge of the work group to make the title more descriptive. Rosemary asked if Williams feels he has the right mix of people on the group as it is. Williams said the group is qualified and representative of the broader community of stakeholders for this type of grant, including outreach grantees from each of OWEB's six regions plus representatives from the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils and the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts.

> *Co-chair Labbe moved move the board designate the current outreach work group as a Rules Advisory Committee and authorize rulemaking to develop rules that align with the intent and structure of the revised outreach grant application and grant-making process. The motion was seconded by Karl Wenner. The motion passed unanimously.*

Karl Wenner spoke of his delight with the Focused Investment Partnership (FIPs) presentations. He reminded the board how monumental it was to craft the six FIPs and the effort and cooperation it has taken to bring that program to this point. He expressed how much he appreciates the hard work of the staff and the FIP committee, and feels this program is moving the OWEB board and staff much closer to what we value.

The meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Dan Thorndike at 5:00PM.

April 24-26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Focused Investment Subcommittee Update

Background

The Focused Investment Subcommittee met on March 8, 2017 to review the status of the six implementation FIPs, including progress on individual projects and anticipated carryover expenses into the next biennium, the solicitation schedule for 2019-2021 implementation FIPs, status of capacity building FIPs, and an update on the BEF monitoring project.

Implementation FIP Status

Members reviewed project accounting spreadsheets, which itemize the projects funded under each FIP and current project status. Staff reported that four implementation FIPs (Deschutes, Sage-grouse, Ashland Forest, and Grande Ronde) were likely to obligate all, or nearly all of their initial awards by the end of the biennium (June 30, 2016). The Willamette FIP has begun the application development and review process for 2017, which will likely result in obligation of the remaining first biennium funds ($1.03 million) by the end of the calendar year. The Harney Basin FIP obligated all but $0.34 million of its first biennium funds, which were largely budgeted for land acquisition projects. The partnership will continue to advance this work in the next biennium and will be requesting carryover of these funds.

2019-2021 Solicitation Schedule

Staff presented the draft solicitation timeline for the next round of implementation FIPs. A draft application and associated materials will be presented for stakeholder comment in June. The solicitation will be released in January 2018 with applications due in June 2018. The review process retains the required consultation with staff and the subcommittee interviews with prospective FIPs. The review process culminates with board decisions in January 2019 and funds awarded in July 2019.

Capacity Building FIP Status

The 2015-17 grantees continue to make good progress on their projects, writing strategic action plans and developing organizational documents. Staff have attended three meetings of the partnerships and are scheduled to attend the rest over the next few months. In addition, all capacity building FIPs attend quarterly calls to discuss progress and share lessons learned. The 2017-19 grant offering was announced in January and required consultations will occur this spring.

BEF Monitoring

The board will hear about the Partnership Learning Project, which is based on interviews and surveys with the partnerships, at the July 2017 meeting.

Staff Contact

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

April 24-26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Background

The Monitoring Subcommittee's recent focus has been to finalize a process to develop improved guidance for applicants submitting monitoring grant applications and to track progress of ongoing monitoring efforts.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on February 10, 2017 and discussed the following topics:

- Brief check in about the January board meeting and strategic planning session;
- Review monitoring guidance development work plan and next steps;
- Hear an update about the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) study;
- Briefly review status of other monitoring efforts; and
- Review monitoring topics for future subcommittee and full board meetings.

The group discussed that the emphasis by Dialogues in Action regarding measurement components of the strategic plan is positive. They noted that it will be important for the subcommittee to continue conversations about how the board approaches monitoring as products for the strategic plan begin to emerge.

The group reviewed the work plan and timeline for the process to develop monitoring application guidance. Feedback was positive and staff will begin work on the tasks later in February.

Staff provided background about the CREP EM study and described details about the study design and monitoring parameters. Staff also shared information about the advisory group convened to help provide input for the study. Final analyses were being completed by Stillwater Sciences (the contractor) and the final report has been delivered to OWEB and shared with the subcommittee.

Staff briefly reviewed the status of other monitoring efforts, including FIP monitoring, the tidegate EM literature review, the Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed, and the joint livestock exclusion monitoring with the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The subcommittee then discussed monitoring agenda items that tentatively are scheduled to come before the full board in the coming months:

- April 2017 – CREP EM study results
- July 2017 – BEF/Progress Monitoring Framework for Implementation FIPs; Conservation Effectiveness Partnership update (moved from April to July following the subcommittee meeting, due to a full agenda in April)
- October 2017 – Tidegate EM literature review results
- January 2018 – Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW)
- TBD – Joint Livestock Exclusion EM with the State of Washington

The subcommittee is scheduled to meet again on April 4, 2017 and will discuss the following topics:

- Status update about the process to develop monitoring application guidance;
- Bonneville Environmental Foundation's work on the progress monitoring framework for Implementation FIPs; and
- Monitoring line items in the board's 2017-2019 spending plan.

To Be Presented at the April 2017 Board Meeting by:

Rosemary Furfey, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact:

Renee Davis, Deputy Director
renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203

April 24-26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Open Solicitation Subcommittee Update

Background

The Open Solicitation Subcommittee met on March 1, 2017 and continued work on its top four priority topics: 1) small grant program evaluation; 2) outreach application revisions; 3) funding line process; and 4) review team composition and process.

Small Grant Program Evaluation

The subcommittee discussed how the program fits within the OWEB portfolio with respect to ecological benefit, whether to retain recapture funds within the program, and whether to increase the cap from the current cap of $10,000.

Subcommittee members felt that the program does address a need in OWEB's portfolio by providing an opening to get people engaged in restoration. Funded projects must continue to be evaluated in an ecological context. Since not all watersheds have comprehensive watershed plans to determine context, it is not always possible to provide a detailed evaluation of this. The subcommittee agreed that increasing the ecological aspirations of small grant teams over the long term would be beneficial.

Staff noted that recapture funds average $441,000 per biennium, which is less than the estimated $500,000 figure provided at the January board meeting. The subcommittee would ask staff to develop a proposed methodology to reallocate a maximum of $500,000 in unspent funds in the next biennium.

Regarding the project cap, staff presented data from the 2013-2015 biennium showing that 30% of projects request the maximum of $10,000, and another 28% request greater than $8,000. The subcommittee recognized that these figures include only OWEB funds and that the total project costs are larger when match is included, and asked staff to report back with data on total project costs and match sources. Based on increasing project costs in the regular grant program, the subcommittee agreed that the cap should be increased and will develop a specific recommendation for an increased cap at the next meeting in May.

Outreach Application Revisions

Staff have been working with a stakeholder work group representing watershed councils with outreach grant experience and land trusts to develop an updated application that better matches Measure 76 authority, which includes funding outreach projects to the extent that they are "necessary for carrying out" eligible restoration or acquisition projects. A draft application is expected in June, with further stakeholder engagement in the summer. The revised application will be included in this fall's open solicitation.

The Subcommittee requested that the name of the offering be changed to better reflect eligible projects and to clarify that education programs are not eligible.

The work group became a Rulemaking Advisory Committee to assist staff in revising the Outreach rules, as authorized at the January board meeting.

Funding Line Process

Staff provided a summary of the current application review process from application receipt through staff recommendations to the board. The subcommittee discussed the pros and cons of the current board process in making award decisions, particularly the sometimes uncomfortable process of responding to applicants who attend board meetings. In considering a different role for the board, the subcommittee discussed whether there should be a sum of funds the board holds back and has the option to apply to below-the-line projects. Staff will develop an alternative that will not be a spending plan line item, but more like pre-allocating unexpended funds that would otherwise be available in the next biennium.

Introduce New Topic -- Review Team Composition and Process

This topic was selected by the Subcommittee as the next topic to address. Staff summarized the current review team composition and review process. It was the consensus of the subcommittee that the current process is functioning well, and that this topic should be reviewed by the subcommittee at least annually.

Staff Contact

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

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – Outreach Rulemaking Update
April 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Background

The board Open Solicitation Subcommittee identified revising the outreach application as one of its top priorities at its initial meeting in 2016. Measure 76 requires that outreach grants must be "necessary for carrying out" eligible restoration or acquisition projects. Staff convened an outreach application work group comprised of outreach grant recipients from each of the six OWEB regions and a land trust representative. Recognizing that outreach rules will need to be revised once a new application is developed, the board authorized at its January 2017 meeting that the outreach application work group become a Rulemaking Advisory Committee upon completion of its application work.

II. Status

The outreach application work group has met three times to discuss eligible outreach activities and begin developing a revised outreach application. The work group intends to complete a draft application by June 2017. Following additional stakeholder outreach in the summer, the new outreach application will be included in the solicitation for fall 2017 outreach grants. The Rulemaking Advisory Committee will begin developing potential rule revisions in June.

III. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

A. Outreach Rulemaking Advisory Committee Members

ATTACHMENT A

Outreach Rulemaking Advisory Committee Members

Kelley Beamer, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Portland

Bill Buhrig, OSU Malheur County Extension, Ontario

Donna Chickering, Rogue River Watershed Council, Central Point

Elise Delgado, South Fork John Day Watershed Council, Mt Vernon

Katie Duzik, OWEB – North Coast, Newport

Chris Hathaway, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, Portland

Jordan Kim, Hood River SWCD, Hood River

Karen Leiendecker, OWEB – Eastern Oregon, Enterprise

Kathy Leopold, OWEB Small Grants Coordinator, Salem

Shawn Morford, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, Salem

Courtney Shaff, OWEB Capacity Coordinator, Salem

Jennifer Weber, McKenzie Watershed Council, Springfield

Eric Williams, OWEB Grant Program Manager, Salem

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G-Spending Plan
April 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report updates the board on OWEB's 2017-2019 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 2017 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 and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF).

At its July 2015 meeting, the board adopted a 2015-2017 Spending Plan totaling $74.664 million. In July 2016, the board updated the spending plan to include additional PCSRF monies, as well as funding transfers to other agencies. Attachment A shows the 2015-2017 Spending Plan, total board awards to date, and funds remaining in each line item as of April 2017.

III. 2017-2019 Spending Plan Development

Based on the February 2017 revenue forecast, it is estimated that a total combined $85 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 their competitive 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 October 2016, the board was updated on the process and timeline for approving the 2017-2019 Spending Plan. In January 2017, the board discussed spending plan categories and provided feedback on the proposed percentages allotted to each category. Between January and April, staff discussed funding options for specific grant types within each category. Based on board feedback and staff discussions, a draft 2017-2019 spending is provided as Attachment B.

IV. Spending Plan Line Items

The spending plan contains a range of items. Some are frequently discussed (restoration, technical assistance, and monitoring grants; focused investments and council capacity), while others (weed grants, small grants, district capacity, CREP) are less frequently on the board's agenda. At the April 2017 board meeting, staff will present on each line item to give the board a better sense of what is funded in each area. These presentations are in advance of the July 2017 board meeting where decisions will be made on spending plan amounts for the 2017-19 biennium. Attachments C-1 through C-18 to the staff report provide summaries of the spending plan line items. Staff will present information to the board at the April meeting to provide additional details about the programs and answer any questions the board may have about those programs.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only. Staff will be seeking feedback on overall spending plan direction for development of a final proposal for board consideration in July 2017. No final decisions will occur at the April meeting.

Attachments

A. 2015-2017 Spending Plan
B. Draft 2017-2019 Spending Plan
C. C1-C18 Spending Plan Line Item Summaries

Attachment A

OWEB 2015-17 Spending Plan for the April 2017 Board Meeting

OWEB SPENDING PLAN	Apr 2017 additions to spending plan	Apr 2017 Spending Plan		TOTAL Board Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan as of Jan 2017 awards	April 2017 Proposed Board Awards	Remaining Spending Plan as of April 2017
Open Solicitation:							
Restoration**	0.775	25.982		18.796	7.186	7.186	0.000
Technical Assistance							
Restoration TA**		3.060		2.224	0.836	0.667	0.169
CREP TA		1.050		1.050	0.000		0.000
Monitoring grants**		2.120		0.971	1.149	1.125	0.024
Outreach**	0.050	0.650		0.310	0.340	0.337	0.003
Land and Water Acquisition**	(0.825)	6.675		2.343	4.332	1.674	2.658
Weed Grants		2.500		2.500	0.000		0.000
Small Grants		2.800		2.800	0.000		0.000
Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring		0.500		0.213	0.287		0.287
TOTAL	**0.000**	**45.337**		**31.207**	**14.130**	**10.989**	**3.141**
% of assumed Total Budget		**59.13%**					

**if more funding becomes available, will go to these areas

Focused Investments:							
Implementation FIPs		14.058		14.058	0.000		0.000
Capacity-Building FIPs		1.039		1.039	0.000		0.000
FI Effectiveness Monitoring		0.500		0.200	0.300		0.300
TOTAL		**15.597**		**15.297**	**0.300**	**0.000**	**0.300**
% of assumed Total Budget		**20.34%**					

Operating Capacity:							
Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)		12.500		12.500	0.000		0.000
Statewide organization partnership support		0.334		0.334	0.000		0.000
Building Capacity Grants		0.400		0.400	0.000		0.000
TOTAL	**0.000**	**13.234**		**13.234**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
% of assumed Total Budget		**17.26%**					

Other:							
CREP		0.500		0.500	0.000		0.000
Oregon Plan/Governor's Priorities		1.000		1.000	0.000		0.000
Strategic Implementation Areas		1.000		1.000	0.000		0.000
TOTAL	**0.000**	**2.500**		**2.500**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
% of assumed Total Budget		**3.26%**					

TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	**0.000**	**76.668**		**62.238**	**14.430**	**10.989**	**3.441**

OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION							
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF		9.512		9.512	0.000		0.000
Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF		0.660		0.500	0.160		0.160
Rangeland Fire Protection Assoc from ODF		1.200		1.200	0.000		0.000
PSMFC-IMW		0.591		0.591	0.000		0.000
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		0.300		0.300	0.000		0.000
ODOT		0.250		0.250	0.000		0.000
TOTAL	**0.000**	**12.513**		**12.353**	**0.160**	**0.000**	**0.160**

TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds	**0.000**	**89.181**		**74.591**	**14.590**	**10.989**	**3.601**

Proposed OWEB 2017-19 Spending Plan

OWEB SPENDING PLAN	Oct 2016 Spending Plan		Carry Forward	Proposed 2017 Spending Plan	Proposed 2018 Spending Plan	Difference from 2016
Open Solicitation:						
Restoration	25.207			26.800	30.050	4.843
Technical Assistance						
Restoration TA	3.060			3.250	3.650	0.590
CREP TA*	1.050			0.925	0.925	-0.125
Monitoring grants	2.120			2.500	2.750	0.630
Outreach	0.600			0.500	0.600	0.000
Land and Water Acquisition						
Acquisition Projects	7.500			6.200	7.200	-0.300
Acquisition Technical Assistance				0.300	0.300	0.300
Weed Grants	2.500			3.000	3.000	0.500
Small Grants **	2.800		0.500	2.800	2.800	0.000
Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring	0.500		0.287	0.500	0.500	0.287
TOTAL	**45.337**			**46.775**	**51.775**	**6.725**
% of assumed Total Budget	**59.16%**			**58.43%**	**60.84%**	

**NRCS to provide up to $250,000 to support CREP-TA*

Focused Investments:						
Implementation FIPs **	14.058		***	15.512	15.512	1.454
Capacity-Building FIPs	1.039			1.150	1.150	0.111
FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.500		0.300	0.250	0.250	0.050
FI holding for 19-21 solicitation				0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL	**15.597**			**16.912**	**16.912**	**1.615**
% of assumed Total Budget	**20.35%**			**21.13%**	**19.87%**	

***Amounts for this item carryforward column were previously awarded by the board, and are not available to be 're-awarded'. They are included for informational purposes only.*
****Amount to be determined based on funds obligated prior to July 1*

Operating Capacity:						
Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	12.500			13.500	13.500	1.000
Statewide org. partnership support	0.300			0.450	0.500	0.200
Building Capacity Grants	0.400			0.400	0.400	0.000
TOTAL	**13.200**			**14.350**	**14.400**	**1.200**
% of assumed Total Budget	**17.22%**			**17.93%**	**16.92%**	

Other:						
CREP	0.500			0.600	0.600	0.100
Oregon Plan/Governor Priorities	1.000			1.000	1.000	0.000
Strategic Implementation Areas	1.000			1.000	1.000	0.000
TOTAL	**2.500**			**2.600**	**2.600**	**0.100**
% of assumed Total Budget	**3.26%**			**3.25%**	**3.06%**	

TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	**76.634**			**80.050**	**85.100**	**9.640**

OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION						
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF	9.512			10.450	10.450	
Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF	0.660			0.750	0.750	
Rangeland Fire Protection Assoc from ODF	1.200			0.000	0.000	
PSMFC-IMW	0.591			0.291	0.291	
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.300			0.309	0.309	
ODOT	0.250			0.000	0.000	
TOTAL	**12.513**			**11.800**	**11.800**	**0.000**

TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds	**89.147**			**91.850**	**96.900**	**9.640**

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Open Solicitation - Restoration

Recommended Amount: $30.05 million

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

Program History: Restoration grants provide assistance to 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 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 2016, 3,775 OWEB-funded restoration projects have reported their accomplishments to OWRI. OWEB's $178 million investment in these projects leveraged a total investment of $507 million. Riparian, road, upland, fish passage, and instream restoration activities make up the largest number of projects, respectively. These projects have resulted in:

- 3,094 linear stream miles and 45,118 acres treated through riparian activities
- 779,294 acres treated through upland activities
- 902 road/stream crossings improved for fish passage and 1,771 miles of fish habitat made accessible due to crossing improvements
- 1,044 miles of stream treated through instream activities.

Demand*:* In the 2015-2017 biennium, the board awarded only 59% of requested funds that were recommended for funding by regional review teams, or $26.0 million out of $44.1 million recommended.

Future Need*:* Due to continued high demand for restoration funds, a significant portion of projected increases in lottery revenue is allocated to the restoration grant line item.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium*:* Staff introduced a co-facilitation model for regional review team meetings in the 2015-2017 biennium with the grant program manager facilitating discussion and the regional program representative focusing on the content of the discussion. Staff provided tools to help review teams focus on the evaluation criteria and introduced "clicker" voting to protect the anonymity of voting and improve efficiency during meetings.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$28.950	-$0.273
2013-2015	$27.720	$0.102
2015-2017	$25.207	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Open Solicitation – Technical Assistance

Recommended Amount: $3.25 million

Summary: Technical assistance grants are offered twice per year, spring and fall, through a competitive granting program. Technical assistance grants through the open solicitation process are capped at $50,000 per grant.

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 three types of technical assistance grants typically offered.

Technical Assistance Type #1 is for development of a technical design for a specific restoration project addressing a locally acknowledged limiting factor or watershed restoration priority.

Technical Assistance Type #2 is for development of an implementation/analysis plan or for development of a project to address a locally acknowledged limiting factor(s) or watershed restoration priority(ies).

Technical Assistance Type #3 is for enrollment of landowners in an area-wide, cooperative conservation project, or in a state or federal landowner assistance program (e.g., EQIP, WRP, or WHIP) that addresses a locally acknowledged limiting factor(s) or watershed restoration priority(ies).

Demand*:* In the 2015-2017 biennium, the board awarded 76% of requested funds that were recommended for funding by regional review teams, or $2.9 million out of $3.8 million recommended. Recognizing high demand for these funds, the board added $1.31 million to this spending plan line item at the July 2016 meeting.

Future Need*:* Due to continued high demand for technical assistance funds, an increase is proposed for the technical assistance grant line item. Given that 23% of technical assistance awards made to date in 2015-2017 (and 42% of projects recommended in April 2017) request the maximum ($50,000) or just under the maximum, we are requesting an increase in the project cap from $50,000 to $75,000. See the Land and Water Acquisition Spending Plan staff report for more information on future technical assistance needs related to those grant offerings.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium*:* Staff introduced a co-facilitation model for regional review team meetings in the 2015-2017 biennium with the grant program manager facilitating discussion and the regional program representative focusing on the content of the discussion. Staff provided tools to help review teams focus on the evaluation criteria and introduced "clicker" voting to protect the anonymity of voting and improve efficiency during meetings.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$2.250	$0.057
2013-2015	$2.600	-$0.024
2015-2017	$3.060	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Open Solicitation – Outreach

Recommended Amount: $0.600 million

Summary: Outreach grants are offered once per year in the fall through a competitive granting program for outreach activities necessary to protect or restore native fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, or stream flows.

Program History: Since 1999, OWEB has been awarding 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 offers outreach grants that are necessary for activities to protect or restore native fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, or stream flows. Grants that are for education only are not eligible under Measure 76.

Demand*:* In the 2015-2017 biennium, the board awarded $.6 million of the $1.5 million recommended for funding – an award amount of only 44% compared to review team-recommended funding.

Future Need*:* Due to the complexities inherent in restoration and acquisition projects, the need for outreach projects is expected to continue under the new format outlined below.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium*:* While messaging about the new Measure 76 eligibility requirements occurred in 2011, the outreach application was not revised to reflect these changes. In 2016, OWEB convened an Outreach Application Stakeholder Work Group to develop a revised application that more directly solicits projects that are "necessary for carrying out" eligible restoration and acquisition projects, as required by Measure 76. The new application is expected to be available for the fall 2017 solicitation.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$1.100	-$0.031
2013-2015	$1.100	-$0.028
2015-2017	$0.600	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Open Solicitation Monitoring Grants

Recommended Amount: $2.75 million

Summary: Open Solicitation (OS) Monitoring Grants are awarded once per year in the fall grant cycle. Grants can be used to assist local partnerships with: assessing watershed conditions to determine the quality of the existing environment; identifying causes for changes in trajectory (either up or down) in habitat, fish and wildlife populations and water quality; and developing plans to guide future monitoring efforts.

Grantees also can request funding for effectiveness monitoring (EM) of restoration projects that are funded by OWEB to determine if an individual restoration project is effective at meeting its biological and ecological objectives. EM is not a requirement of any OWEB grant, and is above and beyond compliance monitoring/implementation reporting. Information from project-level EM can be helpful in assisting the restoration practitioner and OWEB in determining the biotic and abiotic changes on the treatment area from the restoration action(s) and informing future restoration design. Project-level EM grants that OWEB has funded are as diverse as the associated restoration grants.

Program History: As a part of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (OPSW), OWEB and other state natural resources agencies developed the OPSW 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 progress of the OPSW.

Demand: In the 2015-2017 biennium, the board awarded 66% of requested funds that were recommended for funding by regional review teams, or $2.1 million out of $3.1 million recommended.

Future Need: It is anticipated that a consistent and significant need for monitoring funds will extend into the next biennium, given that approximately 25-30 monitoring applications are received each year on average. 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 recent funding cuts.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: The EM Coordinator worked with Technical Services Program Staff and other OWEB staff to successfully refine the monitoring application as part of the online applications development process. A companion monitoring application guidance document was produced and, along with the other grant programs, more than 10 training sessions were hosted prior to the November 2016 grant cycle. The EM Coordinator convened the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team (OPMT) to discuss the technical merits and potential benefits of the monitoring grants that were submitted in the October 2015 and November 2016 open solicitation grant cycles. This information was provided in advance of regional review team (RRT) meetings to assist in decisions regarding funding for monitoring grants. The EM coordinator attends RRT meetings to respond to any questions or concerns related to monitoring applications.

In 2016, staff began working with the board Monitoring Subcommittee to establish a process to improve guidance for monitoring grant applicants (e.g., data management and long-term storage recommendations, engagement with agencies as project partners, well defined and implemented

QA/QC plans, etc.). Monitoring Subcommittee members will provide input and comment on draft products. In addition, OWEB monitoring staff will solicit input from Grant Management Program staff, OPMT members, RRT members and monitoring grantees to determine how to improve monitoring application guidance to maximize the quality and success of monitoring grant investments. It is anticipated that this process will be complete by July 2018.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$2.500	$0.064
2013-2015	$2.500	$-0.024
2015-2017	$2.120	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring

Recommended Amount: $.787 million*

Summary: Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) includes OWEB-led initiatives that evaluate specific types of restoration actions at a larger geographic and temporal scale, rather than at the project scale. These initiatives consist of evaluating the effectiveness of OWEB-funded watershed restoration and enhancement projects and programs. Examples of Programmatic EM are the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Effectiveness Monitoring study that was recently completed and the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW). OWEB staff also participate in cross-agency teams to evaluate programs and projects that share common goals and objectives. An example of a cross-agency team is the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (CEP), which is comprised of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and OWEB.

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 Monitoring Subcommittee to explore options for creating a well-rounded effectiveness monitoring program. This approach included the identification of specific scales at which to conduct monitoring (e.g., the Upper Middle Fork John Day IMW) and certain prioritized project types for evaluation (e.g., juniper removal, livestock exclusion). In September 2016, OWEB filled a new position, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator, which assists OWEB with quantifying outcomes associated with collective conservation actions implemented in Oregon. This position is actively working with cross-agency teams such as CEP, and with the newly established Clean Water Partnership. This position is extremely beneficial to the Programmatic EM approach as it allows the EM Coordinator to focus on evaluating the effectiveness of OWEB-funded watershed restoration and enhancement projects and programs, while the Conservation Outcomes Coordinator can engage with cross-agency teams on important data sharing/compilation, analysis, and reporting to help 'tell the story' of the results of restoration actions.

Demand: In the 2015-2017 biennium, $285,783 was allocated for Programmatic EM projects. This amount does not include the $250,000 that was awarded for the CREP EM study in the 2013-2015 biennium, but completed in the 2015-2017 biennium.

Future Need: It is anticipated that there will be a greater demand for Programmatic EM funds in the 2017-2019 biennium. The monitoring grant guidance development process that is underway, along with the strategic planning process with the board, are likely to refine and/or expand the focus of Programmatic EM over the next several years. For example, the board has indicated an interest in better and/or differently 'telling the story' of its restoration investments with quantitative data. In addition, future needs may exist for additional work on Programmatic EM topics that are underway this biennium. For example, the CREP EM Report has identified the need for ongoing monitoring to track the results of newly established projects over the next 10-15 years to understand the effects of adaptive management measures that are incorporated into project implementation.

In addition, the tidegate restoration and monitoring literature review and compilation that currently is underway could identify future Programmatic EM efforts that are needed. Finally, the potential exists for the board to continue to invest in future monitoring under the Upper Middle Fork John Day IMW and/or to consider other IMW investments. In order to provide flexibility as the board considers the new and emerging findings of such studies, along with priorities that may result from efforts such as

*Includes anticipated carry forward from 2015-2017 Spending Plan

strategic planning, staff recommend carrying forward remaining funding from the 2015-2017 Programmatic EM line item in the spending plan for use in 2017-2019.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: Along with its contractor and an external team involved with CREP, staff successfully completed the CREP EM study.

Staff initiated a new Programmatic EM effort to help guide future investment in tidegate removal and replacement projects. OWEB staff developed a concept to further investigate the collective lessons learned from tidegate restoration and monitoring projects, and now are working with Oregon State University faculty and staff to complete this work to inform investments in tidegate restoration projects. Finally, staff continued to coordinate the monitoring efforts of the Upper Middle Fork John Day River IMW Working Group, and led development of a process for the group to analyze and compile their research into a comprehensive synthesis report for funders (i.e., OWEB, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and NOAA Fisheries). This synthesis report is anticipated to be completed in October 2017 and will provide recommendations for future monitoring efforts.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$1.000	$1.000
2013-2015	$1.000	$0.310
2015-2017	$0.500	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Land and Water Acquisitions

Recommended Amount: $7.5 million

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, and water leases.

Program History:

Land Acquisitions: 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 2011-2013 biennium, OWEB did not accept new land acquisition applications in order to allow staff to address a backlog of pending applications and awards. Over the same period, OWEB completed updates to the land acquisitions program, including revising administrative rules and refining the application and review processes for the program. To date, the board has awarded nearly $44 million in land acquisition grants, leveraging $88 million in matching funds and protecting nearly 63,000 acres.

Water Acquisitions: 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 nearly $3.15 million for water acquisition grants, resulting in the short-term transfer of over 90 cfs and the permanent transfer of about 32 cfs to instream use. During the 2011-2013 biennium, OWEB updated its administrative rules and program guidance for water acquisitions. To date, funding requests to OWEB have come from three primary locations in the state: the Deschutes, Klamath, and mid-Columbia Basins. These awards have supported a range of activities from permanent transfers and temporary leases of instream water rights to incentivizing voluntary curtailments by irrigators.

Demand:

Land Acquisitions: In the 2015-2017 biennium, eight applicants requested approximately $3.8 million in funding through the Land Acquisition open solicitation program. Land acquisitions that are part of Special and Focused Investment Partnerships are described elsewhere, and total $1,005,250.

Water Acquisitions: In the 2015-2017 biennium, four applicants requested $701,849 in funding through the 2016 Water Lease and Transfer grant program. Three applications are recommended for full funding. One application was withdrawn.

Future Need:

Land Acquisitions: The Land Acquisition open solicitation program seeks to continue annual solicitations for land acquisition applications in the 2017-2019 biennium. OWEB's land acquisition program prioritizes the purchase of land with intact, functioning systems, such as tidal wetlands, that benefit priority plant communities and fish and wildlife species. In order for converted or impaired tidal wetlands to be a

priority for land acquisition funding, a land acquisition grant applicant should have a firm plan for, and commitment to, restoring natural estuarine function to the property in a time-certain period. To address a growing need for technical work necessary for competitive land acquisition applications, a new land acquisition technical assistance (TA) offering is proposed for the 2017-2019 biennium. Requests would be capped at $150,000 and be piloted for tidally influenced projects in 2017. The proposed TA line item is $300,000 in each year of the biennium, which is subject to change based on interest.

Water Acquisitions: The Water Lease and Transfer grant program seeks to continue annual solicitations for applications in the 2017-2019 biennium. To address growing demand for feasibility studies in advance of water acquisition, the TA spending plan line item described above would also be available for water acquisition feasibility studies statewide.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium:

Land Acquisitions: During the 2015-2017 biennium, land acquisition staff completed seven acquisition transactions, which permanently protected 1,120 acres. Staff also hired and trained a group of contractors to monitor OWEB's portfolio of approximately 65 land acquisition investments. Monitoring work will begin in spring 2017. Land acquisition staff also worked with partnership staff to develop and refine land acquisition processes for FIP and Coastal Wetlands projects. In addition, staff started five new land acquisition transactions.

Water Acquisitions: During the 2015-2017 biennium, staff worked with the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) to coordinate technical and organization capacity reviews of water acquisition grant applications. Application materials were updated to streamline and coordinate with NFWF's Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program. The application review process utilized NFWF's Technical Advisory Committee to evaluate the 2016 OWEB Water Lease and Transfer grants for project soundness, ecological outcomes, and organizational capacity.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$6.650	$2.978
2013-2015	$8.000	$1.060
2015-2017	$7.500	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State Weed Board Grant Program

Recommended Amount: $3.00 million

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 on-the-ground 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 is a critical element 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.

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 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. ODA and OWEB staff have worked together to ensure grantees meet the requirements and standards of both agencies under the new OSWB grants process, and have improved communication between the agencies and local partners such as watershed councils, county weed programs, Cooperative Weed Management Areas, and soil and water conservation districts.

Under the new system, OSWB grant program applications are reviewed and evaluated by ODA staff and the OSWB approves the grants for funding. ODA maintains technical oversight over the grants and works with grantees on project implementation (e.g., prepares the applications, agreements, approves reports, reviews invoices, monitors projects, and approves payments). OWEB approves budgets, approves the grants that are recommended for funding, enters into grant agreements, completes the final review of all reports and receipts, and issues payments.

Demand: In the 2015-2017 biennium, applicants to the OSWB grant program had a success rate of 91%; 99 projects secured full funding, one obtained partial funding, and 10 projects did not receive funding. Historic demand for grants has only had a success rate of 68% of the projects secured funding.

Future Need: The OSWB grant program is seeking an increase of $500,000 in the 2017-2019 biennium. As noted above, the program has remained at $2.5 million since its inception in the 1999-2001 biennium. This increase would provide the opportunity to expand existing and address new opportunities for weed grant investments that meet the requirements of M76.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: The OSWB grantees demonstrate good noxious weed control strategies and fiscal responsibility. In 2015 grantees had a 52% match on the OSWB/OWEB funding that was received for project work, treating over 7,531 net acres.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$2.500	$0
2013-2015	$2.500	$0
2015-2017	$2.500	$*

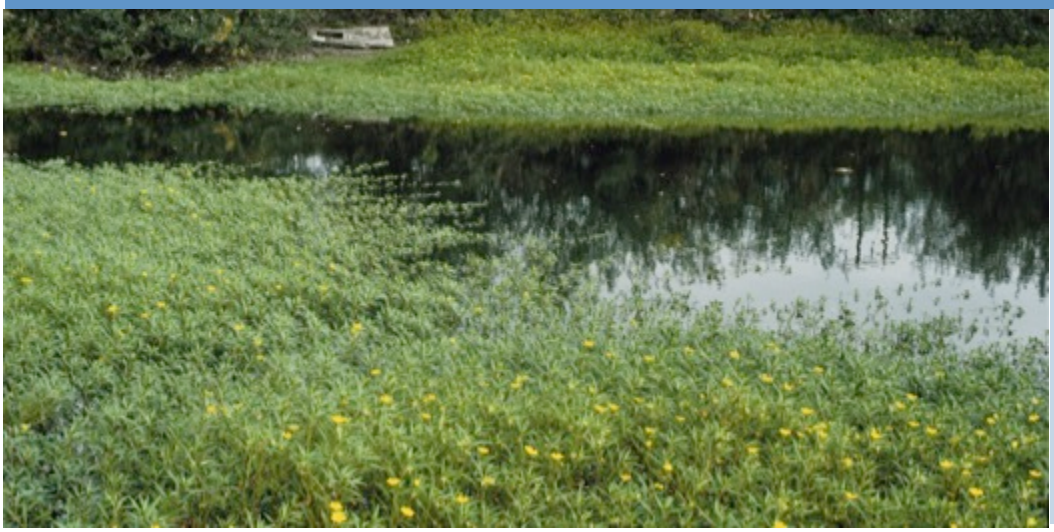
*Full biennium data not available

Attachments:

A. Five-Year Strategic Plan for Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program (ODA)

5-year Strategic Plan

Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program
Oregon Department of Agriculture



MISSION:

Protecting Oregon's natural resources and agricultural economy from the invasion and proliferation of invasive noxious weeds.

Water primrose, *Ludwigia petiolata,* encroaching on the Willamette River

Executive Summary

The Oregon Department of Agriculture Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program (ODA) has 40-years of successful leadership working with cooperators to implement invasive noxious weed prevention and control programs.

The investment in invasive weed control has tremendous value to Oregonians. For example, a recent study, *Economic Impact from Selected Noxious Weeds in Oregon* looked at 25 of 128 state listed noxious weeds and estimates that noxious weeds have an $83.5 million a year impact to Oregon's economy. If uncontrolled the impact potential of these weeds could go up to $1.8 billion. For every dollar invested in Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) projects, there is a $34 benefit to Oregon's economy.

To ensure ODA's future success there needs to be adequate flexible funding to support the program. Over the last decade, operating costs have increased while funding support has declined and the program has reached a critical point where funding is not adequate to maintain essential service levels.

This situation provides the opportunity to take a critical review of the program structure, the policies and priorities of the state, and the needs of federal and county partners, and then identify the most valuable services that ODA can provide. This 5-year plan gives direction for restructuring to address current and future needs.

Vision

Provide a stronger statewide presence that fully utilizes our staff's exceptional skills and experience, focus on state invasive weed priorities and emerging needs (e.g., water quality, EDRR, and sensitive species protection), and serves state, federal, county, local, and private land managers. This will require shifting away from dependence on inflexible funding sources to those that allow for priority-driven adaptive management that will best protect Oregon's natural resources from the impacts of invasive weeds.

Where We Are, Where We Should Be, & How We Get There

To better understand our program three basic questions were asked "where are we, where should we be, and how do we get there?" A baseline assessment and economic assessment were completed with input from ODA staff and cooperators. This identified what ODA is doing well (our core priorities and services), constrains of the current structure, and improvements to better serve statewide priorities.

Where we are: A baseline assessment of the program

Program assessments completed:

- **Internal ODA Review:** Staff meeting and outcomes, SWOT Analysis *(Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)*
- **External Review:** Noxious Weed Strategic Plan, Listening Session Report that provided County Weed Association and stakeholder input for program needs.
- **County Survey and Assessment**
- **GAP Analysis:** Identified how current resources are being used and how they can be better directed to address current and future needs.
- **Economic Assessment Findings:** *2014 Economic Impact from Selected Noxious Weeds in Oregon.* A study that looked at 25 of 128 state listed noxious weeds and estimates an $83.5 million per year impact.

A crew prepares to cover recently detected A-listed flowering rush plants in the Columbia River to prevent spread.

Vigilance -Maintaining a solid state and county presence will help ensure invasive weeds are detected early and controlled in a coordinated fashion. It is essential that Oregon maintain a vigil as trade and travel, easy access to exotic species through internet sales, and other intentioned or unintended means provide pathways for more invasive plants to be introduced.

Current Status:

- There is a need for stronger integration of weed management an integral part of restoration and conservation efforts.
- Baseline assessments show partners and cooperators would like a focus on program's core priorities and services.
- Increasing program costs and declining budgets at the state and federal levels made it difficult to maintain current staffing levels.
- ODA is dependent on federal funding to maintain current staffing levels:
  - ⇒ *Federal contract obligations tie-up core staff time and restricts restructuring process.*
  - ⇒ *Future federal funding is not as reliable for maintaining core staff as it has been in the past.*
- There is a need for county and local capacity to help with state and federal priorities.
  - ⇒ *Need planning and local programs to maintain projects and jointly work with cooperators to sustain viable projects.*
  - ⇒ *Current trends at the local level complicate the issue. Historically strong county programs are struggling due to limited resources (i.e., Wasco, Jefferson, Umatilla).*

Where we are: A baseline assessment of the program

ODA Program Core Priorities and Services:

- **Statewide coordination/organization** (ORS authority, focus on priorities statewide, best use of limited resources, implementing effective control projects, serving on regional/national committees)
- **Focus on high return activities** (prevention, implementing EDRR and priority control projects)
- **Education and outreach activities** (prevention and awareness, OINW Symposium, Oregon State Fair, regional meetings, presentations, materials/brochures, webpage and social media, field tours and demos, research and publications)
- **Technical expertise** (treatment knowledge, increase effectiveness/efficiency of projects and programs, knowledge transfer, statewide experience)
- **Facilitating partnerships** (working with state and federal partners, equipment resource, contracted services, leverage resources, intermediary assistance)
- **Special knowledge and expertise** (statewide management planning, risk assessments, mapping capability, economic assessment, biological control)
- **Noxious weed control grants** (funding local projects, help/guide grantees craft cost effective and efficient projects)
- **Help develop local/county-based programs** (e.g. County programs, CWMAs, etc.)

Yellow floating heart was discovered on the Willamette River in 2015.

Protecting Oregon's Investment -Millions are invested in restoration projects for habitat and water quality improvements. Invasive species can undo all of this. Two A-listed noxious weeds, flowering rush and yellow floating heart, have the potential to clog irrigation canals, alter water quality, and threaten native fisheries. ODA and partners are implementing EDRR projects to detect and control these species.

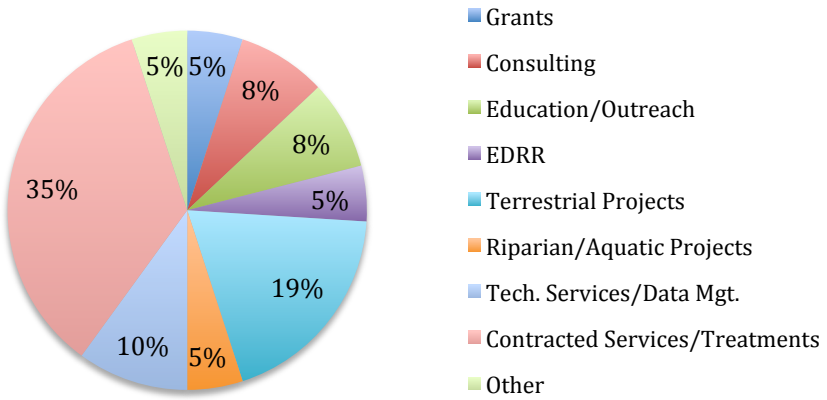
Illinois Valley *Alyssum murale* treatment site -The Illinois Valley contains the largest concentration of serpentine soils in Oregon and supports a diverse and unique flora. Fifteen plant taxa have conservation status in the area. The invasive alyssum is native to Eastern Europe and infests serpentine soils.

Dalmatian toadflax, an emerging success in biological control - Studies are documenting the positive results in the decline of Dalmatian toadflax by 50% of historic levels from the establishment of stem-boring weevil (*Mecinus janthinus*). Some sites have been documented to have reduction of 90%. The results are protecting a potential 3,172,400 acres of range and cropland resources in core sage grouse habitat.

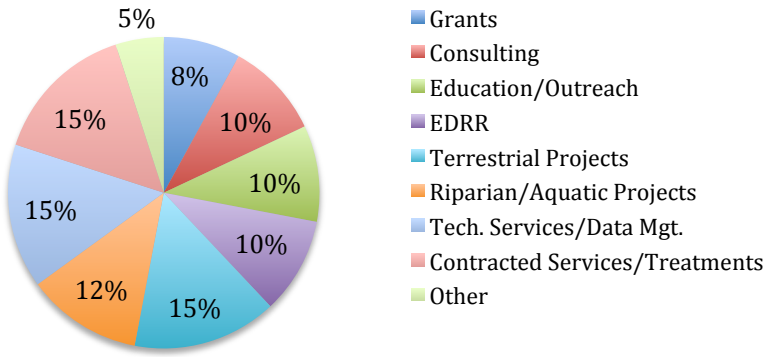
Where we should be: A shift in program priorities and funding

- **Redirect ODA staff toward core priorities**
- **Support core staff with state funding**
- **Reduce dependency on federal contracts**
- **Expand focus to ecosystem function**, water quality, threats to sensitive species, etc.
- **Align ODA's Noxious Weed Management Program with priority policies of the state** (i.e., Oregon's 10-Year Healthy Environment to manage natural resources to sustain economic, environment and human health).
- **Support local services** and funding of county weed support through ORS 569.520
- **Expand county and local roles**: move counties into some current ODA activities, federal contracting, B-listed weed management
- **Complete administrative rule for county funding process**

2014 Staff Time Breakout



5-Year Shift of Staffing Time to Core Services



Noxious Weeds Impact our Streams and Rivers - For example, purple loosestrife invades riparian habitats where it excludes native vegetation; in-turn reduces the numbers of indigenous insects that rely on the native vegetation. Expansive populations of purple loosestrife can impact native salmonids by altering food cycles. Fortunately, less then 1% of Oregon's rivers are impacted. ODA implemented a highly successful biological control program for loosestrife, which resulted in fewer river miles impacted.

Water Primrose, *Ludwigia peploides* - Aquatic invader, water primrose, invades and impacts water resources along the Russian River in Mendocino County, CA. This invader has begun to propagate and spread in the Willamette River system in Oregon.

How we get there

Years 1-2:

Develop funding package for 2017-19 and request funds

- Identify the amount of funding needed at ODA and county levels and how that funding will be used
- ODA core program funding package for core staff and infrastructure
- County funding

Year 3:

Establish county weed program base funding

- ODA rule making for administrative rule, OSWB to fund county programs ORS 569. 520
- Transition ODA to Core program functions (Coordination, EDRR, Biological Control, Aquatics)
- Assist counties to develop assistance grant RFP's for base programs
- Select and fund county programs that meet outlined criteria *(Ex. Must be a county weed district)*

Year 4-5:

Review and evaluate progress

- Evaluate ODA transition to core program functions and priorities
- Evaluate first year of County funding program grants

Performance measures

- ODA Legislative Benchmarks
- Establish targets and standards to measure ODA's core activities
- Grant monitoring and review
- Establish targets for County and local capacity

Evaluation

- Continue ODA Benchmark evaluation
- Measure ODA core standard
- Measure County capacity, local capacity achievement
- Seek internal and external feedback on what is working and not working
- Review progress and feedback and take corrective measures where needed to refine processes to increase efficiencies

ORS 569.180, Noxious weeds as public nuisance -In recognition of the imminent and continuous threat to natural resources, watershed health, livestock, wildlife, land and agricultural products of this state, and in recognition of the widespread infestations and potential infestations of noxious weeds throughout this state, noxious weeds are declared to be a public nuisance and shall be detected, controlled and, where feasible, eradicated on all lands in this state. It is declared to be the policy of this state that priority shall be given first to the prevention of new infestations of noxious weeds and then to the control and, where feasible, eradication of noxious weeds in infested areas.

State noxious weed control laws ORS -Provides authority to the Oregon Department or Agriculture, Counties, Oregon State University, and the Oregon State Weed Board.

County Weed Control Programs -Formation of county weed control district authority is outlined in ORS 569.360. For success throughout Oregon an essential component is local capacity and infrastructure. County noxious weed control programs are responsible for working with local land managers in implementing many of the B-designated noxious weed control projects. County Weed Control Programs can be run through the county road departments or county soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs).

Conclusion:

The goals of the ODA Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program are to provide the leadership, communication, and capacity for technical support to stakeholders for invasive weeds management, and have the staff and equipment infrastructure in place regionally to both coordinate and implement invasive weed management projects. These projects are directly tied to natural resource management strategies at federal, state, county and local levels.

Controlling invasive noxious weeds is a critical component in achieving success in areas of water quality/quantity and fish and wildlife habitat preservation, especially salmon and the greater sage grouse. This also includes preserving recreational opportunities, ensuring a robust agricultural economy, and achieving overall functioning watersheds free of invasive weeds. To achieve the above goals, the program needs support of policy makers through stable flexible funding.

Douglas County -Paterson's curse, *Echium plantagineum*, invading oak woodland and pasture

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Governor's Priorities

Recommended Amount: $1.0 million

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.

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 initial work of forest-health collaboratives, including statewide coordination, technical support for local collaboratives, and planning and implementation support for these groups.
- Partnerships with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to support on-the-ground investments in Salmon Stronghold projects. This work led to a multi-organizational partnership to develop a Coastal Coho Business Plan and component action plans in three local watersheds – a partnership with NFWF, the Wild Salmon Center, NOAA and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Both efforts were funded through this line item.
- Support for Oregon's Sage-Grouse Plan, including convening partners to develop strategies for successful restoration programs, as well as GIS and other data gathering and analysis. It is expected strategic technical assistance investments will continue as the plan is developed and implemented.
- Support for development of a federal, state, and local agency and organization partnership focused on clean water. The partnership includes a comprehensive framework in support of monitoring and implementation focused on the state's agricultural water quality program, currently focused on Strategic Implementation Areas.
- Support for the development of a working lands easement program concept focused on agricultural lands.

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's Office.

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.

Future Need*:* Currently, funding for this program will focus on the two areas outlined below. However, the Governor's office may come before the board during the biennium with additional program priorities. At this time, it is not expected that additional requests will increase the spending plan amount requested.

Tide Gates - The purpose of the Oregon tide gate and infrastructure discussion is designed to support 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. Work will focus around local outreach, completion of a tide gate inventory, development of an interactive decision support tool, and building out engineering and regulatory toolboxes resulting in more, high quality on-the-ground projects.

SageCon Partnership - The SageCon Partnership provides a key coordination and collaborative governance role for statewide planning and coordination related to the health of Oregon's sage-steppe ecosystem, rural community vitality, addressing threats to habitat and wildlife, and advancing economic development within a conservation framework. Funding will be used for technical support and capacity, development of tools related to plan implementation, GIS capacity, coordination of monitoring and reporting, increasing the pace and scale of habitat action implementation, and development of an in lieu fee credit program.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: In the last biennium, the board has invested in four initiatives through this spending plan line item:

- Clean Water Partnership - $550,000 to support the coordinated, multi-agency investment of time and resources to direct existing federal and state conservation funding to areas where it will result in the greatest water quality and watershed health improvements. $470,000 remaining.
- Oregon's Sage-Grouse Action Plan – $300,000 to support work with landowners, counties, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations to implement the State's Action Plan. $161,000 remaining.
- Coastal Coho Business Plan – $250,000 to support multi-organizational business-planning effort in three selected watersheds along the Oregon Coast; project is currently being implemented.
- Working Farms and Forestlands – $150,000 to support statewide working lands conservation easements resulting in the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program concept. All funds expended.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$2.250	$.904
2013-2015	$1.000	$0
2015-2017	$1.000	*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Focused Investment Partnership – Implementation

Recommended Amount: $15.512 million*

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

Program History: OWEB began its current partnership investments in 2006 with the Whole Watersheds Restoration Initiative, a multi-agency, cooperative funding grant program to restore salmon habitat in priority watersheds throughout the state. This investment was followed by several Special Investment Partnerships (SIPs). The Deschutes SIP was a partnership consisting of four implementing organizations working to provide habitat and passage for Chinook Salmon and Steelhead above the Pelton-Round Butte dam complex. The Willamette SIP was a funder-led initiative in targeted anchor habitat areas along the Willamette River mainstem and in the 13 sub-watersheds that comprise the Model Watershed Program. The Upper Klamath SIP was a multi-practitioner effort to reestablish, improve, and sustain the ecological and hydrologic connectivity of aquatic ecosystems in the Upper Klamath Basin.

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 program existed. In October 2013, OWEB initiated a nine-month process to develop the definition, criteria, and program design (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 Lake Basin Wetland Habitat
3) Dry-type Forest Habitat
4) Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat
5) Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast
6) Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
7) Coastal Estuaries

In May 2015, staff began solicitation for FIP Implementation proposals. Applicants were required to submit a two-phase application, with phase I addressing the strength of the partnership and strategic action plan, and phase II detailing the initiative's work plan and budget over three biennia. Proposals were evaluated by expert review teams formed around the designated board priorities, and partnerships were interviewed by the board Focused Investment subcommittee in January, 2016 in a public meeting format. At its January 2016 and July 2016 meetings, the board awarded $14.058 million in FIP Implementation grants to the following initiatives for the 2015-2017 biennium:

1) Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration ($1,660,000)
2) Habitat Restoration for Anadromous Fish Reintroduction in the Deschutes ($4,000,000)

3) Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative ($1,780,000)
4) Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse, All Counties ($2,259,938)
5) Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats ($2,550,000)
6) Upper Grande Ronde Initiative ($1,771,610)

Demand: OWEB received 12 FIP phase I applications for the 2015-2017 biennium. After an evaluation from experts and staff, the board Focused Investments subcommittee invited nine applications to submit a phase II application. An invitation to submit was not a requirement to submit a phase II application, but rather an indication of the subcommittee's assessment of the phase I application. Nine phase II applications were submitted, and as noted above, six FIP Implementation initiatives were awarded funding.

Future Need: At the time of application, the six FIP Implementation initiatives requested funding and provided budgets for three biennia. The sum of FIP Implementation budgets for the 2017-2019 biennium is $15.512 million, an approximate 10.3% increase from the 2015-2017 biennium. In addition, FIPs may request carryover of unobligated funds from the 2015-2017 biennium. Details on 2015-2017 and 2017-2019 budgets are found in Attachment A. Due to the initial awards occurring late in the biennium, and the desire for current capacity building FIPs to be eligible to apply for implementation FIPs in the next cycle, the board decided not to offer a solicitation for new implementation FIP awards in the 2017-2019 biennium.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: The 2015-2017 biennium is the first for the FIP Implementation program. Each of the initiatives have signed partnership agreements with OWEB, have developed projects that have been evaluated by technical review teams, and are beginning to implement these projects within their respective FIP geographies. A full update on accomplishments for each initiative was provided in agenda item H at the January 2017 board meeting.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$8.900	$0
2013-2015	$10.250	$0
2015-2017	$14.058	$*

*Full biennium data not available

Attachments:

A. FIP Implementation Initiatives 2015-2017 Budgets and 2017-2019 Estimated Budgets

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017
Biennial Report - April 2017

Name of Partnership

Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration

Current Unobligated Funds

N/A

Table 1: 2015-2017 Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Actual OWEB Investment	Obligated OWEB Funds*	Remaining Balance	Current Unobligated Funds
Capacity Building	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Outreach	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Technical Assistance	$407,511	$407,511	$0	**$0**
Restoration	$1,153,430	$1,153,430	$201	**$0**
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$98,858	$98,858	$0	**$0**
SUBTOTAL	$1,659,799	$1,659,799	$201	**$0**
Expected June 30 Carryover				**$0**

Table 1

**Obligated funds are funds that are currently in grant agreement.*

Table 2: 2017-2019 Estimated Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Initial Estimated OWEB Investment*	Initial Estimated Leverage Funding*	Requested OWEB Investment**	Revised Estimated Leverage Funding
Capacity Building	$190,000	$20,000	**$0**	$0
Outreach	$120,000	$120,000	**$0**	$0
Technical Assistance[1]	$200,000	$30,000	**$460,000**	$150,000
Restoration	$1,790,000	$1,580,000	**$1,790,000**	$1,600,000
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$40,000	$0	**$90,000**	$0
Total	$2,340,000	$1,750,000	**$2,340,000**	**$1,750,000**

Table 2

[1] Similar to Biennium 1 combined request of Capacity, Outreach, and Technical Assistance. Reduced by $50,000 and added funds to Monitoring.

**Estimate from the FIP Phase 2 Application*
***Not to exceed total budget request from the FIP Phase 2 Application*

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017
Biennial Report - April 2017

Name of Partnership

The Deschutes Partnership

Current Unobligated Funds

Grant applications were submitted to OWEB on March 15, 2017. These funds are expected to be obligated by OWEB prior to June 30, 2017 so the final requested carryover amount is expected to be $0 by June 30, 2017.

Table 1: 2015-2017 Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Actual OWEB Investment	Obligated OWEB Funds*	Remaining Balance	Current Unobligated Funds
Capacity Building	$95,000	$95,000	$0	**$0**
Outreach	$84,700	$0	$84,700	**$84,700**
Technical Assistance	$413,000	$0	$413,000	**$413,000**
Restoration	$2,782,300	$258,695	$2,523,605	**$2,523,605**
Land Acquisition	$450,000	$0	$450,000	**$450,000**
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$175,000	$0	$175,000	**$175,000**
SUBTOTAL	$4,000,000	$353,695	$3,646,305	**$3,646,305**
Expected June 30 Carryover				**$0**

Table 1

**Obligated funds are funds that are currently in grant agreement.*

Table 2: 2017-2019 Estimated Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Initial Estimated OWEB Investment*	Initial Estimated Leverage Funding*	Requested OWEB Investment**	Revised Estimated Leverage Funding
Capacity Building	$100,000	$50,000	**$125,000**	$35,000
Outreach	$100,000	$80,000	**$150,000**	$40,000
Technical Assistance	$0	$0	**$100,000**	$35,000
Restoration	$2,025,000	$4,275,000	**$1,925,000**	$2,000,000
Land Acquisition[1]	$725,000	$525,000	**$1,500,000**	$800,000
Water Acquisition[2]	$900,000	$1,486,000	**$0**	$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$150,000	$150,000	**$200,000**	$50,000
Total	$4,000,000	$6,566,000	**$4,000,000**	**$2,960,000**

Table 2

[1] Amount increased in Biennium 2 because some projects moved from Biennium 1 to Biennium 2. FIP outcomes are still on track.

[2] Amount decreased in Biennium 2 because we have learned that streamflow restoration projects technically fit as "restoration," not "water acquisition" because of the nature of the projects. FIP outcomes are still on track.

**Estimate from the FIP Phase 2 Application*
***Not to exceed total budget request from the FIP Phase 2 Application*

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017
Biennial Report - April 2017

Name of Partnership

Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative

Current Unobligated Funds

Grant applications totaling $976,034 have been submitted and are pending. These funds are expected to be obligated by OWEB prior to June 30, 2017. The remaining balance of $339,588 is found in the Land Acquisition ($280,000) and Capacity Building ($59,588) grant categories. With Land Acquisitions, Initiative partners are conducting landowner outreach to enter into conservation easements and seeking land trusts to hold easements. With Capacity Building, partners were able to secure an Aquatic Health Coordinator position midway through the biennium and seek to carry over funding into the second biennium.

Table 1: 2015-2017 Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Actual OWEB Investment	Obligated OWEB Funds*	Remaining Balance	Current Unobligated Funds
Capacity Building	$250,000	$153,890	$96,110	**$96,110**
Outreach	$50,000	$54,541	-$4,541	**$0**
Technical Assistance	$640,000	$196,328	$443,672	**$443,672**
Restoration	$450,000	$0	$450,000	**$450,000**
Land Acquisition	$280,000	$0	$280,000	**$280,000**
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$110,000	$59,619	$50,381	**$50,381**
SUBTOTAL	$1,780,000	$464,378	$1,315,622	**$1,315,622**
Expected June 30 Carryover				**$339,588**

Table 1

**Obligated funds are funds that are currently in grant agreement.*

Table 2: 2017-2019 Estimated Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Initial Estimated OWEB Investment*	Initial Estimated Leverage Funding*	Requested OWEB Investment**	Revised Estimated Leverage Funding
Capacity Building	$250,000	$150,000	**$390,000**	$150,000
Outreach	$50,000	$70,000	**$50,000**	$70,000
Technical Assistance	$430,000	$290,000	**$487,656**	$290,000
Restoration	$850,000	$800,000	**$665,944**	$800,000
Land Acquisition	$280,000	$830,000	**$275,000**	$1,650,000
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$110,000	$150,000	**$101,400**	$150,000
Total	$1,970,000	$2,290,000	**$1,970,000**	

Table 2

**Estimate from the FIP Phase 2 Application*
***Not to exceed total budget request from the FIP Phase 2 Application*

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017
Biennial Report - April 2017

Name of Partnership

Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse

Current Unobligated Funds

A Technical Assistance grant is pending, and a Restoration application is expected to be submitted in May, 2017. These funds are expected to be obligated by OWEB prior to June 30, 2017 so the final requested carryover amount is expected to be $0 by June 30, 2017.

Table 1: 2015-2017 Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Actual OWEB Investment	Obligated OWEB Funds*	Remaining Balance	Current Unobligated Funds
Capacity Building	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Outreach	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Technical Assistance	$55,623	$55,623	$59,377	**$92,038**
Restoration	$2,078,938	$1,947,233	$131,705	**$131,705**
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
SUBTOTAL	$2,134,561	$2,002,856	$191,082	**$223,743**
Expected June 30 Carryover				**$0**

Table 1

**Obligated funds are funds that are currently in grant agreement.*

Table 2: 2017-2019 Estimated Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Initial Estimated OWEB Investment*	Initial Estimated Leverage Funding*	Requested OWEB Investment**	Revised Estimated Leverage Funding
Capacity Building	$20,000	$10,000	**$5,000**	$2,500
Outreach	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Technical Assistance	$200,000	$200,000	**$100,000**	$0
Restoration	$2,015,250	$250,000	**$2,170,250**	$640,000
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$120,000	$0	**$80,000**	$0
Total	$2,355,250	$460,000	**$2,355,250**	**$642,500**

Table 2

**Estimate from the FIP Phase 2 Application*
***Not to exceed total budget request from the FIP Phase 2 Application*

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017
Biennial Report - April 2017

Name of Partnership

Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group

Current Unobligated Funds

The 2017 application and technical review process for remaining Restoration and Monitoring funding will not conclude until October 2017, leading to the current unobligated fund balance to requested to carry over into the second biennium.

Table 1: 2015-2017 Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Actual OWEB Investment	Obligated OWEB Funds*	Remaining Balance	Current Unobligated Funds
Capacity Building	$70,000	$70,005	-$5	**-$5**
Outreach	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Technical Assistance	$60,000	$60,000	$0	**$0**
Restoration	$2,235,000	$1,327,052	$907,948	**$907,948**
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$185,000	$55,219	$129,781	**$129,781**
SUBTOTAL	$2,550,000	$1,512,276	$1,037,724	**$1,037,724**
Expected June 30 Carryover				**$1,037,724**

Table 1

**Obligated funds are funds that are currently in grant agreement.*

Table 2: 2017-2019 Estimated Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Initial Estimated OWEB Investment*	Initial Estimated Leverage Funding*	Requested OWEB Investment**	Revised Estimated Leverage Funding
Capacity Building	$60,000	$0	**$60,000**	$15,000
Outreach	$20,000	$50,000	**$20,000**	$35,000
Technical Assistance[1]	$80,000	$30,000	**$160,000**	$30,000
Restoration	$2,150,000	$1,810,000	**$2,070,000**	$1,700,000
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$120,000	$220,000	**$120,000**	$220,000
Total	$2,430,000	$2,110,000	**$2,430,000**	**$2,000,000**

Table 2

**Estimate from the FIP Phase 2 Application*
***Not to exceed total budget request from the FIP Phase 2 Application*

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017
Biennial Report - April 2017

Name of Partnership

Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership

Current Unobligated Funds

Technical Assistance, Restoration, and Monitoring applications for the 2017 Spring cycle were submitted on March 6, 2017 to GRMW/OWEB and are currently in technical review. These funds are expected to be obligated by OWEB prior to June 30, 2017 so the final requested carryover amount is expected to be $0 by June 30, 2017.

Table 1: 2015-2017 Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Actual OWEB Investment	Obligated OWEB Funds*	Remaining Balance	Current Unobligated Funds
Capacity Building	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Outreach	$29,772	$29,772	$0	**$0**
Technical Assistance	$279,427	$49,610	$229,817	**$229,817**
Restoration	$1,066,553	$104,137	$962,416	**$962,416**
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$395,858	$96,872	$298,986	**$298,986**
SUBTOTAL	$1,771,610	$280,391	$1,491,219	**$1,491,219**
Expected June 30 Carryover				**$0**

Table 1

**Obligated funds are funds that are currently in grant agreement.*

Table 2: 2017-2019 Estimated Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Initial Estimated OWEB Investment*	Initial Estimated Leverage Funding*	Requested OWEB Investment**	Revised Estimated Leverage Funding
Capacity Building	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Outreach	$60,000	$60,000	**$60,000**	$79,120
Technical Assistance	$170,000	$7,300,000	**$300,000**	$5,000,000
Restoration	$2,071,500	$7,067,000	**$1,902,000**	$7,600,000
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Water Acquisition	$80,000	$400,000	**$40,000**	$200,000
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$35,000	$2,968,000	**$114,500**	$2,968,000
Total	$2,416,500	$17,795,000	**$2,416,500**	**$15,847,120**

Table 2

**Estimate from the FIP Phase 2 Application*
***Not to exceed total budget request from the FIP Phase 2 Application*

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Focused Investment Partnership-Capacity-Building

Recommended Amount: $1.15 million

Summary: Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Capacity-Building grants support existing partnerships in three areas: building their capacity to partner at a high-performing level, generating a new strategic action plan, and/or to enhancing an existing plan within an OWEB Focused Investment Priority. Activities can also include community engagement and outreach related specifically to these efforts. Funds cannot be used to conduct new research, monitoring, or assessments. Existing partnerships are ones that include the necessary and sufficient partners to ultimately implement the partnership's strategic action plan. Receipt of capacity funding does not guarantee future Focused Investment Implementation funding from OWEB.

Program History: In October of 2013, OWEB initiated a nine-month process to develop the definition, criteria, and program design (including solicitation approach and process) for the FIP category in the Long-Term Investment Strategy. As a result of this process two offerings were developed within the FIP program, Capacity-Building technical assistance grants being one of the two. OWEB announced this new grant offering in May 2015 and applications were receive in November 2015.

Demand*:* In the 2015-2017 biennium, 23 applications were received by the November 2015 deadline requesting almost $2.5 million. In January 2016, the board awarded $937,369 to eight Capacity Building FIPs located within priority areas around the state.

Future Need*:* For the 2017-2019 biennium, applicants are required to complete a consultation with OWEB's Capacity Programs Coordinator and other FIP staff between March 1 and April 30, 2017. To date, 10 consultations have been scheduled. Staff anticipates between 10-15 applications being submitted for this biennium with the expectation that many applications will request close to the maximum award of $150,000. With the recommended funding amount of $1.15 million, OWEB will likely be able to fund between 7-9 applications in the 2017-2019 biennium.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium*:* The 2015-2017 biennium is the first for the Focused Investment Capacity Building technical assistance grant program. The eight grantees are making progress on developing new strategic action plans, enhancing current strategic action plans, and developing partnership agreements. Grants are scheduled to end in early 2018.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$0	$0
2013-2015	$0	$0
2015-2017	$1.000	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring

Recommended Amount: $0.550 million*

Summary: Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) involves evaluating the dedication of funding to specific actions in a particular geographic area. The approach employed by Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) provides an opportunity to learn about the progress and outcomes possible under six-year investments. Information emerging from these investments will be used by the board and stakeholders to adaptively manage partnership investments in the future.

Program History: During the 2013-2015 biennium, staff developed a framework for the board to understand and evaluate the extent of progress made for Special Investment Partnerships (SIPs) in coordination with SIP partners. It was intended not only to guide reporting on the accomplishments achieved under the SIPs, but also to help guide how FIP progress is assessed and reported to the board in the future.

In January 2016, the board awarded its first Implementation FIP grants. These investments are intended to support restoration at a strategic scale and resilient, sustainable partnerships that strategically plan and implement effective restoration projects.

Demand: In April 2016, the board awarded $200,000 in Focused Investment EM funding to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to coordinate development of a progress monitoring framework (PMF), in collaboration with the Implementation FIP partners. This framework will be applied by all of the Implementation FIPs to establish a monitoring and reporting approach by which the FIPs can describe their achievements toward ecological outcomes over time. Since the FIP awards and the grant to BEF were not made until several months into the biennium, the funding need for the 2015-2017 biennium focuses entirely on the establishment of the initial PMF and the subsequent work by BEF with each of the Implementation FIPs to apply the PMF within the context of their unique FIP.

Future Need: It is anticipated that the need for Focused Investment EM funding in the 2017-2019 biennium will be greater than during the 2015-2017 biennium. This anticipated increase is due to the fact that application of the PMF with each FIP involves cross-walking each partnership's existing monitoring approach and collaboratively identifying additional monitoring and accomplishment-reporting opportunities in which OWEB may want to invest. Work this biennium may result in the identification of additional monitoring and/or reporting that is needed to ensure the Implementation FIPs can effectively and accurately describe their progress, in a quantitative fashion, toward intended ecological and programmatic impacts. This information aims to help the board understand lessons learned and inform board decisions to refine OWEB investments in the future.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: Staff completed a series of accomplishment reports for the SIPs in the 2015-2017 biennium. These reports were valuable in helping the board and the public understand outcomes associated with significant OWEB investments in the Upper Deschutes and Willamette Basins that began in 2008 and in the Upper Klamath Basin that began in 2012. This compilation of information provided a format that is proving useful as OWEB considers how best to track and report progress of its investments in FIPs.

As noted above, a grant was awarded to BEF to develop a PMF for the Implementation FIPs. The structure for the PMF has been finalized, and consists of a results chain (a graphical representation of

the partnership's theory for how strategies are expected to produce long-term ecological impacts). The process for applying the PMF with each of the FIPs is developed and being implemented. This work includes developing a crosswalk matrix that documents and tracks both implementation measures and ecological outcomes for each FIP. The BEF team developed draft results chains in partnership with each of the Implementation FIPs, starting by using each partnership's FIP application, strategic action plans, and other supporting documents. As a next step, work sessions to discuss the results chains and crosswalks are anticipated to be completed with all six FIPs by the time of the April board meeting.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$0	$0
2013-2015	$0	$0
2015-2017	$.500	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Council Capacity

Recommended Amount: $6.75 million

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 of watersheds.

Program History: OWEB has provided operating grants to watershed councils for more than 15 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 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 2010 OWEB staff began a review of the council capacity program. In March 2012, the board directed staff to develop details of the "outcome-based review and award process," including listening sessions in preparation for changing the program. Staff considered listening session and work group feedback, and worked with the board Operating Capacity subcommittee to develop proposed eligibility and merit criteria.

In June 2013, the board authorized staff to begin rulemaking with the policy direction to build capacity through increased council sharing, combining, collaborating, and reducing the number of individual support grants over 5–10 years. To reinforce this direction, the board supported capping eligibility for individual grants at no more than 64 (based on watershed areas for councils that previously received an individual Watershed Council Support Grant). Geographic areas can change, but the board wants to see stronger, collective local capacity, not "splitting" and "subdividing" into smaller areas resulting in more competition for limited resources and more duplication of administrative infrastructure. In July 2014, the board adopted administrative rules and Implementation Guidance for Council Capacity grants.

For capacity funding in the 2015-2017 biennium, 59 councils submitted applications and 58 councils were funded. Staff used the new merit criteria and evaluation process to determine funding levels, including full funding, reduced funding, and do not fund. All 58 councils that received funding submitted the required work plan update in June 2016.

For capacity funding in the 2017-2019 biennium, 60 councils submitted requests for Eligibility Determination by the November 2016, deadline. After the Eligibility Review, and when necessary an appeal process, all 60 were determined eligible to apply for a Council Capacity grant. All 60 councils applied by the March 2017, deadline. The board will award 2017-2019 Council Capacity grants at the July 2017, board meeting.

Demand*:* In the 2015-2017 biennium, 46 councils secured full funding for the biennium, 11 obtained partial funding, and one council did not receive funding.

Future Need*:* The Council Capacity grant program is seeking to include a 4% cost-of-living increase for councils in the 2017-2019 biennium.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium*:* The 2015-2017 biennium is the first for the revised Council Capacity program. In general, grantees are demonstrating progress related to all merit criteria, effective management, effective governance, progress in planning, community engagement, and on the ground restoration. This was also the last biennium OWEB will provide an umbrella bonus for watershed councils that either provide support to, and coordination for, at least three watershed councils, has a coordinating council, shared staff, and a single Council Capacity Grant, or serves an area containing three or more 4th field hydrologic units.

Included in the 2015-2017 guidance document was a reference to the consideration of the development of a sixth merit criterion prior to the 2017-2019 Council Capacity grant cycle. During the summer of 2014 OWEB worked with an Oregon Fellow to begin investigating opportunities for a sixth merit criterion that focused on strategic collaboration. The final recommendation from the Oregon Fellow and staff was to not implement a sixth merit criteria around strategic collaboration and keep the merit evaluation focused on the original five criteria.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$6.100	$0
2013-2015	$6.100	$0
2015-2017	$6.250	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Soil and Water Conservation District Capacity

Recommended Amount: $6.75 million

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.

Program History: SWCDs have an over 75-year history in Oregon. Established in 1939, South Tillamook became the first official Soil Conservation District. In 1963 the Oregon Legislature added the "and Water" to the name of Soil Conservation Districts. The first Legislative Budget Note for SWCD funding was in 1997: *"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 political subdivisions of state government, but are not state agencies. SWCDs are considered municipal corporations. They are governed by specific enabling legislation under ORS 568. The members of SWCD Boards of Directors are elected officials, to serve on either a five or seven member board.

Since the inception of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program, legislative direction and budget notes have resulted in the following list of fundamental principles from which the annual work plan, commonly known as the Scope of Work (SOW), is built:

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 to ODA on the use and purpose of funds allocated to SWCDs, as further refined in the Intergovernmental Agreement.
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 Oregon Association of Conservation Districts leadership, SWCD managers, and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission to develop a new annual work plan or (SOW) process. The new SOW process provides SWCDs more flexibility and responsibility. 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). Focus Areas allow SWCDs to assess and measure change in land conditions over time. The SOW Focus Area process is a consistent approach to geographically

assess riparian conditions, target on the ground projects to improve water quality, and demonstrate effectiveness of the conservation work SWCDs achieve on a statewide basis.

Demand*:* In the 2015-2017 biennium, 41 SWCDs received full Capacity grant funding. Four Baker County SWCDs split two full shares of capacity grant funds.

Future Need: The SWCD Capacity grant program is seeking to include a 4% cost-of-living increase in the 2017-2019 biennium.

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 program, and capacity funding provides the means to allow SWCDs to engage in the program at the current levels.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$6.100	$0
2013-2015	$6.100	$0
2015-2017	$6.250	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Conservation Partnership

Recommended Amount: $0.500 million

Summary: The 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 stakeholders. For the 2017-2019 biennium, the partnership plans to increase the delivery of services and offerings to their stakeholders while also expanding the role of COLT in the partnership.

Program History: Since 2007, the board has approved grants and supported 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, one-on-one work with local organizations, and youth activities.

In 2012, OWEB, NOWC and OACD began meeting to discuss ways to further 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 each of the four organizations. In July 2015, the board approved a grant for joint programming that serves the collective and complementary missions of the councils, districts, and land trusts and included new operating agreements, joint publications and events, and the initiation of regular meetings of all four executive directors of the organizations.

Demand*:* The demand for the services provided by the Partnership has continued to grow. As examples, the Partnership has also seen increased attendance at the CONNECT conference, which provides training for restoration practitioners, as well as good turnout at both the NOWC and OACD annual meetings last year.

Future Need*:* Staff propose to increase the Partnership funding amount for this biennium as the partnership works to increase its effectiveness as a partnership and to increase its delivery of services to its stakeholders. New deliverables include increased coordinated communication to stakeholders and increased coordination of the CONNECT conference, which had previously been accomplished with partner in-kind donations. Partnership-identified outcomes include:

- Rigorous needs assessment and evaluation data and processes to show and report on impacts of councils, districts, and land trusts, and of voluntary conservation on private lands in Oregon;
- New innovative partnerships and leveraging of resources across the Partnership, including development of new and additional funding resources for the Partnership;
- Efficient, effective organizational management for the Partnership;
- Enhanced integration of services for Partnership constituents such as joint training, consistent and coordinated communication, and convenings;

- Increased collaboration within and across land trusts, councils, and districts to improve efficiency and impact; and
- Increased availability of resources for all Partnership constituents, including creating and maintaining an electronic library of shared templates.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: COLT received funds from the Land Trust Alliance and the Partnership hired a facilitator to work through a needs assessment. This process concluded with the development and signing of a new partnership agreement. The NOWC and OACD held several joint board meetings and also signed a new MOU and MOA. The three executive directors and representative from OCEAN have begun meeting monthly to increase coordination and communication. The Partnership purchased software to enable delivery of education and networking remotely. Using that software, they collaborated on delivery of two pilot webinars for councils and districts in 2016, with additional webinars planned for the remainder of the biennium. The Partnership is currently working on the 2017 CONNECT conference, which is scheduled for May 2-4, in Pendleton. The results from a needs assessment survey, which was delivered to the Partnership constituents, helped guide the development of programing for the NOWC and OACD annual meetings, the webinars, and informed the content of the CONNECT conference. The Working Lands Gap Analysis was also completed, which studied the capacity among eligible entities to hold working land easements, the demand from landowners, and the barriers to the purchase of conservation easements. Phase two of this analysis will occur next biennium.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$0.200	$0
2013-2015	$0.415	$0
2015-2017	$0.358	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Organizational Collaboration (formerly Building Capacity)

Recommended Amount: $0.500 million

Summary: Organizational Collaboration grants support new or expanded strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local partners that achieve ecological outcomes and engage local communities. Activities may include 1) changing the operational structure of the organization(s) which may result in sharing of staff and services with other councils, districts or organizations, or 2) merger/consolidations of councils, districts, or councils and districts. The applicants must demonstrate that the organizational restructuring options being considered will strengthen organizational impact and build resiliency and sustainability of the organization(s). This category also provides short-term funding post-merger to successfully consolidated organizations to facilitate the successful transition of the newly combined organizations.

Program History: OWEB announced this new grant offering for the first time in July 2013. Since its inception four grants have been awarded.

- In 2013, $83,824 was awarded for the merger of four watershed councils in the Rogue basin. In 2015, $200,000 was awarded to the successfully merged Rogue River Watershed Council as a merger transition grant.
- In 2013, $40,461 was awarded to Cascade Pacific RC&D for the expansion of fiscal sponsorship and employer of record services for local partners.
- In 2016, $42,964 was awarded to Marys River Watershed Council, Greenbelt Land Trust, Benton County SWCD and Institute for Applied Ecology to explore co-locating and sharing of services.

Demand*:* In the 2015-2017 biennium, OWEB only awarded two grants out of this category, but had multiple inquiries from organizations that were not yet ready to proceed with applications. The purpose of the funding is to build capacity through resource sharing and organizational restructuring, and this takes time. OWEB staff believe one or two grants per biennium can be considered a success and a step toward increased capacity and resource sharing among local partners.

Future Need*:* Staff propose to keep the funding for this program level the same. This will be the last biennium of support through the merger transition grant to the Rogue River Watershed Council, which constitutes $200,000 of the $400,000 request. In addition local organizations around the state continue to have conversations around organizational restructuring and strategic collaboration. These conversations are in various stages and we anticipate a similar, if not slightly increased, demand in the 2017-2019 biennium.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium*:* OWEB staff will be meeting with the Marys River Watershed Council and partners in early May to get an update on the co-locating and sharing of services grant, and anticipate providing the Board a full report at the October 2017 board meeting.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$0.100	$0
2013-2015	$0.200	$0
2015-2017	$0.400	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Cost-Share Payments and Technical Assistance

Recommended Amount-CREP TA: $0.925 million

Recommended Amount-CREP Cost Shares: $0.600 million

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) 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.

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.

In 2001, the board provided the first CREP TA grants to soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) around the state. Between 2007 and 2011, CREP TA was funded out of the board award for SWCD capacity to supplement the biennial base funding for these organizations. 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 together 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.

OWEB reports to FSA annually on the State's contribution to Oregon CREP. For the 2015-2017 biennium, the State as a whole contributed approximately $1.6 million to the overall program, which included $500,000 in cost-share payments, $825,000 for OWEB's CREP TA grants, in-kind contributions from state agencies, and match brought to the program through OWEB's CREP TA grants.

Demand: In the 2015-2017 biennium, CREP cost share funds have been spent down 86% to date. 12 organizations, primarily SWCDs, secured funding through CREP TA grants, which was the full amount of available funding for that portion of the program.

Future Need: The CREP cost share program is seeking to make available $600,000 in the 2017-2019 biennium. The CREP TA grant program is expecting 13 organizations to apply for funding in the 2017 – 2019 biennium. The amount to be requested is not yet known.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium*:* In 2015, the board approved a spending plan that set aside $750,000 for CREP TA. NRCS committed $225,000 in matching funds. In January 2016, the board approved to supplement CREP TA funds with an additional $75,000. Combined, these funds support 12 CREP programs through the 2015-2017 CREP TA grant cycle, which awarded over $1 million with projects ranging from $23,000 to $149,000. These programs provide critical technical assistance for Oregon CREP, covering 20 counties statewide.

In February and March 2017, OWEB hosted two CREP trainings (one in Springfield and one in Pendleton). The trainings were open to all local, state, and federal partners in the program and were heavily attended. The training provided administrative and technical training to effectively deliver Oregon CREP.

To address the program's ability to address cultural resource reviews and surveys needed for the development and implementation of CREP conservation plans, OWEB and NRCS are supporting the attendance of 10 CREP technicians at the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's archaeology training in April 2017.

In 2016, OWEB and FSA began the process of revising the CREP Agreement between the State of Oregon and FSA. The revision is intended to clarify incentives and payments for re-enrolled contracts and to clarify agency roles. It is expected that the agreement will be finalized in 2017.

In 2017, OWEB and NRCS began the process of developing a new agreement between the State of Oregon and NRCS that will award $250,000 of NRCS funds to OWEB for CREP TA. This agreement is expected to be final in April 2017.

Investments by Biennium – CREP Cost Shares		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$0.500	$0.447
2013-2015	$0.500	$0.248
2015-2017	$0.500	$*
Investments by Biennium – CREP TA		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$0.800	$0
2013-2015	$0.750	$0
2015-2017	$1.05	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) program

Recommended Amount $1.00 million

Summary: The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Agricultural Water Quality Management Program, is leading "Strategic Implementation" where select areas around the state will receive focused outreach and education to address priority water quality concerns. Water quality goals are achieved by voluntary cooperation among landowners and natural resource partners to address management concerns, and by ODA enforcing water quality regulations.

During the 2015-2017 biennium, 12 Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) were identified. As part of the SIA process, using publically available information, agricultural operations are evaluated and categorized depending upon their potential to pollute. Following extensive outreach by ODA, producers in need of conservation or restoration activities are referred to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) or Watershed Councils (WSCs). Restoration projects within SIA boundaries were eligible for funding in part by OWEB through a dedicated grant program.

For 2017-2019 ODA and OWEB are altering their SIA funding approach. Funding will be for SWCDs and WSCs to provide technical assistance to landowners for outreach and restoration project design activities within newly identified SIAs. This funding and associated reporting will be incorporated into existing operating capacity grant agreements. Any restoration projects developed from SIAs as a result of OWEB's technical assistance funding may be submitted either through OWEB's other grant programs or in partnership with other agencies for implementation.

Program History: In the 2013-2015 biennium, ODA developed the SIA process in order to prioritize agricultural lands with connectivity to waters of the state using data sets of reproducible criteria. Following the prioritization process, ODA worked with the Clackamas County and Wasco County SWCDs as pilot test areas. ODA then initiated a remote Compliance Evaluation to identify and categorize agricultural areas that may be contributing to pollution, with the results shared with landowners. Additional outreach and education, personal landowner contact, and referral to SWCDs and WSCs for assistance in conducting restoration activities followed.

In the 2015-2017 biennium, ODA identified SIAs in Deschutes, Polk, Columbia, Clatsop, Polk, Yamhill, East Multnomah, Clackamas, Jackson, Tillamook, Marion, Hood River, and Umatilla counties. To assist producers in these regions, OWEB allocated $1million to fund restoration projects within SIA boundaries.

Demand: During the 2015-2017 biennium, all of the operations evaluated as posing the greatest threat to water quality since SIA inception have worked or are currently working with local partners to come into Agricultural Water Quality Management Program compliance, without the need for regulatory enforcement. Five applications for funding were received in the two 2016 grant cycles. Four projects were awarded a total of $527,394 in grant funding. The final SIA grant cycle closes April 17, 2017. It is expected that grant requests will exceed remaining funds available.

In the 2017-2019 biennium, ODA will identify 12 additional SIAs. Following SIA identification, OWEB funds will be eligible to assist local partners in providing technical assistance to agricultural operators for water quality improvement. Restoration projects may be proposed through existing OWEB processes in the Small Grant and Open Solicitation grant programs.

ODA and OWEB believe that strategic delivery of outreach and technical assistance will lead to greater program effectiveness and allow ODA and its partners to make better use of limited resources. Consequently, ODA is requesting $1 million to assist partners as they develop projects with agricultural operators improve water quality.

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 technical assistance.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$0	$0
2013-2015	$0	$0
2015-2017	$1.000	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Small Grant Program

Recommended Amount: $3.3 million*

Summary: OWEB Small Grant Program funds are awarded biennially to cooperative partnerships of watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and tribes. Twenty-eight teams form to prioritize and implement smaller-scale watershed restoration projects. Teams must select from an OWEB rule-defined list when identifying priority watershed concerns for their Small Grant Area. Priority concerns include fish passage; urban impact reduction; water quality and quantity/irrigation efficiency; road impact reduction; and instream, riparian, wetland, and upland process and function.

Small grants cannot exceed $10,000, and are often the first grant a landowner may implement, leading to future restoration investments through the open solicitation grant program.

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 a Small Grant Program (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. These projects can often be implemented on a short turnaround. 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 nonpoint 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 Small Grant Team may form, comprised of representatives from local watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and tribes. Individual teams are guided by self-defined operating procedures and a list of watershed priorities and eligible project types, revisited biennially by teams. Since its inception the board has allocated $2.8 million ($100,000 per team) per biennium to the program. Teams then accept applications from within their boundaries for watershed restoration projects. Team-recommended applications and draft grant agreements are then sent to OWEB for final approval.

Teams must select from an OWEB rule-defined list when identifying priority watershed concerns for their Small Grant Area. Priority concerns include fish passage; urban impact reduction; water quality and quantity/irrigation efficiency; road impact reduction; and instream, riparian, wetland, and upland process and function. Projects must be implemented using established techniques with guidance from one of eight approved technical guidance source documents.

In January 2004, the board revisited SGP rules, implementing changes that included requiring each Team have at least one actively participating watershed council representative and one soil and water conservation district representative to be eligible for funding. Rule changes also included limiting eligible applicants to tribes, councils and districts who may act on behalf of landowners, non-profits, schools, and government.

Demand: In the 2015-2017 biennium, all 28 Small Grant Teams successfully reorganized and were awarded $100,000 each. As of March 22, 2017, 214 Small Grant Project grants have been awarded, with

over $1,869,566 allocated. Early estimates indicate that approximately $2,360,000 will be committed by the end of the biennium.

Future Need: The biennium spending plan need is expected to remain stable at $2.8 million; however, due to increasing costs, grantee feedback, and the trend to fund larger projects through the regular grant program, there is a need to increase the project cap from the current $10,000. The board Open Solicitation Subcommittee is currently investigating project funding history and will be developing a recommendation for an increased cap. Also being investigated is the development of a mechanism to reallocate any unspent funds at the end of each biennium to teams that have successfully invested their awards.

Program Developments in the Biennium: There have been no program changes in the last biennium. Program benefits consistently highlighted by the teams include: flexible, straightforward program; local review; quick turn-around; develops partnerships among watershed councils, SWCDs, and tribes; develops landowner trust in government; builds strong relationships with landowners; develops partnerships with city, county, state and federal agencies, and non-profits; aids the local economy by using local venders and contractors; and leverages funding.

Through the Long-Term Investment Strategy framework, staff prioritized work on program changes and improvements. The board's Open Solicitation Subcommittee is currently reviewing the Small Grant Program.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$2.800	$0.404
2013-2015	$2.800	$.581
2015-2017	$2.800	$*

*Full biennium data not available

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – CREP Effectiveness Monitoring Study Report
April 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will present the results of the statewide effectiveness monitoring study of riparian restoration actions that have occurred under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and discuss results with the board.

II. Background about CREP Effectiveness Monitoring

CREP is intended to restore healthy riparian areas on agricultural lands. In Oregon, CREP is a partnership between the federal government and the state of Oregon. The Farm Services Agency (FSA) administers the program for the federal government, and the state of Oregon provides a 25% cost-share match through OWEB funding. Since its inception in 1998, the program has been highly successful at recruiting landowners to participate, with over 41,000 acres enrolled in the program.

In 2004, an amendment to the agreement between the state and FSA required Oregon to conduct effectiveness monitoring of CREP contracts. In April of 2014, the board awarded $250,000 in support of this monitoring. During the past three years, staff worked with FSA and an advisory group to design and oversee implementation of this study. A contract was awarded to consulting firm Stillwater Sciences in fall of 2015 to complete this study.

III. CREP Effectiveness Monitoring Final Report

Stillwater Sciences conducted field sampling in May and September of 2016, and then completed data analysis. The contractor's final report, including their recommendations, was submitted to OWEB in February 2017 (see Attachment A for the Executive Summary of the report). The report is available online at http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/MONITOR/docs/CREP/CREP-EM-Report-03.09.17.pdf.

At the April 2017 board meeting, staff will present an overview of the report, including monitoring objectives, study results, and recommendations offered by the contractor. In addition, staff will describe next steps for CREP partners to consider the study's results and recommendations, and determine how the information can be used to adaptively manage the program and help guide development and implementation of future CREP contracts.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

A. CREP Effectiveness Monitoring Final Report – Executive Summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Stillwater Sciences (Stillwater) was contracted by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to develop and implement an effectiveness monitoring study of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contracts implemented in Oregon, focusing on two of the most common conservation practices used in the program: Riparian Buffer (CP 22) and Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Buffer (CP 29). The overall intent of this extensive, post-treatment, statewide study is to assess the effectiveness of the CREP program restoration actions on improving riparian conditions . It was not designed to evaluate individual counties or sites. Stillwater adapted regional sampling protocols to select sample site locations and collect relevant field data, and subcontracted with Sitka Technology Group to tailor an existing data-gathering and management program for this project, and with Cascade Environmental Group to provide input on survey approaches and to assist with field data collection. This report provides a summary and assessment of the findings.

The sampling framework was created by stratifying the state by ecoregion and conservation practice, resulting in three sampling strata. The full set of existing CREP contracts within each stratum was filtered based on several criteria to ensure that restoration had been implemented at selected sites, and the sites were of sufficient size. CREP technicians and local NRCS representatives coordinated landowner access and provided critical information on contracted sites. This information was reviewed by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Services Agency (FSA) staff prior to providing it to OWEB, in accordance with the data-sharing agreement between FSA and OWEB. Sites were selected based on random draws from each stratum, and were ultimately visited if landowner permission for access was provided, and appropriate and accessible control sites were available. In order to determine the appropriate sampling number and to test and refine field methods, field sampling was implemented in two phases. Eighteen sites were sampled in June 2016 during Phase 1 and minor refinements were made to the field protocol. Twenty-two additional sites were sampled in September 2016 during Phase 2, for a total of 40 sites, including 25 treatment sites and 15 controls.

The CREP program treatments are intended to improve the quality of riparian site conditions to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. Some of the most important treatment effectiveness indicators relate to percent vegetation cover both along the channel and more than 10 m back from the edge of the riparian vegetation, on the floodplain and terrace area. These were found to be significantly higher in treated compared with control sites in the Riparian Buffer conservation practice (CP-22) and the Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Buffer conservation practice (CP-29) sites east of the Cascades, indicating that these goals are being achieved through the program. Differences in streamside native vegetation between untreated controls and treated CREP sites west of the Cascades were not significant, suggesting a need for different strategies or practices for increasing native streamside vegetation cover in this area. CREP sites treated with CP-22 both east and west of the Cascades were found to have significantly higher percent cover of native woody vegetation sampled more than 10 m from the edge of the riparian vegetation, on the floodplain and terrace area, compared with untreated controls. This overall finding indicates that in these areas, the CREP actions are achieving the goal of increasing native woody cover within the riparian corridor. Bank stability was found to be greater in two of the three strata: west side CP-22 and east side CP-29, indicating that bank erosion is being addressed through these practices in these regions but that planting and livestock exclosure practices are not addressing bank erosion effectively in the east-side CP-22 stratum. These results may point to other geomorphic processes driving bank erosion east of the Cascades that cannot be fully addressed by the CREP-eligible conservation practices alone. Finally, while livestock fencing was intact in

over half of the sites visited and evidence of livestock presence within the exclosures was reported for less than one-third of the sites, both absence of livestock indicators AND intact fencing was only found at under half of the CREP treatment sites that included exclosure fencing in their contracts.

Based on these data and field observations, we offer several recommendations for the CREP program that might improve effectiveness of the conservation practices in improving riparian conditions to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. However, it is important to note that this study monitored CREP projects that were implemented over seven years ago, so has not captured many of the effects of adaptive measures that have been applied in recent years. In fact, many of the recommendations that are made in this report have already been adopted by the CREP technicians to improve the success and effectiveness of riparian buffers. Thus, findings of this study reinforce the importance of such adaptive management strategies in implementing a successful CREP Program across Oregon.

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants Rule Amendments
April 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report informs the board on the rulemaking process to update the OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) and Restoration Grants (Division 10) administrative rules, and requests board approval on the proposed rule amendments.

II. Background

During the spring and summer of 2016, staff conducted a review of several OWEB administrative rule divisions. After completing the rule reviews, staff recommended changes to certain administrative rules.

Staff have proposed changes to the OWEB Grant Program rules (Division 5) in the purpose section, application requirements, grant agreement conditions, and distribution of funds. Proposed rule changes in Division 5 range from technical clean-up (e.g., not requiring applicant provide a fax number on grant proposals) to more substantive policy changes (e.g., removing "a person" from OWEB grant eligibility).

In the Restoration Grants rules (Division 10), substantial changes are recommended to the evaluation criteria. Staff have also recommended changes to the evaluation criteria utilized by the regional review teams.

At its October 2016 meeting, the board authorized rulemaking to amend the OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants administrative rules.

III. Rules Advisory Committee

In December 2016, OWEB convened a rules advisory committee (RAC) to discuss both the technical and substantive policy-oriented rule change proposals. The RAC was composed of stakeholders representing OWEB applicants and grantees from across the state. Attachment A provides the members of the RAC, whose purpose was to provide feedback on the proposed rule changes and offer recommendations for staff to consider when drafting final rules. For the proposed technical fixes to

administrative rules, the RAC had broad agreement that the proposed changes were appropriate. There was also agreement on many of the proposed policy changes, with much of the discussion centered on language to be used in the Restoration Grants evaluation criteria, including new criteria proposed by the RAC.

Comments provided by the RAC were brought before OWEB staff for review, with final refinements made to the amended rules by the RAC over a teleconference in February, 2017.

IV. Public Comment Period and Proposed Rule Amendments

OWEB released draft rule amendments for public comment on February 28, 2017. The public comment period was open from March 1 until March 30, 2017 and included a public hearing in Salem on March 30th. A summary of the written comments received during the public comment period are provided in Attachment B. Staff reviewed the public comments, and made revisions to the proposed amendments to the OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants administrative rules are found in Attachment C. At its April meeting, the board may only receive public comment on the revisions to the proposed rule amendments that have occurred since the close of the public comment period.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the amendments to the OWEB Grant Program and Restoration grants administrative rules found in Attachment C.

Attachments

A. OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants Rules Advisory Committee
B. OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants Public Comments and Response
C-1. Proposed Amended Rules (redlined)
C-2. Proposed Amended Rules (clean)

OWEB Division 5 and 10 Rulemaking: Rules Advisory Committee Members

Name	Organization	Region
Seth Mead	Siuslaw SWCD	1
Katie Duzik	OWEB	1
Brian Barr	Rogue River WC	2
Sarah Dyrdahl	Middle Fork Willamette WC	3
Deb Merchant	Marys River WC	3
Shilah Olson	Wasco SWCD	4
Marci Schreder	Lake County Umbrella WSC	4
Ken Diebel	Malheur WC	5
Amy Charette	Confederated Tribes Warm Springs	6

Summary of Public Comments Received: Proposed Amendments to OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) and Restoration Grants Administrative Rules (Division 10)

Rules: General Comments			
Commenter(s)	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
Nell Scott Klamath Restoration Directors Trout Unlimited Klamath Falls, OR nscott@tu.org	Support for all of the changes, feels that they address concerns with OWEB grant process.	OWEB appreciates the support for the amendments to the OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants Administrative Rules	No
Thomas O'Neill The Habitat Institute Corvallis, OR Santa Cruz, CA habitat@thehabitatinstitute.org	Concern that OWEB does not require restoration grants to include an independent party to determine baseline conditions and monitor project accomplishments.	A thoroughly vetted scientific framework guides the work of OWEB and grantees through the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. Through this framework, OWEB, grantees and other state partners can continually incorporate new information to inform baseline conditions and understand conservation outcomes throughout the state. OWEB offers several grant programs including both restoration grants and monitoring grants. OWEB reporting requirements for restoration grantees include project completion reports and post-implementation status reports. Independent verification of the results of each restoration project is not a feasible approach because this task would take resources away from on-the-ground restoration projects.	No
Thomas O'Neill The Habitat Institute Corvallis, OR Santa Cruz, CA habitat@thehabitatinstitute.org	Concern that OWEB does not have a consistent metric to measure ecological gain from restoration projects.	See comment above.	No

Summary of Public Comments Received: Proposed Amendments to OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) and Restoration Grants Administrative Rules (Division 10)

Rules: Division 5 General Comments				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
	Ken Bierly 2308 Ptarmigan St. NW Salem, OR 97304	Support for suggested changes around fiscal administration (695-005-0030[5]), amending grant agreements (695-005-0050[1]), and equipment purchased with grant funds 695-005-0050[6]).	OWEB appreciates the support for amending the OWEB Grant Program Administrative Rules (Division 5)	No

Rules: 695-005-0060				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
(1)	Ken Bierly 2308 Ptarmigan St. NW Salem, OR 97304	The proposed elimination of reimbursement for permit costs incurred before grant agreement should be explained as it would be a disincentive for applicants to secure permits before applications are submitted.	The proposed amendment in 695-005-0060(1) removes the rule that the board will not reimburse grantees for expenses incurred prior to signing a grant agreement. If approved, this amendment would allow for all costs associated with a project to be reimbursed, even if the cost were incurred before a grant agreement was signed.	No
(8)	Ken Bierly 2308 Ptarmigan St. NW Salem, OR 97304	The proposed changes raise the question about who is authorized to make grant funding decisions. Recommend changing the language to reflect board authority on funding decisions.	The proposed rule amendments have been changed to address the authority question.	Yes

Rules: Division 10 General Comments				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
	Ken Bierly 2308 Ptarmigan St. NW Salem, OR 97304	Many of the proposed changes reflect more clearly the current programs.	OWEB appreciates the support for amending the Restoration Grants Administrative Rules.	No

Summary of Public Comments Received: Proposed Amendments to OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) and Restoration Grants Administrative Rules (Division 10)

Rules: 695-010-0020				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
(5)	Thomas O'Neill The Habitat Institute Corvallis, OR Santa Cruz, CA habitat@thehabitatinstitute.org	Definition of watershed function appears incomplete, and should include ecological functions that include species and habitat.	The current definition of watershed function was reviewed by OWEB staff and the RAC and determined not to require amending. The current definition includes reference to "ecosystem", which includes ecological functions	No
(6)	Thomas O'Neill The Habitat Institute Corvallis, OR Santa Cruz, CA habitat@thehabitatinstitute.org	Definition of watershed health in not current and needs updating.	The current definition of watershed health was reviewed by OWEB staff and the RAC and determined not to require amending.	No

Rules: 695-010-0060				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
(2)	Ken Bierly 2308 Ptarmigan St. NW Salem, OR 97304	Concern that the proposed language for providing a public benefit in the evaluation criteria is not reflective of the origins of the restoration grant program and does not clarify the intent of public benefit in the evaluation criteria.	The proposed amendment was made to mirror language found in ORS 541.956. ORS 541.958 also provide guidance for including public benefit in the evaluation criteria. OWEB staff determined that this language was used to develop OAR 695-010-0060(2), and have thus proposed to revert to the original language found in the rule.	Yes
(2)(a)(b)	Thomas O'Neill The Habitat Institute Corvallis, OR Santa Cruz, CA habitat@thehabitatinstitute.org	Should add "and/or" at end of (a) and in (b) ecosystem function should be changed to read natural watershed or ecological functions in order to improve water quality, stream flow or connectivity.	See response to Ken Bierly above.	Yes

Summary of Public Comments Received: Proposed Amendments to OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) and Restoration Grants Administrative Rules (Division 10)

Rules: 695-010-0060				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
(3)	Ken Bierly 2308 Ptarmigan St. NW Salem, OR 97304	The proposed language clarifies the evaluation criteria and is an excellent simplification of the language.	OWEB appreciates the support for amending the Restoration Grants evaluation criteria	No

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

DIVISION 5

OWEB GRANT PROGRAM

695-005-0010

Purpose

These rules guide the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in accepting applications and considering grant proposals for funding under the provisions of ORS 541.890, et seq. The ~~regular~~ Board grant program includes grants described in 695-005-0020 et seq. for watershed restoration, monitoring, watershed assessment and action planning, watershed council support, watershed education and outreach, land and water acquisition, and small grants. In addition, the Board may from time to time, as funds are available, request proposals for technical assistance and research.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0020

Definitions

(1) "Board" means the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board created under ORS 541.900.

(2) "Director" means the Executive Director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board or the Executive Director's designee.

(3) "Grant Agreement" is the legally binding contract between the Board and the grant recipient. It consists of the conditions specified in these rules, the notice of grant award, special conditions to the agreement, a certification to comply with applicable state and federal regulations, the project budget and the approved application for funding the project.

(4) "Regional Review Team" is a team, appointed by the Director, of designated personnel with regional knowledge and interdisciplinary expertise drawn from agencies represented on the Board and other entities to evaluate regional grant applications. The Director may change the composition of regional review teams.

(5) "Partners" are non-governmental or governmental persons or entities that have committed funding, expertise, materials, labor, or other assistance to a proposed project.

(6) "Match" is any contribution to a project that is non-Board funds. Match may include:

(a) Cash on hand or cash that is pledged to be on hand prior to commencement of the project;

(b) Secured funding commitments from other sources;

(c) Pending commitments of funding from other sources. In such instances, Board funding will not be released prior to secured commitment of the other funds. Pending commitments of the funding must be secured within 12 months from the date of the award; or

(d) The value of in-kind labor, equipment rental and materials essential to the project, based on local market rates.

(7) "OWEB" means the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board state agency.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

695-005-0030

Application Requirements

(1) Applications must be submitted on the most current form prescribed by the Board. Current applications are available on the OWEB website. An explanation must accompany the application if any of the information required on the application cannot be provided. In addition to the information required in the application, and the required attachments, an applicant may submit additional information that will aid the Board in evaluating the project.

(2) All applicants for Board grants shall supply the following information:

(a) Names, physical and email addresses, ~~fax~~ and telephone numbers of the applicant contact person(s) and the fiscal officer(s);

(b) Name and address of involved landowner(s);

(c) The name and location of the proposed project. The location shall be described in reference to the public land survey, latitude and longitude using decimal degrees, North American Datum 1983, county, watershed, and stream mile, if appropriate;

(d) Estimated line item budget for the project using the most current budget form prescribed by the Board. Current budget forms are available on the OWEB website;

(e) Identification of specific project elements for which Board funds will be used;

(f) A list of any non-Board funds, services or materials available or secured for the project and any conditions which may affect the completion of the project;

(g) If the project is part of a multi-year project, and a new funding request continues a previously Board-funded activity, a description of the previous project accomplishments and results as well as an accounting of past expenditures and revenues for the project;

(h) Identification of volunteers and partners and the contribution they will make to the project;

(i) A project schedule including times of project beginning and completion; and

(j) Any information requested that is necessary to evaluate the project based on the evaluation criteria for that project type.

(3) All applicants shall demonstrate at least 25% match is being sought, on a form prescribed by the Board, based on the total Board grant request, at the time of application.

(4) All applications that involve physical changes or monitoring on private land must include certification from the applicant that the applicant has informed all landowners involved of the existence of the application and has also advised all landowners that all monitoring information obtained on their property is public record. If contact with all landowner was not possible at the time of application, explain why.

~~(5) Fiscal administration costs, which may include accounting, auditing, contract management and fiscal reporting expenses for the project, for a grant awarded by the Board may not exceed 10% of the total Board funds expended for the project.~~

(6) Applications will be considered complete as submitted. Clarification of information may be sought from the applicant during the evaluation process but additional, new information will not be accepted after the application deadline.

(7) Applicants are encouraged to submit requests for up to $10,000 for watershed restoration projects to the Small Grant Team in their Small Grant Area, unless the project is not eligible for funding under the Small Grant Program or the Small Grant Program has no funds available at the time of application. Applicants may not submit the same proposal to both the Board and the Small Grant Team.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0040

Application Processing

~~(1) The Board shall announce deadlines for submitting applications, except for the Small Grant Program.~~

(2) Project applications will be reviewed based on application completeness and the evaluation criteria adopted by the Board for each grant type in these rules.

(3) A regular grant applicant may be any ~~person,~~ tribe, watershed council, soil and water conservation district, not-for-profit institution, school, community college, state institution of higher education, independent not-for-profit institution of higher education, or political subdivision of this state that is not a state agency. A state agency or federal agency may apply for funding under this section only as a co-applicant with one of the other eligible entities. Any of these applicants or co-applicants may also serve as a fiscal agent for grants.

(4) The Board may require additional information to aid in evaluating and considering a proposed watershed project.

(5) The Board may use a regional review team or other technical team to review grant applications and make funding recommendations to the staff or Board.

(6) The Board may rank projects in selecting projects for funding.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0050

Grant Agreement Conditions

(1) The Board will enter into new agreements ~~or amendments to existing agreements for time extensions and award amounts~~ with prior Grantees only if all reporting obligations under earlier agreements have been met.

(2) If the grant agreement has not been fully executed by all the parties within one year of Board approval, funding shall be terminated. The money allocated to the grant shall be available for reallocation by the Board.

(3) The Director shall establish grant agreement conditions for each grant type. Grantees shall comply with all grant agreement conditions.

(4) The Grantee shall comply with all federal, state and local laws and ordinances applicable to the work to be done under the agreement.

(5) All project activities must demonstrate, to the extent possible, consistency with local community workforce and economic development plans and policies.

(6) Following project completion, equipment purchased with Board funds shall reside with the G~~g~~rantee or another approved entity. ~~any of the following: watershed council, soil and water conservation district, tribe, local government, state agency, institution of higher learning, or a school district.~~ These entities will make the equipment available to others at no cost, other than nominal operation and maintenance costs.

(7) Upon notice to the Grantee in writing, the Director may terminate funding for projects not completed in the prescribed time and manner. The money allocated to the project but not used will be available for reallocation by the Board.

(8) The Grantee will account for funds distributed by the Board, using project expense forms provided.

(9) The Grantee will obtain the necessary permits and licenses from local, state or federal agencies or governing bodies and provide a copy to the Board.

(10) The Board may place additional conditions in the Grant Agreement as necessary to carry out the purpose of the watershed enhancement program. Such conditions may include:

(a) A commitment by the landowner for continued access for monitoring the project after completion;

(b) A commitment by the Grantee to maintain the project for a period of time as deemed appropriate by the Board;

(c) A commitment to supply future reports on the project as required;

(d) Such other conditions as the Board deems appropriate to the particular circumstances of the project.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0060

Distribution of Funds

~~(1) The Board will not reimburse the Grantee for any expenditures incurred prior to the signing of the grant agreement by all parties, except for fees charged by an affected city or county for processing the required Land Use Information Sheet.~~

(2) The Director may withhold payments to a Grantee in a situation where there are significant and persistent difficulties with satisfying Board requirements.

(3) Prior to disbursement of Board funds, the Grantee must provide proof that the 25% required match, based on the total Board award, has been secured.

(4) Prior to disbursement of Board funds for projects involving private lands, the Board must receive certification from the Grantee that they will obtain, prior to expending Board funds on a property, a cooperative agreement from the landowner that, at a minimum, includes:

(a) Permission to access the private land, at times agreeable to the landowner, to implement the project, inspect the project, track the status of the project, or perform repairs or maintenance;

(b) Permission for the Board or its representatives to access the private land for inspection and evaluation of the project; and

(c) Identification of the party responsible for repairs and maintenance of the project.

(5) Funds shall not be disbursed until the Board receives satisfactory evidence that necessary permits and licenses have been granted and documents required by the Board have been submitted.

(6) Funds will be released upon presentation of a completed fund release request form accompanied by documents as determined by the ~~executive director~~Director~~receipts or invoices~~, and proof of completion of specific work elements of the project as identified in the Grant Agreement.

(7) Advance funds may be released upon presentation of a detailed estimate of expenses for up to 120 days. Within 120 days of the date of the advance check, receipts or invoices for the advance must be submitted, a justification to extend the advance must be approved, or the unexpended advance funds must be returned to the Board. Additional funds will not be released until receipts for expenditures of previous fund releases are submitted, or an estimate of expenditures is approved by the Director.

(8) ~~The executive director~~~~Board shall retain~~All grant agreements authorized by the Board shall have a clause that requires the retention of up to ten percent of project funds until the final report, as required in the grant agreement, has been approved. Final reports are due within 60

days of project completion. Any unexpended Board funds must be returned to the Board with the final report. Upon receipt of the final report, the Board shall have 90 days to approve the completed report or notify the Grantee of any concerns that must be addressed or missing information that must be submitted before the report is considered complete and reviewed for approval. Once the final report has been approved the final payment shall be promptly processed.

(9) All Grantees shall account for at least 25% in actual match, on a form prescribed by the Board, based on the total Board grant expenditures, upon project conclusion and final reporting.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0070

Waiver of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of division 5, unless they are required by statute, for individual grants, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's grant program. Any waiver granted shall be in writing and included in the permanent file of the individual grant for which the waiver was granted.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

695-005-0080

Periodic Rules Review and Program Evaluation

The Board shall review the grant program and rules at least once every five years and make changes as needed to carry out a high quality and effective program.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

DIVISION 10

RESTORATION GRANTS

695-010-0010

Purpose

The Board shall provide grants, as funds are available, for watershed projects that protect or restore watershed functions.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0020

Definitions

(1) "Affected City and County" means any city or county within which all or part of a watershed enhancement project funded by the Board would be located.

(2) "Maintenance" means those activities and actions necessary to sustain the useful life of a constructed watershed improvement. Maintenance does not include those activities necessary to establish the improvement.

~~(3) "Non-Structural Methods" are those that rely on strategies other than the creation and installation of permanent structures, except livestock fencing, to meet the project goals.~~

(4) "Watershed Restoration Project" means a project that involves an on-the-ground element such as: riparian planting, fish habitat construction, wetland restoration, livestock grazing plans, water conservation projects utilizing the state Conserved Water Program, etc.

(5) "Watershed Function" means the hydrologic and geomorphic processes that support a healthy watershed ecosystem.

(6) "Watershed Health" means the condition of a watershed as measured by the ability of the watershed to capture, store and release water, and transport sediment and nutrients in order to provide clean water, high quality fish and wildlife habitat, and adequate streamflows to support instream uses.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-010-0030

Watershed Restoration Priorities

For grant applications to be funded by the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund, the following preferences will apply:

(1) Projects that address altered watershed functions affecting water quality, water flow volume and duration, and the production capacity for fish over projects that address site-specific land use problems where the greatest benefit is to a private resource or land.

(2) Projects that include removal or remediation of human-caused alterations (roads, culverts, channelization, etc.) to improve water quality and/or fish habitat over projects that enhance naturally functioning systems.

(3) Projects that change land management practices to address the causes of chronic disturbances to the watershed over projects that address only symptoms of disturbance.

(4) Projects with direct evidence of collaboration between stakeholders and agencies over single-party projects.

(5) Projects focusing on upslope and upstream treatments over projects focusing on downslope and downstream treatments, unless the project addresses tidal-driven systems or addresses other specific issues (e.g. historic losses) that encompass whole watershed conditions.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2011, f. & cert. ef. 10-18-11

695-010-0040

Ineligible Project Types

The Board will not consider:

(1) A watershed improvement project that consists solely of construction of a water storage structure for an out-of-stream use not related to watershed restoration or protection; or

(2) A fish screening project eligible for funding through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's fish screening program; or

(3) A watershed improvement project constructed solely to comply with a state or federal agency enforcement order, legal judgment or mitigation requirement; or

(4) Routine project maintenance costs; or

(5) A water conservation project, unless there is a measurable instream flow benefit, groundwater benefit or water quality improvement.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0050

Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted on the most current form prescribed by the Board. An explanation must accompany the application if any of the following information required under this section cannot be provided:

(1) Land use information from affected counties and cities as referenced in OAR chapter 695, division 50;

(2) A statement that required permits or licenses from federal, state, or local government will be applied for;

(3) A commitment from a state, federal or local agency to inspect the completed project work to ensure it complies with the funding requirements;

(4) A plan to monitor and evaluate project results including identification of responsible parties;

(5) A plan for operation and maintenance of the project for the projected life including identification of the responsible parties; and

(6) Additional information that will aid the Board in evaluating the project under OAR 695-010-0060.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0060

Evaluation Criteria

(1) Project applications will be reviewed for compliance with the items in OAR 695-005-0030 and 695-010-0050.

(2) Watershed restoration projects funded from the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund must provide a public benefit by supporting improved:

(a) Water quality;

(b) Native fish or wildlife habitat; or

(c) Watershed or ecosystem function.

(3) Watershed restoration project proposals must meet the following criteria to be considered for funding by the Board:

(a) The project demonstrates sound principles of watershed management;

(b) The project uses methods adapted to the project locale;

(c) The project complies with state land use planning goals and is compatible with acknowledged comprehensive plans as required under ORS 197.180; and

(d) The project ~~meets the requirements in the Oregon Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Guide~~ follows ~~found in~~ professionally~~generally~~ accepted restoration ~~standards~~approaches resulting in ecological or watershed benefits.

(4) Watershed restoration projects meeting the criteria established by subsection (1) above will be further evaluated based on:

(a) Clarity; the proposal:

(A) Will be implemented using a clearly defined and appropriate method to address the problem;

(B) Has clearly stated objectives and is likely to meet these; and

(C) Is ready to be implemented.

(b) Technical soundness; the proposal:

(A) Addresses limiting factors or watershed health problems by treating the causes rather than the symptoms;

(B) Identifies and evaluates alternatives to address the identified problem; and

(C) Quantifies watershed benefits.

(c) Cost effectiveness; the proposal:

(A) Provides an overall budget that reflects expected, and quantified, watershed health benefits; and

(B) Reflects reasonable rates for direct costs and match.

(d) Watershed context; the proposal:

(A) Considers likely impacts to the site and adjacent properties during and after project implementation;

(B) Provides context for and addresses watershed function and ecosystem processes, including water quality and fish and wildlife life stages;

(C) Implements a specific action within an explicit geography prioritized in a watershed restoration plan;

(D)Fits within the context of past and planned future restoration efforts in the watershed; and

(E) Provides or promotes public awareness that may lead to opportunities for watershed restoration or enhancement.

(e) Capacity; the applicant:

(A) Engages appropriate partners;

(B) Demonstrates successful long-term stewardship and maintenance is likely; and

(C) Demonstrates a past grant record with timely project completeness, accounting, and reporting as well as whether past projects were completed as proposed, using information provided by Board staff.

~~(4) Watershed restoration projects meeting the criteria established by subsection (1) above will be further evaluated on the basis of the extent to which the project:~~

~~(a) Is based on a watershed assessment or other analytical tool that identifies specific watershed health problems;~~

~~(b) Is part of a watershed action plan or other strategic plan that prioritizes subwatersheds or project types within subwatersheds;~~

~~(c) Clearly defines and addresses a watershed health problem or known limiting factors;~~

~~(d) Has clearly stated objectives and is likely to meet these;~~

~~(e) Will be implemented using a clearly defined method to address the problem;~~

~~(f) Provides educational opportunities or promotes public awareness of watershed enhancement benefits;~~

~~(g) Fits within the context of past and planned future restoration efforts in the watershed;~~

~~(h) Improves watershed function;~~

~~(i) Treats the causes of the identified problems, rather than treating symptoms;~~

~~(j) Encourages the use of non structural methods to enhance riparian areas and associated uplands;~~

~~(k) Includes funds or in-kind services from non-Board sources;~~

~~(l) Is proposed in the context of fish and wildlife species life stages, upland conditions and year-round watershed functions;~~

~~(m) Takes into consideration the quality of the watershed above and below the project area;~~

~~(n) Takes into consideration known potential future events that may affect the success of the project;~~

~~(o) Takes into consideration potential impacts to other properties and streams in the area;~~

~~(p) Is ready to be implemented; and~~

~~(q) Identifies and evaluates alternatives to address the identified problem.~~

~~(5) Watershed restoration projects shall also be evaluated based on the following administrative and fiscal criteria:~~

~~(a) The amount of the administrative costs relative to the project's fiscal management complexity;~~

~~(b) The applicant's past grant record with regard to timely project completeness, accounting and reporting as well as whether past projects were completed as proposed, using information provided by Board staff;~~

~~(c) The extent to which the personnel costs reflect the tasks involved in implementing the project;~~

~~(d) Whether the direct costs and match values reflect local market rates; and~~

~~(e) Whether the overall budget reflects the expected watershed health benefit.~~

~~[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]~~

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2011, f. & cert. ef. 10-18-11; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-010-0070

Regional Review Process

(1) Prior to the regional review team meeting the regional review team:

(a) Shall receive each application, past evaluations for projects resubmitted in the current grant cycle, and an evaluation sheet to complete for each application;

(b) Is encouraged to visit proposed project sites to enhance the understanding of the proposal. Priority for visitations will be placed on acquisitions, complex projects, new types of projects and projects with a significant budget; and

(c) Shall read and score each application using the evaluation sheets provided. During this process, team members are encouraged to contact the applicants, Board staff, or other agency staff to clarify information in the application or to get expert review.

(2) At the regional review team meeting, the team shall:

(a) Review and evaluate each project individually based on how well the proposed project meets the criteria in 695-010-0060;

(b) Recommend the project as;

(A) Do fund;

(B) Do fund with conditions;

(C) Do not fund; or

(D) Defer to staff or the Board with an explanation, if there is a policy issue or budget issue that needs to be addressed by the Board prior to a funding decision; and

(c) Rank order all projects recommended for funding based on;

(A) How well the project meets the criteria established in 695-010-0030 and 695-010-0060;

(B) The certainty of success, based on the organizational capacity of the applicant and the likelihood the project will meet its ecological objectives;

(C) The benefit to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, as evidenced by its expected benefits to watershed functions, fish habitat or water quality; and

(D) The project costs relative to the anticipated watershed health benefits.

(3) The project description, summary evaluation and funding recommendation for all projects, and the rank order of projects recommended for funding shall be forwarded from the regional review team to Board staff for their consideration. This information will be sent to all applicants within a region for their region and for all regions to the Board.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0080

Staff Funding Recommendation Process

(1) Prior to the finalization of a staff recommendation to the Board, the staff may meet with a Board subcommittee to discuss projects with major policy or budget issues that need to be resolved prior to a final Board decision.

(2) Staff shall review the recommendations from each regional review team and make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period and type. The recommendation shall include any conditions placed on individual projects and may include proposed budget adjustments. The staff recommendation, as represented in the staff report to the Board, shall be sent to applicants and members of the Regional Review Teams at least two weeks before the Board meeting where funding decisions are to be made.

(3) Applicants may provide written or oral comment to the Board on the staff recommendation prior to the Board decision.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0090

Board Funding Decision

(1) The Board may fund a project in whole or in part.

(2) Projects not funded may be resubmitted during application submission periods prescribed by the Board.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0100

Grant Agreement Conditions

(1) The Grantee must submit a report at completion of the project describing the work done and placing it in its larger watershed context.

(2) The Grantee will track the status of the project, and continue its maintenance, submitting periodic reports on a schedule set by the Board. All reports will be filed with the Board or at a location specified by the Board.

(3) The Grantee must agree to complete the project as approved by the Board and within the timeframe specified in the grant agreement unless proposed modifications are submitted and approved by the Director prior to the beginning of any work proposed in the modification.

(4) The Director will consider project modifications including expansion of funded projects with moneys remaining from the original project allocation if the purpose and intent of the amendment remains the same as the original project, the proposed activity is within the same watershed, and the modification would be compatible with acknowledged comprehensive plans.

(5) The Director may authorize minor changes within the scope of the original project plan.

(6) The Grantee will allow Board members or designated representatives access to the project area at a mutually agreeable time to monitor and evaluate the project.

(7) The Grantee must submit as part of their final report a completed Oregon Watershed Restoration Reporting form, using the most current form available on the OWEB website.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

695-010-0110

Waiver of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of division 10, unless they are required by statute, for individual grants, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's grant program. Any waiver granted shall be in writing and included in the permanent file of the individual grant for which the waiver was granted.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

DIVISION 5

OWEB GRANT PROGRAM

695-005-0010

Purpose

These rules guide the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in accepting applications and considering grant proposals for funding under the provisions of ORS 541.890, et seq. The Board grant program includes grants described in 695-005-0020 et seq. for watershed restoration, monitoring, watershed assessment and action planning, watershed council support, watershed education and outreach, land and water acquisition, and small grants. In addition, the Board may from time to time, as funds are available, request proposals for technical assistance and research.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0020

Definitions

(1) "Board" means the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board created under ORS 541.900.

(2) "Director" means the Executive Director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board or the Executive Director’s designee.

(3) "Grant Agreement" is the legally binding contract between the Board and the grant recipient. It consists of the conditions specified in these rules, the notice of grant award, special conditions to the agreement, a certification to comply with applicable state and federal regulations, the project budget and the approved application for funding the project.

(4) "Regional Review Team" is a team, appointed by the Director, of designated personnel with regional knowledge and interdisciplinary expertise drawn from agencies represented on the Board and other entities to evaluate regional grant applications. The Director may change the composition of regional review teams.

(5) "Partners" are non-governmental or governmental persons or entities that have committed funding, expertise, materials, labor, or other assistance to a proposed project.

(6) "Match" is any contribution to a project that is non-Board funds. Match may include:

(a) Cash on hand or cash that is pledged to be on hand prior to commencement of the project;

(b) Secured funding commitments from other sources;

(c) Pending commitments of funding from other sources. In such instances, Board funding will not be released prior to secured commitment of the other funds. Pending commitments of the funding must be secured within 12 months from the date of the award; or

(d) The value of in-kind labor, equipment rental and materials essential to the project, based on local market rates.

(7) "OWEB" means the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board state agency.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

695-005-0030

Application Requirements

(1) Applications must be submitted on the most current form prescribed by the Board. Current applications are available on the OWEB website. An explanation must accompany the application if any of the information required on the application cannot be provided. In addition to the information required in the application, and the required attachments, an applicant may submit additional information that will aid the Board in evaluating the project.

(2) All applicants for Board grants shall supply the following information:

(a) Names, physical and email addresses, and telephone numbers of the applicant contact person(s) and the fiscal officer(s);

(b) Name and address of involved landowner(s);

(c) The name and location of the proposed project. The location shall be described in reference to the public land survey, latitude and longitude using decimal degrees, North American Datum 1983, county, watershed, and stream mile, if appropriate;

(d) Estimated line item budget for the project using the most current budget form prescribed by the Board. Current budget forms are available on the OWEB website;

(e) Identification of specific project elements for which Board funds will be used;

(f) A list of any non-Board funds, services or materials available or secured for the project and any conditions which may affect the completion of the project;

(g) If the project is part of a multi-year project, and a new funding request continues a previously Board-funded activity, a description of the previous project accomplishments and results as well as an accounting of past expenditures and revenues for the project;

(h) Identification of volunteers and partners and the contribution they will make to the project;

(i) A project schedule including times of project beginning and completion; and

(j) Any information requested that is necessary to evaluate the project based on the evaluation criteria for that project type.

(3) All applicants shall demonstrate at least 25% match is being sought, on a form prescribed by the Board, based on the total Board grant request, at the time of application.

(4) All applications that involve physical changes or monitoring on private land must include certification from the applicant that the applicant has informed all landowners involved of the existence of the application and has also advised all landowners that all monitoring information obtained on their property is public record. If contact with all landowner was not possible at the time of application, explain why.

(6) Applications will be considered complete as submitted. Clarification of information may be sought from the applicant during the evaluation process but additional, new information will not be accepted after the application deadline.

(7) Applicants are encouraged to submit requests for up to $10,000 for watershed restoration projects to the Small Grant Team in their Small Grant Area, unless the project is not eligible for funding under the Small Grant Program or the Small Grant Program has no funds available at the time of application. Applicants may not submit the same proposal to both the Board and the Small Grant Team.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0040

Application Processing

(2) Project applications will be reviewed based on application completeness and the evaluation criteria adopted by the Board for each grant type in these rules.

(3) A regular grant applicant may be any tribe, watershed council, soil and water conservation district, not-for-profit institution, school, community college, state institution of higher education, independent not-for-profit institution of higher education, or political subdivision of this state that is not a state agency. A state agency or federal agency may apply for funding under this section only as a co-applicant with one of the other eligible entities. Any of these applicants or co-applicants may also serve as a fiscal agent for grants.

(4) The Board may require additional information to aid in evaluating and considering a proposed watershed project.

(5) The Board may use a regional review team or other technical team to review grant applications and make funding recommendations to the staff or Board.

(6) The Board may rank projects in selecting projects for funding.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0050

Grant Agreement Conditions

(1) The Board will enter into new agreements with prior Grantees only if all reporting obligations under earlier agreements have been met.

(2) If the grant agreement has not been fully executed by all the parties within one year of Board approval, funding shall be terminated. The money allocated to the grant shall be available for reallocation by the Board.

(3) The Director shall establish grant agreement conditions for each grant type. Grantees shall comply with all grant agreement conditions.

(4) The Grantee shall comply with all federal, state and local laws and ordinances applicable to the work to be done under the agreement.

(5) All project activities must demonstrate, to the extent possible, consistency with local community workforce and economic development plans and policies.

(6) Following project completion, equipment purchased with Board funds shall reside with the Grantee or another approved entity. These entities will make the equipment available to others at no cost, other than nominal operation and maintenance costs.

(7) Upon notice to the Grantee in writing, the Director may terminate funding for projects not completed in the prescribed time and manner. The money allocated to the project but not used will be available for reallocation by the Board.

(8) The Grantee will account for funds distributed by the Board, using project expense forms provided.

(9) The Grantee will obtain the necessary permits and licenses from local, state or federal agencies or governing bodies and provide a copy to the Board.

(10) The Board may place additional conditions in the Grant Agreement as necessary to carry out the purpose of the watershed enhancement program. Such conditions may include:

(a) A commitment by the landowner for continued access for monitoring the project after completion;

(b) A commitment by the Grantee to maintain the project for a period of time as deemed appropriate by the Board;

(c) A commitment to supply future reports on the project as required;

(d) Such other conditions as the Board deems appropriate to the particular circumstances of the project.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0060

Distribution of Funds

(2) The Director may withhold payments to a Grantee in a situation where there are significant and persistent difficulties with satisfying Board requirements.

(3) Prior to disbursement of Board funds, the Grantee must provide proof that the 25% required match, based on the total Board award, has been secured.

(4) Prior to disbursement of Board funds for projects involving private lands, the Board must receive certification from the Grantee that they will obtain, prior to expending Board funds on a property, a cooperative agreement from the landowner that, at a minimum, includes:

(a) Permission to access the private land, at times agreeable to the landowner, to implement the project, inspect the project, track the status of the project, or perform repairs or maintenance;

(b) Permission for the Board or its representatives to access the private land for inspection and evaluation of the project; and

(c) Identification of the party responsible for repairs and maintenance of the project.

(5) Funds shall not be disbursed until the Board receives satisfactory evidence that necessary permits and licenses have been granted and documents required by the Board have been submitted.

(6) Funds will be released upon presentation of a completed fund release request form accompanied by documents as determined by the Director, and proof of completion of specific work elements of the project as identified in the Grant Agreement.

(7) Advance funds may be released upon presentation of a detailed estimate of expenses for up to 120 days. Within 120 days of the date of the advance check, receipts or invoices for the advance must be submitted, a justification to extend the advance must be approved, or the unexpended advance funds must be returned to the Board. Additional funds will not be released until receipts for expenditures of previous fund releases are submitted, or an estimate of expenditures is approved by the Director.

(8) All grant agreements authorized by the Board shall have a clause that requires the retention of up to ten percent of project funds until the final report, as required in the grant agreement, has been approved. Final reports are due within 60 days of project completion. Any unexpended Board funds must be returned to the Board with the final report. Upon receipt of the final report, the Board shall have 90 days to approve the completed report or notify the Grantee of any concerns that must be addressed or missing information that must be submitted before the report is considered complete and reviewed for approval. Once the final report has been approved the final payment shall be promptly processed.

(9) All Grantees shall account for at least 25% in actual match, on a form prescribed by the Board, based on the total Board grant expenditures, upon project conclusion and final reporting.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0070

Waiver of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of division 5, unless they are required by statute, for individual grants, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's grant program. Any waiver granted shall be in writing and included in the permanent file of the individual grant for which the waiver was granted.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

695-005-0080

Periodic Rules Review and Program Evaluation

The Board shall review the grant program and rules at least once every five years and make changes as needed to carry out a high quality and effective program.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

DIVISION 10

RESTORATION GRANTS

695-010-0010

Purpose

The Board shall provide grants, as funds are available, for watershed projects that protect or restore watershed functions.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0020

Definitions

(1) "Affected City and County" means any city or county within which all or part of a watershed enhancement project funded by the Board would be located.

(2) "Maintenance" means those activities and actions necessary to sustain the useful life of a constructed watershed improvement. Maintenance does not include those activities necessary to establish the improvement.

(4) "Watershed Restoration Project" means a project that involves an on-the-ground element such as: riparian planting, fish habitat construction, wetland restoration, livestock grazing plans, water conservation projects utilizing the state Conserved Water Program, etc.

(5) "Watershed Function" means the hydrologic and geomorphic processes that support a healthy watershed ecosystem.

(6) "Watershed Health" means the condition of a watershed as measured by the ability of the watershed to capture, store and release water, and transport sediment and nutrients in order to provide clean water, high quality fish and wildlife habitat, and adequate streamflows to support instream uses.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-010-0030

Watershed Restoration Priorities

For grant applications to be funded by the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund, the following preferences will apply:

(1) Projects that address altered watershed functions affecting water quality, water flow volume and duration, and the production capacity for fish over projects that address site-specific land use problems where the greatest benefit is to a private resource or land.

(2) Projects that include removal or remediation of human-caused alterations (roads, culverts, channelization, etc.) to improve water quality and/or fish habitat over projects that enhance naturally functioning systems.

(3) Projects that change land management practices to address the causes of chronic disturbances to the watershed over projects that address only symptoms of disturbance.

(4) Projects with direct evidence of collaboration between stakeholders and agencies over single-party projects.

(5) Projects focusing on upslope and upstream treatments over projects focusing on downslope and downstream treatments, unless the project addresses tidal-driven systems or addresses other specific issues (e.g. historic losses) that encompass whole watershed conditions.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2011, f. & cert. ef. 10-18-11

695-010-0040

Ineligible Project Types

The Board will not consider:

(1) A watershed improvement project that consists solely of construction of a water storage structure for an out-of-stream use not related to watershed restoration or protection; or

(2) A fish screening project eligible for funding through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's fish screening program; or

(3) A watershed improvement project constructed solely to comply with a state or federal agency enforcement order, legal judgment or mitigation requirement; or

(4) Routine project maintenance costs; or

(5) A water conservation project, unless there is a measurable instream flow benefit, groundwater benefit or water quality improvement.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0050

Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted on the most current form prescribed by the Board. An explanation must accompany the application if any of the following information required under this section cannot be provided:

(1) Land use information from affected counties and cities as referenced in OAR chapter 695, division 50;

(2) A statement that required permits or licenses from federal, state, or local government will be applied for;

(3) A commitment from a state, federal or local agency to inspect the completed project work to ensure it complies with the funding requirements;

(4) A plan to monitor and evaluate project results including identification of responsible parties;

(5) A plan for operation and maintenance of the project for the projected life including identification of the responsible parties; and

(6) Additional information that will aid the Board in evaluating the project under OAR 695-010-0060.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0060

Evaluation Criteria

(1) Project applications will be reviewed for compliance with the items in OAR 695-005-0030 and 695-010-0050.

(2) Watershed restoration projects funded from the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund must provide a public benefit by supporting improved:

(a) Water quality;

(b) Native fish or wildlife habitat; or

(c) Watershed or ecosystem function.

(3) Watershed restoration project proposals must meet the following criteria to be considered for funding by the Board:

(a) The project demonstrates sound principles of watershed management;

(b) The project uses methods adapted to the project locale;

(c) The project complies with state land use planning goals and is compatible with acknowledged comprehensive plans as required under ORS 197.180; and

(d) The project follows professionally accepted restoration approaches resulting in ecological or watershed benefits.

(4) Watershed restoration projects meeting the criteria established by subsection (1) above will be further evaluated based on:

(a) Clarity; the proposal:

(A) Will be implemented using a clearly defined and appropriate method to address the problem;

(B) Has clearly stated objectives and is likely to meet these; and

(C) Is ready to be implemented.

(b) Technical soundness; the proposal:

(A) Addresses limiting factors or watershed health problems by treating the causes rather than the symptoms;

(B) Identifies and evaluates alternatives to address the identified problem; and

(C) Quantifies watershed benefits.

(c) Cost effectiveness; the proposal:

(A) Provides an overall budget that reflects expected, and quantified, watershed health benefits; and

(B) Reflects reasonable rates for direct costs and match.

(d) Watershed context; the proposal:

(A) Considers likely impacts to the site and adjacent properties during and after project implementation;

(B) Provides context for and addresses watershed function and ecosystem processes, including water quality and fish and wildlife life stages;

(C) Implements a specific action within an explicit geography prioritized in a watershed restoration plan;

(D)Fits within the context of past and planned future restoration efforts in the watershed; and

(E) Provides or promotes public awareness that may lead to opportunities for watershed restoration or enhancement.

(e) Capacity; the applicant:

(A) Engages appropriate partners;

(B) Demonstrates successful long-term stewardship and maintenance is likely; and

(C) Demonstrates a past grant record with timely project completeness, accounting, and reporting as well as whether past projects were completed as proposed, using information provided by Board staff.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2011, f. & cert. ef. 10-18-11; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-010-0070

Regional Review Process

(1) Prior to the regional review team meeting the regional review team:

(a) Shall receive each application, past evaluations for projects resubmitted in the current grant cycle, and an evaluation sheet to complete for each application;

(b) Is encouraged to visit proposed project sites to enhance the understanding of the proposal. Priority for visitations will be placed on acquisitions, complex projects, new types of projects and projects with a significant budget; and

(c) Shall read and score each application using the evaluation sheets provided. During this process, team members are encouraged to contact the applicants, Board staff, or other agency staff to clarify information in the application or to get expert review.

(2) At the regional review team meeting, the team shall:

(a) Review and evaluate each project individually based on how well the proposed project meets the criteria in 695-010-0060;

(b) Recommend the project as;

(A) Do fund;

(B) Do fund with conditions;

(C) Do not fund; or

(D) Defer to staff or the Board with an explanation, if there is a policy issue or budget issue that needs to be addressed by the Board prior to a funding decision; and

(c) Rank order all projects recommended for funding based on;

(A) How well the project meets the criteria established in 695-010-0030 and 695-010-0060;

(B) The certainty of success, based on the organizational capacity of the applicant and the likelihood the project will meet its ecological objectives;

(C) The benefit to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, as evidenced by its expected benefits to watershed functions, fish habitat or water quality; and

(D) The project costs relative to the anticipated watershed health benefits.

(3) The project description, summary evaluation and funding recommendation for all projects, and the rank order of projects recommended for funding shall be forwarded from the regional review team to Board staff for their consideration. This information will be sent to all applicants within a region for their region and for all regions to the Board.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0080

Staff Funding Recommendation Process

(1) Prior to the finalization of a staff recommendation to the Board, the staff may meet with a Board subcommittee to discuss projects with major policy or budget issues that need to be resolved prior to a final Board decision.

(2) Staff shall review the recommendations from each regional review team and make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period and type. The recommendation shall include any conditions placed on individual projects and may include proposed budget adjustments. The staff recommendation, as represented in the staff report to the Board, shall be sent to applicants and members of the Regional Review Teams at least two weeks before the Board meeting where funding decisions are to be made.

(3) Applicants may provide written or oral comment to the Board on the staff recommendation prior to the Board decision.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0090

Board Funding Decision

(1) The Board may fund a project in whole or in part.

(2) Projects not funded may be resubmitted during application submission periods prescribed by the Board.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0100

Grant Agreement Conditions

(1) The Grantee must submit a report at completion of the project describing the work done and placing it in its larger watershed context.

(2) The Grantee will track the status of the project, and continue its maintenance, submitting periodic reports on a schedule set by the Board. All reports will be filed with the Board or at a location specified by the Board.

(3) The Grantee must agree to complete the project as approved by the Board and within the timeframe specified in the grant agreement unless proposed modifications are submitted and approved by the Director prior to the beginning of any work proposed in the modification.

(4) The Director will consider project modifications including expansion of funded projects with moneys remaining from the original project allocation if the purpose and intent of the amendment remains the same as the original project, the proposed activity is within the same watershed, and the modification would be compatible with acknowledged comprehensive plans.

(5) The Director may authorize minor changes within the scope of the original project plan.

(6) The Grantee will allow Board members or designated representatives access to the project area at a mutually agreeable time to monitor and evaluate the project.

(7) The Grantee must submit as part of their final report a completed Oregon Watershed Restoration Reporting form, using the most current form available on the OWEB website.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

695-010-0110

Waiver of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of division 10, unless they are required by statute, for individual grants, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's grant program. Any waiver granted shall be in writing and included in the permanent file of the individual grant for which the waiver was granted.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

This report provides the board an update on the 2017 legislative session and information about the status of OWEB's 2017-2019 budget.

Background

The Legislature began the 2017 legislative session on February 1 and is expected to adjourn by early July, 2017.

The Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. In preparing for the next biennium, budgets are structured so that each agency's Current Service Level (CSL, or "base") budget is recalibrated and submitted without need for specific policy description or justification. Any resources requested to be added to the base budget by agencies must be identified separately with full policy narratives and justification of funds requested. The requested additions to an agency's base budget are called "Policy Packages" or POPs.

Governor's Recommended Budget and Next Steps

The Governor's Office released the Governor's state budget recommendations, known as the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) on December 1, 2016. This budget proposal includes agency POPs that reflect the Governor's priorities and initiatives. The GRB is the starting point for agency budget discussions at legislative hearings. During the session, agencies may advocate for their individual POPs only to the extent that these are included in the GRB.

Attachment A contains a brief summary of the OWEB's budget. OWEB's budget primarily relates to the Governor's 'Responsible Environmental Stewardship' focus area. The GRB retains nearly all of the components of the Program Continuity package requested by OWEB, including four positions (i.e., River Basin/Native Fish Partnerships Coordinator, Coast Coho/Clean Water Partnerships Coordinator, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator, and Conservation Outcomes Specialist) and rental costs for the North Coast field office. The Governor's Budget also includes staffing and grant funds in support of forest collaborative grant-making on behalf of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), using Other Funds provided by ODF to OWEB. It does not include requested funds for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

Following release of the Governor's Budget, OWEB staff updated budget documents to reflect the Governor's Budget. These documents were submitted to DAS CFO prior to the start of the legislative session. On a parallel track and at the request of the Legislative Fiscal Office, staff submitted reduction options from CSL in 5% increments up to 15%.

In February, the Legislature convened and initiated the legislative budget development process. OWEB's agency budget will be before the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee during public hearings on April 6th and 10th. The first day (4/6) includes a presentation by OWEB staff of the agency's budget per the GRB, followed by questions from the subcommittee members. The second day (4/10) provides opportunity for testimony from the public about OWEB's budget; if needed, it may also include additional questions from the committee to the agency. Work sessions on agency budgets then will occur following the budget hearings, but are not yet scheduled.

Related to OWEB's 2017-2019 budget, staff have submitted the final grant application to NOAA Fisheries for funding under the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). OWEB, on behalf of the State of Oregon, is requesting $25 million, the maximum amount of funding possible. This request will provide a required 33% match, which comes from lottery funding, salmon license plates, and match from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Consistent with the last few years, funding received from NOAA will be used to satisfy both OWEB's and ODFW's budget needs if the Legislature approves the use of these funds in both of the agencies' budgets.

OWEB Policy Bills

House Bill (HB) 2327 is the agency bill to revise OWEB's statutes. The statute revisions are intended to include additional language that will revitalize certain statutes and remove aspects of the statutes that are no longer relevant. Some statutes for which repeal or revisions are recommended no longer apply due to statutory changes made by the Legislature in previous years, while others reflect changes to the way OWEB serves the public.

In addition to general statutory cleanup, the bill provides two substantive changes related to 1) adding U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an ex-officio member to the OWEB Board, and 2) removing language that allows DAS to provide liability coverage for watershed councils, based on the fact that OWEB is putting in place stronger requirements for all grantees. At the time of writing this staff report, HB 2327 has passed both chambers of the Legislature and is now pending the Governor's signature. If the Governor chooses to sign HB 2327, it will become law on January 1, 2018.

OWEB staff are also tracking a number of other bills relevant to the agency. These include the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund (HB 3249) which would develop a program to support working farms and ranches, while at the same time supporting fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and other natural resource values. Staff will update the board at the April meeting about these bills and any other legislation that is of relevance to the agency.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203, or Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at eric.hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-986-0029.

Attachments

A. Budget and Legislative Handout

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD
2017-2019 Governor's Budget and Agency Legislation

	2015-2017 Legislatively Adopted Budget	2017-2019 Governor's Budget
General Fund	$0	$0
Lottery Funds	$62,482,687	$72,300,559
Other Funds	$3,553,093	$3,781,360
Federal Funds	$37,274,113	$41,668,724
Total Funds	$103,309,893	$117,750,643
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	34.25	32.99

HB 2327 OWEB Statute Revisions

In addition to general clean-up, HB 2327 includes the following revisions to OWEB statutes:

- Adding a representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a non-voting member of the OWEB Board. USFWS plays an important role in funding and implementing watershed enhancement projects across the state, and the addition of a USFWS representative to the Board will provide important guidance to the agency on a broad array of issues.
- Repealing language in statute that the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) may provide liability coverage for watershed councils at the expense of OWEB, and replacing with language requiring grantees to obtain liability insurance. The liability coverage provided by DAS is limited, and OWEB staff is working with stakeholders to ensure grantees obtain appropriate levels of liability insurance commensurate with activities.
- Repealing the requirement for other natural resource agencies to provide written reports related to the enhancement or restoration of riparian areas or associated uplands to OWEB to assist in developing and maintaining a centralized repository. The widespread use of the Internet has made this requirement unnecessary, as reports are posted on agency websites and other information clearinghouses found online.
- Repealing elements in OWEB statutes related to Oregon Plan status reporting on watershed and key habitat conditions in each drainage basin in the state. The State does not have data or resources to adequately address this biennial status reporting requirement in a geographically consistent manner.

2017–2019 Critical Budget Issues

Program Continuity

Provides capacity to effectively deliver grants, manage operations of 17-member board and stay abreast of emerging funding opportunities while reporting accomplishments of OWEB investments.

- NRS4 – River Basin/Native Fish Partnerships Coordinator (FF: PCSRF/BPA). Manages three current Focused Investment Partnerships: the Upper Deschutes, the Upper Grande Ronde, and the Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat. $271,143

- NRS4 – Coast Coho/Clean Watershed Partnerships Coordinator (FF: PCSRF). Manages five current programs: Water Acquisitions grant program, Strategic Investment Area grant program, the Coastal Wetlands grant program, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program's technical assistance work, and the Coastal Coho Business planning effort. $242,397
- NRS-4 - Conservation Outcomes Coordinator (FF: PCSRF). Limited duration; measures and reports on ecological, economic, and social outcomes resulting from OWEB grant investments at the landscape level. Coordinates with various agencies and stakeholders to implement the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership and similar initiatives (including those with a connection to salmon habitat and recovery), and develop metrics and evaluation methods. $234,740
- NRS-3 - Conservation Outcomes Specialist (LF: Ops). Limited duration; measures and reports on ecological, economic, and social outcomes resulting from OWEB grant investments at the landscape level. $198,165
- Office Rent (LF: Ops). Biennial rent, Region 1, to share office space with Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries in Newport. $12,000

Federal Forest Health Policy Packages

- Additional Grant Funds: This policy package proposes to allow OWEB to receive and allocate funds up to $750,000 (OF), should additional funds be appropriated by the Legislature, for grants to forest collaboratives under the State's Federal Forest Health Program in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).
- Federal Forest Health Grant Administration (shift from LF: Ops to Other). This policy package provides limited support and duration; continues grant management of Federal Forest Health program in coordination with ODF.

Carry Forward

This policy package proposes to extend expenditure limitation for non-lottery fund grants that have been awarded and continue to be active. This will allow funds for these grants to be expended in the 2017-19 biennium. $16,400,000

Lottery Funds: Measure 76 Grant Funds

This policy package provides the budget vehicle for Measure 76 grant funds for the next biennium. These are the primary source of grant funds for OWEB and are used to support a wide variety of grants, including watershed council and soil and water conservation district capacity, restoration, acquisition, technical assistance, monitoring and outreach. $65,329,830

In April 2016, the board awarded $302,823 to Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) for FIP Monitoring, including a progress monitoring framework for Implementation FIPs and the Partnership Learning Project. This report provides a status update.

Background

OWEB's investments in FIP Implementation and Capacity Building support restoration at a strategic scale and build resilient, sustainable partnerships able to plan and implement effective restoration projects. The FIP monitoring approach approved by the board in April 2016 is a unique opportunity to identify effective ways to measure progress toward outcomes under six-year investments in Implementation Partnerships. The funding also provides an opportunity to document lessons learned about partnership development from both Capacity Building and Implementation FIPs. Information will be used to adaptively manage partnership investments. OWEB staff meet regularly with the BEF team to develop and begin implementation of both the Progress Monitoring Framework and Partnership Learning Projects.

Progress Monitoring Framework for Implementation FIPs

BEF's work aims to develop a progress monitoring framework, in collaboration with the Implementation FIP partners. This framework is intended to be applied by all of the Implementation FIPs to establish a monitoring and reporting approach. This approach will be used by the FIPs to describe, over time, their achievements toward ecological outcomes. This effort will cross-walk each partnership's existing monitoring approach and may identify additional monitoring and/or accomplishment-reporting opportunities that are necessary and/or desired to more effectively track FIP progress. Ultimately, the PMF work may result in modest requests for resources to support additional monitoring and/or reporting that is needed to ensure the Implementation FIPs can accurately describe their progress, in a quantitative fashion, toward intended ecological and programmatic impacts.

In terms of status of BEF's work, the structure for the framework has been finalized, and consists of a results chain (a graphical representation of the partnership's theory for how strategies are expected to produce long-term ecological impacts). The process for applying the framework with each of the FIPs has been developed and is currently being implemented. This work includes developing a cross-walk matrix that documents and tracks implementation measures and ecological outcomes for each FIP. The BEF team developed draft results chains for each of the Implementation FIPs using each partnership's FIP application, strategic action plan, and other supporting documents. Work sessions to discuss the results chains and cross-walks are anticipated to be completed with all six Implementation FIPs by the time of the April board meeting.

Partnership Learning Project

The purpose of the Partnership Learning Project is to gain insight into what is needed for a partnership to thrive by reflecting on the success and challenges across all FIP partnerships. Jennifer Arnold of Reciprocity Consulting is reaching out to all currently funded FIPs to invite reflections and feedback through phone calls, online surveys, and in-person meetings.

All aspects of the Partnership Learning Project's engagement approach are currently being implemented. Jennifer Arnold has attended meetings of five Capacity Building Partnerships and initiated or completed online surveys with four partnerships. She has also conducted one-on-one interviews, with an ultimate target of 1-4 interviews for each of the 14 partnerships. This phase of the project will continue with all the Capacity Building Partnerships into the early spring. At that point, Jennifer will shift her focus on Implementation FIPs.

The results from interviews and interactions with each of the partnerships are confidential in order to facilitate honest communication and reflection. The BEF team will provide a summary report to the board in July of 2017.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information on the Progress Monitoring Framework Project, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203. If you have questions or need additional information on the Partnership Learning Project, contact Courtney Shaff, Capacity Coordinator, at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov or 503-986-0046.

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item M: OWEB Water Lease and Transfer Grant Program – Overview and 2016 Grant Cycle Awards
April 24-26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the December 2016 Water Acquisition Grant Cycle process and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards.

II. Water Acquisitions – December 2016 Cycle Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

Four grant applications were received in the December 2016 Water Acquisition Grant Cycle, requesting a total of $701,849. The applications are summarized in Table 1. Application 216-9908 was withdrawn before completion of review because the applicant anticipated project funding through another grant program. Applications 216-9905, 216-9906, and 216-9907 are recommended for funding.

B. Review Process

The water acquisition applications followed the coordinated funder framework for soliciting, reviewing, and making funding recommendations that was established through OWEB's Water Acquisition Grant Revised Administrative Rules in June 2013. Refinements to the water acquisition program were approved by the board in October 2015, which allowed for OWEB staff to revise application materials and contract with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to coordinate technical and organizational capacity reviews of water acquisition grant applications.

Applications were evaluated and scored for project soundness, ecological outcomes, and organizational capacity using NFWF evaluation criteria developed in coordination with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NPCC) Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). The ISRP criteria identifies the key considerations in evaluating prospective flow restoration transactions, including the timing and location of the project, the current and desired hydrologic condition of the stream system, the attributes of the subject water rights and their suitability to

addressing limiting factors for fish and water quality, the economic rationale for the proposed transaction cost, as well as the ability for the transaction to be monitored over time to ensure that proposed benefits are realized. Proposals were evaluated by NFWF staff, reviewed by water rights experts in the legal and economic fields, and ranked by a third-party Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of fisheries and habitat experts from NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in addition to water transaction specialists from NPCC and Bonneville Power Administration. The TAC ultimately assesses each transaction and provides a score based on the ISRP criteria. The criteria favor long-term or permanent transactions that satisfy an established instream flow target, but allow for novel water management approaches that may involve smaller scale, short-term transactions.

Staff prepared an evaluation of each project that summarizes the NFWF review outcomes and scoring. After evaluations were completed, they were provided to the applicants.

C. Overview of Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend three applications for funding. Application 216-9908 was withdrawn from funding consideration. The total amount of recommended OWEB funding is $651,518.

III. Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend the board award funding for water acquisition grants as specified in Table 1.

Application #	Region	Project Name	Total OWEB Request	Total Amount Recommended	Score (out of 77 pts)
216-9905	4	Fifteenmile Creek Action to Stabilize Temperatures (FAST)	57,368	57,368	41
216-9906	2	Salt Creek Instream Transfer	172,669	172,669	60*
216-9907	4	Threemile and Crane Creek Instream Transfer	421,481	421,481	53*
216-9908	4	Hood River Water Bank Feasibility (withdrawn)	50,331	0	NA
Total Water Acquisition Applications Submitted			**$701,849**		
Total OWEB Funding Recommended				**$651,518**	

* Out of 74 possible points due to adjustment for being outside of the Columbia Basin Water Transfer Program area.

Attachments

A. Water Acquisition Project Evaluations

2016 OWEB Grant Cycle

Water Lease and Transfer Application

Project Name: Fifteenmile Creek Action to Stabilize Temperatures (FAST)
Applicant: The Freshwater Trust and Wasco County SWCD
Application No: 216-9905 **Region:** Central Oregon
Basin: Fifteenmile **County:** Wasco
OWEB Request: $57,368 **Total Cost:** $142,019

Application Description

This is a joint proposal by the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and The Freshwater Trust (TFT) to seek continued funding to compensate irrigators in the Fifteenmile Creek basin that voluntarily agree to curtail water use during stream temperature alerts to reduce impacts to ESA listed Mid-Columbia River steelhead. FAST is an experimental approach to water management that has been supported by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) since 2014.

At the heart of the Plan is a temperature prediction model, developed by Derrek Faber of ODFW, which forecasts stream temperatures for seven days at four different sites along Fifteenmile Creek. When the model predicts stream temperatures lethal to threatened steelhead (greater than 72F for the upper watershed and greater than 73F for the lower watershed) at two or more sites for two or more days, the Watershed Council issues an alert to irrigators via an auto-call phone system that plays a recorded message. The onset of the alert prompts a regulation period where irrigators agree to proactively curtail the rate of their diversions to help avoid or lessen the intensity of high air temperature/low flow events. Irrigators report their diversion reductions to the Watershed Council.

TFT and the SWCD are proposing to offer Fifteenmile Creek irrigators two compensation options to participate in FAST for the 2017 and 2018 irrigation seasons. Option 1 requires full shut-off during alert days for which irrigators receive up-front compensation based on acreage enrolled. Option 2 allows irrigators to choose whether or not to reduce their diversion during alert days and they are paid for the volume of water forgone.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

The proposed FAST transaction is an innovative and complex water management program that involves the use of a predictive stream temperature model, a multitude of water right holders participating in the program and related, but separate TFT Fifteenmile Leasing Program in different ways depending on which payment option they choose, all in real-time within a dynamic hydrologic system. Simply put, FAST is one of the more complicated water transactions that is on-going in the region. Despite its complexity, reviewers felt that TFT and the SWCD have a solid track record of implementing this project and have done a good job of adapting the program over time and making refinements that improve outcomes. Reviewers also acknowledged that a FAST-like program is potentially applicable in many streams throughout the Columbia Basin where stream flows and associated water temperatures create severe conditions for ESA listed species, such as steelhead, and that FAST is a valuable opportunity to pilot an approach that may be applied more widely in the future.

With this in mind, reviewers focused their comments on several areas where they felt improvements could be made to the program. First, reviewers raised a question about the model's ability to accurately predict stream temperatures. TFT provided a supplemental response to reviewers' questions that identified the conditions under which the model underpredicted temperatures in 2016. The partners acknowledge the need to improve the model and have undertaken a calibration exercise each year in order to refine the tool. TFT and the SWCD have again budgeted resources for ODFW to make refinements to the model prior to the 2017 irrigation season which should provide improved temperature predictions.

Second, reviewers questioned whether recent changes in hydrologic conditions (drought) have been adequately reflected in the water right reliability model that the partners use to determine the payment schedule for varying water right priority dates. In short, the past several years have been much drier than the previously available hydrologic data (2004-2009) and as such, water right reliability may be declining. If unaccounted for, this shift may result in over paying participants in the program and over estimating the hydrologic response of water right curtailments. According to the applicants, to address this issue, the partners are analyzing more recent data (2012-2016) which they will incorporate into the existing data and make any necessary adjustments to the payment schedule prior to the 2018 enrollment period. On-going evaluation of hydrologic conditions and how they impact water availability must be maintained in order to accurately compensate participants.

Finally, in recognition of the pilot nature of this transaction, reviewers wanted to see more robust monitoring that would better capture changes in instream flows during temperature events. As noted by reviewers, this information is critical to understanding the effectiveness of the model and this particular transactional approach. The partners have agreed to develop a more detailed, reach-based monitoring program that will seek to document diversion rates prior-to-and-during temperature events and report that data on a reach by reach basis.

These on-going refinements, in conjunction with the existing program infrastructure (agreement templates, valuation documents, close coordination and support from the OWRD Watermaster, and multiple water temperature and flow monitoring sites) and its past track record, gave reviewers confidence that the FAST program was sound and had a reasonable likelihood of achieving the proposed outcomes.

Ecological Outcomes

According to the materials provided, the Fifteenmile watershed provides habitat for a nearly intact wild genetic stock of Middle Columbia summer steelhead, listed as threatened under the ESA. Summer steelhead are a primary management concern for State, Federal, and Tribal natural resource agencies. Other aquatic focal species include coho and Chinook salmon, Pacific and western brook lamprey, resident redband and cutthroat trout. The watershed has undergone extensive alteration and damage from its natural state since settlement, and is a high-priority area under both state and federal management agency restoration criteria.

In 2009 low flows and extended high air temperatures combined to kill a significant number of juvenile fish in Fifteenmile Creek, including steelhead listed as threatened under the ESA. As a result, an enforcement official from NOAA investigated claims that the watershed violated the ESA, an offense that carries both civil and criminal penalties. Although NOAA's investigation did not result in an enforcement action, the official strongly recommended that Fifteenmile irrigators develop a strategy to address future low flow/high air temperature events. Since then, the Watershed Council has prioritized raising awareness of irrigator liability under the ESA, including working with NOAA representatives to determine how best to reduce this liability and working with The Freshwater Trust to create the FAST

program. Since the FAST program was enacted in 2013, there have been no observed instances of steelhead mortality in Fifteenmile Creek.

Based on a review of the FAST program's past performance the proposed refinements discussed above, reviewers felt that the transaction is likely to continue to be an effective tool for avoiding lethally high stream temperatures in Fifteenmile Creek.

Organizational Capacity

The FAST program is jointly proposed by TFT and the Wasco SWCD. TFT, and its predecessor the Oregon Water Trust, have participated in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP) since the program's inception in 2002. As a participant in the CBWTP, TFT has undergone a qualification process to demonstrate the organization's capacity to successfully identify, implement, and monitor water transactions. To date, TFT has implemented over 140 water transactions in partnership with the CBWTP. Based on their general experience implementing water transactions under the CBWTP and their specific experience implementing the FAST program over the past three years, reviewers felt that TFT had sufficient capacity and expertise to implement this transaction.

As a relatively new participant in implementing water transactions, the SWCD was asked to provide a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) as a component of the application materials. The SWCD has played an important role in the development of the FAST program and has been the primary implementation entity for several years. As part of its role, the SWCD has established a Flow Restoration Coordinator position whose responsibilities include working with partners to enroll landowners in the program, coordinate the activities of implementation partners (TFT, OWRD, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, ODFW) and monitor program implementation. Furthermore, the SWCD also coordinates water leasing activities in the watershed and has helped implement approximately 20 leases to date. Based on the SOQ provided by the SWCD, reviewers felt that their qualifications were sufficient to continue to play a similar role in implementation of the FAST program.

Summary

Total score: 41 out of 77 possible points. A copy of the NFWF evaluation criteria and the associated scores are attached. The proposed transaction is complex and requires significant management and oversight in order implement successfully. The applicants have a track record of successful implementation of this transaction going back at least three years. Reviewers felt that continued support was warranted and that if the partners can continue to make refinements to certain aspects of the program, including the predictive model, the understanding of water right reliability, and effectiveness monitoring, this transaction can be beneficial to Fifteenmile Creek and offers a promising template for other watersheds in the region.

Review Team Recommendation

Fund.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board award $57,368 to The Freshwater Trust for the Fifteenmile Creek Action to Stabilize Temperatures (FAST) Program.

2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Water Lease and Transfer Application

Project Name: Salt Creek Instream Transfer
Applicant: Trout Unlimited
Application No: 216-9906 | **Region**: Central Oregon
Basin: Rogue | **County**: Klamath
OWEB Request: $172,669 | **Total Cost**: $238,889

Application Description

This project proposes to purchase the most senior water right on Salt Creek, a tributary to Little Butte Creek in the Rogue River Basin. As proposed, the transaction will restore 1.2 cubic feet per second (cfs) of flow to lower 3.81 miles of Salt Creek and the lower 14.3 miles of Little Butte Creek. Salt Creek currently supports ESA listed coho salmon (Southern Oregon/Northern California Coho), steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and native cutthroat trout. Limiting factors for coho and steelhead in this watershed are agricultural diversions that limit instream flows and cause degradation of water quality in Little Butte Creek and tributaries, including Salt Creek. Salt Creek is a cold, spring-fed system. In addition to the instream transfer, the landowner has agreed to complete a water source swap which will eliminate all of the ranch water use from Salt Creek, moving their remaining irrigation diversions to Wasson Canyon Creek (which has natural barriers to fish passage). The source swap of water rights does not directly relate to the water acquisition proposed here for funding, as the 70 acres will be converted to dryland grazing, and the Wasson Canyon water is not physically able to be delivered to this location. Finally, the instream transfer of these various water rights will facilitate removal of three fish passage barriers on Salt Creek. Rogue River Watershed Council has secured funding to design fish passage alternatives for all 10 barriers on Salt Creek. These barriers do not create full blockages for fish passage, but removal and/or redesign will improve migration and rearing conditions on the creek.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that the water transaction was sound and had a high likelihood of achieving the proposed outcomes. Based on information provided by Trout Unlimited (TU), it appears that sufficient due diligence measures have been conducted to establish the transferability of the subject water rights to an instream use, establish accurate ownership information of the subject water rights, and document the value of the water rights to be acquired through application of commonly accepted valuation approaches.

Reviewers noted that the firm contracted to perform the water valuation, WestWater Research, had difficulty establishing a value range for water rights in the region as a result of lack of data on water transactions in vicinity. This is a common issue within watersheds were few transactions have occurred or are documented. However, using a data set from statewide water transactions as well as an analysis of land price differential in nearby Josephine County, a supported value range for the proposed transaction is $150,640 to $264,320. TU is proposing to compensate the water right holder at the lower end of this range with a total proposed acquisition cost of $150,000. Reviewers felt that this was an appropriate approach and reflected a reasonable value based on available data.

Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TU's plans for monitoring and enforcing this water transaction were adequate to provide the necessary oversight to ensure flows are protected instream. TU proposes to take a relatively low intensity approach to monitoring in the first year by taking monthly discharge measurements near the mouth of Salt Creek and below the point of diversion. Real time gages on Little Butte Creek can be utilized to monitor flows in the proposed secondary reach. If regulation and enforcement issues are encountered in the first year of monitoring, TU suggests a willingness to install additional monitoring infrastructure (continuous discharge recorders or real-time gage). Additional biological response monitoring in the form of coho red counts and snorkel surveys, repeated at least once every three years, will provide opportunities to understand the relationship between habitat restoration activities, including flow increases, to biological response within the watershed. A signed Letter of Intent was provided by TU for review, but a final Landowner Agreement was not provided.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers gave this transaction a very positive review for its proposed benefits to fish, water quality, habitat availability, and connectivity. Furthermore, TU and its partners have undertaken a prioritization effort to help determine where flow restoration activities would be most beneficial in the Rogue River basin. Based on the information provided by TU, Salt Creek appears to be one of the highest restoration priorities identified in their analysis. The proposal and associated materials did a good job of establishing the value of additional flow in Salt Creek and potentially in Little Butte Creek. The relevant habitat is important to a host of important native species including ESA listed coho salmon, as well as steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and native cutthroat trout. Salt Creek is critical habitat for coho salmon and both the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Marine Fisheries Service provided strong letters of support that draw a clear correlation between inadequate instream flows and impairments to habitat for aquatic species. In particular, the transaction has the potential to improve water quality conditions that will ultimately improve summer rearing conditions for juvenile coho salmon. The proposed transaction also complements a watershed-scale initiative to remove passage barriers by eliminating three barriers associated with the subject water rights.

Organizational Capacity

TU provided a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) that demonstrated the necessary organizational capacity to complete this water transaction. TU and key staff have a long history of successfully navigating the State's instream transfer process. TU cites a number of relevant examples in their SOQ and the proposal identifies two other water transactions in this watershed and another nearby that have been successfully completed. Furthermore, TU has demonstrated the ability to provide monitoring and stewardship of past water acquisitions and work with OWRD to resolve issues as they arise.

Summary

Total score: 60 out of 74 possible points. A copy of the NFWF evaluation criteria and the associated scores are attached. The project appears to be well designed and benefits key species of interest in the Rogue River basin, including ESA listed coho salmon. The cost of the transaction appears reasonable based on a valuation completed by a reputable firm specializing in water valuations and having expertise specific to water markets in Oregon. TU and its staff have demonstrated the ability to negotiate, implement, and monitor complex water acquisition projects based on their previous experience and should be in a positon to implement this acquisition as proposed.

Review Team Recommendation

Fund.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board award $172,669 to Trout Unlimited for the Salt Creek Instream Transfer Program.

2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Water Lease and Transfer Application

Project Name: Threemile and Crane Creek Instream Transfer
Applicant: Trout Unlimited Oregon
Application No: 216-9907 | **Region**: Central Oregon
Basin: Klamath | **County**: Klamath
OWEB Request: $421,481 | **Total Cost**: $821,481

Application Description

Trout Unlimited Oregon (TU) is requesting funds for the permanent transfer of 5.73 cubic feet per second (cfs) (1,524 acre-feet) to instream flow on Threemile and Crane Creeks in the Upper Klamath Basin for the direct benefit of two federally listed species. The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) will maintain the water interest after the purchase and instream transfer. Threemile and Crane Creeks originate from large springs on the eastern slope of the Cascades and historically flowed into Fourmile Creek and eventually Upper Klamath Lake. The headwaters of Threemile Creek are home to a population of threatened bull trout which is recovering in abundance and distribution, and the lower reaches of both creeks are home to threatened Oregon spotted frog populations. TU, along with numerous partners and landowners, are planning a large restoration project to return both creeks to their historic channels. This water acquisition is critical to the success of the larger restoration project, which will greatly improve habitat for the threatened species.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that the water transaction was sound and had a high likelihood of achieving the proposed outcomes. Based on information provided by TU, it appears that sufficient due diligence measures have been conducted to establish the transferability of the subject water rights to an instream use and document the value of the water rights to be acquired through application of commonly accepted valuation approaches. TU has coordinated with the OWRD to determine the anticipated reliability of the water rights based on regulation patterns since the agency issued the Amended and Corrected Findings of Fact and Order of Determination (ACFFOD) in the Klamath Adjudication. Specifically, since the issuance of the ACCFOD in 2013, regulation calls by the Bureau of Reclamation have significantly altered water management and water right reliability patterns in the Upper Klamath Basin. This is important information to consider as it affects the period of time that increases in instream flows can be expected as well as the cost of acquiring the water rights for instream transfer. Reviewers felt that TU has adequately anticipated these changes and incorporated them into their transaction design.

One issue that reviewers raised was the presence of a surface mining operation within the floodplain of Threemile Creek and the potential for hydrologic connectivity between the creek and the pond associated with the mine to negatively affect downstream water availability. Follow up conversations with TU staff helped clarify that there was no water right or water use associated with the pond and that as part of the restoration design process, TU's consultant, Inter-Fluve, is investigating the potential impacts of the pond on the hydrology of the system. Based on this, reviewers were confident that if an impact to the water rights associated with the proposed transaction is identified, TU will be in a position

to work with OWRD to address the problem. Reviewers also felt that the cost, while on the high end of the value range established by WestWater Research, was reasonable based on local market conditions summarized in the valuation report.

Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TU's plans for monitoring and enforcing this water transaction were well designed and should provide the necessary oversight to ensure flows are protected instream. Additional biological response monitoring in the form of egg mass surveys for Oregon spotted frog as well as electrofishing surveys for bull trout should provide opportunities to understand the relationship between habitat restoration activities, including flow increases, to biological response within the watershed.

A signed Letter of Intent was provided by TU for review, but a final Landowner Agreement was not provided.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers gave this transaction high marks for its potential to restore high-quality habitat for a number of key species while also leveraging substantial conservation outcomes through other (non-flow) restoration activities.

Threemile and Crane Creeks have both been removed from their historic channels and placed in channelized ditches. The dewatering of the historic channels has resulted in loss of habitat for a variety of key species, altered the hydrology of the watershed, created fish passage barriers, and resulted in water quality issues associated with increased irrigation return flows. The proposed water acquisition is part of a larger project to restore Threemile and Crane Creeks to their historic channels, increase instream flows in those streams while restoring a more natural (stable, spring-fed) hydrologic regime. The project should provide passage flows for bull trout and other species to access additional habitat.

The proposal is accompanied by strong letters of support from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The transaction targets restoration of habitat that is important to on-going recovery efforts of ESA listed bull trout as well as Oregon spotted frog. According to Laurie Sadie, Klamath Falls Office Field Supervisor, the additional flows in Crane Creek and Threemile Creek, as well as improved connectivity to Fourmile Creek will allow the resident bull trout population to migrate beyond the local watershed and increase productivity. Similar benefits relating to expanded range and additional breeding and rearing habitats are expected for Oregon spotted frog.

Organization Capacity

TU provided a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) that demonstrated the necessary organizational capacity to complete this water transaction. TU and key staff have a long history of successfully navigating the State's instream transfer process. TU cites a number of relevant examples in their SOQ and the proposal identifies two other water transactions in this watershed and another nearby that have been successfully completed. Furthermore, TU has demonstrated the ability to provide monitoring and stewardship of past water acquisitions and work with OWRD to resolve issues as they arise.

Summary

Total score: 53 out of 74 possible points. A copy of the NFWF evaluation criteria and the associated scores are attached. The project appears to be well designed, leverages a host of other habitat restoration outcomes, and benefits key species of interest in the Upper Klamath Basin. The cost of the transaction appears reasonable based on a valuation completed by a reputable firm specializing in water valuations and having expertise specific to water markets in the Upper Klamath Basin and throughout

Oregon. TU and its staff have demonstrated the ability to negotiate, implement, and monitor complex water acquisition projects based on their previous experience and should be in a positon to implement this acquisition as proposed.

Review Team Recommendation

Fund.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board award $421,481 to Trout Unlimited for the Threemile and Crane Creek Instream Transfer Program.

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290
(503) 986-0178
FAX (503) 986-0199
www.oregon.gov/OWEB

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grants Program Manager
Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item N: Coastal Wetlands Grants
April 24-26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff request the board approve receipt of one grant award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) 2016 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP) and delegate authority to the Director to award funds for the project. Staff also request board approval to submit two applications on behalf of the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) and local partners of the Coquille Valley Wetland Conservation and Restoration project for the current NCWCGP solicitation.

II. Background

The NCWCGP requires that applications for projects from local implementers be submitted by a state agency, and OWEB is both eligible and established as a trusted partner with the program. OWEB has established a process for local implementers to follow for submission to NWCGP and the associated state match through OWEB. The process includes a letter of interest submission in December, a pre-proposal in February, site tours in March, board decision in April, and submission of the full application in June. During the same time frame OWEB, like other state agencies, must also receive legislative approval to submit the application.

Subsequent to these process steps, the local implementer submits the project through the open solicitation or land acquisition grant program for the state funding match. Ultimately, receipt of the federal grant is contingent on receipt of state match. OWEB's program administration process and timeline for vetting proposed NCWCGP projects is found in Attachment A.

III. NCWCGP Funding Awarded in January 2016

In January 2016, the USFWS announced that the Ecola Creek Wetlands Protection and Restoration Project submitted by OWEB in 2015 was awarded $161,681 for the acquisition and restoration of 28 acres in the Ecola Creek watershed. The project's local implementer is the City of Cannon Beach.

IV. Proposed NCWCGP Application for 2018

On October 1 2016, OWEB released a notice of deadlines for the 2018 application cycle. Of the three Letters of Interest subsequently submitted in mid-December, two developed into proposed projects: the TEP's Tillamook River Wetlands Project and the Columbia Land Trust's (CLT) Columbia River – South Tongue Point Conservation Project.

In February 2017, the TEP and CLT submitted pre-proposals to OWEB which formally started the agency's review process described in Section II above. The pre-proposals were reviewed by OWEB staff, and then by a Coastal Wetlands Expert Review Team that was convened by OWEB. On March 14, 2017, a site tour of the proposed project sites was attended by staff and the review team.

Based on the review, staff and the review team recommend moving forward with submission of a NCWCGP application for the Tillamook River Wetlands project. Staff and the review team do not recommend submission of the South Tongue Point Conservation project at this time given the lack of information on habitat conditions, and the uncertainty over long-term stewardship of the property. In addition, staff recommend submission of a NCWCGP application for Phase 2 of the Coquille Valley Wetland Conservation and Restoration project. A brief overview of each project is provided below, and full evaluations are included as Attachment B:

<u>Tillamook River Wetlands Project</u> – This project is located at river mile three in an unincorporated portion of Tillamook County. The TEP proposes to acquire approximately 73 acres of historic spruce tidal swamp wetlands. Once acquired, TEP plans to undertake a thorough scientific investigation of the site's environmental conditions and to develop a restoration design to improve fish passage and hydrologic connection in the Tillamook River. *NCWCGP request: $312,000; Total project cost: $608,868.*

<u>Columbia River – South Tongue Point Conservation Project</u> – This project is located at South Tongue Point in the Columbia River Estuary in Astoria. The CLT proposes to acquire and conserve approximately 90 acres of coastal wetlands, riparian areas, and conifer forests. Once acquired, CLT plans for Clatsop Community College to be the owner and steward of the property and for the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce to manage future restoration. *NCWCGP request: $1,000,000; Total project cost: $1,330,000.*

<u>Coquille Valley Wetland Conservation and Restoration Project – Phase 2</u> – This project is located at in the lower Coquille River valley near Bandon. Local partners, including the Beaver Slough Drainage District (BSDD) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) propose the restoration and reconnection of approximately 10 miles of remnant channels on the Winter Lake and Beaver Slough project sites to enhance habitat for migratory birds, anadromous fish, and other native fish and wildlife. *NCWCGP request: $1,000,000; Total project cost: $1,330,000.*

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board:

1) Approve receipt of funding in the amount of $161,681 from USFWS under the 2016 NCWCGP and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through the appropriate grants and agreements in support Ecola Creek Wetlands Protection and Restoration Project.
2) Approve the submission of an application for the Tillamook River Wetland Project to the USFW's 2018 NCWCGP.
3) Approve the submission of an application for the Coquille Valley Wetland Conservation and Restoration Project – Phase 2 to the USFW's 2018 NCWCGP.

Attachments

A. OWEB USFWS NCWCGP Program Administration Timeline
B. NCWCGP Project Evaluations

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

USFWS NATIONAL COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION TIMELINE

NOTE: Deadlines of importance to local implementers are noted in **red** below.

DEADLINE Dec. 16, 2016: Local implementer submits Letter of Interest to OWEB

Jan. 2017*: USFWS announces FY2018 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP) grant offering and sets the application deadline

DEADLINE Feb. 10, 2017*: Local implementer submits Pre-Proposal to OWEB

Feb.-Apr. 2017: OWEB convenes a Coastal Wetlands Review Team to engage in programmatic vetting of the proposed NCWCGP application submission; OWEB conducts site tours with Coastal Wetlands Review Team and USFWS staff

Apr. 2017*: OWEB Board votes on decision to submit NCWCGP application at Board Meeting

DEADLINE May 2017*: Local implementer submits Draft NCWCGP application to OWEB

May 2017*: OWEB submits Draft NCWCGP application to USFWS for review

May 2017*: USFWS provides comments on Draft NCWCGP application to OWEB

May-Jun. 2017: OWEB seeks legislative approval to submit NCWCGP application

DEADLINE Jun. 2017*: Local Implementer submits Final NCWCGP application to OWEB

Jun. 2017*: OWEB submits Final NCWCGP application to the USFWS

DEADLINE Oct. 2017*: Local implementer submits acquisition, technical assistance, and/or restoration grant application to OWEB for state match funding

Dec. 2017-Feb. 2018: OWEB Acquisition and/or Regional Review Teams review OWEB grant applications through regular OWEB processes and make funding recommendations

Dec. 2017-Feb. 2018: USFWS NCWCGP awards are announced

Mar. 2018: OWEB Management determines funding lines for all OWEB grant applications with consideration of Review Teams' funding recommendations and available funding

Apr. 2018*: OWEB Board makes final funding decision on OWEB grant application and final decision to move forward with NCWCGP award

* Indicates approximate dates that will be updated upon release of the FY2018 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP) grant offering.

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

USFWS NCWCG PROGRAM

LETTER OF INTEREST PROCESS

The intent of this letter of interest process is to notify OWEB of your interest in pursuing a National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant, to initiate a dialogue between you and the agency, to determine baseline project eligibility, and to develop a strategy for the potential submission of state and federal applications.

Letters of Interest should be emailed directly to jillian.mccarthy@oweb.state.or.us. Please include the following information:

- Entity proposing the project;
- Point of contact for the proposed project;
- Other direct project partners, if applicable;
- Location of the proposed project, including a basic project map;
- A list of basic project elements, such as acquisition, conservation easement, restoration, enhancement, management, technical assistance, etc.;
- An estimated budget;
- Concise narrative description of the project;
- A brief discussion of the project's known timeline, ripeness, and/or project planning aspects that are still in development; and
- Other information you deem appropriate.

If you have any questions, please contact Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator at jillian.mccarthy@oweb.state.or.us or at (503) 986-0033.

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

USFWS NCWCG PROGRAM
PRE-PROPOSAL PROCESS

The intent of the Pre-Proposal process is to enable OWEB's programmatic vetting of the proposed NCWCGP application to the USFWS in preparation for technical review, staff recommendations, and approvals by the OWEB Board and the Oregon State Legislature to submit NCWCGP applications to the USFWS. While understanding that proposed projects will be at varying stages of development and design by the Pre-Proposal deadline, the Pre-Proposal should nonetheless provide as much detail as possible and should be a polished document appropriate for review by the above listed entities.

In an effort to streamline the process and workload for local implementers, the form of the Pre-Proposal is predominately excerpted from the NCWCGP FY 2017 Notice of Availability of Grants and Request for Applications attached to this document as Attachment A. OWEB anticipates that local implementers can re-use their responses in this Pre-Proposal while later developing their draft and final NCWCGP applications for the FY2018 program. (Please note that the FY2018 NCWCGP Request for Applications will not be released until early 2017.)

Pre-Proposals should include the following information:

- ❒ Entity proposing the project;
- ❒ Point of contact for the proposed project;
- ❒ An Executive Summary; and
- ❒ The below identified items from Attachment A (as highlighted).
  - On page 7, **Required Federal Forms**, section 2 **Budget Justification** only
  - On pages 10-11, **Project Statement**, sections 1 through 6 only
  - On page 12, **Drawings/Maps/Photographs**, all of sections 1 and 2
  - On page 15, part A (**Ranking Criteria**), sections 1, 3, 9, and 10 only

Your Pre-Proposal can be submitted by email directly to jillian.mccarthy@oweb.state.or.us.

If you have any questions, please contact Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator at the above email address, or at (503) 986-0033.

Tillamook River Wetlands Project

Tillamook, Oregon

Local Partner: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

OWEB Review Process:

On December 12, 2016 the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (hereinafter referred to as "*TEP*") submitted a Letter of Interest to OWEB for acquisition of approximately 73 acres of tidal wetland habitat in the Tillamook Bay Estuary. After OWEB staff determined basic project eligibility, TEP was invited to submit a pre-proposal. In response, TEP then formally submitted to OWEB a pre-proposal for the "Tillamook River Wetlands" project on February 16, 2017. Following a completeness review by OWEB staff, the pre-proposal was forwarded to the members of the Coastal Wetlands Expert Review Team (CWERT) for review and evaluation. On March 14th, the CWERT conducted a site visit to the property. Four members of the CWERT, OWEB's Acquisitions Specialist, OWEB's Partnerships Coordinator, a representative from the NOAA's Restoration Centers and a retired USFWS Project Leader for the Oregon Coast national Wildlife Refuge Complex were able to attend the site tour and participate in the discussion of the project. CWERT members reviewed the Pre-Proposal based on OWEB's review guidance, "*The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program: Program and Technical Review Process.*" CWERT members specifically evaluated the project based on questions found in *Review Step 1: Basic Screening Questions* and *Review Step 2: Additional Evaluation Questions*.

CWERT Comments:

The CWERT believes that the acquisition of the property, once restored, has the potential to support important coastal wetland habitats and benefit species, specifically coho. They noted that the Tillamook Bay has suffered large losses of ecologically valuable tidal wetlands and that it is imperative that restoration of these habitat types occur. Although the restoration of this property is not part of the grant proposal, the CWERT felt that it is apparent that the applicant has put a lot of thought into plans to move forward following acquisition.

Although the project is still at a conceptual stage, the restoration alternatives proposed appear fairly straight forward and, with the requested funds for restoration planning, the project will likely be successful. TEP and the North Coast Land Conservancy (NCLC) have awareness of local issues related to agricultural conversions and are being proactive in communicating with prominent individuals in the community as the project would be one of the first to go through the pilot process set our under Senate Bill 1517. The level of threat that the property will sell if

the acquisition through TEP is not pursued is unclear. While the site is zoned for agricultural use, it has not been used as a dairy in at least ten years. One of the four tide gates on the property failed in early 2017 and is now allowing incoming tides to overtop the access road to the property. The CWERT felt that this, combined with the fact that the site was too wet to harvest hay in the fall of 2016, makes the threat of sale unlikely.

Ecological Outcomes: The CWERT felt that the pre-proposal and site visit demonstrated the potential for improved water quality, which was reiterated by Department of Environmental Quality staff on the site tour. It was also noted that the project has the potential to enhance and restore spruce tidal swamp, one of the rarest habitat types. The CWERT expressed some concern over the potential for a portion of the property to be retained for a gun club and the potential impacts and ecological drawbacks that this activity could have on the site. The CWERT noted that the proposal lacks detail on what types of best management practices and adaptive management would be put in place if the gun club were to be implemented. They felt the proposal would benefit from understanding the range of options for limiting impacts to fish and wildlife from the gun club.

The CWERT noted that, while significant restoration work is needed, it was evident that the site, in its current condition, is providing habitat and species benefits that could be enhanced through restoration. Although the TEP is not requesting restoration implementation funds at this time, the CWERT felt that the proposal would benefit from additional restoration description on the current condition, hydrology, and proposed restoration activities. The CWERT also noted that completing restoration in a second phase results in having no substantive assurances of restoration.

Project Soundness: TEP explained at the site tour that early conversations with some of the neighboring landowners indicate that they are supportive of restoration as long as there is no major change on their land. However, the neighbor negotiations are still early in the process and support has not been put in writing. Without fully understanding the current hydrology and potential future hydrology under various restoration scenarios, the CWERT noted that it will be difficult to obtain support from neighbors. The CWERT suggested working with all neighboring landowners to determine whether they would accept flow or floodwater on their properties as this will be a primary factor in restoration design alternatives, and would likely require flowage or other easements.

While the CWERT felt that the estimated costs of the acquisition and technical assistance seemed reasonable, whether landowners will allow flow onto their properties will strongly guide project design and influence future restoration costs. The CWERT noted that having the support of the Tillamook County Public Works Department was a benefit to the project, but

discussed the need for the project design to maximize restoration outcomes and not be guided by road infrastructure.

While the timeline for the 1517 process is unclear, the CWERT felt that it may result in the project being more thoroughly vetted by the community, which would help to reduce road blocks during permitting and implementation. The CWERT noted that the project would benefit from more detail on the approach to community engagement.

The CWERT felt that the proposed timeline for the project was aggressive, especially if a restoration plan is going to need to be reviewed under the 1517 process. They questioned the feasibility of completing the acquisition in three months and the sufficiency of six months for the scientific inquiry, noting that this didn't allow for investigation and assessment through a complete annual weather cycle.

The CWERT noted that the pre-proposal does not give a sense of what the NCLC is planning for long-term stewardship of the site and that the proposed property is outside of their typical service area. While CWERT members were familiar with NCLC and believe they could be a capable landowner and manager, the NCLC did not provide details on capacity and experience when asked at the site tour. The CWERT felt that the proposal would benefit from a further description of NCLC's capacity and experience in stewarding natural sites and further description of their plan to ensure the benefits to species remain intact over time.

CWERT Recommendation: The CWERT is supportive of submitting the NCWCG application to USFWS at this time, with the conditions that the application include evidence of NCLC's capacity and experience with similar projects, and that documentation be provided in coordination with neighboring landowners outlining whether they would allow flow on their property, in order to ensure that resulting restoration design alternatives are reflective of neighboring land impacts and landowner preferences.

Prepared by: Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator

<u>Columbia River – South Tongue Point Conservation Project</u>

Astoria, Oregon

Local Partner: Columbia Land Trust

OWEB Review Process:

On December 16, 2016 the Columbia Land Trust (hereinafter referred to as "*CLT*") submitted a Letter of Interest to OWEB for acquisition of approximately 90 acres of tidal wetlands, riparian areas, and conifer forests on the Columbia River Estuary in Astoria. After OWEB staff determined basic project eligibility, CLT was invited to submit a pre-proposal. In response, CLT then formally submitted to OWEB a pre-proposal for the "Columbia River – South Tongue Point Conservation Project" on February 9, 2017. Following a completeness review by OWEB staff, the pre-proposal was forwarded to the members of the Coastal Wetlands Expert Review Team (CWERT) for review and evaluation. On March 14th, the CWERT conducted a site visit to the property. Four members of the CWERT, OWEB's Acquisitions Specialist, OWEB's Partnerships Coordinator, a representative from the NOAA's Restoration Centers and a retired USFWS Project Leader for the Oregon Coast national Wildlife Refuge Complex were able to attend the site tour and participate in the discussion of the project. Staff from CLT, the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST), and the Clatsop Community College attended the site tour. CWERT members reviewed the pre-proposal based on OWEB's review guidance, "*The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program: Program and Technical Review Process.*" CWERT members specifically evaluated the project based on questions found in *Review Step 1: Basic Screening Questions* and *Review Step 2: Additional Evaluation Questions*.

CWERT Comments:

The pre-proposal explains that the property is zoned industrial and owned by the Oregon Department of State Lands, who have expressed the desire to sell the property. The CWERT agreed that the purchase of the property by the college would be more beneficial to fish and wildlife than other proposed land uses; however, there was concern over the perception of a state agency purchasing land owned by another state agency. They recognized that the connection to Clatsop Community College has the potential to provide a strong outreach and education opportunity for the local community. The CWERT felt that the project is focused on protection of the existing resource rather than future restoration.

<u>Ecological Outcomes:</u> The CWERT felt that the project site is large enough that it could complement the adjacent Lois Island and Mott Island that are included within the Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge, but that the current condition was not sufficiently defined to be able to determine existing ecological benefits. The pre-proposal and site tour described that the

proposed acquisition site was created from dredge spoils. While the CWERT observed natural recruitment of vegetation and some encroachment by invasive species, it was difficult to understand what, if any, natural systems and processes are functioning and how the site is currently providing fish and wildlife benefits.

Although the CLT is not asking for restoration implementation funds, because OWEB's Measure 76 requires a focus on native fish and wildlife habitat and water quality, the CWERT felt that the proposal would have benefited from additional description of proposed restoration activities in order to determine the potential ecological benefits that this property could provide. On the site tour, CREST showed the review team the South Tongue Point Wetland Restoration project completed adjacent to the proposed acquisition site as an example of the type of restoration that could occur on the property. They also provided a preliminary conceptual design for restoration on the acquisition site and described that, through CREST, there would likely be Bonneville Power Administration funds available to contribute to restoration. The CWERT felt that it did not provide sufficient detail to understand what a future restored condition might look like, how it might provide consistent and frequent critical habitat and function, or the extent of benefits to species.

Project Soundness: The pre-proposal described that Clatsop Community College would be the owner and responsible for long-term management and stewardship of the property. At the site visit, Clatsop Community College described using students and curriculum to implement maintenance at the site, but these programs are not yet in place. While the CWERT thought this was good conceptually and appreciated their close proximity to the site, the project would benefit from a more developed plan for long-term stewardship of the site or the designation of a third party to be responsible for stewardship. This would be especially important for the newly restored areas as they become established. Without student involvement, it was unclear if the College would have the capacity to manage the property. It was also unclear whether the College has experience with stewardship of natural sites.

The question of threat of development for the DSL-owned property was a point of discussion for the CWERT. CLT stated during the site visit that they expect the site will be developed in the next couple of years, but it is unclear if DSL would sell the property for development absent a conservation sale.

The final point of discussion was the high purchase price of the property, likely due to the industrial use zoning. The CWERT felt that this could result in a high cost to low benefit scenario, particularly because restoration alternatives and associated costs are largely unknown.

CWERT Recommendation: The CWERT is not supportive of submitting the NCWCG application to USFWS at this time.

Prepared by: Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator

RESTORATION

Project Name: Coquille Valley Restoration and Conservation

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy

OWEB Funds Requested: $720,000

Application Description:

The Coquille Valley is an expansive alluvial floodplain that extends from the Coquille River estuary near Bandon upstream to the limit of tidal influence at River Mile 42. The Coquille Valley historically supported an estimated 17,425 acres of tidally influenced freshwater and salt-marsh wetlands. Currently more than 95 percent of the valley's wetlands have been diked and drained. Many factors have led to the decline of coho salmon in the Coquille watershed over the past century, including: overfishing, loss of spawning habitat, hatchery influences, predation, removal of large wood, water quality, loss of habitat connectivity, increased sedimentation, increased water temperatures and more. Waterfowl greatly benefit from habitat provided by current agricultural practices in the Coquille Valley during winter flooding. Historically, these floodplain wetlands also provided valuable off-channel habitat for salmon and steelhead. Diking, tide gates, and drainage ditches have eliminated fish access to these critical habitats, creating the principal bottleneck to recovery of the Coquille River's endangered and at-risk anadromous fish populations. Scientists have identified loss of overwinter habitat—i.e., loss of low gradient habitat, including tidal wetlands—as the only limiting factor preventing the Coquille coho population from reaching the desired status (Coquille Subbasin Plan, Coquille Indian Tribe, 2007, prepared for NOAA Fisheries, p. 2, 66, 68, 101).

The overall project includes purchase of three properties, plus a conservation easement on a fourth property, totaling 742 acres (including 561 acres of wetland type that is declining nationally). Project funds are sought from OWEB for the design and on-the-ground restoration work portion of a larger conservation effort. The Coquille Valley Restoration and Conservation project targets restoration of 510 acres of floodplain habitat on the Coquille River in an area referred to as the Winter Lake and Beaver Slough, just west of the town of Coquille (RM 18.5). Restoration activities will take place at two of the properties (Winter Lake and Roseburg Resources sites).

Restoration work will include reconnecting stream channels, planting native wetland vegetation, controlling invasive species, removing interior dikes and drainage ditches, placing large wood in streams, removing invasive species, and removing remnant materials from old tide-gate structures. In addition, the overall project will complete preliminary studies and finalize permits and engineering. Importantly, funding would also support critical technical assistance, studies, design and engineering aspects such as hydrology, geo-technical work, channel configuration design, large wood placement design, permitting and other design and engineering work. These activities are necessary to appropriately design the implementation phase. Work also includes important plant establishment necessary to get plantings to the free-to-grow state. Funding requested from OWEB would support pre-implementation technical assistance activities, project implementation and post-project plant establishment work.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation:

The RRT found the overall proposal well prepared. It is obvious that the applicant has been diligent about coordinating and addressing concerns from regulatory/permitting/natural resource agencies as well as from the public. The project addresses many habitat needs and limiting factors for fish and wildlife within the Coquille River watershed. The potential of the implementation of this project to support coho production through the establishment of off-channel high-water habitat, the key limiting factor here, is great. Habitat restoration would benefit a diverse range of species. The seasonal inundation of Unit 2 provides benefits to aquatic resources including wintering habitat for coho salmon, habitat for terrestrial species of concern to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and wintering habitat for waterfowl and other avian species of importance. The already accomplished groundwater monitoring work is a very positive attribute of the overall project in that it demonstrates commitment by project partners to be well informed about pre-project conditions and thus able to understand project effects.

The long-term potential to improve water quality in creeks draining through the project area is also great. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) assessments in Coos County indicate that pollutant loads are magnified by the accelerated pollutant delivery that results from straightened channels. Implementation actions that entail strategic wetland restoration and enhancement, managing vegetation along straightened streams, reconnections with floodplain, and re-establishment of sinuosity will help improve water quality conditions. The project has the potential to provide a good learning opportunity and demonstration on how to address water quality issues in these types of areas. Planting and re-vegetation of the site will provide for restoration of the site to a more natural spruce-shrub-coastal wetland condition; these sites are presently rare in this watershed.

The RRT felt the project benefitted the agricultural community in the area because grazed pasturelands are subsiding and projects like this are needed to illustrate ways to keep lowland agriculture going in the county. New tide-gates will provide for greater reliability and flexibility in water management for the Drainage District and landowners while providing enhanced fish passage. This could demonstrate a clear win-win for agriculture and habitat.

The RRT recognized that there are multiple unknowns about the project that will not be answered prior to the OWEB funding decision (i.e., uncertainty of how much tidal flow will be returned to Unit 2, channel and large-wood designs, prevention strategy for wood movement, planting plan, details of the tide-gate replacements and a project schedule).

The project depends on the new tide-gate element for restoration and land management success and funding is not in place for the tide-gates. The RRT did not have a firm grasp on the likelihood of finding funding for the tide-gates nor what the timetable for actually securing those funds would be. The application did not contain specifics about management of the tide-gate systems in the long run and ensuring that that management is consistent with project goals, which raised some concerns. More information on the intervals would be helpful and the RRT felt that the intervals between stream cleaning should be lengthened.

In this application, because federal funds are also involved in the project, the applicant bundled design and restoration into one application. As a result, the current proposal lacked designs for channel re-configuration and large-wood placement and a large-wood management plan that delineates how much wood will be placed, how large the wood will be and how the wood will be situated and anchored. The RRT recognized this work will be undertaken prior to implementation; however, they are used to seeing designs as part of a typical OWEB application.

Additional information on the tree planting and tree protection aspects would be helpful to better evaluate success. The RRT recognized that this planting design work will be undertaken prior to implementation; however, they are used to seeing planting plans as part of a regular grant program application. The RRT raised several questions to consider specific to the plantings and their establishment: If the extensive plantings are installed and grow in the water level conditions presented to them, how will the change in water levels and fluctuations after the final installation of the MTR tide-gates affect the survival rates of the established plantings? How were the plant species and the number of trees to be planted identified? What will the site preparation techniques entail? How will the trees/shrubs be planted? How extensive are invasive species and how will they be controlled? Who will manage seasonal fence needs? Who will manage the cattle? What type of off-stream livestock water will be provided and how will it be funded?

Overall, the RRT found the proposed budget not very descriptive and was depicted as lump sums rather than a more detailed split out of costs. The reviewers felt a thorough explanation of how the funds will be spent was important to determining the cost and benefits as well as the cost effectiveness of what is being proposed. The RRT raised several questions specific to the budget: Project management costs seem high and duties of those providing project management and project oversight are not described. The budget allocates $30,000 for pre-project monitoring costs related to coho salmon passage and movements in contract with Oregon State University, yet there is no discussion of this in the grant application. $210,000 is listed in the budget for removal of old tide-gate structures from the mouth of China Camp Creek, but there is no discussion or explanation of this or why it will cost so much.

The RRT recognized that there are a lot more partners involved in the project than the application described and they felt strongly that the application should clearly identify the extent that other partners are involved in this project.

The reviewers found the review process for this project confusing and frustrating at times. This application review was outside of the normal regular grant application, review and evaluation process that they are familiar with and took some adaption. The RRT recognized that a lot of the technical assistance, design and engineering work is not complete and will be completed prior to the project being implemented; however, the information from this pre-project work would have better informed the review and likely answered many of the questions raised.

The project is highly visible and success of this project could contribute to more willing participants in the area. The proposal presents OWEB with an opportunity to assist with the restoration of important coastal wetland resources that have much intrinsic value.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff: Fund with Conditions

Review Team Comments (Note: Some of these comments have been converted to conditions in the funding recommendation in the staff report:

- Develop clear and concise agreements with timelines on partner responsibilities, including Drainage District and landowner responsibilities on topics such as: fundraising for new tide-gates, tide-management, intervals between stream cleaning, seasonal fencing, cattle management, plant establishment and site access.
- All land owner and Drainage District agreements and permits must all be in place prior to on-the-ground project implementation funds being released.
- Channel and large-wood placement engineering and design work must be completed and evaluated prior to funding for the on-the-ground project implementation phase being released.
- Tree planting prescriptions and plant establishment plans need to be developed and evaluated prior to funding for the on-the-ground project implementation phase being released.
- Additional budget detail and cost breakout to provide a clear understanding of what the budget estimate was based on including information on how costs were determined for the budget elements and if there are any unusual cost factors. This must also include a project management and oversight scope of work containing the time and activities that would be involved.
- A monitoring plan needs to be developed with review and evaluation prior funding for the on-the-ground project implementation phase being released. The plan should require dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity/salinity, and macro-invertebrate monitoring. Recommend that a Sampling and Analytical Plan be developed and reviewed by DEQ. There is also an opportunity to learn something about management alternatives for hydro-modified systems. This discussion and metrics could be included in the monitoring plan.

- Develop public relations strategy.

Oregon
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item O-1 – 2017-2019 Grant Cycles and Board Meeting Schedule
April 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report seeks board approval for the solicitation of grant offerings and Board meetings for the 2017-2019 biennium.

II. Background

Staff recommend the following grant offerings based on the 2017-2019 spending plan, with the expectation that subsequent updates would be recommended to the spending plan and grant cycle offerings based on the award of Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF):

A. Four cycles for Restoration and Technical Assistance (May 2017, November 2017, May 2018, and November 2018). If approved in the spending plan, Technical Assistance offerings will include eligible activities leading to land and water acquisition projects, and funded from the land and water acquisition spending plan line items.

B. Two cycles (November 2017 and November 2018) for Outreach and Monitoring, with the content of the Outreach offering subject to change based on the work of the outreach application work group and rulemaking advisory committee.

C. Two cycles for Land Acquisitions (October 2017 and October 2018)

D. Two cycles for Water Acquisitions (December 2017 and December 2018). These cycles are coordinated with the National Fish and Wildlife Federation's Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program solicitation.

III. 2017-2019 Grant Cycle and Board Meeting Dates

Staff have developed a recommendation for grant cycle deadlines and board meeting dates for the 2017-2019 biennium, which is included in Attachment A.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board adopt the 2017-2019 schedule of grant application deadlines and board meeting dates, as shown in Attachment A to this staff report. This schedule may be subject to change based on pending and future PCSRF awards.

Attachments

Attachment A 2015-2017 Proposed Grant Application Deadlines and Board Meeting Dates

2017-2019 Biennium Grant Application Deadlines and Board Meeting Dates

Application Deadline	Application Type(s)	Board Meeting Dates/Locations
	N/A	July 25-26, 2017 (T-W) Region 4, Boardman
May 1, 2017	Restoration, Technical Assistance	October 24-25, 2017 (T-W) Region 3, Lebanon
	N/A	January 30-31, 2018 (T-W) Region 1, Florence
November 6, 2017* *Water Acquisition deadline to be announced by NFWF	Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, Monitoring, Land Acquisition, Water Acquisition	April 24-25, 2018 (T-W) Region 5, TBD
	N/A	Date and Location TBD, joint meeting with Washington SRF Board
May 7, 2018	Restoration, Technical Assistance	October 30-31, 2018 (T-W) Region 2, TBD
	N/A	January 29-30, 2019 (T-W) Location TBD
November 5, 2018* *Water Acquisition deadline to be announced by NFWF	Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, Monitoring, Land Acquisition, Water Acquisition	April 23-24, 2019 (T-W) Location TBD
March 7, 2019	Council Capacity	July 23-24, 2019 (T-W) Location TBD
May 6, 2019	Restoration, Technical Assistance	October 22-23 2019 (T-W) Location TBD

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item O-2– November 2016 Open Solicitation Grant Cycle
April 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the November 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle and funding recommendations. As a part of approving a slate of recommended grants, staff request the board consider amending the spending plan to increase funds in the restoration and outreach line items and approve the funding recommendations outlined in Attachments E-J to the staff report. Staff recommend funding 44 restoration projects, 18 technical assistance projects, 17 monitoring projects, and 10 outreach projects.

II. November 2016 Cycle Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The November 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle offered Restoration, Technical Assistance, Monitoring, and Outreach applications. A total of 200 grant applications seeking over $21 million were received. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

B. Applications Withdrawn

Following the application deadline, one restoration application (217-3020) was withdrawn by the applicant prior to review.

C. Review Process

Staff sent eligible grant proposals for review to the agency's six Regional Review Teams (RRTs). Staff scheduled site visits to as many proposed projects as possible. Per OWEB process, all RRT members were invited on these visits.

Following site visits, OWEB facilitated RRT meetings in each region. Reviewers considered the ecological significance of the proposed project, technical merit, feasibility, likelihood of success, experience of the applicant, whether the budget supports the proposed work and the overall cost-benefit of applications. After classifying applications as "fund" or "do not fund," the RRTs then prioritized the projects recommended for funding by application type.

The RRTs' evaluations and recommendations in summary form are distributed to all applicants whose proposals were reviewed by that team. Prior to the board meeting, staff forward to the board all written comments received from applicants regarding the RRT and staff recommendations.

III. November 2016 Grant Cycle and Board Policy Decisions

A. Salmon License Plate Projects

At the July 2015 Board meeting the board adopted a Salmon License Plate Policy (Agenda Item I). Based on this policy, staff recommend distributing $400,000 of Salmon License Plate funds for this cycle among four projects listed in Attachment B.

B. Sage-grouse Projects

At its April 2015 meeting the board adopted a policy to make available at least $10 million through its granting programs over the next ten years in support of projects located in Oregon's sage steppe ecosystem directed to improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. For the November 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle, there is one project (217-5039, Parsnip #2) recommended for funding that meets these criteria, requesting $113,736. The project will restore 2,000 acres of core sage-grouse habitat by treating invasive medusahead, rangeland seeding, cross fencing, and conservation management plans. Note that the board's January 2016 award of $2,171,000 for the *Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse, All Counties* Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Initiative resulted in fewer sage-grouse projects eligible for Open Solicitation awards. Total funding awarded to sage-grouse projects since April 2015 is $3,404,355.

IV. Funding Recommendations

The funding recommendations for the November 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: 2015-17 Spending Plan and November 2016 Grant Cycle Staff Funding Recommendations

Grant Type	Spending Plan Total	Previously Awarded	Grant Funds Available	Staff Recommendations	Difference
Restoration	$25,207,000	$18,796,000	$6,411,000	$7,185,831	($774,831)
Technical Assistance	$3,060,000	$2,224,000	$836,000	$666,769	$169,231
Monitoring	$2,120,000	$971,000	$1,149,000	$1,124,991	$24,009
Outreach	$600,000	$310,000	$290,000	$337,471	($47,471)
TOTAL	$30,987,000	$22,301,000	$8,686,000	$9,315,062	

Table 1

A. Development of Staff Recommendations

OWEB staff considered the RRT recommendations and the funding availability in the 2015-2017 spending plan in developing the staff funding recommendation to the board. Attachment D contains the number of applications recommended for funding

by RRTs and staff by region and type, and the funding requests recommended by staff by region and type.

Given that this is the last grant cycle in the biennium, and that land and water acquisition requests are much lower than available funds in that spending plan line item, staff considered restoration projects that initially fell below the funding line to determine whether any of those projects were similarly qualified as those above the line. Two projects that met those criteria are recommended for funding: 217-1023, Oak Ranch Salmon Passage Improvement, and 217-6048, Walla Walla Managed Aquifer Recharge for Instream Flow.

B. November 2016 Cycle – Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend that the board decrease the spending plan line item for land and water acquisitions by $825,000 and increase the restoration line item by $775,000 and increase the outreach line item by $50,000. Staff recommend the board fund the applications listed in Attachments D-I.

Attachments

A. Grant Applications Submitted
B. Salmon License Plate Projects
C. RTT and Staff Funding Recommendations
D. Regions 1-6 Funding Recommendations

Attachment A

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
November 1, 2016 Application Cycle

Applications Received by Type

	Monitoring	Outreach	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	6	6	7	12	31
Region 2	9	4	2	22	37
Region 3	4	10	5	19	38
Region 4	2	6	6	10	24
Region 5	2	2	3	23	30
Region 6	6	3	5	26	40
Totals	29	31	28	112	200

Dollar Amounts by Application Type

	Monitoring	Outreach	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	346,000	142,756	212,571	2,995,179	$3,696,506
Region 2	623,515	129,823	75,807	3,701,689	$4,530,834
Region 3	246,118	341,601	166,845	2,670,063	$3,424,627
Region 4	380,093	265,141	288,698	1,876,617	$2,810,549
Region 5	121,561	41,012	110,428	2,956,881	$3,229,882
Region 6	558,002	68,155	163,985	2,735,295	$3,525,437
Totals	$2,275,289	$988,488	$1,018,334	$16,935,724	$21,217,835

Attachment B

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

November 2016 Grant Cycle Salmon License Plate Projects

Application #	Title	Project Objectives	Total Project Cost	Salmon License Plate Contribution
217-1027	Upper Sunshine Creek Habitat Project	Address the lack of instream complexity by placing 179 logs in-stream and planting 3100 conifers along 1.4 miles of Sunshine Creek to improve habitat for Coho.	$91,683	$91,683
217-2032	Powell Creek Instream Restoration	Place large wood structures in Powell Creek, as well as address an old diversion structure impacting fish passage, to improve habitat for Coho, Steelhead, and Chinook.	$159,595	$71,810
217-3021	Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project	Restore habitat elements believed to be most limiting to spring Chinook, Coho, and winter Steelhead in Salmon River and Still Creek, by increasing off-channel habitat, floodplain connectivity, and instream large wood abundance.	$235,497	$150,000
217-6048	Walla Walla Managed Aquifer Recharge for Instream Flow	Design and construct five aquifer recharge sites returning 4.2 cfs to Walla Walla streams during critical periods for Chinook and Steelhead.	$346,746	$86,507
			Total	**$400,000**

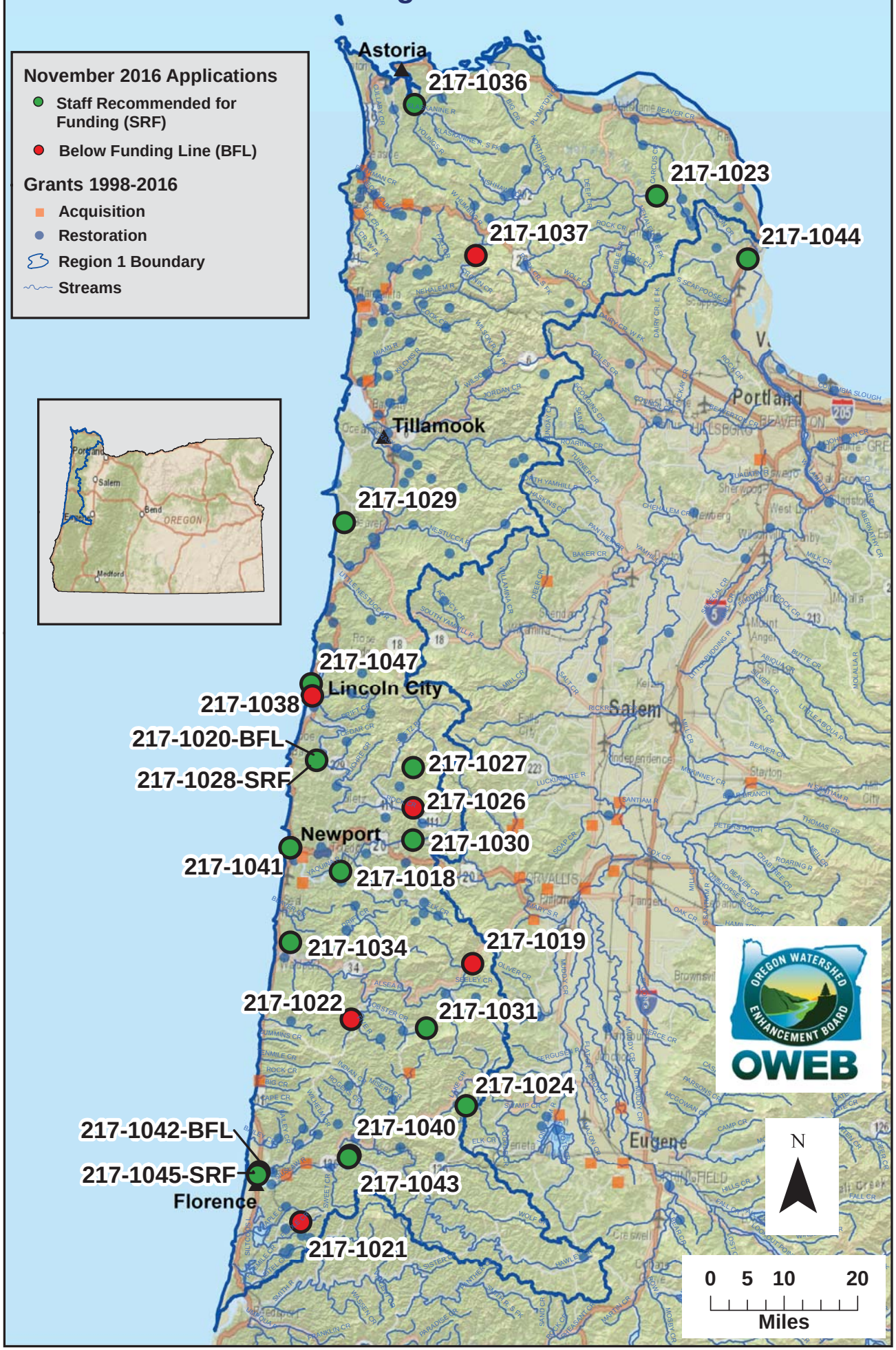
Attachment C

RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations for the November 2016 Grant Cycle

Number of Applications Recommended by Review Teams and Staff for Funding												
Region	**Restoration**			**Technical Assistance**			**Monitoring**			**Outreach**		
	RRT	**Staff**	**%**	**RRT**	**Staff**	**%**	**RRT**	**Staff**	**%**	**RRT**	**Staff**	**%**
Region 1	10	6	60%	4	4	100%	5	4	80%	5	2	40%
Region 2	17	7	41%	2	2	100%	7	6	86%	4	1	25%
Region 3	14	7	50%	3	3	100%	2	2	100%	8	2	25%
Region 4	5	5	100%	4	2	50%	1	1	100%	5	1	20%
Region 5	13	11	85%	2	2	100%	2	2	100%	2	2	100%
Region 6	22	8	36%	5	5	100%	2	2	100%	3	2	67%
Total	**81**	**44**	**54%**	**20**	**18**	**90%**	**19**	**17**	**89%**	**27**	**10**	**37%**

Dollar Amounts by Application Type Recommended by Staff for Funding				
Region	**Restoration**	**Technical Assistance**	**Monitoring**	**Outreach**
Region 1	$1,663,557	$139,255	$168,933	$47,365
Region 2	$1,028,991	$75,807	$456,064	$47,311
Region 3	$1,068,700	$127,035	$51,162	$105,208
Region 4	$976,461	$98,885	$112,723	$40,344
Region 5	$1,042,233	$61,802	$121,561	$41,012
Region 6	$1,405,869	$163,985	$214,548	$56,231
Total	**$7,185,831**	**$666,769**	**$1,124,991**	**$337,471**

Application Funding Status
North Coast Region - November 2016



ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- April 2017

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Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Region 1 - North Coast

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-1027	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation	Upper Sunshine Creek Habitat Project	This project addresses the lack of instream complexity caused by the absence of large wood in Sunshine Creek, a tributary of the Siletz River. 179 logs will be placed and 3100 conifers planted throughout 1.4 miles of mainstem Sunshine Creek to improve habitat for at-risk fish species.	91,683	Polk
217-1024	Siuslaw WC	Fish Creek Large Wood Placement Project	This project aims to increase the quantity and quality of coho spawning and rearing habitat in Fish Creek, a major tributary to Lake Creek in the Siuslaw watershed. Approximately 450 logs and root wad pieces will be added to a 3 mile reach in Fish Creek, an identified priority stream by the Draft Siuslaw Coho Business Plan.	206,459	Lane
217-1018	MidCoast WC	MCWC Salvage Log Fund	The project will acquire and stockpile logs for use in stream restoration projects throughout the MidCoast region by providing funds for log transport of salvaged material on a year-round basis. Restoration partners will be able to quickly take advantage of donated salvage logs that often come available as a result of winter storm events.	55,924	Lincoln
217-1028	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	Lower Siletz Strome Park Phase One	This project will enhance and create complex channel habitat in a 6,000' reach of the Siletz River to support juvenile salmonids and lamprey during key periods of mainstem habitat use. Engineered large wood and boulder structures will be placed at strategic locations within the reach in order to slow velocities and capture bedload under channel forming conditions.	572,859	Lincoln
217-1026	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation	Buttermilk Creek Habitat Project	This project addresses the lack of instream complexity caused by the absence of large wood in Buttermilk Creek, a tributary to the Yaquina River. Approximately 175 logs in 32 individual structures will be placed in 1 mile of stream, improving habitat for coho salmon, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, and cutthroat trout.	95,472	Lincoln
217-1023	Upper Nehalem WC	Oak Ranch Salmon Passage Improvement	This project replaces a complete fish passage barrier under Apiary Road on Oak Ranch Creek in the Nehalem watershed. Fish passage will be restored to over 7 miles of high quality aquatic habitat for Oregon coast coho salmon, Chinook, cutthroat trout, steelhead, and lamprey species.	641,180	Columbia
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**1,663,577**	

Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-1020	Lincoln SWCD	Little Rock Creek Aquatic and Riparian Restoration	118,137	Lincoln
217-1022	MidCoast WC	Crazy and Cougar Creek Fish Passage	624,471	Lincoln
217-1021	Siuslaw SWCD	Bear Creek Habitat Enhancement Phase I	175,752	Lane
217-1019	MidCoast WC	Ernest Creek LWD and Riparian Restoration	59,705	Benton
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**2,641,642**	
Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
217-1017	Salmon Drift Cr WC	Thompson Creek Fish Passage Restoration	279,571	Lincoln
217-1025	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation	Long Praire Creek Plant Establishment	60,606	Lincoln

Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-1030	MidCoast WC	Yaquina Tidal Wetland Restoration Design	Restoration designs for a tidal restoration and enhancement project will be developed for a 55-acre site in the Yaquina estuary.	42,468	Lincoln
217-1029	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Councils	Sand Lake Watershed Coho Limiting Factors Analysis	A working group will be convened to develop a coho Limiting Factors Analysis (LFA) document for the Sand Lake watershed. The LFA will provide a strategic framework for prioritizing restoration actions related to coastal coho habitat limitations and water quality improvements.	31,938	Tillamook
217-1034	The Wetlands Conservancy	Bayview Oxbow Restoration Design	Conceptual designs will be developed for restoration alternatives for the Bayview Oxbow Preserve, a former tidal wetland within the Alsea estuary. The design aims to restore estuarine function and hydrological connectivity to the site, a historic oxbow of the Alsea River located upstream of the town of Waldport.	22,207	Lincoln
217-1031	Alsea Watershed Council	Lobster Millpond	This project will produce designs required to address migratory fish passage over the Meadow Creek dam in the Lobster Creek watershed, a tributary of the Alsea River. The goal is to restore a run of coho salmon, cutthroat trout, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey to the Meadow Creek basin.	42,642	Benton
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**139,255**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-1032	David Michael Pitman	David M. Pitman Clatsop County Project	12,000	Clatsop
217-1033	Salmon Drift CR WC	Drift Creek Restoration Action Plan	23,322	Lincoln
217-1035	Upper Nehalem WC	Upper Nehalem Watershed Council Fishhawk TA	41,871	Clatsop

Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-1045	Siuslaw School District 97J	Siuslaw Middle School Stream Team	The program provides hands-on watershed education opportunities to 6th and 7th graders in the Siuslaw School District 97J in Florence.	8,850	Lane
217-1044	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	North Coast Outreach Project	The North Coast Outreach Project targets 4th through 6th grade students, teachers, parents, and communities in the lower Columbia River watershed from Scappoose to Warrenton. The ongoing program provides waterhsed education through in-class learning and field experiences.	38,515	Clatsop
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**47,365**	

Outreach Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
217-1042	Siuslaw SWCD	Siuslaw Salmon & Watershed Studies (Stream Team Extension X)	31,276	Lane
217-1043	Siuslaw WC	Siuslaw Watershed Camps	17,952	Lane
217-1047	Salmon Drift CR WC	Restoring Ecosystems Educating the Future (REEF)	24,919	Lincoln
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**121,512**	

Outreach Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-1046	Lincoln SWCD	Backyard Habitat Conservation	21,244	Lincoln

Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-1036	North Coast WS Assn	NCWA Monitoring Network	This project will continue and expand an existing volunteer-based monitoring network focused on summer temperatures of major rivers in the Youngs Bay, Skipanon, Nicolai-Wikiup, and Ecola watersheds.	10,199	Clatsop
217-1040	Siuslaw WC	2017-18 Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program	The project will continue and expand upon an existing temperature and dissolved oxygen monitoring effort in the Siuslaw River basin. Continuous monitoring will be employed in strategic locations throughout the watershed to establish whether water quality is meeting state standards.	17,578	Lane
217-1038	Salmon Drift Cr WC	2017-2018 Salmon Drift Water Quality Monitoring	The Salmon-Drift Creek Watershed Council will collect water quality data for sites within the Salmon River, Drift Creek, and Schooner Creek watersheds. The data will help to inform restoration actions in the three watersheds, all of which are listed for water quality issues that threaten the health of fish populations.	26,141	Lincoln
217-1041	Lincoln SWCD	Mid Coast Monitoring Project	This project will fund the continuation of another year of Aquatic Habitat Inventory and spawner survey data collection in the Salmon, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, and Yachats River watersheds within the mid-coast basin in Lincoln County. The project fills crucial data gaps by providing effectiveness monitoring for restoration projects and continuing long term baseline survey work.	115,015	Lincoln
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**168,933**	

Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Monitoring Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-1037	Lower Nehalem WC	Nehalem Watershed Rapid	173,267	Clatsop
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**342,200**	
Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
217-1039	Lincoln SWCD	Siletz-Yaquina Basin Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring	3,800	Lincoln
Region 1 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award			**2,019,130**	**22%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award			**9,315,062**	

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1017**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Thompson Creek Fish Passage Restoration		
Applicant:	Salmon Drift Cr WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$279,571.00**	**Total Cost:**	$355,454.00
Proposed Match:	$75,133.00		

Application Description

This project replaces a series of culverts and improves passage for aquatic species on Thompson Creek. Thompson Creek is a tributary to Devils Lake, a natural freshwater lake located in Lincoln City. A total of nine culverts on the mainstem of Thompson Creek currently limit access to habitat for cutthroat trout, steelhead, and coho salmon, all of which use the creek for spawning and rearing.

This project is the result of an OWEB-funded Technical Assistance grant completed in 2016. It is designed to be the first phase of a comprehensive effort to restore unimpeded access to approximately 2 miles of aquatic habitat, and this phase replaces 3 of the 9 culverts on the system. Project partners included Lincoln County, Devils Lake Water Improvement District, a landowner, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Century Link, NW Natural, and Lincoln City Public Works.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Thompson Creek has a unique and important native coho population that continues to exist in a stream impacted by home development and timber extraction. The stream contains good habitat for coho with low gradient and good gravel.
- The structure types proposed make sense for the system and associated site constraints.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The revised designs were not implementation-ready. Potential utility issues exist that have not been addressed, and the plan to get the designs to a state of completion appropriate for project construction is unclear.
- Culvert #1 in the system is mentioned as having failed since the last application submission, but no details on its condition were provided.
- The proposed designs are strictly hydrologically based and lack consideration of Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) principles.
- The proposed alternatives in the application requesting the review team to reconsider the past application from the April 2016 cycle were confusing.
- There was no discussion on impacts to the stream's morphology that would result from only completing 3 of the culvert replacements at one time.

- There was no discussion on impacts to Culvert #3 that might result from replacing the culverts immediately upstream and downstream. The review team also had concerns about the Culvert #3 landowner being unsupportive of the project and about the degree to which this culvert's fish passage had been evaluated.
- Utility companies were listed as providing in-kind match, but there were no letters of support from the companies or other acknowledgement that the companies were on board with the project.
- It appeared from the technical memo that design guidance was utilized for a 25-year event, rather than a 100-year event.

Concluding Analysis:
The reviewers continued to recognize the opportunity to work in Thompson Creek and thought that the stream was of good habitat quality despite the adjacent surrounding land use. They felt that a restoration project along this reach would have benefit in improving both stream processes and fish passage. They appreciated that the proposal now included structures designed to meet federal fish passage criteria, but they still found the project planning and associated designs to be lacking in many requirements. Despite the fact that the designs had been upgraded to 1.5 ACW since the last OWEB request, the review team did not find that the project team had considered common principles of Aquatic Organism Passage. The application requested that the review team consider the previous application designs, which was confusing since there is no mechanism within the review process to consider past materials. The range of possible budget options outlined by the applicant was also confusing, and there appeared to be no clear strategy with the sequence of culverts proposed for replacement. The application did not address the review team's concerns from the previous evaluation about the potential effects on the stream morphology and other crossings should the approach of replacing only two or three of the crossings at one time be adopted. The review team was not confident that the project as planned and designed would result in restored passage of all life stages of aquatic species.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1018**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	MCWC Salvage Log Fund		
Applicant:	MidCoast WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$55,924.00**	**Total Cost:**	$161,374.00
Proposed Match:	$105,450.00		

Application Description

This project acquires and stockpiles logs for use in stream restoration projects throughout the MidCoast region by providing funds for log transport on a year-round basis. Project partners will be able to act proactively in the fall and winter months to take advantage of donated salvage logs that become available as a result of storm events. Logs will be moved directly to planned restoration sites or to storage areas for future use in restoration projects. By providing a steady source of large wood to restoration projects, this project aims to address the lack of habitat complexity in coastal streams caused by historical and current land management practices that have included past steam-cleaning efforts and industrial timber harvest.

This effort is the fifth iteration of a successful program that has allowed regional partners to obtain and provide hundreds of salvage logs for placement in streams throughout the MidCoast region. Partners involved include ODFW, watershed councils in the MidCoast region, Lincoln SWCD, and industrial timber landowners.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The program has been successful to date and allows the partners the opportunity to act quickly when donated wood becomes available.
- Trees damaged during landslide or storm events are frequently hauled off for disposal and the log salvage program enables them to be used otherwise to create habitat.
- Finding large wood of an appropriate size and quantity is a pervasive problem for restoration practitioners in this region.
- There are many large wood projects planned for implementation in the mid-Coast region over the next few years and this project will help fill that expected need.

*No **concerns** were identified during review.*

- None

Concluding Analysis:

The review team recognized the value of this innovative project that allows restoration partners in the region to capitalize on the sporadic availability of salvage wood. They found that the project had been critical in the past for helping augment the wood supply for several habitat projects. Habitat complexity is a significant limiting factor for coho salmon and this program would help facilitate

future large wood placement projects aiming to implement the recovery plan. The review team recommended the project for funding, recognizing that a significant number of large wood projects are currently planned for the mid-Coast region and the availability of suitable material has been a challenge this project will help to address.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 10

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 55,924.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 55,924.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1019**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Ernest Creek LWD and Riparian Restoration		
Applicant:	MidCoast WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Benton
OWEB Request:	**$59,705.00**	**Total Cost:**	$84,335.00
Proposed Match:	$24,630.00		

Application Description

This project will improve stream complexity and riparian and aquatic habitat conditions on Ernest Creek by adding large woody debris and planting conifer species on the Thyme Garden property in Alsea, OR. Ernest Creek is a tributary of Crooked Creek in the Alsea River watershed and provides habitat for coho and Chinook salmon, cutthroat and steelhead trout, and lamprey species. Current wood loading on the stream is significantly below ODFW benchmark values, and as a result the creek has reduced complexity, floodplain connectivity, and increased channel incision.

The project site was the subject of a previous OWEB restoration grant funded in 2002, which restored Earnest Creek into its historical channel. Once returned, the stream did not encounter legacy large woody debris in the historical channel as anticipated and has subsequently experienced channel incision. This project adds a total of 16 large wood structures on a half mile of Ernest Creek in order to increase habitat complexity and floodplain connectivity, and plants conifers on 2 acres of riparian habitat to increase potential for large wood recruitment. Project partners include the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership, Thyme Garden, Georgia Pacific, and a local landowner.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project will add more habitat complexity to Ernest Creek, an identified limiting factor for coastal coho salmon.
- The addition of large wood to the system would maintain and improve the long-term stability of the channel, and facilitate sediment deposition on the floodplain.
- The landowner is very engaged and does a great job providing outreach about watershed issues to the public.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The design included the placement of boulders within the in-stream environment and there was concern that permitting, particularly SLOPES, would be a challenge with this project element. The applicant planned to classify the project under the Oregon Forest Practices Act in order to avoid standard in-stream permitting, but it was unclear whether this would be an appropriate pathway given the type of activities proposed.
- There was some question as to the stream's preferred channel to Crooked Creek and whether or not the stream had reached equilibrium since it was initially diverted. It was unclear that the project as designed would fully stem the erosion that is occurring; based on the site visit

it appeared that the stream's hydrology was not fully considered in the original (2002) project design.
- Since the "design" is planned to occur "on the spot" during installation, there should not be a separate design fee.

Concluding Analysis:
The reviewers welcomed the opportunity to work on Ernest Creek, especially given the dedicated landowner of the Thyme Garden property who is committed to sharing watershed education with the visitors to the farm. The addition of large wood to the system will help stabilize the stream channel in addition to increasing habitat complexity for aquatic species. There were concerns about the boulders proposed for placement and the permitting approach. The review team did appreciate the alternative submitted after the site visit, which addressed an idea proposed by a review team member to relocate the channel at the point of greatest erosion. Ultimately though, that idea was not considered due to the potential disturbance to the riparian area and the lack of detailed design that would need to happen in order to implement that project change. The review team had a lot of questions about the stream's hydrology as it related to the original diversion funded in 2002, and whether the stream's preferred channel was different than the current pathway. The team recommended the project for funding despite their concerns, recognizing the excellent public outreach opportunity present on the site and acknowledging that the large wood placements could help stabilize the stream channel and increase habitat complexity.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
10 of 10

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 59,705.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1020**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Little Rock Creek Aquatic and Riparian Restoration		
Applicant:	Lincoln SWCD		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$118,137.00**	**Total Cost:**	$169,581.00
Proposed Match:	$51,444.00		

Application Description

This project improves aquatic and riparian habitat by placing large wood structures, removing invasive vegetation, and planting a diversity of native shrubs and trees on Little Rock Creek, a tributary of the Siletz River. The project site, located east of the town of Logsden and owned and currently managed by the Confederated Tribe of the Siletz Indians, has been the subject of legacy practices of land clearing and unmanaged livestock access. These practices have resulted in reduced stream shading and habitat complexity.

Large wood will be added to 14 sites along 0.6 miles of Little Rock Creek, and blackberry and reed canary grass will be controlled and replaced with plantings of native trees and shrubs on 20 acres of riparian and floodplain area. Project partners include the Confederated Tribe of the Siletz Indians, the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership, ODFW, Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Source Program, and the USFS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project is located in a drinking water source protection area and will positively address water quality issues by stabilizing the riparian area and reducing erosion and stream temperature.
- The project site provides a good opportunity for floodplain reconnection.
- The tribe is an engaged landowner committed to the success of the project. The site has the opportunity to be utilized by tribal members for cultural practices and could also serve as a key location for public and tribal outreach.
- The project design has a diverse planting plan and will increase biodiversity within the watershed.
- There is good connectivity with other nearby restoration projects on both tribal and private land.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The plan for maintenance of the project was unclear in the application and the amount of time allocated in the budget for plant establishment work seemed insufficient given the current cover of invasive blackberries in the proposed planting areas.
- The geomorphology of the floodplain lends itself to the possibility of the large wood floating in high water events, which the application and design did not address.

- The bank sloping and stabilization activities proposed did not seem necessary to achieving the goals and objectives of the project.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team felt that the project as proposed had the potential to achieve many ecological and social benefits: improved habitat complexity for aquatic species, reconnection of the floodplain, water quality improvements, and cultural and outreach opportunities possible with the site's tribal ownership. They found the planting plan to be well-considered, particularly the suite of species proposed. The review team had some concerns with the limited amount of plant establishment work allocated in the budget given the current cover of invasive species within the planting areas. On the site visit, the Siletz tribal representative voiced the tribe's commitment to the project's success and explained that the tribe was planning to do much of the maintenance themselves. The application would have benefitted from a clear and adequate plan for the plant establishment phase that acknowledged the tribal contribution. The review team was also concerned about the proposed large wood becoming adrift in high water events given the morphology of the channel and floodplain, but felt comfortable recommending the project trusting that the project team would consider appropriate design elements when installing the wood to prevent this possibility. The last concern regarding the bank sloping and stabilization activities was resolved at the site visit when the applicant proposed to remove those plans from the project design.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
7 of 10

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 118,137.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1021**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Bear Creek Habitat Enhancement Phase I		
Applicant:	Siuslaw SWCD		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$175,752.00**	**Total Cost:**	$286,847.00
Proposed Match:	$111,096.00		

Application Description

This project improves in-stream habitat complexity and establishes appropriately sized buffers of native vegetation on the mainstem and tributaries of Bear Creek, a tributary of Fiddle Creek in the Siltcoos Lake watershed located just northeast of Florence. The subject property is actively managed for livestock and timber and is subject to land use impacts typical of private agriculture and forest lands on the Oregon Coast. Portions of the property are leased for grazing and livestock have unconstrained access to the riparian and in-stream resources.

The project site contains many low gradient reaches considered high intrinsic habitat for coho salmon. The project will improve aquatic and riparian habitat along 1.3 miles of Bear Creek by placing 21 large wood structures in-stream, planting 6 acres of native tree and shrub species, and constructing livestock exclusion fence. Fish passage to 0.5 miles of habitat will also be improved with the replacement of an undersized culvert with a bridge that allows for full aquatic organism passage. Project partners include the USFS and Mason Bruce and Girard (for the landowner).

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This project addresses several limiting factors: habitat complexity, stream temperature, and fish passage.
- The application was well written with a clear project description.
- The project location is in a focus area of the SWCD and ties in with other nearby restoration projects well.
- The project focus is on high intrinsic potential areas for coho.
- The project site has long been considered a key area for restoration actions, and a recent change in land ownership has allowed this possibility. This project could be a catalyst for future projects in other high priority locations within the same ownership.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The mainstem of Bear Creek was not addressed in this application, but is in urgent need of restoration work. The mainstem is in substantially worse condition than the tributaries where work was planned.

- The planting plan seemed heavily focused on shrubs, causing concern that large wood recruitment might be limited in the future.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team found this project to be well-planned with a strategic approach to addressing several limiting factors. They had a minor concern about the planting plan heavily relying on willows and shrubs and perhaps limited future large wood recruitment, but acknowledged that willows and other shrub-dominated communities are common in the Coastal Lakes watersheds. The reviewers felt that the project site was a high priority in which to accomplish some restoration work, and were excited that the current landowner was open to improvements to habitat on the property. Several representatives of the landowner attended the site visit and expressed their commitment to the project, and also seemed open to expanding efforts to other locations within the watershed in the future. The most significant concern with the application was that the mainstem of Bear Creek was severely degraded by livestock grazing, much more so than the tributaries where work was proposed. The review team was disappointed that this iteration of the project did not address the mainstem, but understood that the current landowners wished to start slowly. They recommended the project for funding with the hopes that future work on the mainstem would become possible.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 175,752.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1022**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Crazy and Cougar Creek Fish Passage		
Applicant:	MidCoast WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$624,471.00**	**Total Cost:**	$1,259,399.00
Proposed Match:	$634,929.00		

Application Description

This project addresses fish passage issues in the Middle and Upper Five Rivers 6th field watershed by replacing undersized and damaged culverts with structures that allow for full aquatic organism passage on Cougar and Crazy Creeks. Both creeks are tributaries of Five Rivers, which flows into the Alsea River at river mile 25, just east of the town of Tidewater. The undersized culverts are inadequately designed for aquatic organism passage and currently present complete or partial barriers for fish to these streams, both of which provide important cool water refugia for salmonids.

The project replaces 2 culverts on Crazy and Cougar Creeks and removes an 18" bedrock step on Crazy Creek near its confluence with Five Rivers. A watershed assessment conducted by the MidCoast Watersheds Council in 2001 identified the Middle and Upper Five Rivers 6th fields as having high potential for restoration of Oregon Coastal Coho salmon and prioritized fish passage work. With the replacement of the two culverts, unimpeded access will be restored to 6.75 miles of coho habitat critical for summertime rearing. Project partners include Lincoln County, Lane County, and the USFS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The habitat upstream of both Crazy and Cougar creeks is excellent, and the project would make available approximately 6 miles combined of spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids.
- The project would restore full volitional fish passage for all aquatic organisms, including lamprey.
- The project would address two limiting factors in the basin- water temperature and access to cold water refugia.
- The crossing under Cougar Creek is in danger of failing and the need for replacement is apparent.
- The designs for the two structures are straightforward.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- While the two structures are currently not providing full volitional fish passage for all stages of life, reviewers familiar with the streams indicated that they are both passing adult fish.

- This is the third time the project has been submitted to OWEB's Open Solicitation grant program, and it increased in price significantly (by 220k) since the last application with no change in the expected ecological benefit.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team found this application to be substantially improved over the previous two submissions, with the provided designs detailed, clear, and appropriate for the sites and the project planning thorough. The team felt that if constructed, the project as designed would have a high likelihood of success to restore Aquatic Organism Passage in the two creeks, both of which are high intrinsic potential streams for Oregon coastal coho salmon. However, the cost-benefit of the project was called into question with the price of the project significantly increased from previous submissions and the existing structures able to pass adult fish. While the review team appreciated the quality of the application and project planning, the cost-benefit came into consideration when the review team prioritized projects recommended for funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 624,471.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1023**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Oak Ranch Salmon Passage Improvement		
Applicant:	Upper Nehalem WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Columbia
OWEB Request:	**$641,180.00**	**Total Cost:**	$974,980.00
Proposed Match:	$315,000.00		

Application Description

This project restores fish passage by replacing a double barrel culvert with a concrete arch structure that will provide for unimpeded fish access to aquatic habitat on Oak Ranch Creek, which flows into the Nehalem River at river mile 80 between the communities of Pittsburg and Mist in Columbia County. The existing crossing is a complete passage barrier to fish at all flows.

Many of the passage barriers on Oak Ranch Creek have been addressed in recent years, and this project will replace the last remaining barrier located at river mile 3.82 and open up 7+ miles of high quality aquatic habitat to Oregon coast coho salmon, Chinook salmon, cutthroat trout, steelhead, and lamprey species. Project partners include Columbia County and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Oak Ranch Creek is a top contributing stream for salmonid populations in the Nehalem watershed. The project will have multi-species benefits with Chinook, coho, steelhead, and cutthroat trout all utilizing Oak Ranch and its tributaries.
- Replacing this barrier will also allow for passage of bedload to replenish spawning beds downstream.
- Restoring fish passage is a high priority for this stream and this barrier is the last significant obstacle in achieving this goal. Replacement of this crossing will restore access to approximately 7 miles of high quality habitat in the Oak Ranch mainstem, and even more when factoring in tributaries of Oak Ranch.
- The project builds on past investments, with the downstream crossing replaced in 2015.
- The applicant addressed many of the design considerations and concerns resulting from previous reviews of the project.
- The applicant has completed the installation of large wood structures upstream and downstream of the lower crossing and the stream is responding well.
- Addressing this problem has a degree of urgency with significant match funding from ODFW set to expire if this OWEB request is not funded.
- The project has been permitted and is ready to implement.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The review team felt that the designs were not at 100% and it was not clear how the remainder of the design work was to be funded.

- The application and designs lacked information on how the material proposed for installation inside the structure was sized and when asked during a review conference call, the project team was unable to produce information about the reference calculations.
- The review team had still hoped to see a technical memo addressing the mode of failure at the lower crossing. They appreciated the pictorial information put together describing what happened during the flood event in December 2015, but questions remained after review.
- Due to the flood damage at the lower crossing, there were concerns about the project's ability to provide full Aquatic Organism Passage.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team appreciated the design changes that had been incorporated since the last submission and felt that the project was well positioned to restore fish passage to the Oak Ranch Creek, a priority sub-watershed within the Nehalem. Those that had the opportunity to visit the project site since the large wood implementation in the summer of 2016 were pleased with how the stream was responding to the placements, noting that gravel was being held and the spawning beds were beginning to be rebuilt after the flooding events of December 2015 that damaged the lower crossing, which had just been replaced by the applicant. The reviewers wanted more information evaluating the mode of failure at the lower crossing and there was significant discussion about whether the design approach at the upper crossing was rigorous enough to prevent another failure. The review team acknowledged that the project partners were exploring repairs to the lower crossing and that ODFW had expressed a commitment to ensuring fish passage at both of the crossings. With that, a majority of the review team wanted to fund the project, noting its urgency for both Oregon coast coho recovery and funding availability.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
6 of 10

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 641,180.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 641,180.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1024**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Fish Creek Large Wood Placement Project		
Applicant:	Siuslaw WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$206,459.00**	**Total Cost:**	$366,051.00
Proposed Match:	$159,592.00		

Application Description

The project aims to increase the quantity and quality of coho spawning and winter and summer rearing habitat in Fish Creek through the addition of large wood. Fish Creek is a major tributary to Lake Creek in the Triangle Lake 6th field sub-watershed. Lake Creek is a tributary of the Siuslaw River that enters the river near the town of Swisshome and river mile 29. Historic timber practices in the Fish Creek sub-watershed have limited the effectiveness of natural watershed processes that deliver and retain large wood to the stream from upslope and riparian sources. As a result, the stream currently lacks complexity, has minimal off-channel habitat development, and has reduced floodplain connectivity.

Approximately 450 logs and root wad pieces will be placed in a three mile reach of Fish Creek, configured to simulate naturally occurring jams. Habitat restoration work for coho has been prioritized on Fish Creek by both the Draft Siuslaw Coho Business Plan (2016) and the BLM's aquatic restoration strategy for western Oregon (2015). The project area has recently transitioned to management as a Late Successional Reserve by the BLM, and the Triangle Lake 6th field HUC was identified as a focus sub-watershed for the agency. The BLM is the major project partner along with the Siuslaw Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project is located in a priority watershed identified during the Coho Business Plan strategic action planning process.
- Fish Creek is a significant coho producer and the work addresses a primary limiting factor identified in the draft recovery plan- habitat complexity.
- The project is landscape scale, treating over 3 miles of stream.
- The work is the result over a growing partnership between the BLM and the Siuslaw Watershed Council and the BLM is contributing significant funds and technical expertise.
- The project is located within designated Late Successional Reserve forest and the opportunity for future sustainable large wood recruitment exists.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Some of the large wood for the project was planned to be sourced from Riparian Reserve areas.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team found a lot to like about this project-- a relatively straightforward habitat complexity project that could have significant ecological benefit with over 3 miles of prime coho stream treated with large wood. It was clear from both the site visit and from data collected by the project partners that the stream was far below benchmarks for large wood from both NOAA and ODFW. The reviewers appreciated that the project reach had real potential to generate its own large wood recruitment into the future, given that the BLM had just designated the surrounding forest as Late Successional Reserve. There was a concern about the plan to source trees from designated Riparian Reserves, but the reviewers who had been on the site visit were able to clarify that with the exception of one small area, all of those areas were located on the opposite side of a forest road and would not be able to contribute trees to the stream should they fall. They also noted the relatively large width of the BLM's Riparian Reserves and the plan to carefully select source trees with a wildlife biologist. The review team felt comfortable with this approach and recommended the project for funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 10

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 206,459.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 206,459.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1025**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Long Prairie Creek Plant Establishment		
Applicant:	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$60,606.00**	**Total Cost:**	$75,776.00
Proposed Match:	$15,170.00		

Application Description

This project will improve riparian habitat and provide a source of future large wood recruitment by planting native trees and shrubs on Long Prairie Creek, a tributary to Sams Creek. Sams Creek enters the mainstem Siletz River at river mile 43.7 near Logsden. The riparian areas targeted by the project are either dominated by hardwoods or reed canary grass, with only a minimal conifer component. There is currently limited potential for the riparian areas to contribute large wood to the stream.

The project site is the location of a recently funded OWEB Restoration grant (#217-1002) that will increase habitat complexity by placing large wood structures along 5.4 miles of Long Prairie Creek. This project will plant 8,505 native conifer and hardwood trees along 2.4 miles of stream on industrial timber lands, totaling 45 acres in planting area. Planting techniques will be a combination of underplanting in the hardwood dominated areas and plant community restoration in the reed canary grass meadows. Project partners include ODFW, ODF, and the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Control of the reed canary grass meadows adjacent to the creek and establishment of trees in the riparian zone will contribute to large wood recruitment in the future.
- There is a good cost-benefit for the scale of planting proposed.
- There is wide range of partners involved in the project with both timber landowners and agencies participating.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The plan for site preparation and plant maintenance was not well described in the application with both herbicide and mechanical methods mentioned. This could not be cleared up at the site visit, with some of the partners unsure of the timeline and approach for site preparation.
- There were concerns about the herbicide use proposed and its potential impacts to water quality. The need for herbicide had not been fully established especially given the prevalence of low-cost labor available to the project from one state agency partner. The proposed use of larger plant stock designed to compete with invasive species from the Northwest Oregon Partnership should have further mitigated that need.

- There was a disconnect between partners about the planting and site prep activities, raising concerns that project planning may have been limited.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team appreciated the opportunity to address large wood recruitment in Long Prairie Creek, seeing it as a good opportunity to be proactive about the root causes of reduced instream habitat complexity in the region. It was clear that the reed canary grass-dominated meadows common along the stream are inhibiting succession of the riparian forest. The reviewers also liked the large scale of the planting and the myriad partners involved. However, there were significant concerns about the lack of project planning that led to the review team not recommending the project for funding. In particular, the plan for site preparation was unclear in the application and the site visit did not resolve the questions the reviewers had. Herbicide was proposed at various times and instances throughout the project but the timing of applications and whether it was for site prep, maintenance, or both, was unclear at the time of the site visit. Mechanical control was also a mentioned technique, but the project partners did not indicate where and lacked clarity about the planting project details. More information is needed to justify the use of herbicide on the site.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1026**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Buttermilk Creek Habitat Project		
Applicant:	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$78,972.00**	**Total Cost:**	$100,431.00
Proposed Match:	$19,600.00		

Application Description

This project will address the lack of instream complexity caused by the absence of large wood in Buttermilk Creek by placing large wood structures in-stream and planting trees in the riparian area to increase future potential for large wood recruitment. Buttermilk Creek is a tributary to the Yaquina River and is located in the upper part of the watershed between Norton and Nashville, entering the river at river mile 43. The entirety of the creek drains private industrial timberlands and large wood densities in the stream are extremely low. As a result, channels are simplified and there is an acute lack of habitat complexity and floodplain connectivity.

The project places 174 logs in up to 32 individual structures in approximately 1 mile of stream, improving aquatic habitat conditions for coho salmon, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, and cutthroat trout in Buttermilk Creek. 3,100 native conifers will be planted in the riparian area to increase the potential for future large wood recruitment. Project partners include ODFW, Starker Forests Inc., and the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project addresses habitat complexity, a significant limiting factor for Oregon coast coho salmon as identified in the draft recovery plan.
- Buttermilk Creek is considered an excellent coho producing stream but current wood loading is under benchmarks.
- The sizes of large wood proposed for placement were appropriate and well considered.
- The project adopted a holistic approach to restoration and addressed future large wood recruitment in the system by also planting substantial numbers of conifers within the currently hardwood-dominated riparian reach.
- The project builds on past efforts and learns from previous restoration projects in the reach.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- There appeared to be shortfalls within the budget. It was questioned whether the amounts proposed for the self-loading log truck and materials were sufficient given current rates in the area.
- Planting was proposed on industrial timber lands and there was concern that the restoration effort could be slated for harvest in the future.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team knew Buttermilk Creek to be a good coho-producing stream and thought the project would have good ecological benefit, especially given the need for habitat complexity to address a significant limiting factor of coastal coho salmon. They appreciated that the applicant had considered future large wood recruitment in the project plans with the inclusion of a notable planting effort within the project. There was concern that not enough funds were allocated in the budget for several key project expenses, and also that the plantings proposed could be in danger of future harvest given their location on private timberlands. There was much discussion about the latter concern and on the site visit the review team had asked the applicant to follow up with the timber companies involved to see if a commitment might be solicited to leave the trees into perpetuity. A formal commitment was unable to be produced given the uncertainties about land ownership and regulatory climate, but the review team understood the complex logistics involved in the timber industry. The project was recommended for funding with the hopes that good stewardship of the riparian areas would continue and with the knowledge that the planting areas are within designated riparian zones and will be managed in accordance with the Forest Practices Act. The concern about the inadequacies of the budget was resolved by deciding to increase the budget to allow for more breathing room in the materials and contracted services categories.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions: Add $10,000 to materials budget for logs and add $5,000 to Contracted Services budget for the self-loading log truck.

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 10

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 95,472.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 95,472.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1027**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Upper Sunshine Creek Habitat Project		
Applicant:	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Polk
OWEB Request:	**$75,183.00**	**Total Cost:**	$96,643.00
Proposed Match:	$19,600.00		

Application Description

This project places large wood structures in Sunshine Creek with the goals of increasing winter rearing habitat, cover, and overall habitat complexity for salmonids. Conifers will be planted in the riparian area throughout the project reach to improve the potential for future large wood recruitment. Sunshine Creek is a tributary of the Siletz River, entering the Siletz at river mile 57.5 near Logsden, Oregon. The creek drains primarily industrial timber lands where past and current land use practices have significantly reduced the amount of large wood in the stream, thereby reducing habitat complexity, floodplain connectivity, and the availability of off-channel habitats. Riparian areas are currently dominated by hardwoods and provide little opportunity for future large wood recruitment to the stream.

Throughout 1.4 miles of mainstem Sunshine Creek and 1200' of lower 4th of July Creek, 179 logs will be placed in a total of 29 individual structures. Three thousand one hundred conifers will be planted along the riparian area for the length of the project reach. Sunshine Creek contains over 15 miles of high quality anadromous fish habitat and 4 miles of coho winter rearing habitat. The creek is identified as a priority area for restoration by both ODFW and the MidCoast Watersheds Councils and has been the subject of past wood placement efforts, most of which were done in the mid 1990's and have since degraded. This effort will place greater numbers of larger logs in order to increase the lifespan of the project. Project partners include ODFW, Weyerhauser, and the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project addresses habitat complexity, a significant limiting factor for Oregon coast coho salmon as identified in the draft recovery plan.
- Sunshine Creek is a high priority stream in the Siletz watershed in which to work. It is a highly productive coho stream with ideal low gradient aquatic habitat and is currently lacking large wood.
- There is good potential for increasing floodplain connectivity with the work proposed. There is good potential for side channel and gravel bar development with the addition of large wood.

- The project ties in well with past restoration efforts and would connect the project to the recently funded restoration project on 4th of July Creek, which is slated for a 2017 summer implementation.
- The project adopted a holistic approach to restoration and addressed future large wood recruitment in the system by also planting substantial numbers of conifers within the currently hardwood-dominated riparian reach.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- There appeared to be shortfalls within the budget. It was questioned whether the amounts proposed for the self-loading log truck and materials were sufficient given current rates in the area.
- Details on the planting plan appeared not to be finalized, with limited information provided in the application and at the site visit.

Concluding Analysis:
Sunshine Creek was recognized by the review team as an excellent place to work to increase habitat complexity for aquatic species, in particular Oregon coast coho salmon. The habitat is low gradient with good availability of gravel and the system will likely respond well to the addition of large wood. The project ties in well with other habitat complexity projects in the watershed and will connect with another recently funded OWEB project on 4th of July Creek, thus increasing the economy of scale of ecological benefit provided by both projects. The review team had concerns that the budget was lacking in adequate costs for both materials and the self-loading log truck given the current local rates for these services and supplies in the area. The review team wanted to fund the project and increase the budget in those two categories to ensure that the project team had sufficient funds in which to accomplish the stated goals and objectives.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions: Add $10,000 to the materials budget for logs and add $5000 to the budget for the self-loading log truck.

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 10

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 91,683.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 91,683.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1028**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Lower Siletz Strome Park Phase One		
Applicant:	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$619,219.00**	**Total Cost:**	$775,841.00
Proposed Match:	$399,621.00		

Application Description

The project will enhance and create complex channel habitat in a 6,000-foot reach of the Siletz River to support juvenile salmonids and lamprey during key periods of mainstem habitat use. Engineered large wood and boulder structures will be placed at strategic locations within the reach in order to slow velocities and capture bedload under channel forming conditions. The Siletz River is a 67 mile river that empties into the Pacific Ocean just south of Lincoln City. Past land management practices removed complex geomorphic features from the main channel of coastal Oregon rivers in order to improve waterway navigability, resulting in reduced channel complexity and floodplain connectivity.

The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians in 2012 identified the lower 47 miles of the Siletz mainstem as a priority for improving late winter, spring, and early summer habitat for anadromous salmonids and lamprey. This project is the result of an OWEB-funded Technical Assistance grant and is part of a larger pilot project that will construct 17 structures at 7 sites throughout the reach, this OWEB request will fund placement of 10 structures at 3 sites with the remainder accomplished with additional funding sources. Project partners include the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project addresses the limiting factor of habitat complexity during a key period in the life cycle of salmonids during outmigration in the spring. Similar work in other Oregon rivers has been shown to have a dramatic positive impact on fish populations.
- Restoration work in the mainstem of our coastal rivers is needed and is beneficial to habitat and water quality. This pilot project could serve as a catalyst for other mainstem work in coastal watersheds in the future.
- The tribal landowner is contributing trees and long-term monitoring to the project.
- The technical assistance project planning work completed for the project was of high quality and the commitment of the landowner is evident.
- The project will help inform the level of modeling that went into the project design and help refine the model for future phases.
- The applicant has already conducted outreach to the public and seems well positioned to implement this kind of project.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The use of threaded rod within the structures was not a preferred approach to anchor in-stream wood. More naturally designed structures without the use of hardware would have been preferred.
- It can take a long time for the benefits of this kind of project to be realized.
- There are some social concerns for a project of this nature with regards to the perceived effects on river navigability.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team liked seeing a project involving work on the mainstem of a major coastal river. There is an identified need for habitat complexity work on coastal mainstems, but these types of projects are complicated and difficult to implement. The work proposed will increase habitat for salmonids at a key point in their life cycle that is not often addressed by restoration work. The review team recognized that having a willing and committed landowner such as the tribe presented a good opportunity to start working on bigger systems. The project was well designed with a diversity of funding sources proposed to fund the entirety of the first phase of the project.

There was some concern among the review team that the design relied too much on the incorporation of threaded metal rods. Since this is a pilot project and there are few site constraints, reviewers would have preferred at least one structure to be constructed without the use of supplemental hardware. However, after this concern was raised on the site visit the applicant spoke with the engineering firm that designed the project and the engineer concluded that the threaded rods were necessary for structural stability. The review team was also concerned about social concerns about the project since the structures could be perceived as hazardous to river navigability. However, the concern was resolved with the knowledge that the tribe had proactively been conducting outreach to local river users about the project and the reviewers understood that markers could easily be placed to help boaters locate the structures.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund Reduced (applicant requested): $572,859

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 10

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 572,859.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 572,859.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1029**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Sand Lake Watershed Coho Limiting Factors Analysis		
Applicant:	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Tillamook
OWEB Request:	**$31,938.00**	**Total Cost:**	$48,087.00
Proposed Match:	$16,150.00		

Application Description

This project will convene a working group to develop a coho Limiting Factors Analysis (LFA) document for the Sand Lake watershed. The LFA will provide strategic framework for prioritizing potential watershed restoration actions related to coastal coho habitat limitations, and water quality improvements. The Sand Lake watershed encompasses 15,000 acres and 89 miles of streams and is located in Tillamook County, between Cape Lookout and Pacific City. Restoration partners working in the Sand Lake watershed do not have a planning document in place to guide projects that can address limiting factors, especially for coho salmon.

The Sand Lake estuary is notable for being one of only a few minimally altered estuarine systems in Oregon and its watershed provides habitat for coho, chum, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, and coastal cutthroat in addition to a myriad of terrestrial wildlife species including the Western snowy plover and Henderson's checkermallow. A watershed assessment was last completed in 1998, but it did not identify nor prioritize restoration actions. The LFA produced will be used by partners to set restoration priorities, based on specific recommended actions that enhance and restore the watershed. Project partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, ODFW, ODEQ, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, OPRD, and the North Coast Land Conservancy.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Little information about fish use is available within the Sand Lake watershed, and this project will address this data gap.
- The project complements ongoing restoration and conservation actions and will help inform the myriad of future actions planned. The working group and data collection will help focus strategic restoration.
- The Sand Lake watershed is a priority area for the USFS and there is good potential to identify conservation areas upstream.
- The Sand Lake population of Oregon coast coho salmon has been considered to be on the threshold of being an independent population. North coast fish biologists have been increasingly interested in working in the watershed and would welcome the additional information.
- The ongoing State Park planning process has highlighted much discourse about working in the estuary and altering flooding regimes. The project should provide good information to help weigh social and ecological cost-benefits of such projects.

- The proposed working group is comprised of a good diversity of partners.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- ODFW was not listed as an engaged partner, but the agency has been involved in other discussions and efforts and would like to be involved in this working group.
- State Parks is a significant landowner in the lower estuary and the agency's will to engage in meaningful restoration is unclear.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team found a lot to like about this project. With all the ongoing and proposed restoration and conservation work happening in the Sand Lake watershed, it was clear that filling this identified data gap would help partners strategize and prioritize projects for restoration. Reviewers were enthusiastic about coho-focused work in Sand Lake, and the review team recognized that this population was on the threshold of being designated an independent population and that fish biologists would welcome more data in order to inform policy and practice. The application was also strengthened with the knowledge that the USFS was looking to prioritize work in the watershed. While the review team was concerned about the reluctance of State Parks to engage in restoration, they felt that there was enough potential work upstream to warrant investment.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 31,938.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 31,938.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1030**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Yaquina Tidal Wetland Restoration Design		
Applicant:	MidCoast WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$42,468.00**	**Total Cost:**	$81,828.00
Proposed Match:	$39,360.00		

Application Description

This project will produce restoration designs for a tidal restoration/enhancement project on a 55-acre site in the Yaquina estuary. The site is located upstream from Toledo at river mile 15 from the mouth of the Yaquina River. Estuaries and tidal wetlands provide important ecological functions as habitats for species of fish and shellfish including Oregon coast coho salmon, but since the 1850's the Yaquina estuary has lost approximately 84% of its tidal wetlands.

A portion of the project site was the location of one of OWEB's first estuarine restoration projects funded in 1999. Though that work achieved good ecological outcomes, the land remains subsided and channels have not deepened as much as expected. Additional work is necessary in order to achieve optimum fish use and habitat value. Restoration designs that restore and enhance full tidal function will be completed for the entirety of the 55-acre site, with designs developed to both enhance the original 38-acre restoration site and restore a new 17-acre adjoining site. Project partners include the City of Toledo, ODFW, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project presents a good opportunity for estuarine restoration.
- The Wetlands Conservancy already owns the property involved.
- This is an opportunity to revisit one of OWEB's earliest estuarine projects and ensure that it meets ecological objectives in the future.
- The project also will expand upon the old project by designing restoration on an area of the site that was previously out of reach due to utility concerns. The situation has changed and the City of Toledo is now committed to relocating the water line that had been limiting the restoration opportunity.
- This location within the Yaquina estuary near the confluence of Mill Creek makes this a prime spot for salmon fry, particularly chinook and Oregon coast coho.
- The selected technical assistance firm is highly skilled and the information collected as part of the design process will help elevate the state of knowledge with regards to restoration in tidal habitats.
- The Confederated Tribe of the Siletz Indians have indicated that they will contribute fish monitoring data to help further inform the work proposed and assist with effectiveness monitoring.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The landowner does not allow for public access.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team felt that this project was a good opportunity to revisit an old estuarine restoration project and both learn from past practices and apply recent innovations in tidal restoration science. The team also recognized the opportunity to work on a new 17-acre portion of the site that had been off-limits when the project was first implemented due to the location of a waterline. Recent developments have led the City of Toledo to become engaged with moving the waterline, and the review team liked that the City was now a partner in the project. Reviewers noted that public outreach was not possible with this particular landowner, who typically does not allow access to its properties, but overall the review team felt that this was a good project with high potential for excellent ecological benefit.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 42,468.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 42,468.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1031**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Lobster Millpond		
Applicant:	Alsea Watershed Council		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Benton
OWEB Request:	**$38,765.00**	**Total Cost:**	$53,265.00
Proposed Match:	$14,500.00		

Application Description

This project will produce designs required to address migratory fish passage over the Meadow Creek Dam with the goal of restoring a run of coho salmon, cutthroat trout, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey to the Meadow Creek basin. The project will address an aging earthen dam on Meadow Creek, a tributary of Lobster Creek. Lobster Creek is a major tributary of the Alsea River, flowing into the river just east of the town of Tidewater. The dam is currently a complete barrier to upstream fish passage, including federally threatened Oregon coast coho salmon.

Migratory fish passage has been blocked at river mile 0.2 of Meadow Creek since a log mill pond was constructed in the mid-1940s. Immediately downstream of the dam, a culvert on Hazel Glen Road also blocks fish passage. The OWEB requested funds will be utilized to fund designs of a fish passage solution to the Meadow Creek Dam, while Lane County will be contributing the designs for replacement of the downstream Hazel Glen Road culvert. When both crossings are replaced with infrastructure capable of passing aquatic species, access to 1.2 miles of habitat will be restored. Project partners include Benton County and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Meadow Creek contains excellent coho habitat, the majority of which is currently not available due to the presence of the earthen dam. Coho and other aquatic species have not had passage around the dam for over 70 years.
- The project presents a key opportunity to work with landowners who have long been hesitant to implement restoration actions on their properties but have since become engaged.
- ODFW considers this site to be the top priority fish passage barrier to address in the Mid Coast District.
- The timing of the project coincides well with Benton County's plans to replace the downstream culvert.
- There is a good possibility that the resulting restoration project will be affordable.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The landowners are opposed to removing the dam, which would result in a greater ecological benefit for a lower cost.
- The application was lacking in information and detail, particularly regarding the type and quality of habitat.

- There are concerns with potential contamination in the pond given its past use as a mill site.
- There are largemouth bass in the pond that would need to be removed.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team welcomed the opportunity to work in this area, recognizing that it is a high priority location for Oregon coast coho salmon, and that the landowners involved in the Lobster Creek Valley had historically not been engaged with watershed restoration work. Reviewers were pleased to see the property owners now interested in restoring fish passage and saw the Meadow Creek passage issue as a high priority to address in the basin, with over 1.2 miles of prime spawning and rearing habitat present upstream. The timing to address the Meadow Creek dam is ideal with the county engaged to replace the downstream culvert.

The application is limited in detail with no photographs of the site, but review team members familiar with the project location and watershed were able to provide information essential for review. The reviewers would have preferred that an option to remove the dam be evaluated, but also recognized the landowner's desire to keep the lake for recreational purposes. Other concerns were raised about the quality of the habitat given the potential for contamination in the lake from its past use as a mill pond. Reviewers felt that a good solution to fish passage could be identified and recommended that the project include an evaluation of the need for future environmental assessments to address contamination and the presence of non-native fish species in the lake.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 38,765.00

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund Increased with Conditions. Add $3,877 to the Indirect Costs budget category; the Project Completion Report shall include an evaluation of the need for future environmental assessments to address contamination and the presence of non-native fish species in the lake.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 42,642.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1032**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	David M. Pitman Clatsop County Project		
Applicant:	David Michael Pitman		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Clatsop
OWEB Request:	**$12,000.00**	**Total Cost:**	$15,000.00
Proposed Match:	$3,000.00		

Application Description

This project will engage a professional to evaluate a project site on the Necanicum River and recommend habitat restoration actions, explore the feasibility for public access, and develop project specifications for site access, erosion mitigation, log structures, and weed control needs. The project site is an 8-acre parcel of land with frontage on the Necanicum River in the city of Seaside in Clatsop County. The Necanicum River watershed supports populations of several anadromous fish species including chinook salmon and steelhead, both found in the river on this property. Changes in the flow of the river have increased erosion on the property and negatively impacted spawning habitat.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project presents an opportunity to provide more public access on the Necanicum River.
- The landowner/applicant is engaged and interested in restoration work.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The goals and objectives of the work are unclear. The application was limited in detail and there were no site photographs or useful maps provided in which to evaluate the project.
- River containment is mentioned as a goal of the project, which is not consistent with restoration goals.
- There were no partners on the project and local watershed groups were not aware of the site or proposed work.
- $200/hour for consulting work seemed very high and the desired qualifications of the contractor were unclear.

Concluding Analysis:

While the review team appreciated the landowner's interest in restoration work, they found that the application details were too limited in which to effectively evaluate the proposal. Photographs, maps, and other details about site conditions would have been helpful. It was unclear as to the ultimate goals and objectives of the technical assistance work. The mention of river containment was a possible hint that bank stabilization may be the ultimate goal of the work, an action that has the potential to run counter to restoration goals. The review team recommended that the applicant contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Necanicum Watershed Council, or the Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District for assistance evaluating the site potential and

designating appropriate funding programs that may have a nexus with restoration activity on the site.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1033**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Drift Creek Restoration Action Plan		
Applicant:	Salmon Drift Cr WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$23,322.00**	**Total Cost:**	$42,111.00
Proposed Match:	$18,790.00		

Application Description

This project will develop a Restoration Action Plan for Drift Creek that identifies and prioritizes restoration needs in the watershed and addresses high priority limiting factors. Drift Creek is a major tributary of the Siletz River, entering the Siletz Bay just south of the town of Lincoln City in Lincoln County. Drift Creek is listed as impaired for summer water temperature and biological criteria, and while it provides habitat for a number of anadromous fish species, that habitat is further impaired by anthropogenic impacts including logging road densities, large wood removal, and floodplain disconnection through diking and dredging.

Regional partners recognize that much opportunity exists for restoration projects in Drift Creek, but without an action plan past projects have been scattered and opportunistic. Restoration planning and prioritization will occur with this project utilizing the Conservation Action Planning framework used successfully in other estuaries on the Oregon coast, providing partners with an effective tool for planning strategic restoration efforts. Project partners include the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Lincoln SWCD, MidCoast Watersheds Council, USFS, and the USFWS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project has many partners involved and would build on momentum in the watershed.
- The application was well written with an interdisciplinary approach.
- Drift Creek is a good place to work with opportunity for estuarine restoration in the lower reaches. A comprehensive action plan would be a good tool to focus partner efforts.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians and the USFWS are both contributing data collection that will help both with project prioritization and monitoring. The tribal interest in the watershed extends beyond fish and also focuses on uplands and terrestrial wildlife, bringing a broader scope to the possibilities.
- The project could tie in with the ongoing TMDL process in the region.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- There is a disconnect between the planning methodology proposed and the desired outcomes. The applicant proposed to utilize the Conservation Action Plan method but hoped to arrive at a list of prioritized restoration projects, which is not an end result of the CAP process.

- The application indicated a lack of understanding of the CAP process with several activities listed out of sequence. It was unclear if the organizational staff slated to do the work had the training necessary to facilitate a CAP and produce the resulting documents.
- Many of the letters of support from the various partners expressed different expected outcomes of the planning process.
- The application was not clear as to the roles of the staff involved.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team was impressed with the breadth of partners involved and the interest in restoration planning work in Drift Creek, which they recognized to be an excellent place to work with high potential for ecological lift. They agreed that an action plan would be a big boost to the partners wanting to work in the area, given that the last watershed plan was completed in 1993 and is considered outdated. However, the review team felt that the proposed planning method was not necessarily appropriate for the desired outcomes and that the application exhibited a lack of understanding of the chosen method. The review team thought that this had the potential to be a good project building on momentum in the watershed, but felt that the planning process needed to be better defined and the partners on the same page with regards to the expected outcomes before moving forward with the project.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1034**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Bayview Oxbow Restoration Design		
Applicant:	The Wetlands Conservancy		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$22,207.00**	**Total Cost:**	$84,574.00
Proposed Match:	$9,375.00		

Application Description

This project will develop conceptual designs for restoration alternatives for the Bayview Oxbow Preserve, a former tidal wetland within the Alsea estuary. The project aims to restore estuarine function and hydrologic connectivity to the site, which is part of a historic oxbow of the Alsea River located just upstream of the town of Waldport in Lincoln County. Tidal wetlands provide important functions within the hydrologic and ecologic systems, but two-thirds have been lost on the Oregon coast due to conversion to other uses primarily by diking. The project site is currently disconnected from the tidal regime by a tidegate on Bayview Road.

The Wetlands Conservancy has owned a substantial portion of the Oxbow since 2009 and now wants to explore restoration alternatives for the site. Project goals are to restore a hydrologic connection between the Alsea Bay and the Bayview Oxbow, while improving the habitat quality for anadromous fish, juvenile marine fish, mammals, shorebirds, and waterbirds in manner compatible with local land use and infrastructural needs. The project team will also explore a long-term protection and conservation strategy for the properties within the Bayview Oxbow. Project partners include the USFWS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This is an excellent site with high potential for tidal restoration that would benefit myriad fish and wildlife species and water quality. Estuarine restoration is a priority in the Alsea River watershed.
- The project will look at different alternatives to tide gates and hydrologically to connect the 200 acre site to the Alsea River estuary.
- There is good potential to complete the resulting restoration work in phases, with work happening on the west side of the Oxbow initially and then moving to the east side as easements or acquisitions become available. The applicant is looking at the area holistically and will complete a conservation plan for the entirety of the Oxbow.
- The data on alternatives from this project will be helpful when the applicant conducts outreach to landowners.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- There are a significant number of neighboring landowners involved, many of whom have not yet been approached. Opposition from some of the landowners could stymie a resulting restoration project.
- The resulting restoration project could involve a significant amount of infrastructure improvements to address S. Beaver Creek Road and other properties requiring protection and access.
- The work under this grant request will be focused on social outreach by the applicant in order to support the technical assistance design work funded by others, but there were limited details in the application as to the amount and type of outreach being done.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team had many questions about this application, recognizing the large number of surrounding landowners affected by a potential tidal restoration at this site. The review team also found the application limited in detail when it came to the aspects of what the applicant's staff would be doing in support of the design work, which is being funded by other sources. Nevertheless, they felt that the Oxbow had good potential and recognized the need for more social outreach in order to achieve the goal of hydrologically reconnecting the site with the Alsea estuary. They had confidence in the applicants to engage the right design team to resolve these issues, and the review team recommended funding the project expecting that a workable design alternative could be found to restore tidal influence to the site.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 22,207.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 22,207.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1035**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Upper Nehalem Watershed Council. Fishhawk TA		
Applicant:	Upper Nehalem WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Clatsop
OWEB Request:	**$41,871.00**	**Total Cost:**	$62,366.00
Proposed Match:	$17,996.00		

Application Description

This project will produce engineering design work for the Fishhawk Dam fish passage project, bringing design from a conceptual to a preliminary level of completion. The Fishhawk Dam is located across Fishhawk Creek 3 miles upstream of its confluence with the Nehalem River northwest of the town of Birkenfeld in Clatsop County. The dam and its associated infrastructure pose a significant barrier to juvenile salmonid upstream migration, affecting the passage of coho salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout, and Pacific and Western brook lamprey. The dam also impairs fish habitat in the creek downstream by impeding the natural release of sediment.

Fishhawk Dam, constructed in the 1960s, created a 75-acre recreational lake that is the focal point of the Fishhawk Lake Reserve and Community. The FLRC has been independently funding engineering work to arrive at a conceptual design that will restore fish passage and deepen the lake. Using the additional OWEB funds requested by this project, the FLRC will contract with an engineering firm to complete Phase 1 and begin Phase 2 engineering work. Project partners include the Fishhawk Lake Reserve and Community and the Fishhawk Lake Ecological Foundation.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Several streams of significance drain into Fishhawk Lake, and improving fish passage over the dam would improve access to 2-3 miles of aquatic habitat. Fish passage at this location is a priority for ODFW's North Coast District.
- The Fishhawk Lake Reserve and Community is a committed partner looking to address the fish habitat issues associated with the dam. The community is providing good match and excellent project coordination.
- Most of the forest surrounding the lake is in public ownership, creating the potential for good habitat connectivity.
- The project would continue engineering work for a new design for the lake's outlet that would prevent the entrainment of juvenile fish that occurs with the current structure.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The proposed design includes a sluice gate, which was an option the review team did not prefer, due to the potential for ecological impacts including increased turbidity and the covering of spawning beds.

- It was not clear that the applicants had discussed with permitting agencies the possibility for releasing sediment downstream, and the review team felt that some aspects of the proposed design may be difficult to permit.
- There are water quality concerns with Fishhawk Lake, including dissolved oxygen levels and a 10-degree difference in water temperature from the upper lake to the lower dam gate. The lake itself may be a hazard for fish at certain times of year and the review team felt that the proposed design would not have a significant measurable impact on those issues.
- The focus of the work seems to be more about preserving the recreational aspects of the lake than the ecological benefit of the project.
- In the proposed design, the fish ladder is also planned to be used for water control at times. Reviewers questioned this aspect of the design and whether this function would impede passage.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team appreciated the potential benefits from improving fish passage at the dam location and recognized that this was a priority for the local ODFW district. They thought that the Fishhawk Lake community and Ecological Foundation was a good partner committed to restoring fish passage and implementing what could be a rather complex project. Since the review team had last reviewed a request from the applicant, the design work had continued without OWEB funding. One aspect of the design in particular, a sluice gate, caused concern that this feature would be difficult to permit and could have downstream impacts that were not addressed in the application.

The review team was also concerned about habitat quality in the lake and felt that some critical ecological issues were not addressed by the application. The lake's high temperature and dissolved oxygen content pose a hazard to native fish species. They felt that the main focus of the project was to preserve the recreational aspects of the lake and questioned whether this was truly a conservation/restoration project or more of an infrastructure project. It was acknowledged that the resulting project would have some ecological benefits, particularly to fish passage, but that the water quality issues within the lake may reduce that benefit. The review team felt that OWEB was perhaps not the most appropriate funding source for the continuation of the design work and the future implementation of the dam improvements.

The team recommended that the applicants engage with NOAA and DEQ on the sedimentation issue before continuing on their design pathway in order to make sure the proposed design solution is workable for permitting agencies.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1036**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	NCWA Monitoring Network		
Applicant:	North Coast WS Assn		
Basin:	LOWER COLUMBIA	**County:**	Clatsop
OWEB Request:	**$10,199.00**	**Total Cost:**	$15,630.00
Proposed Match:	$5,432.00		

Application Description

This project will continue and expand an existing volunteer-based monitoring network focused on summer temperatures of major rivers in the Youngs Bay, Skipanon, Nicolai-Wikiup, and Ecola watersheds in the North Coast basin. Temperature is a limiting factor for salmonid survival and data about whether streams within the project area meet the ODEQ water quality standard for summertime temperature is largely unavailable.

Using continuous temperature loggers strategically placed throughout the watershed and engaging watershed volunteers with the "Adopt-A-Logger" method of involvement, the project will develop a dataset that can track critical summer water temperatures, support watershed planning efforts, and establish the effectiveness of the TMDL implementation effort. Project partners include the Oregon DEQ.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The OPMT likes that the applicant is recruiting local volunteers to play a role in this project to engage the public.
- This project would expand the continuous water temperature monitoring on the North Coast and would benefit the TMDL process.
- The applicant is coordinating with DEQ for technical assistance on this project and is in the process of amending their Sampling and Analysis Plan to include the expanded geographic area.
- The applicant has been successful in implementing a similar water temperature monitoring project that works with local volunteers.

Concerns:

- There were no letters of support from the local partners they discussed in the application.

Recommendations:

If funded, coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator on technical assistance on water temperature monitoring. ODEQ may be able to provide water temperature loggers for this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (75%), Medium (25%)
Certainty of Success: High (75%), Medium (25%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The data collected will support the TMDL effort while addressing a water quality data gap in the region. Data has not been collected in these watersheds since the TMDLs for the North Coast were developed in 2003.
- The project has been successful since its inception in 2016 and has a good track record to date.
- The effort is expanding to include other high priority watersheds in the area.
- The "Adopt-a-Logger" method is a good volunteer recruitment mechanism and the project has had good success engaging volunteers to date.
- The project is cost-efficient.
- The types of smaller site-specific reaches that are proposed for inclusion in the project have been shown to have big impacts on temperatures in watersheds.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Only one week was allocated for sorting through the 20-year data set from the Ecola watershed, which seemed like an inadequate amount of time for analyzing such a large quantity of data.
- It wasn't clear that the project design demonstrated a whole watershed perspective on temperature issues.

Concluding Analysis:

The review team had enthusiasm for continuing this project, noting the success the effort has enjoyed since its inception in 2016. Reviewers familiar with the project mentioned that the data collected to date was high quality and that the Adopt-a-Logger methodology had been successful at attracting volunteers. The proposed expansion of the project to neighboring watersheds was welcome, and the review team felt that the recruitment of additional volunteers would build interest and support for watershed restoration projects in the region. The review team appreciated the opportunity to incorporate and analyze the data collected in the Ecola watershed over the last several decades, but was concerned that not enough time was allocated in the budget for this effort. The only other concern noted by the team was that the project may not have realistic expectations of drawing conclusions on the sources generating high temperatures in the watershed, but overall the review team felt that the project was a highly valuable and cost-efficient effort.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 10,199.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 10,199.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1037**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Nehalem Watershed Rapid Bioassessment		
Applicant:	Lower Nehalem WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Clatsop
OWEB Request:	**$173,267.00**	**Total Cost:**	$274,967.00
Proposed Match:	$101,700.00		

Application Description

This project will collect monitoring data using the Rapid Bioassessment method throughout the majority of the Nehalem watershed within Tillamook, Clatsop, Columbia, and Washington counties. The Nehalem watershed is an 855 square mile watershed that originates on the east side of the Coast Range and the river travels 118.5 miles before draining into the Nehalem Bay Estuary just south of the town of Nehalem in Tillamook County. Recent planning efforts have identified a lack of quantitative assessments within the watershed of juvenile salmonid abundance or distribution, data which would be helpful for implementing a data driven approach to restoration prioritization.

A contracted consultant will be hired to conduct all data collection, analysis, and produce a final report that reviews abundance, distribution, and relative contribution to the watershed for each stream. It is expected that the data will spatially describe the distribution and abundance of juvenile salmonids, spawning gravels, and key anchor habitats within the entirety of the Nehalem basin. Information collected will be utilized within the Nehalem Strategic Action Plan for Coho planning process. Project partners include Western Oregon University, Columbia SWCD, Clatsop SWCD, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- These efforts support the development of a Strategic Action Plan to implement the Coastal Coho Business Plan to recover coho salmon on the north coast.
- This project is part of a broad collaboration of agencies and local groups.
- The methods are reasonable for the objectives stated on page 9 of the application.
- The OPMT liked that the applicant will work to incorporate existing data.
- The project will support large-scale efforts to prioritize the type and place of restoration actions.

Concerns:

- The application lacks detail on what the limiting factors analysis model is, what it does and how this RBA data is required to make it work.
- The OPMT was concerned that the RBA data would only provide a one-year snapshot of juvenile distribution. It will be important to consider the results in the context of low spawner abundance, given that a period of low adult marine survival is expected in the coming years.

- The monitoring that is proposed will not address many of the objectives laid out on page 8 of the application.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (60%), High (40%)
Certainty of Success: Medium (100%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The Rapid Bioassessment (RBA) method will provide important data that will be useful to apply to the coho recovery plan and Coho Business Plan (CBP) Strategic Action Plan (SAP). The method has been shown to effectively capture the types of habitat within a watershed.
- The 6th field approach employed in the CBP SAP process has the potential to miss smaller streams containing cold water refugia, which this RBA effort may be able to identify. The RBA data will also have the ability to help confirm the accuracy of the modeling work being done throughout the CBP process.
- There is good collaboration between the upper and lower portions of the Nehalem watershed, and the partners involved have a good track record of success.
- An identified need for the data has been demonstrated, and the information generated will be used to help prioritize restoration projects.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The cost per mile for this type of work seemed very high, resulting in the review team questioning the cost-benefit of the project. The budget also contained several lump sum amounts that made it difficult to decipher the amount of time proposed for each project task.
- The timing of the data collection effort seemed out of sync with the timeline of the coho SAP process, since a draft plan had been expected by now. There was additional concern that the CBP SAP processes should be consistent throughout the coastal region and completing watershed-wide RBA data collection for every location involved in the CBP SAP process would not be feasible.
- Some of the match proposed for the project was ODFW R&E funds, which is highly competitive and the likelihood of that funding source being allocated to a monitoring project may be low.
- A 1-year snapshot of juvenile abundance may or may not be valuable. The review team felt that ideally for coho 3 years of data is necessary to gain an understanding of their distribution in a watershed, although it was recognized that this would be cost-prohibitive for a watershed the size of the Nehalem.
- It was unclear whether key landowners were on board with the project and would provide the access necessary to accomplish the work.

Concluding Analysis:

The review team appreciated the applicability of the RBA data to the Coho Business Plan – Strategic Action Plan process and understood that the information collected would help the partners prioritize restoration projects and inform the efficacy of the modeling that had been done to date. They also recognized that the Nehalem watershed had significant data gaps relative to information on juvenile abundance and habitat use, and thought the project would help to fill those gaps and increase the usability of the resulting SAP.

The reviewers were concerned with the timing of the data collection given that the SAP process is nearing completion for the watershed and felt that a clear plan wasn't presented in the application as to how the data would be analyzed, who would be responsible for analyzing it, and how the SAP

would be revisited after the project was complete. The review team was also concerned with the cost-benefit of the project, noting that the price per mile of stream was much higher than what they had seen in recent applications employing the RBA method. The applicant did not indicate whether they planned to sole source the contract or employ an open bid process that may result in a lower project cost, and the team felt that opportunities to achieve cost savings may have been overlooked during project development.

Despite those concerns, the review team felt that the project would generate important data and the value of the RBA method was well understood in the region. The review team opted to recommend funding the project, hoping that the identified concerns would be resolved as the project came to fruition.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 173,267.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1038**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	2017-2018 Salmon Drift Water Quality Monitoring		
Applicant:	Salmon Drift Cr WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$26,141.00**	**Total Cost:**	$65,816.00
Proposed Match:	$28,960.00		

Application Description

The Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council will collect continuous temperature, continuous dissolved oxygen, and grab sample data for sites within the Salmon River, Drift Creek, and Schooner Creek watersheds in Lincoln County. The project partners plan to build upon past water quality monitoring efforts by developing a monitoring plan specifically targeted at DEQ needs for establishing a dissolved oxygen TMDL for the Salmon River. All three watersheds involved in the monitoring are currently on the 303(d) list and have water quality issues that threaten the health of at-risk anadromous fish populations.

In addition to collecting continuous temperature and dissolved oxygen data within the three watersheds, grab samples will be collected at strategic locations on the Salmon River. Flow data, bacterial analysis, and handheld fluorometer readings will be utilized to pinpoint how flow influences dissolved oxygen patterns, the level of bacteria associated with target reaches, and to determine if bacteria might be attributed to rural-residential development. Project partners include the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Neighbors for Kids, and ODEQ.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The applicant is coordinating with multiple partners in the different watersheds and submitted several letters of support.
- The nutrient analyses that are being proposed will be performed by the DEQ lab.
- This data would support DEQ in the development of the dissolved oxygen TMDL on the mid-coast.
- The application references established methods and provides assurance that appropriate QA/QC protocols will be followed.
- Given the applicant's experience and support from participating organizations, the project is likely to be successful.

Concerns:

- DEQ's commitment to over $14,000 of in-kind lab analysis and sampling is pending budget decisions that will not be confirmed until March 2017. Large parts of this project hinge on DEQ's involvement to analyze samples and model the data.
- More details and justification for the timeline would be helpful. It was not clear why the timing of logger deployments varied across the three watersheds.
-

- The extent to which this application will adequately address the project objectives could be made clearer with additional details on data analysis methods, particularly for reference site comparisons and assessing the overall efficacy of optical brighteners.
- The data analysis and reporting phases are unlikely to include the results of the QUAL2Kw modelling given the differing timetables.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (60%), Medium (40%)
Certainty of Success: High (60%), Medium (40%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The data that will be collected directly supports TMDL development within the MidCoast region, and DEQ has identified this work as critical to the ongoing process. The applicant has been successfully coordinating with DEQ staff throughout project development.
- More information on Drift Creek is needed to inform the prioritization of restoration activities.
- The application was much improved from the last submittal, particularly the well-defined goals and objectives.
- The applicant has a good track record with this type of work and there is a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The proposed comparison between Schooner Creek and Drift Creek seemed a bit tenuous, given the degree of unique characteristics exhibited by small coastal watersheds.
- The efficacy of the proposed testing with the optical brightener is debatable considering the level of bacterial numbers in the watershed and the detection limits of the brightener.
- 80 hours was included in the budget for the executive director, but it was unclear what that position would be contributing to the project.

Concluding Analysis:

The review team was very familiar with this project from past iterations and was pleased to see the work continuing and progressing to incorporate the collection of data critical for TMDL development within the region. The applicant had been coordinating with DEQ and the project design was well-considered to address the data needs in the three involved watersheds. There were minor concerns identified regarding the proposed methodology and the budget, but the review team had confidence in the project partners to achieve the stated goals and objectives.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

3 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 26,141.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 26,141.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1039**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Siletz-Yaquina Basin Continuous-Dissolved-Oxygen Monitoring		
Applicant:	Lincoln SWCD		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$3,800.00**	**Total Cost:**	$4,800.00
Proposed Match:	$1,000.00		

Application Description

A new comprehensive set of dissolved oxygen and temperature data will be collected for the Siletz River Basin, a 237,720 acre watershed located in the mid-coast region that drains into the Siletz Bay just south of Lincoln City. While some continuous data does exist, there are several critical data gaps that will be addressed by this project in order to support TMDL development within the MidCoast area and Siletz River watershed in particular.

This OWEB request supports a larger effort supported by the DEQ's 319 funds with the purchase of some additional equipment. Project partners include the ODA.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Concern:

- DEQ can provide the two dissolved oxygen loggers this application seeks to purchase.

Recommendation:

Contact DEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator. DEQ can provide water the dissolved oxygen temperature loggers for this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (50%), Medium (50%)
Certainty of Success: Medium (75%), High (25%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The data that will be collected directly supports TMDL development within the MidCoast region, and DEQ has identified this work as critical to the ongoing process. The applicant has been successfully coordinating with DEQ staff throughout project development.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The project is part of a larger effort that was only briefly mentioned in the application and the budget and match funding did not accurately reflect the scope of the monitoring work occurring.
- The DEQ's Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator, a member of the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team, offered to provide the two loggers to the applicant.

Concluding Analysis
This application was only briefly discussed by the team since the reviewers were made aware that the DEQ Volunteer Monitoring Program intended to offer the necessary equipment that was proposed for acquisition in this application to the applicant, free of charge. With that in mind, the review team elected not to recommend funding the project and wanted to direct the applicant to contact DEQ to obtain the materials and supplies outlined in the project's budget.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1040**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	2017-18 Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program		
Applicant:	Siuslaw WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$17,578.00**	**Total Cost:**	$36,518.00
Proposed Match:	$18,940.00		

Application Description

This project will continue and expand upon an existing temperature and dissolved oxygen monitoring effort in the Siuslaw River basin, a 773 square mile watershed in the central Oregon coast range that empties into the Pacific Ocean just south of the city of Florence in Lane County. An extensive portion of the Siuslaw River is 303(d) listed for temperature, dissolved oxygen, bacteria, biological criteria, and sedimentation, and the Oregon Coastal Coho Assessment has identified water quality as population-limiting across the Siuslaw Basin.

Monthly grab sample monitoring will be continued to determine long term data trends and continuous monitoring for both temperature and dissolved oxygen will be employed at strategic locations throughout the watershed with the goal of establishing whether or not measured stream temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels are meeting the state water quality standards. The project geodatabase will also be maintained and updated by project staff. Project partners include the Siuslaw SWCD, Surfrider Foundation, ODEQ, Mapleton School District, and the BLM.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This application builds off an existing strong volunteer monitoring program.
- Several letters of support were provided for this application.
- The applicant is coordinating with DEQ and these efforts will support the development of the DO TMDL.

Concerns:

- The OPMT would like to see the applicant spend time analyzing the grab sample data they have collected over the years and report on the information generated by the program.
- The application lacks a clear monitoring design.
- The application was not easy to follow and provided additional information that confused the answers to the questions.
- The existing Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) only covers grab sampling; information to address other monitoring proposed needs to be incorporated into the SAP.

Recommendations:

- If funded, coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator on technical assistance for dissolved oxygen monitoring. ODEQ may be able to provide dissolved oxygen loggers for this project.
- If funded, complete the revised SAP in coordination with ODEQ's Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator.
- If funded, analysis of past monitoring data should be performed before any subsequent grant applications are considered.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (60%), High (40%)
Certainty of Success: Medium (60%), High (20%), Low (20%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The data that will be collected directly supports TMDL development within the MidCoast region, and DEQ has identified this work as critical to the ongoing process. The applicant has been successfully coordinating with DEQ staff throughout project development.
- The proposal brings a renewed focus on dissolved oxygen monitoring.
- The project has good landowner involvement.
- The selection of the Hult Dam as one of the focus areas for monitoring well positions the project to help inform the Environmental Impact Study process that is beginning.
- The project addresses the identified need for database management.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The grab samples collected by the volunteers may not be providing useful information. Focusing volunteers on appropriate monitoring types may be a more efficient and beneficial use of volunteer time.
- It was unclear whether the Sample and Analysis Plan had been updated in the recent past, and if not, the review team felt that an update was overdue.
- The application did not address how the data has been used in the past or provide much detail on how the continued collection of data will specifically inform the goals of the watershed council in the future.

Concluding Analysis:

The review team was very familiar with this project, given the numerous iterations over the past decade and found the applicant to have a good track record with this type of work. They appreciated the more refined effort to focus on dissolved oxygen in the watershed and felt that the coordination with DEQ, landowners, and volunteers had been thorough and set the project up for continued success. Some concern existed with the continuation of the grab sampling. While the review team recognized the ability of the grab sampling to engage volunteers in citizen science, they thought that the data collected might not be as useful as the continuous monitoring and felt that the applicant should explore ways to continue to engage volunteers on more rewarding monitoring approaches. The review team was also interested in how the council uses the data, and would have appreciated more detail in that regard. Despite these concerns, the review team had confidence that the applicant could achieve the goals and objectives stated in the application and recommended the project for funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund
Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 17,578.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with Conditions; incorporate continuous monitoring into the Sampling and Analysis Plan.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 17,578.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1041**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Mid Coast Monitoring Project		
Applicant:	Lincoln SWCD		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$115,015.00**	**Total Cost:**	$153,967.00
Proposed Match:	$38,952.00		

Application Description

This proposal will fund the continuation of another year of Aquatic Habitat Inventory and spawner survey data collection in the Salmon, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, and Yachats River watersheds within the mid-coast basin in Lincoln County. The MidCoast Monitoring Project fills crucial data gaps by providing effectiveness monitoring for restoration projects and continuing long-term baseline survey work threatened by broad state agency budget cuts.

The Mid Coast Monitoring Project has been conducting Aquatic Habitat Inventories and spawning surveys of spring and fall chinook, coho, and steelhead in the rivers and streams of the Mid Coast for the past 20 years. The synthesis of the information has been used to identify and prioritize restoration sites and sequence the development and implementation of projects. Project partners include ODFW, NRCS, and the MidCoast Watersheds Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This application contributes to a long-term ongoing monitoring project that has successfully collected spawner and habitat data for 18 years.
- The applicant coordinates with ODFW to collect data that is valuable to the agency.
- There were letters of support provided by PSMFC and ODFW.
- The applicant follows acceptable protocols that are identical to the methods that ODFW follows.
- The applicant has developed relationships with the landowners and is able to access private lands that ODFW cannot.

Concerns:

- The application had a very long narrative that provided extraneous information in some of the questions.
- There was no letter of support from the Siletz Tribe, but the application mentions working with them.
- OWEB monitoring grants may not be a sustainable funding mechanism over the long term. Loss of this project would be a significant concern to ODFW.

Recommendations:
The OPMT is interested in how the information that is provided to ODFW is used to understand the effectiveness of restoration projects and would like to figure out a process to do that.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (60%), Medium (40%)
Certainty of Success: High (100%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation
*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The surveyors are highly experienced and collect consistently high quality data.
- The program is well-established and provides important information on the success of OWEB restoration projects in the mid-Coast region.
- ODFW is no longer conducting many of the surveys due to budget shortfalls, and this work fills an important data gap. The long-term data sets continued by the project have high value to the region.
- The data has been important for the development of the coho recovery plan, and continued data collection will remain important as partners pivot towards implementation of the plan.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- This project has been funded long-term by OWEB, but it is unclear what the exit strategy is should funding become unavailable in the future.
- The review team is unclear on the users of the data beyond ODFW. There was concern about how much of the data is collected in response to partner inquiries to assist with restoration project development and monitoring, and how much is collected in response to requests from ODFW. Reviewers prefer a focus on restoration project development and effectiveness monitoring.
- The need for continued data on effectiveness monitoring sites was unclear; 20 years of data may be sufficient at this point.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team recognized the value of this long-term monitoring project and appreciated the high- quality data that is produced. The data collected on effectiveness of restoration projects is a focus area of this work that the review team felt was particularly important to continue. They understood that other partners heavily rely on this data, particularly ODFW. There were continued concerns consistent with previous reviews of this project that OWEB is not the most appropriate funding source for this work, given that monitoring funds are limited and should this project not be funded, many partner programs that depend on the data would be imperiled.

Given that the project has been funded by OWEB for almost two decades, the review team would appreciate a report that summarizes the data collection and results from the project's nearly 20 year history. The review team also requested a breakdown of how much of the work is effectiveness monitoring of restoration projects and how much is in response to ODFW requests. The review team recommended the project for funding, but requested that this information be submitted in future funding cycles.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 115,015.00

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment
OWEB staff will work with the applicant and project partners to develop reporting requirements for the grant agreement that address the review team's questions and concerns.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with Conditions; grantee to provide a report summarizing the conclusions drawn from 20 years of monitoring data, and for this project, a breakdown showing the proportion of the project dedicated to effectiveness monitoring, and the proportion dedicated to responding to ODFW questions.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 115,015.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1042**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Siuslaw Salmon & Watershed Studies (Stream Team Extension X)		
Applicant:	Siuslaw SWCD		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$31,276.00**	**Total Cost:**	$61,673.00
Proposed Match:	$20,000.00		

Application Description

This project is a continuation of a unique watershed program (Stream Team) throughout the Siuslaw, Mapleton, and Reedsport schools. This application for the 2016-17 school year would continue to fund the program to provide classroom instruction and 48 field trips for approximately 1000 students in grades 1-12 in three different communities. Emphasis will continue to be on hands-on experiences to introduce and reinforce watershed stewardship.

Partners include the Siuslaw School District, the USFS Mapleton District, OPRD, Florence STEP, BLM, Siuslaw SWCD, the Siuslaw Watershed Council, and family volunteers.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project has an excellent track record of success and has well-developed partnerships with the school district, natural resource agencies, and the local community.
- The program has a good connection with other work OWEB funds and increases awareness of restoration projects within the Siuslaw watershed.
- An important expansion of the Stream Team program is provided to a broader set of students, and the Siuslaw School District has integrated the program into its curriculum.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- None

Concluding Analysis:

The review team was very familiar with this successful program and appreciated the number of students involved and the diversity of learning activities that connect the classroom to restoration work happening within the watershed. The broad partnerships involved and the highly experienced project manager continue to ensure the program's success, and the review team enthusiastically recommended the project for funding. The review team encouraged the project team to diversify its funding sources and continue the excellent work in the watershed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 31,276.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1043**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Siuslaw Watershed Camps 2017-2018		
Applicant:	Siuslaw WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$17,952.00**	**Total Cost:**	$35,292.00
Proposed Match:	$17,340.00		

Application Description

The Siuslaw watershed drains 504,000 acres and has roughly 18,000 residents. A number of different school districts serve the basin residents, including Siuslaw (Florence), Mapleton, and Triangle Lake. The three school districts have established in-school natural resource programs, but during the summer months there are few formal opportunities for students in the basin to further explore natural resource and watershed health issues.

This application seeks to continue a popular "Watershed Camp" facilitated by the Siuslaw Watershed Council. It provides 13 days of camp for approximately 50-60 students from grades 4 through 12. The Camp workshops focus on providing the campers with an overview of the need for watershed restoration projects as well as practical, hands-on experience with different types of restoration projects. Campers will study post-implementation restoration sites and work on active restoration project sites.

Partners in the project include USFS-Mapleton District, Siuslaw School District 97J, BLM, private foundations, local businesses, camper families, the Siuslaw SWCD, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The watershed camps fill an identified outreach need in the community and are offered at a cost that is affordable to local families.
- The program has a good connection with OWEB-funded restoration projects and students engage in hands-on learning opportunities at project sites.
- There are social benefits generated from the promotion of restoration, conservation, and education through the camp program.
- The program has a great track record of success and has consistently reached target numbers of campers.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- None

Concluding Analysis:
The review team was familiar with this successful low-cost program that provides an important summer opportunity for local families and connects the community to restoration work happening in the local watershed. The diversity of activities involved and the hands-on learning opportunities promote awareness of conservation issues. The review team recommended this project for funding and had no concerns. The review team encouraged the camp program to diversify its funding sources to continue providing this opportunity within the watershed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 17,952.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1044**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	North Coast Outreach Project		
Applicant:	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		
Basin:	LOWER COLUMBIA	**County:**	Clatsop
OWEB Request:	**$38,515.00**	**Total Cost:**	$53,385.00
Proposed Match:	$16,336.00		

Application Description

The North Coast Outreach Project targets 4th through 6th grade students, teachers, parents, and communities in the lower Columbia River watershed from Scappoose to Warrenton. The ongoing program provides watershed education through in-class learning and field experiences that connects students to their watershed and offers opportunities to help restore habitat through implementation of a service learning project.

Partners include Otto Peterson Elementary, Lewis and Clark Elementary, and Hudson Park Elementary School.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This long running and successful program offers both classroom and field activities to 4th through 6th graders, which is a good time of engagement to connect with students about watershed issues.
- The unique experience of getting students out on the water provides a powerful and memorable connection to the natural world.
- The program has a good geographical scope, reaching students throughout the Lower Columbia watershed.
- The program lays a good foundation for future study in natural resource areas, and positions students to potentially take advantage of forestry tech programs offered at the high school level in some participating school districts.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- None

Concluding Analysis

The North Coast Outreach Project has a good track record of success and reaches a broad geographical area within the Lower Columbia watershed. The review team found the program's curriculum to be well-developed and appreciated the thorough evaluation measures designed to track outcomes. The team thought that targeting 4th through 6th graders was an optimum audience to foster a greater understanding of watershed science principles. The project was enthusiastically recommended for funding. The review team encouraged the program to further diversify its funding sources and continue providing this opportunity within the watershed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 38,515.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 38,515.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1045**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Siuslaw Middle School Stream Team		
Applicant:	Siuslaw School District 97J		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$8,850.00**	**Total Cost:**	$23,807.00
Proposed Match:	$6,957.00		

Application Description

The Siuslaw Middle School Stream Team has been in place for twenty years and this grant proposal continues the successful program focusing on sixth and seventh graders in Siuslaw School District 97J, located in Florence in Lane County. Students will receive 45 days of in-class instruction in watershed processes and 2-5 field trips per quarter that will reinforce their classroom experiences. The program provides hands-on learning activities including: measuring stream flow and sediment loads, physical and chemical analysis of streams, fish identification, identification and removal of invasive plants, basic hatchery operations, macroinvertebrate analysis, and recreational uses of the watershed.

Project partners include the U.S. Forest Service, OPRD, ODFW, volunteers, and the Siuslaw School District.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This is a long running and highly successful program that is well respected in both the local community and broader environmental education communities.
- This program operates in conjunction with the companion "Siuslaw Salmon and Watershed Studies" program, which extends the watershed learning opportunities to the surrounding grades. Together, the programs have a larger impact.
- There is great enthusiasm for this program found through the staff, the students and the communities involved.
- The former Stream Team teacher is now the principal of the school and is continuing to support this program throughout the school and the district.
- Some of the teachers who are involved with the program were formerly Stream Team students themselves.
- The project has likely had long-term social impacts in the watershed that have made restoration and conservation work possible.
- The project is very cost-effective for the number of students reached.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- None

Concluding Analysis
The review team was very familiar with this award-winning outreach program that has been in place in the Siuslaw watershed for over two decades. They appreciated the commitment the school district has shown to the Stream Team program, recognizing that the program is fully integrated into the curriculum and that several teachers in the district had gone through the Stream Team program themselves as students. The program is very cost-effective and the local community is involved in some of the cost-sharing through fund raising efforts. The review team enthusiastically recommended the project for another year of funding. The review team encouraged the program to further diversify its funding sources and continue providing this opportunity within the watershed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 8,850.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 8,850.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1046**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Backyard Habitat Conservation		
Applicant:	Lincoln SWCD		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$21,244.00**	**Total Cost:**	$27,318.00
Proposed Match:	$6,075.00		

Application Description

A Backyard Conservation Certification program will be developed that focuses on outreach to the urban areas of Lincoln County with the goals of reducing water demand and enhancing urban wildlife habitat. The program will focus on the development of written materials, community presentations, and workshops with a target audience of students, entrepreneurs, and community homeowners. The program will build on past efforts by the Lincoln SWCD to foster development of rainwater collection systems throughout the county. Project partners include OSU Extension, MidCoast Watersheds Council, and Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project will engage a pool of water users/constituents that is not typically engaged with OWEB's outreach programs.
- The project has the potential to improve the understanding of conservation issues among the local community.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The focus on the rainwater workshops was a large portion of the budget and the expected outcomes of the workshops were unclear.
- The goals and objectives were unclear and needed some streamlining and focus.
- The application was confusing and the review team was unsure of the target audience, since several different targets were mentioned.
- The design of the program did not appear consistent with other similar Backyard Conservation Programs around the state.
- Program planning for the effort seemed incomplete, with many details unknown about program specifics.

Concluding Analysis

The review team liked the concept of the project and appreciated the opportunity to work with a group of constituents not normally targeted by watershed outreach programs. They thought that expanding the knowledge of the local community with regards to water conservation and watershed restoration issues would have broader ecological benefits within Lincoln County. However, they found the details of the application unclear, with the agriculture community and urban residents both listed as the target audience. Another concern is whether reliance on the two relatively costly rainwater workshops was the right approach for a burgeoning Backyard Conservation Program,

especially as the expected outcomes of that investment were not well described in the application. The review team suggested that the Water Resources Department might be a good fit as a project partner in a future effort, and wanted to encourage the applicant to reconsider the design of the proposed program before returning with a future funding request.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1047**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Restoring Ecosystems Educating the Future (REEF)		
Applicant:	Salmon Drift Cr WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$24,919.00**	**Total Cost:**	$48,232.00
Proposed Match:	$19,294.00		

Application Description

The Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council (Council) is requesting funding to continue the REEF program into its 5th year and provide watershed education and conservation career development ideas to an anticipated 820 Lincoln City students in grades 5 through 12. The students will participate in learning about watershed ecology by 1) in-class presentations; 2) plant propagation and maintenance at the REEF native plant nursery; 3) water quality monitoring and watershed restoration; 4) hands-on restoration monitoring-based field trips; 5) a multi-faceted watershed ecology/water quality summer internship; and 6) conservation career path presentations.

Project partners include the Lincoln County school district, U.S. Forest Service, Lincoln SWCD, the Sitka Center for Arts and Ecology, ODFW, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The program provides a wide range of activities that expose students to different facets of natural resource science and practice.
- The program reaches a wide range of students, with hundreds of students in multiple grade levels participating.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application was hard to follow and the outcomes section was unclear.
- The application did not address past concerns the review team had about the program's lack of focus.
- At least one agency listed as a contributing partner had specifically asked not to be included in the application.

Concluding Analysis:

The review team recognized the value of this program to Lincoln City students and appreciated that the program enjoys good local support. They liked the diversity of activities included in the program and thought that the wide array of learning opportunities was a good approach to engaging program participants. The review team continued to have concerns with the program's lack of focus, the high cost of project management, and the lack of clarity with the expected outcomes described in the application. The review team also had reservations about the level of engagement with listed partners, since one agency listed as a contributing participant expressed that they had

specifically asked to not be included in this iteration of the project. Despite their concerns, the review team recommended the project for funding as they understood the value of the program to the community and wanted to see it continue.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

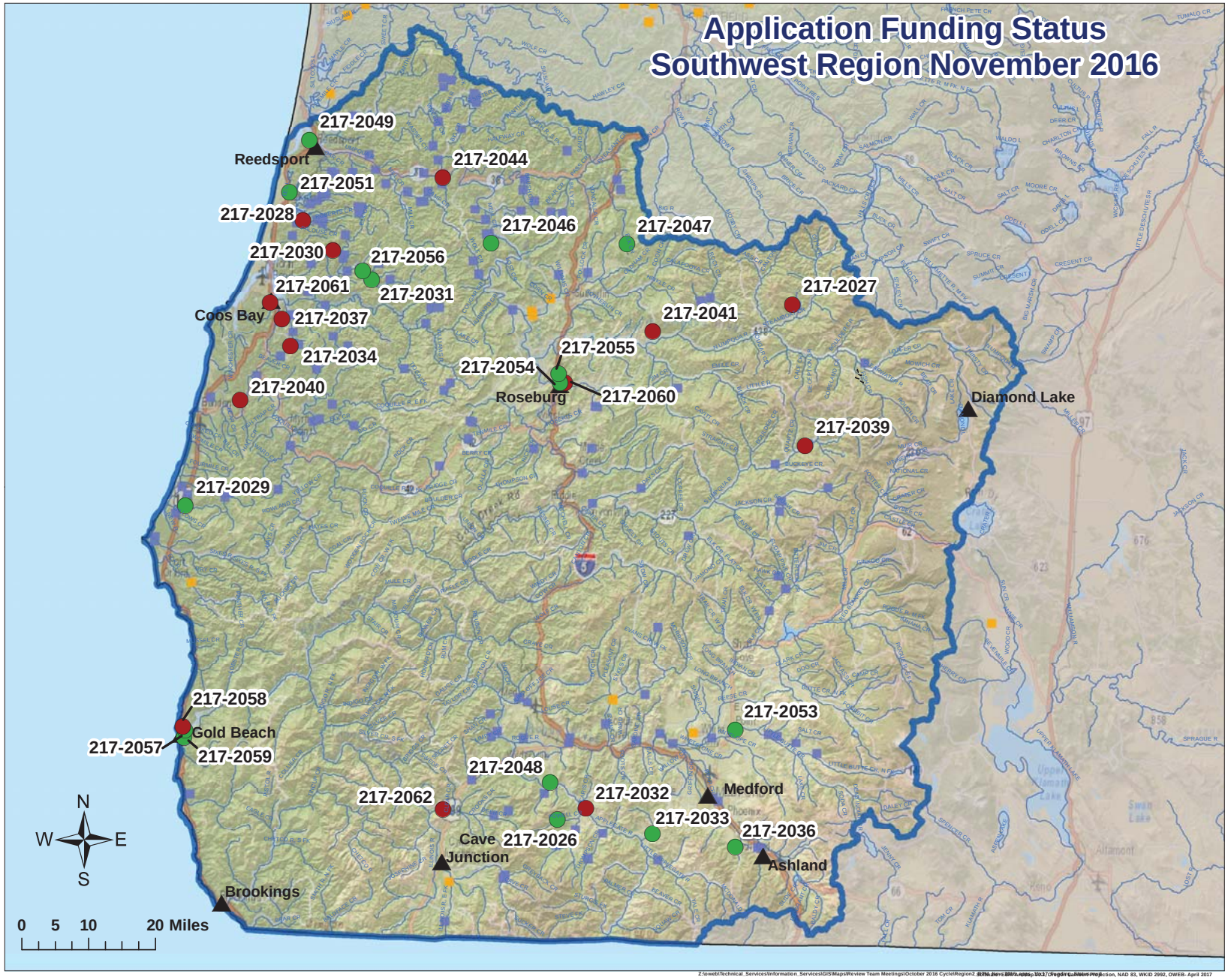
Recommended Amount
$ 24,919.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

Application Funding Status
Southwest Region November 2016



November 2016 Applications

- Staff Recommended for Funding
- Below Funding Line

Grants 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Acquisition
- Region 2 Boundary
- Streams

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Region 2 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-2036	Rogue River WC	Beeson-Robinson Fish Passage Improvement	The applicant proposes to remove the Beeson-Robinson diversion dam and replace it with a regraded stream channel to address juvenile salmonid fish passage issues at that location. The Beeson-Robinson Diversion Dam is located on Wagner Creek, 2.3 miles upstream of the confluence with Bear Creek near Talent.	25,668	Jackson
217-2032	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Powell Creek Instream Restoration - Phase 2	The project proposes to place large wood structures in Powell Creek, a tributary to Williams Creek in the Applegate River watershed located near Williams, as well as address an old diversion structure impacting fish passage.	159,595	Josephine
217-2033	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Forest Creek Barrier Project	This project will improve fish passage for salmonids at the lowest fish passage barrier on Forest Creek, a tributary to the Applegate River near Ruch. A by-pass channel will be constructed to facilitate passage around the structure.	97,704	Jackson
217-2031	Coos Watershed Association	Middle East Fork Millicoma River Instream Habitat Restoration and Road Sediment Reduction	The project proposes to address sediment inputs from logging roads in the middle section of the East Fork Millicoma, near Coos Bay, by upgrading and storm proofing them. In addition, the project partners propose to add large wood and boulder structures to the stream.	384,614	Coos
217-2047	Elk Creek WC	Headwaters Elk Creek Habitat and Riparian Improvement	The project seeks to restore a 0.85 mile reach of upper Elk Creek, located above Drain, through placement of large wood, fencing the riparian area, riparian plantings, and construction of a livestock crossing.	116,116	Douglas
217-2029	Curry SWCD	Lower Floras Creek Mainstream Riparian Improvement	The project proposes to restore a one-half mile reach of riparian area along Floras Creek near Langlois through invasive species removal and replanting with native tree and shrub species.	21,941	Curry
217-2046	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	McGee Creek Instream Restoration	The project proposes to restore 3.2 miles of McGee Creek through placement of large wood and boulder structures, planting riparian vegetation and fencing and removing a partial fish passage blocking culvert. McGee Creek, a direct tributary to the Umpqua River, is located 10 miles south of Elkton.	223,353	Douglas
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**1,028,991**	

Region 2 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Prioritiy Order				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-2041	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	French Creek Instream Restoration	127,006	Douglas
217-2028	Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership	Lower Adams Creek Riparain and Fish Passage Enhancement	129,889	Coos
217-2044	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Butler/Lutsinger 2017 Instream Restoration	149,891	Douglas
217-2034	Coos Watershed Association	Ross Slough Restoration Project Phase III	130,405	Coos
217-2026	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Applegate Riparian Restoration Project	429,994	Jackson
217-2039	South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership	Upper South Umpqua Habitat Restoration Project Phase IV	106,865	Douglas
217-2027	North Umpqua Foundation	South Fork Steelhead Creek AOP	157,254	Douglas
217-2037	Coos Watershed Association	Catching Creek Riparian Restoration Project	97,175	Coos
217-2040	Coquille Watershed Association	Seestrom Tidal Channel Restoration Phase I	482,598	Coos
217-2030	Coos Watershed Association	West Fork Millicoma River Fish Passage Improvements 2017	110,404	Coos
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**2,950,472**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
217-2035	Curry SWCD	Lower Rogue Estuary Enhancement	67,739	Curry
217-2038	Smith River WC	Big Creek Instream Restoration Phase II	264,283	Douglas
217-2042	Coos SWCD	Adams Creek Culvert Removal and Riparian Enhancement Project	80,990	Coos
217-2043	Elk Creek WC	Jack Creek Habitat Improvement (Phase I)	65,781	Douglas
217-2045	Coos SWCD	North Bank Working Landscape Preservation & Tidal Channel Restoration	272,424	Coos

Region 2 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-2049	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Leed's Island Restoration & Acquisition Technical Assistance	This Technical Assistance project will develop a suite of restoration options at Leeds Island, a potential conservation property that was historically a wetland complex with three islands at the confluence of the Umpqua River, Scholfield Creek, and Providence Creek near Reedsport.	49,975	Douglas
217-2048	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Applegate Fish Passage Improvement Project Outreach	This proposal will seek to develop landowner and water user agreements along with the conceptual project development designs for at least 13 priority barriers in the Applegate River Watershed located in Jackson and Josephine Counties.	25,832	Josephine
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**75,807**	
Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount Requested**	**County**
NONE					

Region 2 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-2059	Curry SWCD	Curry Watersheds Education Program 2017-18	Curry County Watershed Outreach target audience is 1,040 K-8th grade youth and 20 teachers thoughout Curry County and intends to also reach 575 youth and their families through after-school outreach events. This includes reaching them during school with watershed education field trips, partnered outreach events and project-based learning opportunities.	47,311	Curry
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**47,311**	

Outreach Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
217-2061	Coos Watershed Association	Coos Watershed Youth-Led Community Stewardship Program	55,952	Coos
217-2062	Siskiyou Field Institute	Watershed Education at Siskiyou Outdoor School 2017	14,344	Josephine
217-2060	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Eggs to Fry Program 2018-2019	12,216	Douglas
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**129,823**	

Outreach Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
NONE				

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Recommended	County
217-2053	Rogue River WC	WISE Effectiveness Monitoring Project - Baseline Monitoring	This 2-year project supports the continued operation of water quality sondes and grab sample monitoring at four locations in the Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek watersheds located near Medford. The project will continue to generate baseline data essential to determine whether the Water for Irrigation, Streams and Economy is achieving success.	41,497	Jackson
217-2055	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Umpqua Basin Collaborative Monitoring 2017-2019	This project proposes to continue the Partnership for the Umpqua River's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program to monitor the health of the Umpqua Basin streams in the Umpqua River basin located in Douglas County by identifying the status and observing the trends over time in basin stream conditions.	216,431	Douglas
217-2057	Curry SWCD	Curry Watersheds Comprehensive Strategic Monitoring Plan Development	The project seeks to develop a plan to delineate the Curry Watersheds Monitoring Program's tasks for the next 15-20 years, and designate the protocols and sampling plans used to implement those tasks throughout Curry County watersheds. The plan will apply to the Partnership's entire geographic domain, which extends roughly 90 miles along the Oregon coast from the California border north to the New River watershed.	45,246	Curry
217-2054	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Umpqua Basin Stream Flow and Temperature Monitoring Project	This project proposes to collect another two years of low flow and summer stream temperature data at select sites in the Umpqua Basin located in Douglas County which would extend the record of data that has been collected since 1998 at these sites.	60,401	Douglas
217-2056	Coos Watershed Association	East Fork Millicoma Oxbow Passage Monitoring Program - Phase I	The project proposes to document the response of fish to restoration actions to the Oxbow re-connection project located on the East Fork Millicoma near Coos Bay. Coho, fall Chinook, steelhead, and anadromous cutthroat trout populations are expected to respond to a measurable degree due to resolution of the passage barrier at the Oxbow.	56,052	Coos
217-2051	Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership	Eel Lake Pacific Lamprey and Native Fish Monitoring	The proposed project is the continuation of a successful program originated in 1998 to monitor flows and temperatures in 23 high restoration priority WABs (Water Availability Basins) during the low-flow summer and fall months.	36,437	Coos
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**456,064**	

Monitoring Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-2058	Curry SWCD	Curry Watershed's Spawning Surveys: 2017-2019	29,417	Curry
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**485,481**	
Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
217-2050	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Southwest Oregon Side by Side Trial	69,581	Jackson
217-2052	Elk Creek WC	Elk Creek Rapid Bioassessment and Action Plan	68,453	Douglas
Region 2 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award			**1,608,173**	**17%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award			**9,315,062**	

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2026**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Applegate Riparian Restoration Project		
Applicant:	Applegate Partnership, Inc.		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:**	Jackson
OWEB Request:	**$429,994.00**	**Total Cost:**	$713,218.00
Proposed Match:	$146,040.00		

Application Description

This project focuses on riparian restoration on the Applegate River, within three strategic project reaches: BLM Provolt Seed Orchard, the Cantrell Buckley Park, and private lands in the Upper Applegate area. The Applegate River is listed by DEQ as 303(d) water quality limited for summer temperature and most of this project will be in high intrinsic potential habitat for coho. Riparian areas have been simplified through historic land management and levee construction. Invasive species (blackberry) dominate much of the riparian areas.

Project activities include removal of invasive vegetation through mechanical methods from the river's riparian area. Once cleared of the invasives, the area will be replanted with a diversity of native trees and shrubs with planting plans developed for each property. Setbacks will range from 100' to 400' from the edge of the riverbank. The plantings will be maintained (mulched, watered and protected) for 5 years after planting while invasive species regrowth will continue to be suppressed. These efforts will improve water quality for salmonids by increasing stream shading, which will aid in the long-term reduction of summer stream temperatures, and filtration of nutrient runoff. Project partners include the Klamath Bird Observatory, Dutch Bros. Coffee, landowners, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Applicant has experience implementing riparian restoration projects in the Applegate.
- Addressing water quality here is important and this work would benefit that effort. The area is important for coho.
- Some work has already started on the Provolt site and that work is going well.
- Reviewers noted that due to multiple submissions over time, the applicant could be in danger of losing match funding and project partners.
- The plant establishment activities proposed seemed reasonable but diligence will be required to keep the invasive species at bay.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It was noted that previous comments related to stream temperature were not addressed. It was not apparent how much mainstem planting would actually improve water temperature or if there was any likelihood of being able to build connectivity between sites due to the large distances between them.

- Long-term management of the Provolt site was not clear, making it harder to assess the likelihood of long-term success.
- Letters of support were very broad in nature.

Concluding Analysis:
Restoring the riparian areas in the Applegate system is important for addressing water quality issues. The proposed properties will be challenging due to the non-native blackberry and dry summer conditions. The site preparation and plant establishment plan presented are designed to help the plantings succeed and improve riparian function in these sites. Reviewers felt the distance between these mainstem sites along with the uncertainty of being able to restore significant acreage between the sites make it harder to realize cumulative water quality benefits, but establishing sites to work out from is a first step in that direction.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
12 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$429,994.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2027**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	South Fork Steelhead Creek AOP		
Applicant:	North Umpqua Foundation		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:**	Douglas
OWEB Request:	**$157,254.00**	**Total Cost:**	$319,304.00
Proposed Match:	$150,000.00		

Application Description

This project proposes replacing an undersized perched culvert, located on Forest Service Road (FSR) 3800, that is a barrier to upstream migration of anadromous and resident fish populations. South Fork Steelhead Creek is located in the Steamboat Creek sub-basin above Glide. The current culvert was placed in 1959 and currently is a complete upstream barrier. Steelhead Creek is a high-quality tributary of Steamboat Creek, a key summer steelhead stream in the North Umpqua River with high value habitat for spawning and rearing of steelhead and cutthroat trout, and provides clean, cool water to Steamboat Creek.

The existing culvert will be replaced with a stream simulation structure to allow for fish passage of all age classes at a wide range of stream flows. The structure will be sized to accommodate greater than bank full flows and will be infilled with stream substrate to create a seamless link between the aquatic habitats downstream of the structure to the stream channel upstream of the structure. Removal of this barrier will open up close to a mile of high quality habitat for both steelhead and cutthroat trout. During construction stream flows will be routed around the site to minimize disturbance to downstream habitats. Construction will occur when the stream is at or near its low-base flow. Fish salvage will occur as necessary prior to implementation. Project partners include US Forest, The North Umpqua Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project was the site of a USFS design training in 2016. Designs are based on another site implemented in the drainage in 2014 and will be finalized for the site prior to implementation. The culvert is set on bedrock and the stream in the project area and above is high gradient.
- Project would benefit summer steelhead and cutthroat trout.
- Good level of cash match.
- The site is a complete barrier to adult and juvenile passage and this would complete the fish passage work in the sub-basin.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It was unclear if the project would meet SLOPES but discussion revealed it would not need to go through the SLOPES process.

Concluding Analysis: The project is ready for implementation in the 2017 field season and would complete fish passage work in the sub-basin. Stream gradient makes this smaller stream useable by steelhead and cutthroat trout.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
14 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 157,254.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2028**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Lower Adams Creek Riparian and Fish Passage Enhancement		
Applicant:	Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Coos
OWEB Request:	**$129,889.00**	**Total Cost:**	$173,809.00
Proposed Match:	$43,920.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to address two juvenile fish passage impediments and implement riparian restoration actions on Adams Creek. Adams creek is a tributary within the Tenmile Lakes watershed near Lakeside. Currently, fish passage, exotic species, and simplified habitat complexity are limiting factors impacting coho and other native salmonid species.

Project partners propose to correct the two improperly functioning historic stream crossings with bridges. At Site 1, the existing culvert currently sized at 20’ x 24” will be replaced with a 15’ x 22’ steel I-beam stringer bridge engineered for the site. At Site 2, the existing culvert currently sized at 20’ x 36” will be replaced with a 15’ x 22’ steel I-beam stringer bridge engineered for the site. These projects will improve juvenile fish passage to 4 miles of high-priority stream habitat. Additionally 5,500 feet of livestock exclusion fencing will be constructed and 2,000 willows, 2,000 Oregon ash, and 1,000 Douglas fir will be planted. Setbacks will average 20’.

The riparian restoration efforts will help improve water quality and restore more natural stream function in the project area. Project Partners include landowners, TLBP, Stuntzer Engineering and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- There is a TMDL in place and the work would support the implementation.
- Landowner is willing and ready for this project. Large cash and in-kind match. Project is ready for implementation.
- Area upstream from the site has good coho spawning habitat.
- Fences are designed to withstand flows and elk. There is a grazing plan submitted with the application. Fencing setback meets and/or exceeds guidelines.
- The bridge is going to be 2 times the channel width which will restore stream function at the site and improve fish passage.
- Work proposed ties into other projects.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The previous submittal showed the bridge would improve access to 4 miles of stream; this application states 5.5 miles. It is unclear which is correct.

- The plans for the bridges presented in the application are for a different site. It was noted that the applicant uses this design for all bridges and utilizes pre-fabricated slabs to make the sites very uniform in approach. The resulting bridges are wider than required which increases benefits to stream function.
- Reviewers noted that there were no shrubs included in the planting plan because of landowner concern with filling in the channel and trapping debris, causing sedimentation in the field.
- The project lacks an in-stream component; however, discussion determined that locations like this where there is a low-gradient, narrow valley agricultural land with the stream pushed to one side of the valley make it not an ideal location for large wood placement.

Concluding Analysis:
The applicant has worked with the landowner to address previous reviewer concerns and added and expanded on the riparian and fencing components. Streams in this watershed flow through narrow agriculture valleys and have been pushed to one side of the valley. While there is a low likelihood of them ever being returned to historic meander patterns, restoring riparian function and removing the culvert would benefit water quality, stream function and fish access.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
9 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$129,889.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2029**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Lower Floras Creek Mainstem Riparian Improvement		
Applicant:	Curry SWCD		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Curry
OWEB Request:	**$21,941.00**	**Total Cost:**	$34,540.00
Proposed Match:	$8,400.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to restore a reach of riparian area along Floras creek near Langlois through invasive species removal and replanting with native tree species. Historic land use practices have left Lower Floras Creek impacted by poor water quality, flood plain disconnection, and lack of instream habitat complexity.

The project will treat a total of 2.5 riparian acres along both sides of over one half-mile of stream. Native tree and shrub species will be used following a planting prescription developed for the site to treat specific areas based on needs and conditions. Invasive species such as blackberry will be treated prior to planting. Blackberry treatment will consist of a late spring/early summer cutting followed by a late fall application of an aquatically-labeled, NOAA Fisheries-approved glyphosate product. The restoration activities included in this proposal will enhance water quality and instream habitat in Lower Floras Creek, which is an important stream with regard to coho and Chinook salmon as well as steelhead. Project Partners include landowners and BLM.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project supports a likely future TMDL. The stream system is in the southern-most portion of OC Coho range.
- The project schedule is appropriate and considers timing of implementing instream actions prior to riparian planting work.
- Planting plans are good and based on previous experience.
- The project predicts a high survival success rate.
- The project request from OWEB is low and the cost per mile of this project is very reasonable.
- The project would help build connectivity between previous project sites including one landowner enrolled in CREP (although close to expiration, landowner has indicated willingness to re-enroll some portions of property.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application mentions instream log placement but does not include funds in the budget for this activity.

- The riparian area already has conifers that have reached the free-to-grow state. The application did not describe how the riparian plantings in these areas would improve over what was already there.
- The fencing setback averages only 17' and seems narrow.

Concluding Analysis:
The project builds on previous efforts within the watershed to improve riparian and stream health; the applicant has developed a great track record of implementing this type of project. The fencing setback will need to meet guidelines. The project will help restore stream and riparian function in the project reach.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff:
Fund with Conditions; fencing setbacks must meet restoration guidelines.

Regional Review Team Priority
6 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$21,941.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board:
Fund with Conditions; fencing setbacks must meet restoration guidelines.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 21,941.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2030**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	West Fork Millicoma River Fish Passage Improvements 2017		
Applicant:	Coos Watershed Association		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Coos
OWEB Request:	**$110,404.00**	**Total Cost:**	$288,403.00
Proposed Match:	$177,999.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to replace two undersized culverts on salmon tributaries that flow under the West Fork Millicoma Road into the West Fork Millicoma River, located northeast of Coos Bay, with active channel width bridges. Both culverts are perched over 4 feet above the stream grade on the outfalls, obstructing passage to a total of 2.75 miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat and disrupting sediment transport and natural stream function.

The Schumacher Creek culvert is located 3 miles past the blacktop on the WF Millicoma Road and is improperly imbedded with an outlet drop of approximately 5 feet and no jump pool at the outfall, blocking access for adult salmonids and juveniles to 2.5 miles of spawning and rearing habitat. An unnamed tributary to the West Fork flows through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Millicoma Interpretive Center and Salmon Trout Enhancement Program Hatchery. This culvert is also perched with an outlet drop of 5 feet with no jump pool; the outlet drop is a barrier for adults and juveniles to access to 0.25 miles of habitat upstream. Fish passage and natural stream function would be restored through removal of both culverts and replacing them with active-channel width bridges. Project partners include Coos County Road Department and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Placement of bridges would remove maintenance and sediment input issues at that point.
- Coho are present downstream of the culverts, but cannot access areas upstream of them. Schumacher Creek has 2.5 miles of habitat above the culvert and unnamed creek has 0.25 miles.
- Project demonstrates good partnerships.
- The streams provide cool water refugia during the summer months.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Habitat quality above culverts is low intrinsic potential habitat.
- Work would restore substrate and gravel movement back into mainstem area but this area is mainly bedrock without much structure available to catch it.
- The design did not appear to provide a low-flow channel.
- Designs may not meet NOAA passage criteria, but there are exceptions for high gradients.
- The cost of the unnamed creek versus the amount of habitat did not seem to have as high a cost-benefit ratio as Schumacher Creek.

Concluding Analysis:
The applicant has a good track record of implementing similar projects. The quality of habitat above the culverts is currently lower quality but restoring fish passage to cool water refugia is important in areas with higher mainstem water temperatures. The cost-benefit ratio is less for the unnamed culvert because of the amount of habitat above this site.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions; designs shall meet NMFS/ODFW fish passage criteria.

Regional Review Team Priority
17 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$110,404.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2031**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Middle East Fork Millicoma River Instream Habitat Restoration and Road Sediment Reduction		
Applicant:	Coos Watershed Association		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Coos
OWEB Request:	**$384,614.00**	**Total Cost:**	$568,334.00
Proposed Match:	$183,720.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to address sediment inputs from logging roads in the middle section of the East Fork Millicoma by upgrading and storm-proofing them. In addition, the project partners propose to add large wood and boulder structures to the stream. The East Fork Millicoma River is located near Coos Bay and supports coho, Chinook, and chum salmon, and steelhead and cutthroat trout. The stream has been simplified through historic logging and stream cleaning practices and watershed assessments and instream habitat is a major limiting factor for fish in this basin.

Project partners propose to address salmonid habitat limiting factors in the uppermost 11.4 miles of the 4000 Road by installing 74 additional cross-drain culverts and replacing 10 undersized cross-drain culverts to reduce fine sediment delivery to anadromous streams. This project will complete road sediment reduction work on the 4000 Road mainline haul route from its junction with the 1000 Road, up to the watershed divide. Finally, the applicant proposes to install 50 large-wood and boulder structures in 3.0 miles of the East Fork Millicoma River. All structures will be placed with an excavator. Project partners include the Coos Watershed Association, the Weyerhaeuser Company and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project site is above the oxbow reconnection project (216-2012), which improved fish access for Chinook and coho to this proposed project reach.
- The project demonstrates a strong partnership in place.
- The project is very well developed and laid out with good methodology for site selection. The project is designed and is ready for implementation.
- It is a multifaceted project with benefit to numerous species from both habitat and access perspectives, and will help improve water quality through sediment input reduction.
- High cost/benefit ratio.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Some concern was raised over material size and boulder placement for stabilization. Discussion concluded that the designs were based on modeling efforts developed for placement of similar structures in the larger reaches of the West Fork Millicoma by the

applicant. The applicant has a great deal of experience designing and placing this type of structure.

Concluding Analysis:
The project builds on access work accomplished below the site. The project is part of a strategic plan to restore the West Fork Millicoma River. The project has been designed and is ready for implementation during the 2017 instream work window.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 384,614.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 384,614.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2032**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Powell Creek Instream Restoration - Phase 2		
Applicant:	Applegate Partnership, Inc.		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:**	Josephine
OWEB Request:	**$159,595.00**	**Total Cost:**	$265,264.00
Proposed Match:	$105,670.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to place large wood structures in Powell Creek as well as address a diversion structure impacting fish passage. Powell Creek is a tributary to Williams Creek in the Applegate River watershed located near Williams. The project reach in Powell Creek has been shown in prior habitat surveys to be large wood debris (LWD) deficient. Current stream conditions are lacking in both the necessary structure and habitats needed by salmonids to successfully complete their lifecycle.

The project will build on work undertaken in Phase I which placed 31 large wood structures instream along 1.1 miles of stream. Phase II proposes to use 202 logs to install 37 large wood structures on 1.9 miles of Powell Creek immediately below Phase I. Phase II also includes the removal of an abandoned concrete dam located at river mile 1.8. The dam is a small concrete structure with stop board slats and an approximately 45' wide structure overall, an 8' opening in the creek, and a 3.5' concrete apron. The dam would be completely removed.

Project Partners include the Middle Rogue Steelheaders, Southern Oregon Flyfishers, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The headwaters provide cold water through the instream project site and down to where water diversions begin where 95% of the flow is quickly removed from the stream. Getting juvenile salmonids above the dam is important for summer survival.
- The applicant has revamped the application to address concerns from previous submittals, including dropping lower priority culvert replacement activities and adding a dam removal component.
- The project would benefit steelhead and coho. Chinook have been confirmed this season in the project area for the first time. The project would build continuity and expand the instream work successfully accomplished directly upstream of the proposed reach.
- The project has a good mix of partners and good level of match.
- There are no water rights associated with the dam and it does not impound water.
- The applicant has experience implementing dam removal projects and has ODFW and BLM technical expertise involved in the project.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The dam removal component was not as detailed as the instream habitat activities. It would have been helpful to understand the composition of sediments behind the dam and whether there was any anticipated head cutting.
- A site plan detailing material disposal would also have been helpful to the review; although the permitting process will address concerns about disposal. The dam is a smaller one and should be a fairly straight forward removal process.
- It was suggested the applicant consider doing stream profile surveys to monitor the stream post-removal.

Concluding Analysis:
The applicant presented a revised submittal that addressed concerns from previous reviews and added a dam removal component. The project builds on successful instream habitat restoration activities directly above the proposed project reach. Restoring access to cool water refugia is important to summer juvenile salmonid survival making removal of the abandoned diversion dam very timely.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$159,595.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$159,595.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2033**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Forest Creek Barrier Project		
Applicant:	Applegate Partnership, Inc.		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:**	Jackson
OWEB Request:	**$97,704.00**	**Total Cost:**	$192,439.00
Proposed Match:	$94,735.00		

Application Description

This project will improve fish passage at a concrete dam structure through construction of a by-pass channel. The project site is located 1.9 river miles from its confluence with the Applegate River near Ruch. Despite this history, the habitat on Forest Creek located upstream of this barrier is high intrinsic potential habitat for coho.

This project will open up passage through construction of an engineered bypass channel around the existing concrete structure. The structure is the first fish passage barrier on the stream and impacts adult and juvenile salmonid passage including coho and steelhead. The preliminary designs for this project were completed with funding from OWEB TA grant 215-2033-11631. The project will provide access for adults and juveniles to 2.4 miles of coho habitat and 4.2 miles of steelhead habitat upstream. This concrete structure was historically used to fill two large log ponds for the adjacent log mill, but has been unused for many decades and now currently provides stability for the road and pond levee. Partners include the BLM, landowners, Middle Rogue Steelheaders and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- It is the first known barrier on the stream and blocks juvenile and adult coho and steelhead passage to over 4 miles cool water, high intrinsic potential habitat.
- Applicant addressed design concerns from previous review. The design engineer is experienced in working on fish passage issues in the area and has worked on several other projects.
- Design has been approved by ODFW and a NOAA engineer but still needs to go through consultation with federal agencies.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The site is challenging and constrained by ownerships and the landowner's strong desire to leave the concrete structure in to protect the road bed. To address these concerns the design conformed to these boundaries.
- It was noted that the plantings do not have an irrigation component. It was not clear if watering was necessary at this location or an oversight.

- There was some confusion over the schedule which indicated design and implementation would overlap in the same month.
- Concern was raised over viability of project moving forward if ODFW R&E funds were not secured.

Concluding Analysis:
The project is the result of an OWEB TA Grant (215-2033). The project would address the lowest barrier on a tributary stream and open up considerable cool water, high intrinsic potential habitat for coho as well as quality habitats for steelhead and trout. The applicant has done a good job of addressing reviewer concerns from the previous submission. The project is designed and ready for implementation.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$97,704.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$97,704.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2034**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Ross Slough Restoration Project Phase III		
Applicant:	Coos Watershed Association		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Coos
OWEB Request:	**$130,405.00**	**Total Cost:**	$229,665.00
Proposed Match:	$99,260.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to replace an undersized culvert with a bridge on Ross Slough near Coos Bay. Ross Slough is an historical tidal wetland and tributary of Catching Slough, situated in a narrow agricultural valley that has been heavily impacted by past and current land management practices which have resulted in stream channelization and removal of riparian vegetation.

The culvert would be replaced with a bridge designed to pass a 100-year flood event. The current culvert is a 72" corrugated steel pipe that was placed within a reach of Ross Slough that has an 8'active channel width. The current culvert will pass a maximum of 178 cfs. The 50-year and 100-year peak flows are 417 cfs and 481 cfs, respectively. The proposed bridge is a 40'x25' modular bridge with guardrails with a 12' active channel width. The culvert is located at the bottom of the recently completed channel re-meandering and riparian restoration project (OWEB 216-2045). This project is located in lowland habitat accessible to Chinook, coho, Pacific lamprey and steelhead. Project partners include ODFW and the Coos County Road Department.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- High visibility project with a strong likelihood it will open the door to other projects.
- Applicant has developed a strong track record implementing this type of project.
- Having adequate access to direct estuary lowland tributaries is important to juvenile coho life history.
- This is a high priority culvert for project partners.
- Project ties directly to channel re-meander project above this site. This project would help with restoring natural stream function and drainage to the channel re-meander and CREP project upstream.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The plan lacked specific design details.
- The reviewers wanted to make sure BMPs were followed to ensure grout did not enter the stream.
- The proposed project schedule for implementation in June-September 2017 seemed ambitious; reviewers questioned whether the schedule was correct.
- Future work should include riparian planting and fencing at this site.

Concluding Analysis:
The project ties directly to upstream channel and habitat restoration efforts, and replacement would allow for a more natural stream function. Reviewers recognized the experience the project partners have in this type of work but having site-specific design detail is important to help reviewers evaluate the likelihood of success of the project.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions. Bridge must meet NOAA/ODFW fish passage criteria. Grout application on bridge needs to follow BMPs.

Regional Review Team Priority
11 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$130,405.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2035**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Lower Rogue Estuary Enhancement		
Applicant:	Curry SWCD		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:**	Curry
OWEB Request:	**$67,739.00**	**Total Cost:**	$86,376.00
Proposed Match:	$18,637.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to undertake large wood placement in addition to invasive plant species removal and riparian planting activities in two estuary tributaries to the Lower Rogue near Gold Beach. Estuary conditions have been simplified through loss of estuary area and historic land use practices.

Enhancements to the riparian vegetation community are proposed for 10.5 acres along God Wants You Slough and Krambeal Creek. Invasives such as reed canary grass, English ivy, vinca, and blackberry will be addressed through manual removal, including a variety of approaches such as hand-pulling, chopping or digging, and weed eating. Following removal, planting plans will be finalized and a variety of native tree and shrub species will be planted according to the plans developed. Six log and boulder structures will be placed to help improve instream habitat complexity and flood plain interaction. The goal of the project is to increase suitable year-round habitat for all freshwater life stages of coho and other native salmonids, while also supporting channel/floodplain processes that will benefit other native aquatic species.

Project Partners include the Middle Rogue Steelheaders, ODFW, USF&WS, the Wild Rivers Coast Alliance and project landowners.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Restoring estuary function and floodplain connectivity is a priority.
- Project work would benefit multiple coho populations.
- Good outreach potential; post-project work involves local school students doing some monitoring

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application did not contain site-specific design details. Work in tidally influenced areas can be challenging because designs have to incorporate tidal movement as well as high tide and flood concerns. Large wood placement will need to consider all of these factors into the design.
- The application set a high target for planting survival but did not provide a planting plan or plant establishment plan. These are important to help the reviewers evaluate the likelihood of success.

- Budget identified fertilizer and herbicide components but the application did not describe details such as BMPs or license requirements for these activities.
- Additional information describing the importance of the proposed project site would also be helpful for laying the foundation for project need.
- Monitoring activities were identified as match but no specifics were provided.

Concluding Analysis:
Estuary and direct estuary tributary habitat restoration helps to address key factors impacting juvenile salmonid survivability. The reviewers suggested the applicant consider applying for a technical assistance grant to help support design for this project. Future applications can be strengthened with large wood design information, planting and plant establishment details, discussion on monitoring activities, and discussion on importance of sites proposed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2036**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Beeson-Robinson Fish Passage Improvement		
Applicant:	Rogue River WC		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:**	Jackson
OWEB Request:	**$25,668.00**	**Total Cost:**	$142,977.00
Proposed Match:	$35,036.00		

Application Description

The applicant proposes to remove the Beeson-Robinson diversion dam and replace it with a regraded stream channel to address juvenile salmonid fish passage issues at that location. The Beeson-Robinson Diversion Dam is located on Wagner Creek, 2.3 miles upstream of the confluence with Bear Creek near Talent.

This 5.5-feet high concrete and stop log dam blocks upstream trout, juveni1e steelhead and coho movement from April through October. The stop logs are removed during adult migration, but a 3-feet high leap or swim through heavy flows are required to pass the concrete sill. There are 4.5 miles of habitat upstream of the dam, 2 miles of which are low-gradient. Wagner creek has low summer water temperatures making it good rearing habitat. The applicant proposes removing the dam, building a 160-foot long, 5% gradient re-profiled stream channel, installing an irrigation water collection box and extending the water conveyance system to this point. The project will restore more natural stream function and hydrology to the location allowing for juvenile fish passage.

Project partners include The Freshwater Trust, Patagonia, Trout and Salmon Foundation, The Jubitz Family Foundation, Middle Rogue Steelheaders, Resource Legacy Fund, Rogue River Watershed Council, Jackson SWCD, Cascade Stream Solutions, Land owners, Rogue Basin partnership, Geos Institute, Schwemm Family Foundation and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This project has been submitted multiple times. The applicant has done an excellent job of addressing reviewer comment and concerns.
- Landowners are committed to the project and the landowner agreement was provided in the application.
- The project ties into ODA Strategic Investment Area work with landowners on the ditch fed by this diversion, which have active projects in the SIA program. Upland areas above Wagner Creek are part of the Ashland Forest Health FIP.
- The applicant has done an outstanding job of fund-raising and reducing the request from OWEB.
- The project has been the subject of numerous outreach activities and has received national coverage.
- The project has a high benefit-to-cost ratio.

- Project designs are technically sound and the project has a high likelihood of success. ODFW fish passage permit has been obtained.
- The stream is one of the few cold water streams left in the Bear Creek watershed.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- If not funded soon there will be a loss of significant match.
- While the project area lacks documented coho use in the stream reach, coho are present in the watershed and there is no reason coho cannot access the project reach. Steelhead use is documented.

Concluding Analysis: This project is designed and ready for implementation. The project ties directly into other restoration activities and lays the foundation for improvements to the current irrigation system fed by the diversion. This project marks the first entry of new funding sources to the area. If the project is successful there is a high likelihood partners will continue to invest in fish passage efforts in the Rogue. The project will improve passage to a large section of the rare cool water refugia critical for juvenile salmonid survival in the Bear Creek system.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions; NOAA to confirm designs meet fish passage guidelines.

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$25,668.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund with Conditions; prior to first fund request, the applicant will provide confirmation from NOAA and ODFW that designs meet fish passage criteria.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$25,668.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2037**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Catching Creek Riparian Restoration Project		
Applicant:	Coos Watershed Association		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Coos
OWEB Request:	**$97,175.00**	**Total Cost:**	$131,075.00
Proposed Match:	$33,900.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to restore riparian function through riparian planting and fencing and improve fish passage through the replacement of an undersized culvert on Catching Creek, a tributary to catching Slough near Coos Bay. Catching Creek is situated in a narrow agricultural valley that has been heavily impacted by past and current land management practices which have resulted in stream channelization and removal of riparian vegetation.

The project proposes to plant a variety of native tree and shrub species according to the planting plans developed. Invasive blackberry will be addressed prior to planting along a 3,300' reach of stream. A 350' section with steep bank will receive a pull-back treatment prior to planting. Plant establishment activities will occur after the planting to insure a goal of 80% survival. 3300' of livestock exclusion fencing will be installed along the mainstem and tributary with a 20' and 14' setback. An undersized culvert will be upgraded to pass a 100-year flood event and meet NOAA fish passage criteria. This project is located in lowland habitat accessible to Chinook, coho, and steelhead. Riparian plantings and fencing will improve bank stability and reduce sediment loads. Upgrading an undersized culvert will prevent future issues that may occur such as plugging and velocity barriers to improve access to 1.2 miles of spawning habitat.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The site is a high-profile area and should provide a great outreach opportunity.
- The landowner is providing a high-degree of match and is heavily involved in the project.
- The project would help protect riparian zones and improve riparian function and water quality.
- The applicant has a lot of experience and patience in approaching planting in similar areas.
- The bank pull-back proposed seemed reasonable and the best approach for that site.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The culvert plan information in the application was confusing. Some designs referenced a 7 ft., and others referenced an 8 ft. culvert.
- Planting plan information was unclear. The monitoring plan was not well described; the proposed high-density planting would have benefitted with more information on why that approach was appropriate and how it would be managed into the future.

- The bank pull-back component did not include an erosion control plan.

Concluding Analysis:
The project presents a great outreach opportunity as well as implements several restoration actions that benefit water quality and habitat conditions. The applicant has developed a good track record with similar projects. In this case, more design detail would have helped strengthen the application.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
15 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$97,175.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2038**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Big Creek Instream Restoration Phase II		
Applicant:	Smith River WC		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:**	Douglas
OWEB Request:	**$264,283.00**	**Total Cost:**	$628,163.00
Proposed Match:	$363,880.00		

Application Description

This project proposes to install large wood and boulder structures on nine tributaries to Big Creek, a tributary to the Smith River located near Reedsport. Big Creek has been impacted through historic land use practices which have resulted in simplified instream habitat conditions.

One hundred and three priority sites have been identified on nine tributaries to Big Creek. 75 sites will be treated by helicopter and 28 sites will be treated by excavator log placements. Five of these sites will add material additions to previous instream placements, including a total of 40 boulders to existing ballast structures; no other boulders will be used. The total material count is 828 logs and 40 boulders. Implementation of this project will treat all remaining high priority sites in the Big Creek watershed. Project activities would benefit natural stream function and help improve instream habitat conditions for steelhead, Chinook, cutthroat, coho and Pacific lamprey. Project partners include BLM, Roseburg resources Inc., ODFW, Western Native Trout Initiative, Douglas Timber Operators, Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The application presents a good mix of partners and takes a prioritized approach to tackling restoration in this watershed. The project continues to build on instream restoration activities. This is the highest ranked basin in the area for BLM.
- Project would benefit multiple species including coho. The area has High Intrinsic Potential for Coho.
- Reviewers appreciated the extra effort taken to coordinate helicopter mobilization.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Designs were not included in the application. Designs and discussion on log lengths are important to the review to help determine the likelihood of success.
- The application did not describe the excavator road work identified in the budget.
- Information on the previous project in the area with details on the reasons for failure or and how the proposed work would fix the issue would strengthen the proposal.

Concluding Analysis:
There is a lot of momentum to restore instream habitat in this watershed. The project would continue the prioritized approach of the project partners. While supportive of this priority work, reviewers did not feel they could support the project for funding at this time without design information.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2039**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Upper South Umpqua Habitat Restoration Project Phase IV		
Applicant:	South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:**	Douglas
OWEB Request:	**$106,865.00**	**Total Cost:**	$262,705.00
Proposed Match:	$155,840.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to install rock weirs and spawning gravels to help restore spawning and rearing opportunities for salmonids on the upper South Umpqua River near Tiller. Historic stream cleaning and land use practices have resulted in a simplified instream habitat and impaired stream function.

The project is located immediately upstream of Skillet and Emerson Creek and proposes to treat 500' of important spawning and rearing habitat, and increasing habitat diversity by constructing four rock weirs, adding 1,200 cubic yards of spawning gravel and placing 10 large trees in three clusters upstream of a prominent cobble bar. Project activities will help create a more complex, naturally functioning stream system in the project reach benefiting spring Chinook, other salmonids and Pacific lamprey. Project partners include Ecotrust and USFS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project site identification and prioritization are based on 20 years of monitoring data.
- The project would benefit spring Chinook whose numbers in the South Umpqua are at very low levels.
- Sites are located near summer holding pools to facilitate ease of access for fall spawning.
- The project is designed and ready for implementation. The project builds on previous work in the watershed to improve spawning opportunities.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The cost of the project is high compared to the amount of habitat to be improved.

Concluding Analysis:

The project is a resubmittal and was recommended the previous cycle but fell below the staff-recommended funding line. The project would help provide spawning opportunities for depressed spring Chinook populations in the South Umpqua. The work will help insure that adults have access to spawning areas in immediate proximity to summering pools which will increase the likelihood of spawning success.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$106,865.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2040**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Seestrom Tidal Channel Restoration Phase I		
Applicant:	Coquille Watershed Association		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Coos
OWEB Request:	**$482,598.00**	**Total Cost:**	$760,218.00
Proposed Match:	$277,620.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to replace two old tidegates with one muted tidegate regulator and construct a new channel network behind the new gate as well as fence and plant the restored channel areas on a 201-acre property located on the southeast floodplain of the Coquille River near river mile 13.6 above Bandon. The project area was historically a tidal wetland. The lands in the Coquille River Valley floor were cleared, leveed, tidgated, and drained for agricultural purposes in the late 19th or early 20th century, thereby substantially altering the land from its historical state as a freshwater tidal swamp into a drained pasture.

The Seestrom Tidal Channel Restoration Phase I is planned for 201 acres of the northern portion of the Isenhart Ranch properties. The project will remove two tidegates and completely eliminate one and combine the channels and install a new concrete box culvert and side-hinged aluminum tidegate with a muted tidegate regulator inflow control device to allow a prescribed level of tidal inflow into the channel network. Approximately 15,000' of reconstructed tidally influenced channel will mimic more natural tidally influenced wetland conditions. Additionally, 11,000' of livestock exclusion fence will be constructed on primary channels with livestock crossings incorporated in order to facilitate continued use of the adjacent pastures following channel reconstruction and habitat improvements. Native woody and shrub species will be planted within the 10 ft. setback area adjacent to the tidal channels. Project activities will benefit coho and Chinook salmon juveniles as well as cutthroat trout and other species. The work will also help restore more natural tidal influence and benefit water quality. Project partners include landowners, ODFW, Powers Native Species Center and Bandon Go Native Programs, Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, Coos Soil & Water Conservation District, and USF&WS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The landowner is supportive of the project, and has a multi-generational approach to management. The project would have benefits both for watershed health and for livestock management. The landowner is providing a great degree of match for the project.
- The project could make a good working landscape model.
- Off-channel habitat in tidally influenced lowlands during the winter is important to coho and other species life histories. The creation of additional access to improved habitat will greatly improve the value of existing coho habitat.

- Currently two tidegates are present. Project would eliminate the need for one and replace other with a more fish passage friendly muted tidegate regulated design.
- USFWS will be funding the engineering and design phase.
- Riparian and wetland plantings will help benefit water quality and support likely TMDL actions.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No designs were included for the channel or the tidegate. Designs have not yet been undertaken but with the USFWS support and funding that will begin soon. Without complete designs it is difficult to determine the accuracy of the budget and the likelihood of project success.
- If any levee work is involved there needs to be involvement by a specialist and exploratory work undertaken.
- A water management plan will need to be developed.
- There needs to be a mosquito management plan.
- The permit schedule seemed unrealistic based on the design schedule. The tidegate will need to meet NOAA/ODFW fish passage criteria which should be taken into account during the design and permitting phases.
- Fencing setbacks and large wood placements will need to meet guidelines.
- It was not clear if CREP might be an option for the landowner.

Concluding Analysis:
USFWS funded design and engineering will begin in the winter of 2017 but implementation will not be able to begin until 2018. The work is important to addressing loss of juvenile overwinter habitat which is a key limiting factor impacting coho. The project would benefit the watershed as well as improve the landowner's ability to effectively manage the property. The engineering work is just beginning and will better inform the budget and technical aspects of the final project design with construction anticipated in the 2018 field season.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions; develop a water management plan and a mosquito management plan.

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$482,598.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2041**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	French Creek Instream Restoration		
Applicant:	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:**	Douglas
OWEB Request:	**$127,006.00**	**Total Cost:**	$253,420.00
Proposed Match:	$126,414.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to add instream log and boulder structures to French Creek, a tributary to the North Umpqua River near Glide. French Creek's instream habitat has become simplified due to historic land use practices, stream cleaning, and grazing.

Project partners propose to place large wood and boulders at 57 sites throughout 2.25 miles of French Creek using 135 logs, 8 whole trees and 1,470 boulders. Logs, trees, and boulders will be placed using a cable yarder and excavator. Sites will consist of approximately 10 to 50 boulders, 0 to 2 trees, and 0 to 7 logs depending on size and hydrologic conditions of sites. Whole trees with root wads will be tipped, yarded, and placed in the stream. The addition of large wood and boulder complexes will help restore instream habitat complexity and promote more natural stream function. French Creek supports coho, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout, Pacific lamprey, and other native resident fish. Project Partners include BLM, ODFW and the Umpqua Fisheries Enhancement Derby.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This project builds on other restoration efforts undertaken in the area. The project is a high priority for the applicant.
- The project has high-outreach potential. The landowner is proactive and open to have people come and look at the project. The landowner is providing a good level of match to the project.
- The stream has high intrinsic potential for coho and supports trout, steelhead and Pacific lamprey

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application did not present revised boulder designs, which were delayed due to ODFW staff changes but are now in process with boulder placement shifting to lower bedrock stretches of stream. Long-term natural recruitment of large wood is unlikely to occur in the foreseeable future.

Concluding Analysis:
The project is a resubmittal which fell below the staff funding line during the last cycle. The project represents an excellent outreach opportunity with a very supportive landowner. The work would complement other restoration efforts. The stream has high intrinsic potential and the work proposed would benefit coho.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$127,006.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2042**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Adams Creek Culvert Removal and Riparian Enhancement Project		
Applicant:	Coos SWCD		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Coos
OWEB Request:	**$80,990.00**	**Total Cost:**	$104,287.00
Proposed Match:	$23,298.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to address a juvenile fish passage impediment and implement riparian restoration actions on Adams Creek. Adams creek is a tributary within the Tenmile Lakes watershed near Lakeside. Currently, fish passage, exotic species, and simplified habitat complexity are limiting factors, impacting coho and other native salmonid species.

Under this proposal, 2,650' of riparian livestock exclusion fencing would be constructed with a 10' setback on a tributary to Adams Creek and 5,075' of riparian exclusion fencing at a 15' setback would be constructed on the main Adams Creek channel. The fenced streamside area will then be revegetated with a mix of willow, spruce, and cottonwood. Additionally an undersized deteriorated culvert would be removed and replaced with an engineered active channel width spanning bridge. Project activities would help benefit water quality issues as well as improve fish access to habitat above the project area. Project partners include ODFW, landowners, Coos SWCD and Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The landowner is supportive of the project and providing cash match.
- Project work would benefit water quality and would help implement the TMDL.
- The project would build on other restoration efforts in the watershed. Fencing and the bridge approach are based on methods proven to work well in this watershed.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application did not provide design information for bridge or culverts. Concerns were raised over use of the poly pipe in the side tributary. Poly pipe is not the preferred material and will likely not hold up as well as other types.
- Fencing setbacks do not meet minimum guidelines.
- A grazing management plan would be helpful to have in place. Soil types present make having a grazing plan essential to management.
- More information on herbicide application would be helpful.

Concluding Analysis:
The project would benefit water quality issues and support TMDL implementation in the watershed. Without design detail and with questions associated with fencing setbacks, lack of a grazing management plan and other related details, the review team did not feel they could recommend the project for funding at this time.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2043**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Jack Creek Habitat Improvement (Phase I)		
Applicant:	Elk Creek WC		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:**	Douglas
OWEB Request:	**$65,781.00**	**Total Cost:**	$108,354.00
Proposed Match:	$38,573.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to increase in-stream habitat complexity through placement of large wood in Jack Creek, a tributary to Elk Creek located near Drain. Historic land management practices such as stream cleaning have resulted in incised channels and bedrock substrates which are limiting the effective spawning and rearing habitat for coho in the watershed

The project will place in-stream logs in a three-quarter mile reach of Jack Creek. Specifically 71 logs and 40 boulders will be installed at 15 sites. Structures will be placed using an excavator. In addition, a perched culvert on Jack Creek Road is restricting access for both juvenile and adult coho into approximately 1.75 miles of Johnny Creek, a major tributary of Jack Creek, and will be replaced with a "fish friendly" culvert. Project partners include the landowner, BLM and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project reach contains high intrinsic potential habitat for coho.
- The applicant clearly described the process they used of prioritizing projects.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Simplified instream habitat is only one of the issues impacting the stream and while instream conditions are a limiting factor, stream health is also impacted by issues identified in the previous submission.
- The size of materials proposed seemed small for the system. It was not clear they would meet the guidelines.
- Some concern was noted at the ditch relief culvert draining into a field and potential for cutting into the field.
- No letter of support from the land owner was included.

Concluding Analysis:

The project is a resubmittal, which was not recommended for funding previously. The proposal was scaled down by approximately two-thirds and divided into phases. The Phase I request from OWEB focuses placement of material in areas where livestock do not have access. Reviewers felt the project resubmittal did not address concerns from the previous submission related to developing a more comprehensive approach to restoring the stream to address other important limiting factors and meeting NOAA fish passage requirements at the culvert proposed as match. Reviewers felt the

issues identified in the first review were still relevant despite the changes and did not recommend it for funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2044**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Butler/Lutsinger 2017 Instream Restoration		
Applicant:	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:**	Douglas
OWEB Request:	**$149,891.00**	**Total Cost:**	$408,396.00
Proposed Match:	$258,505.00		

Application Description

This project seeks to improve instream habitat conditions on Butler and Lutsinger Creeks by placing large wood and boulders instream. These streams are tributaries to the lower Umpqua River located near Elkton. These stream systems have been simplified through historic land management practices and stream cleaning.

This project seeks to restore 4.3 miles of Lutsinger Creek (including tributaries), and 1 mile of Butler Creek. The project will place, with a helicopter and excavator, 424 logs, 61 whole trees and 103 whole trees with root wads at 86 sites. Project work will help create habitat complexity with more natural stream function essential to salmonid spawning and rearing. Lutsinger Creek has already been the subject of restoration activities. When this proposal is implemented, all reaches of Lutsinger Creek and Butler Creek that are accessible to salmonids will be fully restored. The streams support coho, cutthroat trout, and steelhead and Pacific lamprey. Project partners include BLM, Umpqua Fisheries Enhancement Derby, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Bring Back the Natives, Meyer Memorial Trust, Roseburg Resources, Co., and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project would benefit coho and other species. Project locations contain high intrinsic potential habitat.
- Cost-per-mile seems reasonable and the applicant is utilizing quality materials.
- The project would complete large instream wood restoration in the two watersheds. This is complementary to previous restoration efforts in Butler and Lutsinger creeks. There is not much natural large wood recruitment making a more passive approach difficult.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The timing of the helicopter work seemed late in the season. Factoring in potential for fire season and the location in upper watershed, there is a high degree of likelihood a waiver would be granted to allow for the late season instream work.
- Reviewers would have preferred to see a higher match contribution from the landowner.
- Tree cutting costs were high.

Concluding Analysis:
The project was a resubmittal from the previous cycle but fell below the staff funding line. The applicant did a good job of addressing reviewer concerns from the last submission. The reviewers felt the applicant was taking a reasonable approach to getting the largest amount of work done in the area as possible at one time to maximize cost savings and avoid needing to re-enter the system for additional work. Project work would address key limiting factors for coho in the system and help improve stream function.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$149,891.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2045**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	North Bank Working Landscape Preservation & Tidal Channel Restoration		
Applicant:	Coos SWCD		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Coos
OWEB Request:	**$272,424.00**	**Total Cost:**	$352,125.00
Proposed Match:	$79,702.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to replace an old tidegate with one muted tidegate regulator and construct a new channel network behind the new gate as well as repair failing levee areas and fence and plant the restored channel areas on a property located on the Coquille River near river mile 7.1 above Bandon. The project area was historically a tidal wetland. The lands in the Coquille River Valley floor were cleared, leveed, tidgated, and drained for agricultural purposes in the late 19th or early 20th century, thereby substantially altering the land into a drained pasture used seasonally.

The project is planned for a 41-acre parcel. The project will replace one old tidegate and install a new concrete box culvert and side-hinged aluminum tidegate with a Muted Tidal Regulator inflow control device to allow prescribed levels of tidal inflow into the channel network, which will see approximately 4,500' of reconstructed tidally influenced channel designed to mimic more natural tidally influenced wetland conditions. Large woody debris will be installed in the channel network to increase hiding cover and overall complexity. Also, 2,950' of livestock exclusion fence will be constructed on primary channels with livestock crossings incorporated in order to facilitate continued use of the adjacent pastures following channel reconstruction and habitat improvements. Native woody and shrub species will be planted within the setback area adjacent to the tidal channels. Project activities will benefit coho and Chinook salmon juveniles as well as cutthroat trout and other species. The work will also help restore more natural tidal influence and benefit water quality. Project partners include project landowners and the family trust, ODFW, Coquille Watershed Association, Wild Rivers Coast Alliance and Coos Soil & Water Conservation District.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Off-channel habitat in tidally influenced lowlands during the winter is important to coho and other species life histories. The creation of additional access to improved habitat will greatly improve the value of existing habitat for coho.
- The project could make a good working landscape model.
- The landowner is very supportive and is interested in increasing their capacity to manage the land.
- Riparian plantings will help benefit water quality and support likely TMDL actions.
- The project would complement other tidally influenced off-channel habitat work in the area.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Designs for the tidegate and constructed channels project have not have been done. This makes it difficult to evaluate the costs and activities being proposed.
- Levee work needs to be designed by a specialist and include exploratory work.
- There needs to be a water management plan in place as well as a mosquito management plan.

Concluding Analysis:
The project has great potential to provide tidally influenced off-channel rearing habitat for juvenile coho and other species. Funding is not currently available for this activity. Coos SWCD and ODFW are interested in assisting, but additional support for that work will be needed. Reviewers felt they could not support a funding recommendation without design information that would allow the approach and budget to be reviewed for appropriateness and likelihood of success. The reviewers felt this type of project and its complexity made for a good candidate for a technical assistance proposal.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2046**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	McGee Creek Instream Restoration		
Applicant:	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:**	Douglas
OWEB Request:	**$223,353.00**	**Total Cost:**	$405,616.00
Proposed Match:	$182,263.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to place large wood and boulder structures, plant riparian vegetation, and fence and remove a partial fish passage-blocking culvert on McGee Creek, a direct tributary to the Umpqua River located 10 miles south of Elkton. McGee Creek has simplified instream habitat conditions and suffers from a lack of large wood.

The project seeks to restore 3.2 miles of McGee Creek through the placement of LWD and boulders, removal of exotic vegetation, removal of a partially fish-blocking culvert, and installation of a riparian livestock exclusion fence. Using an excavator, 241 logs and 616 tons (approximately 440 boulders) of boulders will be placed into 41 sites on 3.2 miles of the mainstem McGee Creek and its tributaries. One mile of stream will see invasive blackberry removal and willow planting as well as livestock exclusion fencing. An undersized culvert will be removed and replaced with a railcar bridge. Project activities will improve instream conditions and water quality benefiting coho, steelhead and cutthroat trout as well as Pacific lamprey. Project partners include the project land owners, Roseburg Resources Inc., BLM and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Landowners are very enthusiastic and committed to the project. Land is managed from a multi-generational approach. The applicant has developed a great track record implementing similar projects.
- Coho and steelhead utilize the stream and while it has high intrinsic potential it is in a lower quality condition. Cool water refugia are present in the upper reaches.
- The project presents a full package of restoration actions (instream habitat, riparian planting, invasive species eradication, fish access and fencing) which will benefit instream and riparian health, addressing several limiting factors.
- Fencing and planting help implement TMDL actions.
- There is great potential for long-term large wood recruitment.
- Fencing setback exceeds the restoration guidelines (average 35’).
- Good level of match.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Some of the design information had numbers which did not match numbers on photos.
- The application did not explain the large number of boulders being proposed. Discussion concluded boulders were concentrated in bedrock dominated areas and bedrock areas where tributaries joined to create backwater areas.

Concluding Analysis:
The project presents a well-rounded approach to addressing several issues impacting the health of the stream including helping improve water quality and instream habitat conditions for over-wintering juvenile salmonids. The stream provides important cool water refugia for juveniles needing to escape from summer stream conditions in the Umpqua River.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
7 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$223,353.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$223,353.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2047**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Headwaters Elk Creek Habitat and Riparian Improvement		
Applicant:	Elk Creek WC		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:**	Douglas
OWEB Request:	**$116,116.00**	**Total Cost:**	$200,521.00
Proposed Match:	$76,405.00		

Application Description

The project seeks to restore a reach located on upper Elk Creek, located above Drain, through placement of large wood, fencing the riparian area, riparian plantings, and construction of a livestock crossing. Historic land management practices such as stream cleaning have resulted in incised channels and simplified instream habitat conditions. The lack of large wood has increased water velocities and prevented bedload accumulation and the formation of spawning habitat and deep pools with complex rearing habitat.

Restoration will be done along 0.85 miles of private land and 1.5 miles of BLM-managed land. Approximately 2,700 feet of riparian fencing will be constructed to exclude livestock from the creek. A 40-foot railcar bridge will be installed for the livestock crossing. On the private land portion of the project, 1,000 willows will be planted to encourage expansion of the current beaver population. Additional willows will be planted on the BLM sites.

Project partners include ODFW, BLM, Umpqua Fisheries Enhancement Derby, Douglas SWCD and the landowner.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The landowner is very enthusiastic and involved in the project.
- This is a tier 1 key watershed for coho and has high intrinsic potential. The project would help address limiting factors.
- There are good partnerships and match.
- The landowner has a grazing plan and utilizes it in management.
- The fencing setback meets/exceeds restoration guidelines.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Reviewers felt additional information on herbicide use and location of use would have been helpful. The herbicide applicator was reminded to follow label requirements and use BMPs.
- Reviewers felt investment in the bridge warranted having the design stamped by a licensed professional engineer. Bridge work site isolation was not identified in the budget and needs to be factored in to the work. The bridge design does meet fish passage requirements.

- The planting survival target is very ambitious with potential for beaver predation if successful in reintroducing them.

Concluding Analysis:
The project is a resubmittal and was not recommended for funding during the last cycle. The reviewers felt the applicant did a good job of addressing concerns from the previous evaluation and presented a well-rounded approach which addresses several factors impacting the stream.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions; bridge design is stamped by a PE.

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$116,116.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with Conditions; bridge design is stamped by a PE prior to releasing funds for that budget line item.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$116,116.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2048**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Applegate Fish Passage Improvement Project Outreach		
Applicant:	Applegate Partnership, Inc.		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:**	Josephine
OWEB Request:	**$25,832.00**	**Total Cost:**	$42,831.00
Proposed Match:	$17,000.00		

Application Description

This proposal will seek to develop landowner and water user agreements along with the conceptual project development designs for at least 13 priority barriers in the Applegate River Watershed located in Jackson and Josephine Counties.

A comprehensive fish passage improvement program is critical to scaling up the collective impact in the Rogue River Basin. Every fish passage improvement project requires extensive landowner and water user outreach and agreement negotiation prior to project design and implementation. The project proposes to conduct the necessary outreach and advance negotiated agreements with landowners and water users for at least 13 fish passage structures in order to begin the process of fish passage improvement. Additionally, this project will support the successful delivery of at least eight negotiated fish passage improvement projects in order to leverage and secure significant match funding. Project Partners include the Rogue Basin Partnership and Trout Unlimited.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Application demonstrates strong partnerships that have been working together to address a key limiting factor impacting salmonids in the Rogue Basin.
- Builds on previous OWEB-funded efforts to address barriers.
- Application clearly laid out project outcome expectations and anticipated accomplishments. There has been good progress in the Rogue basin toward addressing passage issues. Engaging landowners proactively is going to be key to getting traction to address remaining priority barriers.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Water quantity is also a key limiting factor and many barriers have active diversions associated with them. Looking for opportunities to improve irrigation and on-farm efficiency and realize instream water savings needs to be a central theme of this type of work.

Concluding Analysis:
Partners in the Rogue basin have developed an outstanding track record of addressing fish passage barriers, an important issue impacting salmonids in the Rogue Basin. This project would continue that momentum. Water quantity is also a key limiting factor in the Rogue and incorporating instream water savings through irrigation and on-farm efficiencies where possible needs to be a central theme in this type of work.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions. Incorporate exploring irrigation effectiveness/efficiency at sites involving water rights.

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$25,832.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with Conditions. Final report will document efforts to explore irrigation effectiveness/efficiency at sites involving water rights.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$25,832.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2049**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Leed's Island Restoration & Acquisition Technical Assistance		
Applicant:	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:**	Douglas
OWEB Request:	**$49,975.00**	**Total Cost:**	$66,708.00
Proposed Match:	$16,734.00		

Application Description

This Technical Assistance project will develop a suite of restoration options at Leeds Island, a conservation property that was historically a wetland complex with three islands at the confluence of the Umpqua River, Scholfield Creek, and Providence Creek near Reedsport. Partners will undertake the critical due diligence required to best meet the needs and desires of the current landowner and the ecological requirements of restoring a tidal wetland. The resulting project will identify a broad list of ecological goals and objectives for the site. Concurrently, this grant will fund the essential community outreach work necessary to build support for the project.

Project Partners include McKenzie River Trust, ODFW, Umpqua SWCD and the land owner.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Protecting/restoring tidal estuarine areas is very important to many species including coho and will help improve water quality. This project offers a great opportunity to build a solid, meaningful acquisition project from the start. The project covers significant acreage with one supportive landowner.
- The project is based on lessons learned from other efforts. Scoping upfront will help the project be efficient and effective and support the critical outreach efforts.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The proposed outreach activities Require 26 staff days, which seems excessive for community outreach; however, the RRT realized that this project is based on lessons learned from other efforts and the applicant wants to make sure all the bases are covered adequately.
- There needs to be a mosquito management component.
- LiDAR should also be considered as a tool already in place that can help with design and planning work.

Concluding Analysis:

The proposal represents a good opportunity to develop a community supported acquisition project from the inception. The work proposed is based on previous lessons learned from prior efforts as well as lessons learned from other areas.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions. Incorporate development of mosquito management component

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$49,975.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with Conditions. The final report will document development of mosquito management plan component.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$49,975.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2050**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Southwest Oregon Side by Side Trial		
Applicant:	Applegate Partnership, Inc.		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:**	Jackson
OWEB Request:	**$69,581.00**	**Total Cost:**	$102,794.00
Proposed Match:	$20,723.00		

Application Description

The applicant is proposing to monitor the survival of riparian planting at two sites, one located along the mainstem Applegate River and the other along a tributary, Thompson Creek. The Applegate River is a tributary to the Rogue River. Project sites are near Williams and Applegate.

The project will monitor 6,400 trial plantings for 5 years. These trial plantings are split between the Provolt Riparian Restoration Project along the Applegate River, and the Thompson Creek Habitat Restoration Project Phase 2 (OWEB #215-2022). This work will produce region-specific guidance for riparian restoration specific to the unique characteristics found in the mixed plant communities of southwest Oregon. With data from this trial, restoration practitioners will be able design data-driven planting prescriptions based on demonstrated species success, availability of irrigation water, and stock size. Project partners include OSU Extension, BLM and The Freshwater Trust.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The applicant has identified the need for riparian planting guides in the mixed mesophytic plant communities of SW Oregon's riparian habitat.
- This information will be shared with the Rogue Basin Partnership's Riparian Working Group.
- The timeline seems reasonable to understand how the different treatments affect the parameters they will be measuring.

Concerns:

- The application did not provide basic information such as the species of plants or how the plants were to be planted.
- The application lacked information to understand how the applicant would verify the amount of water provided to the plants is consistent over the study areas and period.
- The application mentioned measuring solar exposure, but did not explain how it would be measured, which limited understanding of whether this information could be collected consistently over the study areas and period.
- The application provides little information to determine if the applicant is working with the appropriate organizations in the area. The limited contributions by The Freshwater Trust and OSU Extension did not help to clarify how these organizations would contribute to the success of the project over the life of the study.

- It was not clear how the applicant will compile this information after the project is completed to make it useful for others. The application mentioned creating a guide, but did not carry that through in other sections of the application.
- There was no letter of support from BLM.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (100%)
Certainty of Success: Low (75%), Medium (25%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Work would focus on implemented OWEB-funded riparian restoration work and the data collected could be helpful to inform future project design.
- The budget was well presented and the breakdown provided clear justification for the costs. The project would consider a large sample size.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application did not describe the statistical analysis that would be done.
- There are many different factors that can impact a planting site and it was not clear that this work could address all of those factors.
- There are several documents that are already developed to help guide plant establishment efforts in Southwest Oregon and it was not clear that this work would add anything to what is already known.

Concluding Analysis:

Improving the success rate of riparian planting is a worthwhile effort and important to ensure the investment in this work has the best likelihood of return. There is a lot of information on planting and establishment approaches, but it was unclear if this work would add to what is already known.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2051**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Eel Lake Pacific Lamprey and Native Fish Monitoring		
Applicant:	Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Coos
OWEB Request:	**$36,437.00**	**Total Cost:**	$68,190.00
Proposed Match:	$31,754.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to identify Pacific and brook lamprey and other fish passage barriers in Eel Creek, a tributary to Eel Lake located just south of Reedsport, and collect water quality and baseline and trend data for Pacific lamprey and other native fish species at tributaries of Eel Lake and the Eel Lake Trap facility.

Pacific lamprey passage surveys will occur at nine stream crossings on Eel Creek. These surveys will follow protocols and data forms established in the "Evaluation of Barriers to Pacific Lamprey Migration in the Eel River Basin" prepared by Stillwater Sciences for the Wiyot Tribe in 2014. During the summer of 2017, Pacific lamprey presence/absence and habitat surveys will be conducted. The baseline and trend data collected and analyzed in this project will be essential in developing the Tenmile Lakes Basin Lamprey Conservation Plan. Coho, winter steelhead and cutthroat trout passage surveys and presence surveys will also occur along with water quality monitoring of pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and temperature. Project partners include Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Eel/Tenmile S.T.E.P. group, and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Attention to lamprey is a good thing in this area.
- The applicant appears to be coordinating with the Tribes and ODFW's local biologist and lamprey coordinator.
- The protocol proposed to be used was developed by a reputable firm and seems very well defined and reliable.
- The applicant has a good track record on past water-quality monitoring projects funded by OWEB and has done a good job of reporting out results to the community.

Concerns:

- The salmon monitoring that is proposed seems like an after-thought.
- The application contains limited information about exactly what this monitoring is going to do and how it will inform decisions.
- It appears the applicant is connected with the right people at ODFW, but the lack of a support letter causes the OPMT to question the level of coordination that will actually occur.

- Only one year of data collection is being proposed, which seems insufficient for baseline data collection.
- The lack of clarity on exactly what monitoring is being proposed makes it difficult to evaluate whether the positions included in the budget can actually accomplish the proposed monitoring and meet their stated objectives.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (60%), High (40%)
Certainty of Success: Medium (60%), High (20%), Low (20%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project demonstrates good partnerships and builds on Tenmile Lake Basin Partnership's successful monitoring record.
- Not much is known about Pacific lamprey and this would help begin to fill in the blanks.
- The lamprey component was well-thought-out and described.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- One year of data collection may not be sufficient to develop a sound baseline.
- eDNA might be an effective alternative method of gathering data.
- The salmonid/trout monitoring component did not seem as well-thought-out as the lamprey work.

Concluding Analysis:

Getting information on Pacific Lamprey and other native fish species use would fill a data gap. The project demonstrates tribal and agency partnerships. The project would lay the foundation for future collaborative restoration and monitoring work. Looking at a longer-term effort would provide a more solid set of baseline data.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$36,437.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$36,437.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2052**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Elk Creek Rapid Bioassessment and Action Plan		
Applicant:	Elk Creek WC		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:**	Douglas
OWEB Request:	**$68,453.00**	**Total Cost:**	$89,871.00
Proposed Match:	$21,418.00		

Application Description

The project would fund bio-assessment and habitat data collection on streams in the Elk Creek watershed, a tributary to the Umpqua River, located near Elkton.

The Elk Creek Watershed is an important spawning and rearing habitat for endangered coho salmon, as well as other aquatic species. The project proposes to collect information necessary to develop reach-specific action plans for instream restoration in priority sub-watersheds. To accomplish this bio-assessment and habitat, data collection would occur on approximately 25 miles of streams. The data collected would be analyzed and reach-specific restoration action plans would be developed. Project information would also be utilized in outreach activities to landowners to engage them in the possibility of undertaking restoration activities. Project partners include Roseburg District BLM, ODFW, Douglas SWCD and InSight Consultants.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This project would be helpful to engage landowners and potentially increase involvement in future restoration projects.
- The applicant is working with a planning group that includes biologists from BLM, ODFW and a consulting firm to develop a modified RBA protocol to fill data gaps.
- The applicant plans to hire a contractor familiar with the protocol.
- The letter of support from a landowner, showing local buy-in, was appreciated.

Concerns:

- The application was not clear on how they are going to share the information with ODFW.
- It was not clear who is managing the project since the applicant did not include any project management funding in the budget.
- Some of the information in the budget narrative was helpful, but the applicant did not describe why the $10,000 for crew support was needed since the contracted services covered travel and per diem expenses.
- The application and the attachments did not clearly describe how the continuous water temperature monitoring would be implemented. It was vague as to how long the continuous monitors would be operated and where they would be deployed to compliment the spot measurements that would be taken during the RBA survey.

- The OPMT was concerned that the RBA data would only provide a one-year snap shot of juvenile distribution. It will be important to consider the results in the context of low spawner abundance, given that a period of low adult marine survival is expected in the coming years.

Recommendations:

- If funded, coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator on technical assistance on water temperature monitoring. ODEQ may be able to provide water temperature loggers for this project.
- If funded, the applicant should better account for the match they will be providing to manage this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (60%), High (40%)
Certainty of Success: Medium (80%), High (20%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project is a high priority for the applicant and ties in with previous work with ODFW. The protocol is sound and would allow for comparison to ODFW data.
- The applicant undertook a similar trial project on a tributary and it was completed successfully.
- The areas proposed are considered high intrinsic potential for coho.
- Information collected could help with landowner outreach efforts in the watershed.
- The temperature data collection would be helpful to round out the picture of watershed conditions.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The RRT felt the cost per mile was high compared to costs associated with similar work undertaken by agencies.
- One year of survey work only provides a single glimpse of juvenile distribution. It is not clear how adult spawning numbers and ocean conditions would be factored into one year of data in a meaningful way.
- The application did not appear to address previous reviewer comments about looking at the Umpqua River watershed as a whole to determine if Elk Creek would be the priority area to start this work as well as engaging the Partnership of the Umpqua River on this issue.
- It was not clear the level of land owner support for the project and whether the likelihood of getting enough contiguous landowners on board was achievable. This area has a high degree of mistrust of government agencies and it was not clear if landowners would agree to information collected on their properties being open to the public, especially the water temperature information.

Concluding Analysis:

Collecting data on juvenile coho distribution can be a valuable tool for both targeting restoration efforts as well as outreach activities. The watershed is known as being difficult to gain landowner trust. This work could help open that door by helping them understand the importance of their streams to the salmon population, but reviewers were unsure whether landowners would allow access to do the work. The review team continues to feel that the proposal could be strengthened by showing how Elk Creek fits into the larger Umpqua River watershed and by engaging the Partnership of the Umpqua River in that discussion.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2053**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	WISE Effectiveness Monitoring Project - Baseline Monitoring		
Applicant:	Rogue River WC		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:**	Jackson
OWEB Request:	**$41,497.00**	**Total Cost:**	$128,457.00
Proposed Match:	$68,886.00		

Application Description

This 2-year project supports the continued operation of water quality sondes and grab sample monitoring at four locations in the Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek watersheds located near Medford, and will continue to generate baseline data essential to determine whether the Water for Irrigation, Streams and Economy (WISE) Project benefits aquatic life and habitat. This work will provide data for basin partners to prioritize restoration projects in Little Butte Creek and Bear Creek watersheds. Project partners include Jackson SWCD, DEQ, RVCOG, Medford Water Commission, and Rogue River Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The application has clearly stated objectives and a suitable explanation of the protocols that will be followed.
- This project is ongoing and relies on an established relationship among the partners to continue to collect pre-restoration monitoring data.
- There is a good amount of match being provided by the partners.
- The applicant has addressed issues that were identified since the application was last submitted in regards to data management and the number of monitoring sites.
- The applicant has had success in collecting over a year of data with funds previously provided by OWEB.

Concerns:

- It was not clear why the field hours were so high for the monthly sonde calibration and maintenance checks.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)
Certainty of Success: High (100%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The work builds on an ongoing project and the data collected will support the TMDL.
- Well-written application and plan.
- Project demonstrates a great array of partnerships and high match.
- The work builds on past OWEB projects.
- Work clearly would help fill a data gap.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No Concerns identified.

Concluding Analysis:
The project demonstrates strong working partnerships and a well-thought-out proposal. The effort has a high likelihood of continued success. Besides setting baseline condition information for the WISE project, the information collected will help discern impacts of other restoration efforts.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 7

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$41,497.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$41,497.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2054**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Umpqua Basin Stream Flow and Temperature Monitoring Project		
Applicant:	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:**	Douglas
OWEB Request:	**$60,401.00**	**Total Cost:**	$96,586.00
Proposed Match:	$36,185.00		

Application Description

This project proposes to collect another two years of low-flow and summer stream temperature data at select sites in the Umpqua Basin located in Douglas County, which would extend the record of data that has been collected since 1998 at these sites.

The proposed project is the continuation of a successful program originated in 1998 to monitor flows and temperatures in 23 high restoration priority WABs (Water Availability Basins) during the low-flow summer and fall months. Stream flow and temperature data will be used by PUR for effectiveness monitoring, by DEQ for TMDL modeling and long-term water quality analysis, by ODFW for flow restoration assessment, and by OWRD to protect instream water rights and leases. Project partners include Douglas County, ODFW, BLM, USDA Forest Service and the Collins Foundation.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This application has improved from the previous submission and now includes a component of data analysis that includes funding for this task.
- The applicant has a good track record for collecting high-quality data that is shared with a variety of partners.
- The data are used by the Douglas County watermaster to manage water allocations during low-flow periods.

Concerns:

- The application was not clear about the different uses of data that is collected, who uses the data and what the products of the analyses would lead to in terms of future uses.
- The in-kind labor for DEQ that is stated in the budget is not described well in the grant application.

Recommendations:

- If funded, please provide a list of new restoration projects developed or past restoration projects that have been evaluated by PUR and/or partners with this data in the project completion report.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)
Certainty of Success: High (75%), Medium (25%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project builds on a long-running program and data set that utilizes established protocols.
- Demonstrates good partnerships and match commitment.
- Letters of support and landowner agreement samples were provided.
- Nor West database is being used.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application lacked sufficient detail on the need for additional data collection.
- It was suggested that looking at flow data during the entire year would help document changes in flow patterns that would be expected from climate change.
- Mileage costs seemed high but work is based on previous project work.
- The application lacked a description of how the data has been specifically used to evaluate past restoration project effectiveness.

Concluding Analysis:

The project builds on a long running program and established data set and has proven to provide useful for project partner's work and ties into other monitoring efforts. Future applications can be strengthened by providing detail describing value of adding additional years of data onto what already exists as well as documenting how information collected specifically helps identify and develop future restoration sites as well as how the data is being used to evaluate past restoration activities success.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions; provide a list of new restoration projects developed or past restoration projects that have been evaluated by PUR and/or partners with this data.

Regional Review Team Priority

4 of 7

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$60,401.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund with Conditions; provide a list of new restoration projects developed or past restoration projects that have been evaluated by PUR and/or partners with this data in the project completion report.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$60,401.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2055**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Umpqua Basin Collaborative Monitoring 2017-2019		
Applicant:	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:**	Douglas
OWEB Request:	**$216,431.00**	**Total Cost:**	$317,022.00
Proposed Match:	$100,591.00		

Application Description

This project proposes to continue PUR's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program to monitor the health of the Umpqua Basin streams in the Umpqua River basin located in Douglas County by identifying the status and observing the trends over time in basin stream conditions.

Work activities consist of standard monthly water quality monitoring runs in three fifth-field watersheds of the Umpqua Basin plus monitoring reference sites. Each run will be monitored once per month, collecting water quality data on temperature, turbidity, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, total coliform, E. coli bacteria, blue/green algae, total chlorophyll and photo points at 12 to 20 sites per watershed. In addition, summer instream temperature data loggers, recording every 30 minutes, will be located throughout the watersheds. Project partners include BLM and the Collins Foundation.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The OPMT likes the rotating basin approach that PUR has taken, which targets three sub-basins at a time, to implement their monitoring approach over a broad spatial area.
- The applicant has a good track record of completing monitoring efforts in the past.
- The application contains sound methods and good QA/QC procedures that are documented in a DEQ approved Sampling and Analysis Plan.

Concerns:

- The application lacks detailed monitoring questions and a description of the analyses performed to prioritize restoration projects.
- There was no mention of using volunteers in the application, yet the budget includes volunteers as in-kind match. It would have been helpful to describe how these volunteers are trained and what their role in the project is.
- The applicant did not define why the parameters monitored are needed. The OPMT noted that this project would benefit by adding nutrients and total suspended solids to the sampling plan.
- The application doesn’t explicitly identify how the data will inform the TMDL and agricultural water quality management processes.
- This application has a high cost.

Recommendations:

- If funded, coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator on technical assistance on water temperature monitoring. ODEQ may be able to provide resources to reduce the costs for this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)
Certainty of Success: High (75%), Medium (25%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project builds on a long running program and data set that utilizes established protocols.
- Demonstrates good partnerships and commitment.
- The approach to moving methodically through the watershed within the basin is sound.
- The project has established, sound protocols and good QA/QC in place.
- Applicant has developed a great track record for implementing monitoring projects.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Reviewers noted previous applications from the basin included stream gage support and questioned whether stream gages had a role in the monitoring plan in the future.
- Personnel costs seemed high but it was noted this is a year-round project with corresponding work and analysis activities.

Concluding Analysis:

The project has developed an established successful track record and is taking a planned approach to gathering data in the watershed. The work is built on good protocols and methods. The methodical approach to monitoring a few sub-basins every two years with the ultimate goal of focusing on a few critical ones after this is complete is a sound tactic.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions; coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator on technical assistance on water temperature monitoring.

Regional Review Team Priority

2 of 7

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$216,431.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund with Conditions; Coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator on technical assistance on water temperature monitoring. This will be documented as part of the Final project completion report.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$216,431.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2056**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	East Fork Millicoma Oxbow Passage Monitoring Program - Phase I		
Applicant:	Coos Watershed Association		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Coos
OWEB Request:	**$56,052.00**	**Total Cost:**	$100,324.00
Proposed Match:	$44,272.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to document the response of fish to restoration actions at the Oxbow re-connection project located on the East Fork Millicoma near Coos Bay. Coho, fall Chinook, steelhead, and anadromous cutthroat trout populations are expected to respond to a measurable degree due to resolution of the passage barrier at the Oxbow.

The spawning surveys will document changes in the temporal and spatial distribution of coho and fall Chinook in response to the elimination of the passage barrier at the bypass chute by reconnecting the 0.6 mile historic Oxbow channel that was cut off in 1958. Additional work will conduct surveys that replicate pre-project surveys in order to track the morphological and habitat changes that occur within the newly reconnected Oxbow channel. Project partners include ODFW and Weyerhauser Timber Company.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This project makes good use of the baseline and continuing monitoring by ODFW.
- This project has potential to describe biological outcomes associated with a large investment in restoration projects.
- The applicant is proposing to collect a lot of data that can be linked together to describe the benefit of this restoration project.
- The protocols and timeline are reasonable.
- There are several support letters, and good match is provided.

Concerns:

- This is a unique project, and the OPMT questioned if the results of this project could be exported to other areas.
- The timeline did not describe when or how long the data analysis would take to occur before providing a comprehensive final product.
- The OPMT questioned if effectiveness of the restoration can be gauged by using the existing and ongoing ODFW monitoring data, thus not requiring OWEB funds.
- In general, this restoration effort is a fish-passage project. Strong evidence already shows that there is a positive fish response to opening more habitat. The OPMT questioned if the

investment in monitoring makes sense, in light of the limited availability of funds, if nothing new is learned.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (80%), High (20%)
Certainty of Success: High (80%), Medium (20%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The oxbow reconnection project represented a sizeable important investment and demonstrating success is important.
- The application presented a robust data analysis plan for using the data.
- Incorporates both adult and juvenile survey work.
- Project demonstrates a strong partnership and a high degree of match.
- The applicant has a very strong track record of developing and implementing monitoring projects and utilizing data collected to inform future actions as well as assess success of efforts.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It was not clear if survey work was being coordinated with possible ODFW surveys that may be happening in the area. ODFW is a project partner so that may be occurring and just not clear from the application.
- It was not clear why physical surveys needed to be repeated every year.

Concluding Analysis:
Tracking and validating the success of restoration activities is very important to describing the success of investments. The project offers a great opportunity to document uplift from restoration activities.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 7

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$56,052.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$56,052.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2057**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Curry Watersheds Comprehensive Strategic Monitoring Plan Development		
Applicant:	Curry SWCD		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:**	Curry
OWEB Request:	**$45,246.00**	**Total Cost:**	$81,785.00
Proposed Match:	$36,540.00		

Application Description

The project seeks to develop a plan to delineate the Curry Watersheds Monitoring Program's tasks for the next 15-20 years, and designate the protocols and sampling plans used to implement those tasks throughout Curry County watersheds. The plan will apply to the Partnership's entire geographic domain, which extends roughly 90 miles along the Oregon coast from the California border north to the New River watershed.

The plan will include justification for why the tasks are needed, the objectives of each task, and a temporal and spatial blueprint for the timing and location of the prescribed monitoring. The plan will include all types of monitoring conducted by the Partnership, and it will integrate data and findings produced by the Program over the last 20 years. The plan will also identify the agencies and other non-profit organizations that will play a role in the implementation of the plan, and define their roles.

The purpose of the plan is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Partnership's Monitoring Program. Project Partners include Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, ODFW, ODA, DEQ, and BLM.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The OPMT liked the approach the applicant proposes to take to reflect on 20 years of data to identify future monitoring priorities.
- The past and future monitoring efforts would be useful to inform agriculture water quality management plan and TMDL processes.
- The application shows leverage of in-kind contributions from ODFW and BLM, along with funding that is being provided by DEQ.
- The application identifies well-formed objectives and questions to develop their monitoring plan.

Concerns:

- The application lacked detail on the statistical approach that would be followed to develop a new monitoring strategy, although the budget includes a line item to hire a consultant to complete the work.

- There was some redundancy in the objectives and questions stated in the application. It may be challenging to generate the final product if the questions are not focused and/or clarified.
- There was only one letter of support (provided by ODFW), though other organizations are identified as providing match.

Recommendations:

- If funded, we encourage the grantee to communicate with DEQ to coordinate on the sharing of historic data and products from this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)
Certainty of Success: Medium (80%), High (20%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This project would support a host of other efforts including the ongoing FIP capacity building project and TMDL work.
- This effort would save time and money through identifying and coordinating efforts across a large area.
- Very ambitious project looking outward 15-20 years.
- Strong partnerships and commitment to the work in place. The project builds on a successful track record of monitoring efforts across a large swath of landscape.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The applicant is in a transition period and currently does not have a monitoring coordinator. The current South Coast coordinator served in the monitoring program in the past and so can help with familiarity and continuity.
- It was noted that previous monitoring efforts included data analysis and it was unclear whether some of the work proposed was duplicative of what had already been done.

Concluding Analysis:

This is an ambitious effort that can greatly benefit the applicant and partners by laying a clear framework and plan for the long-term. The work will tie into other important efforts underway.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions; coordinate with DEQ on the sharing of historic data and products from this project.

Regional Review Team Priority

3 of 7

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$45,246.00

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment

Discussion with the OPMT coordinator confirmed that the data analysis work is not redundant.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund with Conditions; coordinate with DEQ on the sharing of historic data and products from this project. This will be documented in the final project report.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$45,246.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2058**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Curry Watersheds' Spawning Surveys: 2017-2019		
Applicant:	Curry SWCD		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:**	Curry
OWEB Request:	**$29,417.00**	**Total Cost:**	$52,916.00
Proposed Match:	$23,500.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to conduct salmon spawning surveys in predominately small sub-watersheds in Curry County where coho are typically the target species. Other tasks include operation of smolt traps, and conducting a multi-parameter small streams assessment.

Through this proposal, project partners will update data sets on small streams to evaluate the effectiveness of both individual projects and the cumulative effects of multiple projects. They will collect baseline data to evaluate critical off-channel coho rearing habitat. This data will improve understanding of the limiting factors in these small watersheds, which in turn will lead to future restoration projects. This data provides insight into the health of these streams, particularly with regard to sediment loading, temperature, and morphology.

Project partners include ODFW, Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, Bureau of Land Management Pacific Marine & Estuarine Partnership, and Curry SWCD.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Local ODFW staff is working with the applicant. Past data provided by the applicant has been valuable.
- This project proposes to perform spawning surveys in areas where data are limited.
- The applicant proposes to follow known and accepted methods.
- This project represents a partnership between the Curry SWCD, South Coast WC and Lower Rogue WC through the Curry Watersheds Partnership.

Concerns:

- It was unclear if the applicant plans to collect data at 24 or 15 sites.
- The application does a poor job conveying the actual benefits it will provide, while instead talking about objectives that it is unlikely to achieve.
- It is unlikely that spawning surveys are the appropriate tool to identify limiting factors.
- It was unclear if this work would result in the development of future restoration projects.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (100%)
Certainty of Success: Low (60%), Medium (40%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Applicant has a strong track record of monitoring success.
- The area to be surveyed is under-served for this type of monitoring effort and would help inform coho SONC recovery efforts.
- The project utilizes standard protocols.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It was not clear the level of coordination the applicant has with the Corvallis ODFW research office. This coordination is important. The applicant is working with the local ODFW office.
- Winter weather could influence the ability to survey effectively. There are other methods which may be more effective to undertake this work, such as eDNA.
- It can be hard to connect adult returns with project results because of the influence of ocean conditions. The time period of the work will not hit all three brood years of coho, but it is difficult to get funding to cover that time period upfront.

Concluding Analysis:

The project targets streams in an area that does not have a lot of information on adult or juvenile coho use. The data would inform SONC coho recovery efforts. Implementing this can be tricky if winter weather is very wet. The applicant has a strong track record of successful monitoring efforts and the work would help them identify and prioritize future restoration efforts.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

7 of 7

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$29,417.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2059**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Curry Watersheds Education Program 2017-18		
Applicant:	Curry SWCD		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Curry
OWEB Request:	**$47,311.00**	**Total Cost:**	$81,753.00
Proposed Match:	$34,442.00		

Application Description

The target audience for this project is 1,040 K-8th grade youth and 20 teachers throughout Curry County through watershed education field trips, partnered outreach events and project-based learning opportunities. An additional 575 youth and their families will be involved through after-school outreach events.

Activities include watershed lessons in combination with field trips to streams, Adopt-a-Stream programs with a myriad of projects, and a stream simulation trailer. A primary goal of this project is to inspire a behavior change that will benefit watersheds, water quality, and salmon and steelhead habitat. Emphasis is placed on actions which benefit watersheds, water conservation and clean water.

Project partners include Oregon Parks and Recreation, BLM, Oregon South Coast Fishermen, OSU Extension, USFS, City of Gold Beach, Curry County School District, Brookings Harbor School District, 2cj School District, Central Curry School District, Kalmiopsis Elementary School, Port Orford Ocean Resources Team and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The application is very descriptive and clearly ties to past and future restoration and monitoring efforts. The proposal covers a broad range of watershed issues and activities related to addressing or monitoring them. Restoration projects have been incorporated directly into the curriculum for teachers, which directly engage the schools in a hands-on approach.
- The application detailed riparian planting work and accomplishments from previous work.
- A pre- and post-testing component is utilized to gage program effectiveness.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- None identified

Concluding Analysis:

The application would continue a successful ongoing outreach partnership with local schools and local community groups in Curry County. The project has been able to continue to diversify its funding portfolio and has clearly established itself locally.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$47,311.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$47,311.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2060**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Eggs to Fry Program 2018-2019		
Applicant:	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:**	Douglas
OWEB Request:	**$12,216.00**	**Total Cost:**	$31,051.00
Proposed Match:	$18,835.00		

Application Description

This project will partner with ODFW's Fish Eggs to Fry program to provide teachers with the resources needed to effectively educate elementary-aged students about salmonids, their life cycle, and habitat needs. The project's target audiences are first- through fifth-grade students and their teachers in Douglas County with moderate to low knowledge and understanding of the salmonid life cycle and habitat. This program will reach approximately 500 students and 12 teachers over the two-year project period. Participating teachers and students will develop a greater understanding and appreciation of watershed stewardship.

Project partners include Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers, ODFW, participating schools and the Umpqua Fisheries Derby.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project is continuing to build partnerships with schools and is expanding to new schools.
- The project information is tailored to different age groups making the messages delivered more effective.
- The letters from the students were a good addition to the application.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It is not a clear connection to see the link to a specific restoration or monitoring component. The program does connect water quality and salmon survival, making it clear to students the need for healthy watersheds.
- It was noted there will be a new project manager starting this year and concern was raised over potential loss of connections.
- It was unclear why evaluations from previous work were not received, and what steps were being taken to address this. The RRT emphasized the importance of documenting and determining effectiveness through evaluation.

Concluding Analysis:
The program has grown since its beginning and is now connecting with more students. Project proponents are clearly working to improve delivery. Project information is also shared with the parents and could be a positive influence getting them involved with project partners. The applicant needs to work on clearly establishing the program's connection to monitoring and/or restoration.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$12,216.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2061**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Coos Watershed Youth-Led Community Stewardship Program		
Applicant:	Coos Watershed Association		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Coos
OWEB Request:	**$55,952.00**	**Total Cost:**	$110,782.00
Proposed Match:	$54,830.00		

Application Description

The 6th year of this youth-led community stewardship program (Master Watershed Stewards) targets 70 youth from up to six schools in the Coos Bay School District. This program provides outdoor learning opportunities for youth who otherwise have little access to watershed education and gives them a chance to share their knowledge with the community. Students will continue to play an active role in restoring and monitoring land in the Coos watershed. Student groups may be specifically involved with activities such as re-planting riparian zones in recently restored sites, designing and conducting preliminary monitoring projects, and designing education/outreach activities to ensure future protection of our watershed.

Project partners include Coos Bay School District, participating Coos bay schools, Coquille Tribal Community Fund, Coos County Cultural Coalition, the United Community Action Network and Friends of Coos Watershed Association.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project builds on a successful track record of actively engaging students in hands-on restoration and monitoring activities throughout the entire school year.
- The application demonstrates strong partnerships and commitments to the work.
- The project focuses on continued involvement of participants. Project partners are invested in long-term recruitment and success of the program. The approach provides real depth to the education experience the participants receive and demonstrates the possibilities of careers in natural resources

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The reviewers discussed the possibility of increasing the number of new students reached. While the impact of the program is clear, reviewers questioned whether the program could be expanded to more students without sacrificing the quality. Future applications could elaborate more on the pros and cons of this approach to help reviewers understand whether it is better to have a smaller group of students or a broader program covering more students.
- The evaluation should be expanded to collect information on the science knowledge learned.

Concluding Analysis:
The project has developed a strong track record with great local support and impact on students who are participating. This project reaches a smaller number of students than other proposals but the proposal clearly articulates the positive impact that the work is having.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$55,952.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2062**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Watershed Education at Siskiyou Outdoor School 2017		
Applicant:	Siskiyou Field Institute		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:**	Josephine
OWEB Request:	**$14,344.00**	**Total Cost:**	$53,444.00
Proposed Match:	$32,300.00		

Application Description

The Siskiyou Outdoor School is part of the statewide effort to provide a week-long, science-based residential "outdoor school". Project activities will target 6th graders attending the Three Rivers School District in the Illinois Valley near Selma.

At the Deer Creek Center, project partners will engage the students by implementing the Deer Creek Center's Conservation Management Plan, which provides conservation direction for the 850 acres making up the property. Work includes monitoring for temperature, pH and sedimentation; identification of sensitive and invasive plants and animals; and understanding the dynamics of natural and human activities within the riparian zones of both Squaw Creek and Deer Creek and on the serpentine uplands.

Project partners include Gray Family Foundation, Chaney Family Foundation, Three Rivers School District (21st Century Grant) and US Dept. of Interior - Oregon Caves National Monument.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project reaches a large number of students and teachers.
- The application demonstrates strong match and partner commitment.
- There is a strong pre- and post-test evaluation component to the project,
- The Siskiyou Field Institute supports the statewide effort to provide "Outdoor School for All."

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The on-the-ground component focuses on riparian establishment and addressing invasive species, monitoring, and implementing the OWEB management plan for the property. More information on the plan and progress implementing the plan would help strengthen future proposals.
- The RRT questioned the appropriateness of OWEB funds for the rope course.

Concluding Analysis: The project focus has been scaled back from previous submittals to more of a camp-style approach and provides an opportunity to attend a week of the science-based Siskiyou Outdoor School. The project would reach a large number of students in a rural area and ties into a larger state-wide effort.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 4

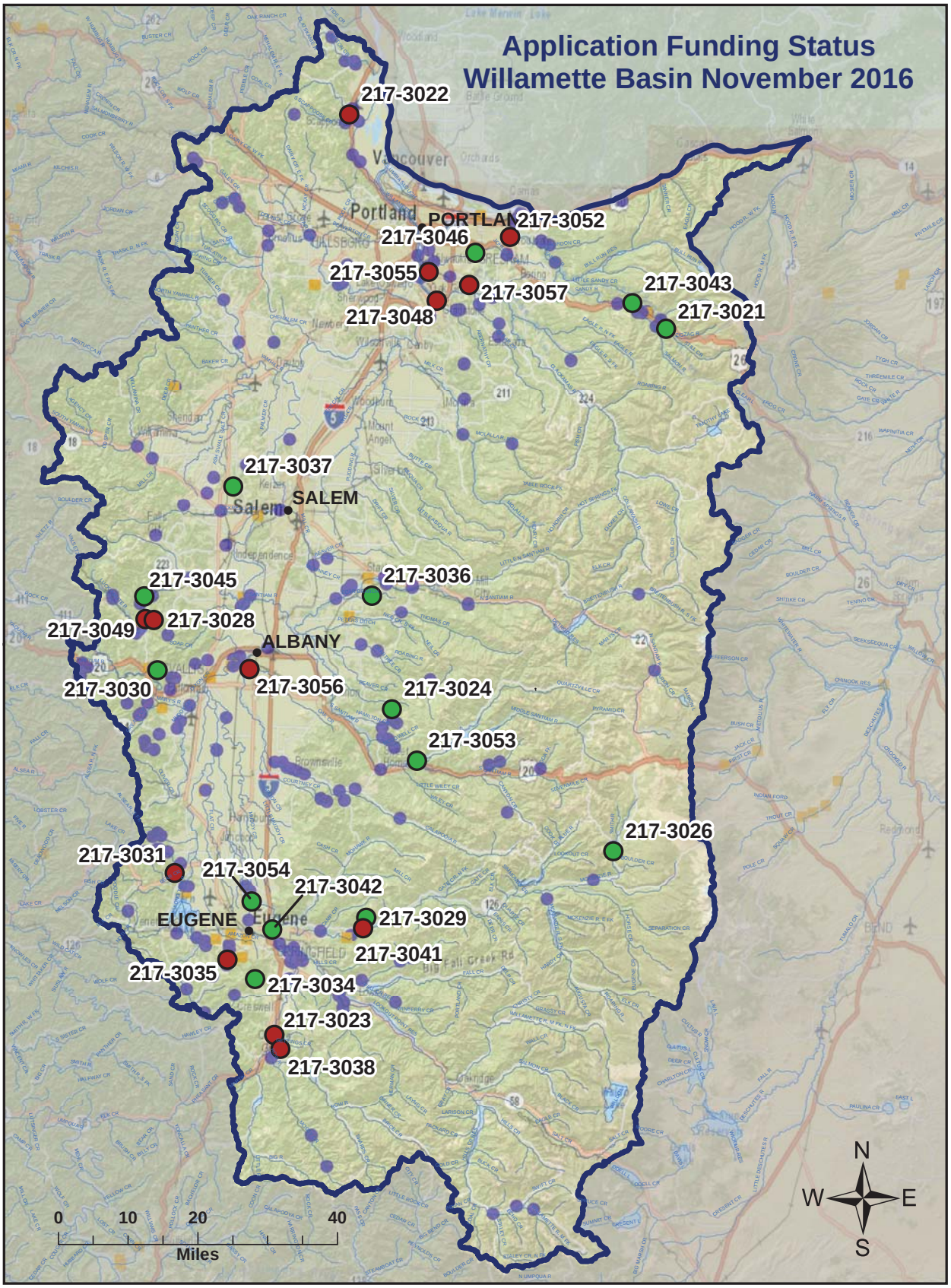
Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$14,344.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00



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November 2016 Applications

- Staff Recommended for Funding
- Below Funding Line

Grants 1998-2016

- Acquisition
- Restoration
- Region 3 Boundary
- Streams

Region 3 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Region 3 - Willamette Basin

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-3021	The Freshwater Trust	Upper Sandy River Basin Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project	Sandy River basin spring Chinook, coho, and winter steelhead are negatively impacted by loss of stream habitat. Proposed project will restore habitat elements believed to be most limiting to these fish in Salmon River and Still Creek, tributaries of the Sandy River in Clackamas County, by increasing off channel habitat, floodplain connectivity, and instream large wood abundance.	235,497	Clackamas
217-3030	Benton SWCD	Crestmont Land Trust Restoration and Enhancement Project	Proposed project located in the Marys River Watershed near Philomath, Oregon will restore historic oak savanna and woodland conditions that will benefit native wildlife, including endangered butterflies, and improve stream conditions. This will be achieved by converting timber production to historic oak-dominated habitat, controlling noxious weeds, replacing stream culverts, and installing infrastructure to manage grazing.	196,657	Benton
217-3036	North Santiam WC	Bear Branch Prairie, Oak and Stream Restoration	Project located on Bear Branch, a Lower North Santiam River tributary in Linn County, will restore remnant Willamette Valley wet prairie and oak habitats, instream aquatic habitat complexity and streamside native vegetation.	320,103	Linn
217-3026	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project Phase II	The “Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project” will improve ecological function and biological productivity for native fish while providing opportunities to increase public awareness of and support for watershed restoration in the McKenzie Watershed. Project activities include adding instream pieces of key large wood through stream-side tree pulling, engaging local students in project monitoring and outreach, and engaging residents and members of the public through tours.	23,500	Lane
217-3034	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Salyers Ranch Riparian Restoration Project	Proposed project will restore streamside habitat by controlling invasive plant species and establishing native plants on Camas Swale Creek in the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed, south of Eugene, Oregon. Restored stream corridors will support a diversity of plants that will provide water quality and habitat for native birds, reptiles, fish, and amphibians.	44,928	Multnomah

217-3024	South Santiam WC	Scott Creek Steelhead Enhancement Project	Proposed restoration will enhance spawning and rearing steelhead stream habitat on lower Scott Creek, located in the South Santiam River watershed in Linn County. Activities include placement of instream large wood structures and planting native trees along the stream.	49,361	Linn
217-3037	Institute for Applied Ecology	Plants for People Phase II	Willamette Valley prairies and oak savanna and woodland habitats are some of North America's most imperiled ecosystems due to habitat fragmentation, fire suppression, and land use conversion. Proposed project will restore diverse, resilient prairie, oak, and stream habitats while establishing beneficial links between local tribes, public lands, agriculture, and conservation at five locations in the Willamette Valley in Lane, Polk, Benton, and Marion Counties.	198,654	Polk
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**1,068,700**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
217-3031	Long Tom WC	Bear Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration at Bennett Vineyards	89,773	Lane
217-3035	Long Tom WC	Spencer Creek Oak Woodland Restoration, Old Gimpl Farm Oak Savanna Restoration, and Biochar Creation	139,504	Lane
217-3029	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Pure Water Partners Riparian Restoration Project	112,903	Lane
217-3038	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Carnine Upland Prairie and Oak Savanna Restoration Phase 1	97,761	Lane
217-3023	Upper Willamette SWCD	Gettings Creek Riparian Restoration Project	31,350	Lane
217-3028	Luckiamute WC	Building Resiliency and Connecting Corridors - Maxfield Creek Phase I	273,717	Benton
217-3022	Scappoose Bay WC	South Scappoose Creek Floodplain Restoration - Phase 1, Zones G&H Design/Construction	304,093	Columbia
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**2,117,801**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-3025	Marys River WC	Henderson Creek Fish Habitat	106,127	Benton
217-3027	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Smith Creek Fish Passage Enhancement	104,713	Lane
217-3032	Calapooia WC	Truax Island Phase 1 - Dead River Crossing	197,522	Linn
217-3033	Johnson Creek WC	Mitchell Creek temperature and fish passage enhancement	111,174	Multnomah

Region 3 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-3043	Sandy River Basin WC	Sandy-Salmon Confluence Value Engineering	Technical Assistance will develop feasible actions to reconnect the Sandy-Salmon confluence floodplain and restore the area's extensive value as floodplain and off-channel habitat for migrating wild salmon and steelhead in the Sandy River Basin in Clackamas County.	46,552	Clackamas
217-3041	Cascade Pacific RC&D	PWP Landowner Recruitment	Technical Assistance will promote awareness of and participation in the Pure Water Partners (PWP) program, an incentive-based strategy that aims to protect existing healthy riparian areas and restore degraded riparian forests along the McKenzie River through voluntary actions.	49,490	Lane
217-3042	Long Tom WC	Designing for Downstream: Voluntary Urban Water Quality Projects	Technical Assistance will convene a technical team of local stakeholders and partners to create a project prioritization matrix through which potential voluntary urban stormwater retrofit projects can be ranked; and apply this methodology to the current list of nearly 200 proposed project sites in the Long Tom watershed.	30,993	Lane
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**127,035**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-3039	Scappoose Bay WC	South Scappoose Creek Floodplain Restoration - Phase 2, Zong F & I Design	27,321	Columbia
217-3040	Johnson Creek WC	Kelley Creek Fish Passage	12,489	Multnomah

Region 3 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-3053	South Santiam WC	South Santiam Natural Resource Education Program	The "South Santiam Natural Resource Education Program" provides student mentoring between schools and engage youth in civic and watershed enhancement activities as they learn about watershed ecology, watershed councils, and how to create change in their own communities through participating in democratic institutions.	55,240	Linn
217-3054	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Watershed Action Teams for Education, Restoration and Stewardship Program	The "Watershed Action Teams for Education, Restoration and Stewardship (WATERS) Program" is a scalable, regional approach to inquiry-based, field-focused environmental education and public outreach involving secondary students, public agencies, non-governmental agencies, utilities, and landowners. WATERS involves three components including team-based student projects with active watershed project development and monitoring, Salmon Watch, and public outreach.	49,968	Lane
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**105,208**	

Outreach Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
217-3052	Sandy River Basin WC	Connecting Timberline to Troutdale	31,815	Multnomah
217-3057	Clackamas River Basin Council	Engaging Clackamas Communities in the Health of their Watershed	37,375	Clackamas
217-3049	Luckiamute WC	Kings Valley Watershed Stewards - Phase I	32,751	Benton
217-3056	Calapooia WC	Oak Creek Open Space Community Engagement	26,629	Linn
217-3048	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Lower Willamette Stewardship and Outreach Project	32,742	Clackamas
217-3055	N.Clackamas Urban Watershed Council	NCUWC Urban Landowner and Volunteer Outreach	17,774	Clackamas
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**284,294**	

Outreach Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-3050	Freshwaters Illustrated	Using the UPRIVER film to increase audience and inclusivity of watershed restoration groups	17,402	Linn
217-3051	Oregon Env. Council	Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Outreach	39,905	Multnomah

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-3045	Luckiamute WC	Luckiamute Temperature Monitoring	The "Luckiamute Temperature Monitoring" project will provide comprehensive, high quality stream temperature data to support prioritizing restoration projects and solid baseline data against which the effectiveness of future restoration projects can be judged.	41,079	Polk
217-3046	Johnson Creek WC	In-line Pond Temperature Monitoring	The "In-line Pond Temperature Monitoring" project has a long-term goal to restore high-priority ponds in the Johnson Creek watershed to reduce stream temperatures and provide climate change resilience. Proposed monitoring is the next phase of this longer-term vision and will conduct an on-the-ground survey of the 8 largest accessible in-line ponds in the watershed.	10,083	Multnomah
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**51,162**	

Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-3044	Scappoose Bay WC	Scappoose Bay Watershed Strategic Water Quality Monitoring	21,377	Columbia
217-3047	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Beaver and a declining amphibian: implications for Oregon spotted frog population recovery	173,579	Lane

Region 3 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**1,352,105**	**15%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**9,315,062**	

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3020**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Silver Creek Riparian Restoration		
Applicant:	Pudding River WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Marion
OWEB Request:	**$32,726.00**	**Total Cost:**	$53,919.00
Proposed Match:	$22,925.00		

Withdrawn

Application Description

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Regional Review Team Priority

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3021**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Upper Sandy River Basin Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project		
Applicant:	The Freshwater Trust		
Basin:	LOWER COLUMBIA	**County:**	Clackamas
OWEB Request:	**$235,497.00**	**Total Cost:**	$690,558.00
Proposed Match:	$432,798.00		

Application Description

The "Upper Sandy River Basin Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project" will increase off-channel habitat by restoring year-round surface flow to a groundwater channel/alcove, increase off-channel habitat by restoring year-round surface flow to side channels, increase large wood abundance instream and in an alcove, increase large wood abundance and boulders to create an emulated landslide deposit, and increase habitat complexity and diversity on pool tailout and riffle by placing boulders. These proposed actions will increase habitat complexity and diversity on the Salmon River and Still Creek, tributaries of the Sandy River in Clackamas County, by increasing off-channel habitat, floodplain connectivity, and large wood abundance. Sandy River basin spring Chinook, coho, and winter steelhead are negatively impacted by loss of habitat and this project will restore habitat elements believed to be most limiting to these fish. Proposed project relies on active restoration techniques and is designed to restore ecological function so that high quality habitat is self-sustaining into the future. Project partners include BLM, USFS, City of Portland, Pacific Power, The Boeing Company, and NFWF.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous successful restoration investments in a large-scale, long-term strategy that directly addresses limiting factors for ESA-listed fish.
- Project location is a high priority habitat area for ESA-listed fish, supporting recovery of Chinook, steelhead, and coho by increasing spawning and rearing habitat.
- Log jams are well engineered and designed to repair stream processes by incorporating large wood structure properly sized for the stream.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application would be strengthened by more detailed information on how the project fits within and implements the restoration strategy developed by The Freshwater Trust and the Sandy Basin Partnership.

Concluding Analysis:

The project will continue restoring anchor habitat in a salmon stronghold, which contributes to ESA-listed fish recovery.

The final project phase is expected to be completed in the next couple years on these tributaries, and completed restoration has proven to be successful as indicated by data from previous work that has shown outstanding habitat and fish responses.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 235,497.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 235,497.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3022**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	South Scappoose Creek Floodplain Restoration - Phase 1, Zones G&H Design/Construction		
Applicant:	Scappoose Bay WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Columbia
OWEB Request:	**$304,093.00**	**Total Cost:**	$408,493.00
Proposed Match:	$104,400.00		

Application Description

The "South Scappoose Creek Floodplain Restoration" project will restore fish and wildlife habitat along transitional areas of South Scappoose Creek between the tidal extents and upper watershed habitat. Restoration activities will include: (1) lowering elevation of the adjacent stream floodplain by excavating floodplain and terrace deposits to provide a gradual transition from the top of bank to water surface; (2) shaping floodplain terraces to enable floodplain interaction along the creek; (2) installing large wood complexes with boulder support to protect stream banks, provide salmonid cover, and retain sediment; (3) reconnecting the main channel to historic side-channels for the creek to interact with shallower areas during higher flows; (4) restricting cattle with fencing and a single water access; (5) removing invasive species and replanting with a high-density cover of native vegetation; and (6) engaging the community in restoration activities through information and volunteer opportunities. The project is located on South Scappoose Creek near Scappoose, Oregon in Columbia County. Restoration will address the following watershed problems within the lower South Scappoose Creek: (1) simplified and degraded salmonid habitat, including poor winter rearing areas, and lack of cover and refugia; (2) stream channel incision and stream-bank erosion; (3) floodplain disconnection; and (4) degraded riparian buffers with resulting solar exposure. This will benefit ESA-listed salmon and steelhead by restoring critical transitional habitat and adding a lower-reach connection to salmonids moving between the spawning areas upstream and the migration areas of the lower Scappoose Bay and Columbia River. Project partners include landowner, City of Scappoose, Columbia SWCD, and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on a technical assistance grant investment, was prioritized from a limiting factors analysis, and utilizes a design that was identified through an alternatives analysis.
- Resulting restoration implements Conservation Recovery Plan actions for ESA-listed fish in a priority watershed, and will functionally connect Scappoose estuary with upper watersheds that are biologically significant habitats for these fish.
- Project is located at a highly visible location, offering public outreach opportunities.
- Project partner support is demonstrated by letters of support and partner match.
- Selected engineering consultant has relevant experience and reasonable cost.
- Application is well written.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Overall project cost is high compared to the ecological benefit gained from the limited stream extent to be restored.
- It is unclear if project design adequately addresses watershed process and function limiting factors by giving the creek enough space to function effectively.

Concluding Analysis:
Proposed restoration will benefit ESA-listed fish in a priority location for their recovery. However, high overall project cost limits cost-benefit of ecological gains expected from proposed restoration.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 304,093.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3023**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Gettings Creek Riparian Restoration Project		
Applicant:	Upper Willamette SWCD		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$31,350.00**	**Total Cost:**	$40,062.00
Proposed Match:	$8,712.00		

Application Description

The "Gettings Creek Riparian Restoration Project" will restore a functioning riparian habitat by eradicating invasive plant species, restoring native riparian vegetation, and stewarding plantings until they reach a "free-to-grow" state. Project is located on Gettings Creek in the Coast Fork Willamette River watershed north of Cottage Grove, Oregon. Restoration will provide shade that will benefit water quality needed to support seasonal migration of spring Chinook and winter steelhead and habitat for aquatic species, such as rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey that historically utilized this tributary for rearing and spawning. Project partners include the landowner and Northwest Youth Corps.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- A significant area of riparian zone will be restored in an ODA and SWCD focus area.
- The planting design is technically sound and utilizes the Rapid Revegetation Method.
- Project has a dedicated landowner, which is demonstrated by their match contribution.
- Project presents potential for building momentum for future restoration in adjacent areas.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The restoration plan proposes a limited window for site preparation that could result in needing to use additional herbicides to control weeds after plantings, which could affect success of native plants if they are accidentally sprayed.
- Project could be strengthened by leveraging with CREP.

Concluding Analysis:

Proposed restoration will benefit water quality in an ODA and SWCD prioritized area at a reasonable cost. Applicant is encouraged to consider using a less expensive grass seed that establishes quickly to prevent erosion while native trees and shrubs establish.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

12 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 31,350.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3024**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Scott Creek Steelhead Enhancement Project		
Applicant:	South Santiam WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Linn
OWEB Request:	**$49,361.00**	**Total Cost:**	$91,696.00
Proposed Match:	$32,335.00		

Application Description

The "Scott Creek Steelhead Enhancement Project" will enhance spawning and rearing steelhead habitat on lower Scott Creek through placement of instream large wood structures, adding wood to existing structures, and repositioning large blow down conifers into the stream channel. Cedars will also be planted in the riparian understory to increase long-term shade and future large woody debris recruitment. Project is located in Hamilton Creek sub-basin, a tributary of South Santiam River in Linn County. The middle and lower reaches of Hamilton Creek sub-basin have a narrow zone of discontinuous riparian vegetation due to this vegetation being cleared for agriculture and other land uses in the 20th century. As a result, the creek has limited in-stream habitat complexity, a lack of riparian shade, and poor conifer recruitment in riparian areas, which negatively impacts ESA-listed populations of Upper Willamette Spring Chinook and the core genetic legacy populations of winter steelhead that are endemic to the South Santiam Watershed. Project partners include Weyerhaeuser, MMT, ODF, and USACE.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Restoration will benefit steelhead in a priority location for this ESA-list fish species.
- Project design is straight forward and technically sound.
- Overall project cost is reasonable for the ecological benefit.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No significant concerns identified.

Concluding Analysis:

Given recent diminished steelhead returns, any restoration action benefiting this species is a priority. The proposed project provides high cost-benefit for ecological gains that will support this ESA-listed fish species in a priority watershed. Applicant is encouraged to consider using a mix of conifer species since cedars are very slow growing in understories and will take a long time to establish.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 49,361.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 49,361.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3025**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Henderson Creek Fish Habitat		
Applicant:	Marys River WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Benton
OWEB Request:	**$106,127.00**	**Total Cost:**	$142,562.00
Proposed Match:	$36,435.00		

Application Description

The "Henderson Creek Fish Habitat" project will: (1) increase instream wood densities, bedload aggradation, frequency of floodplain interaction, abundance of spawning gravel, storage of nutrient bearing silts and sands, and sinuosity and thus channel complexity; (2) restore unencumbered passage to all age classes of salmonids and adult lamprey; (3) sequester summer flows in a hyporheic lens to address systemic habitat limitation of elevated stream temperatures; (4) restore a functional riparian corridor that has capacity to contribute coniferous wood to the aquatic corridor long-term; and (5) strengthen small private land partnerships that result in long-term watershed council relationships. Restoration activities include: (1) culvert replacements that will provide an unencumbered migration corridor to both adult and juvenile native fish; (2) instream large wood placement in the active stream channel; (3) boulder weir and spawning gravel placement where much of the channel has scoured to bedrock and minimal gravels are present in the stream banks for recruitment; and (4) planting native riparian corridor vegetation. Project is located on Henderson Creek in the Beaver Creek sub-basin of Marys River Watershed south of Philomath, Oregon. This restoration will reduce legacy effects of habitat simplification on Henderson Creek. Project partners include landowners, Greenbelt Land Trust, and MMT.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on Willamette Model Watershed investments and is the last proposed restoration site in this sub-basin.
- Restoration design will address multiple issues limiting stream conditions, including water quality, riparian vegetation, and stream process and functions that support cutthroat trout.
- Project is supported by partnerships and leveraged with match.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The upstream earthen dam limits ecological benefits that will result from restoring fish passage on this stream due to the limited stream habitat that will be made accessible. Furthermore, this dam is aging and could potentially fail and it is unclear how this could impact proposed downstream restoration activities.

Concluding Analysis:
Due to the limited ecological benefit and risks associated with potential impacts that might occur from an upstream dam failure, the proposed project has uncertainty that limits the project's cost-benefit. Furthermore, since there does not seem to be urgency for implementing restoration in the near-term, applicant might consider further efforts to incorporate the landowner with the dam into the project or providing further information on how the restoration design addresses potential dam failure.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3026**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project Phase II		
Applicant:	McKenzie Watershed Alliance		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$23,500.00**	**Total Cost:**	$46,000.00
Proposed Match:	$18,000.00		

Application Description

The "Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project" will improve ecological function and biological productivity for native fish, while providing opportunities to increase public awareness of and support for watershed restoration. Project activities include adding instream pieces of key large wood through stream-side tree pulling, engaging local students in project monitoring and outreach, and engaging residents and members of the public through tours. Project is located on Deer Creek in the McKenzie River Watershed. Past land management practices within the Deer Creek sub-watershed have disrupted natural processes including wood supply and storage, sediment transport and storage, channel and floodplain dynamics, and organic matter transport and storage. These disrupted processes have negatively impacted habitat for native fish by reducing wood supply and storage, increasing transport capacity of habitat materials out of the stream system, reducing the amount of available spawning gravel, reducing floodplain connectivity, decreasing the amount of off-channel and high flow refuge habitat, reducing the frequency of deep pools and amount of complex cover, and contributing to increased summer stream temperature. Proposed restoration will address habitat limiting factors for native fish, including ESA-Threatened spring Chinook salmon and bull trout, Oregon Sensitive coastal cutthroat trout, and rainbow trout. Project partners include USFS and McKenzie Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous successful restoration. Furthermore, this current application presents a strong case for why the past grant award underestimated funding needs and the added benefit of proposed additional work to protect this previous investment.
- Project benefits critical habitat for Chinook and bull trout, and is timely because the McKenzie Watershed has the last remaining Willamette bull trout population.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No significant concerns identified.

Concluding Analysis:

Project is time sensitive because proposed tree tipping into the stream will provide a pinning mechanism to stabilize previous work and protect that investment.

This phase 2 work will increase success and effectiveness of this previous work, therefore, providing a high benefit-cost- for this restoration investment in a high priority watershed for ESA-listed fish recovery.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 23,500.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 23,500.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3027**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Smith Creek Fish Passage Enhancement		
Applicant:	Coast Fork Willamette WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$104,713.00**	**Total Cost:**	$198,279.00
Proposed Match:	$93,566.00		

Application Description

The "Smith Creek Fish Passage Enhancement" project will improve fish passage by replacing undersized culverts, improve spawning habitat by enabling gravel and woody material movement and sorting in the stream system that is currently limited by these culverts, and improve water quality by slowing water and increasing hyporheic flows as a result of more natural stream processes restored by the proposed culvert replacements. Project is located on Smith Creek, a tributary in the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed east of Cottage Grove, Oregon. Restoration will benefit Western brook lamprey and cutthroat trout. Project partners include Weyerhaeuser and BLM.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Proposed restoration design is technically sound.
- Project is supported by partnership with landowners.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Application is unclear on how proposed restoration actions are connected to the referenced watershed issues and link to water quality for drinking water.
- Application overstates project alignment with the Oregon Conservation Strategy, which recommends replacing culverts in general but not these specific culverts.
- It is unclear from the application why restoration at the proposed sites is an important priority.

Concluding Analysis:

Project benefit to the watershed is limited due to its location above Doreena reservoir. Furthermore, OWEB investment may not be necessary for these road crossings to be addressed since it seems likely these culverts will be replaced regardless of OWEB funding being awarded.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3028**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Building Resiliency and Connecting Corridors - Maxfield Creek Phase I		
Applicant:	Luckiamute WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Benton
OWEB Request:	**$273,717.00**	**Total Cost:**	$349,211.00
Proposed Match:	$75,494.00		

Application Description

The "Building Resiliency and Connecting Corridors" project will implement management actions to create a connected riparian corridor and increase canopy cover along Maxfield Creek from its confluence with the Luckiamute River to the transition into industrial timberlands. Project activities include: (1) establishing or enhancing riparian forest and riparian-upland transitional zone through aggressive weed control and establishment of a diverse mix of native woody trees and shrubs; (2) providing landowners with the knowledge and skills to steward project areas long-term; (3) initiating temperature monitoring pre- (2017) and post-project implementation at the up- and downstream ends of the target reach (included in separate Monitoring application); and (4) supporting restoration opportunities with the adjacent Kings Valley Charter School (included in separate Outreach application with additional volunteer opportunities included in this project).

The primary project focus is restoration of degraded riparian corridors along Maxfield Creek, a tributary to the Luckiamute River in Benton County. Degraded and absent riparian corridors on Maxfield Creek resulted in a poor single-strata canopy cover and poor vegetation diversity. This condition leads to elevated temperatures, diminished nutrient inputs and large wood recruitment for aquatic species and instream habitat, reduced buffering of surface runoff, and fragmented habitat for terrestrial species dependent on migration corridors. Landowners have also reported increased erosion and channel entrenchment, with observable changes in channel form after single disturbance events. Riparian revegetation and enhancement will improve water quality in the long-term by increasing canopy cover, filtering nutrient loaded runoff, and reducing bank erosion and fine sediments entering the system. These activities promote stream shading and create conditions favorable to the future large wood recruitment in the system for increased habitat complexity. Proposed actions will benefit listed Upper Willamette River Steelhead by directly supporting three of the "five main drivers of habitat condition and use by salmon: sediment supply regime, hydrologic regime, thermal regime, riparian vegetation, and connectivity." Project partners include landowners, MMT, Greenbelt Land Trust, and BEF.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Restoration builds on previous Willamette Model Watershed investments and will benefit ESA- listed steelhead.
- Project was identified through careful consideration and well-thought restoration prioritization in the Luckiamute watershed.

- Project design is technically sound, and builds on recent lesson learned to effectively restore native riparian vegetation.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Application would be strengthened by additional information on the proposed herbicide use and approach; this information was provided later after the review team site visit. Applicant is encouraged to follow NOAA programmatic guidance for herbicide use in project design.
- Landowner capacity to help maintain sites in the long-term is unclear; however, project design will likely result in a riparian area that is easier to maintain. Additionally, some landowner property management actions at one of the project sites seem disconnected from achieving proposed project objectives (e.g. future large wood recruitment for streams will have limited impact if landowners are removing wood structures).
- It is unclear how important and timely restoration is at all the proposed sites.

Concluding Analysis:
Restoration on Maxfield Creek is needed because stream conditions will not likely recover without active restoration efforts and will continue to deteriorate, which will cause restoration at a later date to be more expensive. While the project will generally provide watershed benefits in a Willamette Model Watershed, there does not seem to be a strong sense of urgency for implementation in the near-term.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 273,717.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3029**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Pure Water Partners Riparian Restoration Project		
Applicant:	McKenzie Watershed Alliance		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$112,903.00**	**Total Cost:**	$182,102.00
Proposed Match:	$69,200.00		

Application Description

The "Pure Water Partners Riparian Restoration Project" will protect and enhance McKenzie River water quality, enhance habitat for key native fish and wildlife, and increase public awareness of and support for watershed restoration. Project activities include: (1) establishing native trees and shrubs along the McKenzie River; (2) increasing native plant diversity and decreasing invasive vegetation on project site; (3) increasing awareness and understanding of local riparian conservation by engaging students annually in riparian restoration at project sites; and (4) increasing awareness of and support for the Pure Water Partnership by engaging landowners and members of the public through tours at the project sites. The project is located on the McKenzie River east of Springfield Oregon in Lane County.

Restoration will address degraded riparian forest habitat in the McKenzie River sub-basin that have been impacted by a variety of historic and current land management practices. Urban and rural development, forestry, road development, flood control, and hydroelectric projects have all reduced the quantity and degraded the quality of riparian forests. These changes have negatively impacted fish and wildlife habitat and contributed to downward trends in water quality. Enhanced riparian forests, protected through long-term agreements with landowners, will address one of the root causes of riparian function degradation in the sub-basin; rural residential and agricultural development. The proposed project will contribute toward long-term maintenance and enhancement of McKenzie River water quality and enhanced habitat for spring Chinook salmon and other native species while implementing a locally developed cooperative approach to voluntary conservation. Project partners include landowners, Eugene Water and Electric Board, USFS, and McKenzie Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Proposed project will benefit ESA-listed spring Chinook in a priority watershed for their population recovery.
- Planting design utilizes the Rapid Revegetation Method and reference conditions to inform the project design.
- One of the project sites is unique, because it is an unusually large sized rural residential property that is protected by a conservation easement.
- Project is leveraged by significant match, and supported by partners demonstrated by letters of support.

- Application addressed previous regional review team concerns regarding elk browse and CREP eligibility.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No major concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis:
Proposed restoration is part of an innovative pilot program that is expected to recruit additional sites and expand benefits from restored riparian areas across the McKenzie watershed. Current project is important and timely for building landowner interest and momentum in the Pure Water Partner Program during the program roll out.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
10 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 112,903.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3030**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Crestmont Land Trust Restoration and Enhancement Project		
Applicant:	Benton SWCD		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Benton
OWEB Request:	**$196,657.00**	**Total Cost:**	$592,891.00
Proposed Match:	$193,479.00		

Application Description

The "Crestmont Land Trust Restoration and Enhancement Project" will protect and increase habitat diversity components, such as snags, legacy trees, pollinator habitat, hardwood trees, and stream habitat. Restoration includes: (1) converting timber production to historic oak-dominated habitat; (2) removing and controlling invasive vegetation to manage for native grass and nectar species; (3) opening fish passage by addressing culverts; and (4) installing infrastructure to facilitate grazing as a habitat management tool while protecting streams and banks. The project is located in the Marys River Watershed near Philomath, Oregon. Project will restore historic oak savanna and woodland conditions that will benefit native wildlife, including endangered butterflies and other species. Project partners include Crestmont Land Trust/landowner, NRCS, and USFWS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Restoration activities meet several metrics found in regional plans, such as the Oregon Conservation Strategy, and will benefit several priority species habitats, including Fender's blue butterfly and Taylor's checkerspot butterfly. Restoration at this site provides potential connector habitat between known butterfly populations.
- Project site is highly visible through public access and connects with several adjacent conservation properties in the area; therefore, providing landscape-scale benefits.
- Project is well leveraged with match.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Cost benefit of replacing culverts is unclear without information about the stream system, fish presence, habitat quality, stream conditions upstream and downstream of the project site, and design alternatives that were considered.

Concluding Analysis:

Project will significantly benefit priority species relying on upland oak habitat, because of its unique location that connects more broadly with adjacent oak habitat restoration efforts. While the culvert project elements are not a priority on their own, replacing them will restore stream process and function. This will contribute to the proposed implementation of a whole watershed approach integrated into a resource management level plan across the entire property.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 196,657.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 196,657.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3031**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Bear Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration at Bennett Vineyards		
Applicant:	Long Tom WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$89,773.00**	**Total Cost:**	$136,242.00
Proposed Match:	$51,162.00		

Application Description

The "Bear Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration" project will: (1) improve instream habitat complexity and floodplain connectivity by installing instream logs; (2) restore historic riparian habitat structure and decrease the rate of warming of downstream water temperatures by installing high density streamside tree and shrub plantings that increase stream shading; (3) restore historic oak woodland habitat structure by planting native tree, shrubs, and forbs; (4) enhance native prairie plant diversity within reforestation area; (5) create suitable nesting habitat for native pond turtles with basking logs; and (6) create suitable nesting and rearing habitat for native amphibians by establishing vernal pools. The project is located on Bear Creek, a tributary of the Long Tom River in Lane County. Restoration will benefit native fish and wildlife species, including turtles and amphibians, water quality, and instream and riparian habitat function. Project partners include the landowner and USACE.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous investments in a culvert replacement on the project site and the Willamette Model Watershed program.
- Project includes a mix of restoration activities that will provide a diversity of benefits to fish and wildlife species habitats.
- Application provides a well explained, detailed budget.
- Project is well leveraged with match and committed landowners.
- Project provides outreach opportunity because of vineyard visitors.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Application overstates restoration benefit to ESA-listed salmon.
- Project design includes some experimental approaches that may have uncertain results. This includes bringing in soil for turtle habitat; and the herbaceous planting plots with maintenance requirements that might be difficult to implement and achieve long-term success in restoring these plant communities.

Concluding Analysis:

The project implements restoration actions that are part of a Willamette Model Watershed strategy and benefits a diversity of habitats supporting native fish and wildlife species, which results in a cost-effective project for the expected watershed benefits.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
8 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 89,773.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3032**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Truax Island Phase 1- Dead River Crossing		
Applicant:	Calapooia WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Linn
OWEB Request:	**$197,522.00**	**Total Cost:**	$264,835.00
Proposed Match:	$67,313.00		

Application Description

The "Truax Island" project will increase off-channel habitat for native Willamette Valley fish and improve hydraulic connectivity of Dead River and the Willamette River by replacing a failed road crossing. This will improve passage and instream conditions within a large side slough of the Willamette River. Truax Island Access is a 128-acre undeveloped Willamette Greenway site within the Upper Willamette River Floodplain Conservation Opportunity Area with 2.17 miles of Willamette River-frontage between the cities of Corvallis and Albany. Restoration will benefit several Oregon Conservation Strategy species, including willow flycatcher, white-breasted nuthatch, bald eagle, Western pond turtle, and ESA- listed anadromous fish. Project partners include TNC, Knife River, and OPRD.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project is based on thorough design work.
- The project site location on a side-channel of a mainstem Willamette River backwater has high ecological value for Oregon Conservation Strategy species, ESA-listed anadromous fish, and a Willamette greenway site.
- Proposed road crossing replacement has low risk and high probably of success.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Culvert replacement has limited ecological benefit for the high project cost because fish can already access this slough habitat in the winter when water rises. The slough is unlikely to provide fish habitat benefits in the summer due to high water temperatures; therefore, summer fish passage into the slough is not necessary. As a result, the application may overstate the project benefits for fish.
- Application lacks information on whether restoration alternatives were considered and why less costly approaches with potentially higher ecological benefit are not feasible, such as removing the culvert and road, using alternative access roads, or using a ford.

Concluding Analysis:

The benefit-cost of replacing the culvert is limited. There is potential for further ecological gains in a future phase 2 of this project that will restore native vegetative community on the Oregon Parks

greenway property; however, it requires road access provided by this proposed phase 1 project. This access could be achieved through more cost effective approaches, such as an alternative route or ford crossing. If the application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide further information to better understand ecological benefits of the project, analysis of alternatives for site access, and explanation why the chosen alternative is cost-effective for the expected ecological benefits gained.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3033**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Mitchell Creek temperature and fish passage enhacement		
Applicant:	Johnson Creek WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Multnomah
OWEB Request:	**$111,174.00**	**Total Cost:**	$258,218.00
Proposed Match:	$147,044.00		

Application Description

The "Mitchell Creek temperature and fish passage enhacement" project will: (1) reduce heat loading by decommissioning/removing an in-line pond and restoring riparian and upland vegetation in the vicinity of the pond; (2) restore fish passage in the project area; and (3) recreate a stream channel with a stable and sustainable channel geometry within the footprint of the existing pond to provide quality salmonid habitat. This new instream habitat will consist of large wood structures for rearing and holding habitat and hiding cover, as well as constructed riffles to promote riffle-pool sequences in the constructed alluvial channel form that can serve to trap spawning gravel. Project is located on Mitchell Creek, a tributary in Johnson Creek Watershed near Gresham, Oregon. Restoration will benefit water quality and stream habitat for amphibians, such as red-legged frogs, and ESA-listed salmonid fish species. Project partners include TNC, Metro, East Multnomah SWCD, EPA, and National Civilian Community Corps.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Removing the proposed in-line pond will benefit water quality by improving stream temperature, which is confirmed by pre-project data that clearly indicates this shallow pond is serving as a heat source with a seven degree difference in water temperatures of flows entering the pond versus the water exiting the pond.
- Project is located at a semi-public school district property, offering future public outreach opportunities.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Project design does not account for site context because proposed restoration targets a highly engineered fish spawning habitat; however, site conditions and presence of beaver activity indicate this site is more likely beaver habitat.
- Overall project cost is high for the expected ecological benefits.

Concluding Analysis:

Removing ponds will provide significant benefits to stream water quality; however, project design should focus on beaver habitat instead of fish spawning habitat to match site context. Site has indicators that beaver are present, which could reverse the effectiveness of proposed fish habitat restoration due to the resulting influence typical of beavers on stream conditions. If the application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to consider focusing project design to restore beaver habitat

to fit site context, reducing the complex engineering approach, utilizing beaver reference sites, and connecting this project to applicant's monitoring project to test monitoring strategy.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3034**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Salyers Ranch Riparian Restoration Project		
Applicant:	Coast Fork Willamette WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$44,928.00**	**Total Cost:**	$77,353.00
Proposed Match:	$32,425.00		

Application Description

The "Salyers Ranch Riparian Restoration Project" will restore riparian habitat by controlling invasive plant species and establishing a native riparian buffer. Project is located on Camas Swale Creek in the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed, south of Eugene, Oregon. Restored riparian corridors will support a diversity of native trees, shrubs, and forbs that will provide shade over the creek and reduce erosion. Habitat restoration will benefit many species of birds, reptiles and amphibians, including the listed western pond turtles and red-legged frogs. Project partners include the landowner and volunteers.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Restoration will benefit a Vesper sparrow population, which is a species that is likely to soon be listed on the Endangered Species Act. The project site is one of a few locations with a Vesper sparrow population and conservation efforts at this site could lead to this species being listed as threatened instead of endangered, which provides more flexibility in working with landowners on voluntary conservation.
- Restoration plans for the site are technically sound.
- Project site could potentially be protected by a conservation easement in the future. Proposed restoration could result in a more competitive application for the grant that would fund this easement.
- Project leverages partnerships, CREP program, and a committed landowner that is responsibly managing the property.
- Project has a reasonable budget for the expected ecological benefits from proposed restoration.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No significant concerns identified.

Concluding Analysis:

Project provides high habitat benefit for the project cost, will support a priority bird species on an ecologically significant site, and has potential for future habitat restoration that will further increase the impact of this project.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 44,928.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 44,928.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3035**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Spencer Creek Oak Woodland Restoration, Old Gimpl Farm Oak Savanna Restoration, and Biochar Creation		
Applicant:	Long Tom WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$139,504.00**	**Total Cost:**	$181,233.00
Proposed Match:	$48,903.00		

Application Description

The "Spencer Creek Oak Woodland Restoration, Old Gimpl Farm Oak Savanna Restoration, and Biochar Creation" project will improve oak woodland and savanna habitat structure, function, native species diversity, and connectivity. Restoration will include: (1) removing encroaching woody vegetation, thinning dense stands of oak, retaining age-class diversity among oak seedlings, and transplanting seedling oaks into a portion of former savanna that is currently a hay meadow; (2) improving seasonal stream corridors and pond habitat structure and function to support native plant and animal species by controlling invasive species; and (3) improving oak habitat and riparian restoration best management practices utilizing biochar and rotational grazing. Project is located within the Spencer and Coyote creek subwatersheds of the Long Tom Watershed in Lane County. Restoration will benefit oak savanna and woodland habitats, two of the most endangered habitats in Oregon and nationwide with many plants and animals dependent solely or in part on these habitat types that are also threatened or in decline. Project partners include landowners, community volunteers, Biochar consultants, and NRCS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project is located near previous restoration sites; therefore, proposed work will contribute to landscape scale benefits and will benefit priority upland plant species and pond turtles.
- Proposed restoration techniques are technically sound and site-appropriate.
- Application includes a detailed, cost-effective budget for oak restoration.
- Project support is demonstrated by match and letters of support from project participants.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Fire danger associated with dead Douglas fir trees may be somewhat overstated since these trees will likely resolve themselves by becoming snag habitat; therefore, benefit-cost- of the Douglas fir removal is limited.
- The results from integrating biochar are unpredictable and experimental in nature. Furthermore, monitoring results may not be very useful for informing impacts of biochar due to natural variability in soils already present. It would be difficult to identify what monitoring results are attributed to biochar use.

Concluding Analysis:
Proposed restoration is a straight forward, reasonable cost oak restoration project in proximity to other similar restoration sites providing opportunity for habitat connectivity. Project also integrates a couple of unique opportunities. The first is using a different, potentially cost-effective, approach to slash disposal by converting it to biochar. Slash disposal is commonly a difficult and costly product of oak restoration. Two biochar consultants involved in the project with different skillsets could maximize learning from biochar application to treat slash. The second is building on enthusiastic landowner participation by pairing landowners in a potential peer mentoring relationship.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
9 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 139,504.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3036**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Bear Branch Prairie, Oak and Stream Restoration		
Applicant:	North Santiam WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Linn
OWEB Request:	**$320,103.00**	**Total Cost:**	$631,658.00
Proposed Match:	$94,709.00		

Application Description

The "Bear Branch Prairie, Oak and Stream Restoration" project will: (1) restore remnant Willamette Valley wet prairie, oak savanna and oak woodland habitat; (2) restore instream aquatic habitat complexity with large wood structures and reconnect the stream with its historic floodplain; and (3) restore ecological functions of the riparian/floodplain corridor through strategic vegetative management. Restoration activities include oak release, weed control, seeding and planting native plant species, establishing native plants, and placing instream large wood structures. Project is located on Bear Branch, a Lower North Santiam River tributary in Linn County. The following limiting factors will be addressed: (1) loss of Willamette Valley wet prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitats due to land use conversion to agriculture and/or urban development, conifer encroachment, commercial logging operations, and the absence of fire; (2) loss of wetland and upland prairie biodiversity and extent due to prairie conversion to pasture and agricultural use, invasion of non-native grasses and blackberry, and hardwoods encroachment due to fire suppression; (3) lack of instream channel complexity and large wood structures due to channel simplification, installation and maintenance of flood and channel migration control structures, timber harvesting, conversion of floodplain and riparian forest lands to agriculture and agricultural land to urban, and construction of road networks; and (4) loss of floodplain and off-channel habitat reduced available spawning, rearing, and cool water refugia habitat for native fish species using the system due to channelization from removing instream large wood and lack of intact floodplain forests reducing the natural recruitment of large wood, has significantly decreased in-stream aquatic habitat complexity. Project partners include USFWS, NRCS, landowners, MMT, ODFW, CPRCD, FSA, and BLM.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous Willamette Model Watershed investments in a stream that supports ESA-listed winter steelhead downstream of the project site.
- Project site is located in close proximity to nearby conservation properties and restoration underway by applicant, providing opportunity for habitat connectivity and recruitment of future restoration in the local community.
- Restoration will benefit both priority upland and stream habitats.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.
- Project is well leveraged with match.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Application overstates direct benefit of restoration on this site to ESA-listed fish species. Restoration will likely directly benefit cutthroat and provide secondary water quality benefits to downstream ESA-listed fish.

Concluding Analysis:
The proposed project is timely because landowners have already removed cattle grazing on the site; therefore, it is important to begin restoration treatment before noxious weeds move into the site. Restoration is well positioned on the landscape by connecting with other priority restoration efforts that will continue to build momentum on this priority tributary, especially with opportunities that could arise as the local soil and water conservation district considers selecting Bear Branch as a future focus area. Resulting restoration will benefit a mosaic of multiple upland and stream habitat types with one of the best cost-benefits ratios in terms of per acre cost for restoration.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 320,103.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 320,103.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3037**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Plants for People Phase II		
Applicant:	Institute for Applied Ecology		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Polk
OWEB Request:	**$198,654.00**	**Total Cost:**	$546,112.00
Proposed Match:	$267,817.00		

Application Description

The "Plants for People" restoration project will restore previously farmed or otherwise human-impacted land to functioning prairie, oak, and riparian habitat while establishing beneficial links between local tribes, public lands, agriculture, and conservation. The proposed project will restore diverse, resilient habitats through invasive species control and oak release to support native species, including rare and culturally significant plants, and pollinator and other wildlife species. Additionally, this project will incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge into habitat restoration planning and implementation at project sites by engaging tribes in planning processes, increasing availability of culturally significant plant materials for use in restoration projects and traditional tribal practices, and improving access to appropriate sites for traditional gathering and harvest of plant materials by tribal members. The project includes five locations in the Willamette Valley in Lane, Polk, Benton, and Marion Counties.

Willamette Valley prairies and oak savanna and woodland habitats are some of North America's most imperiled ecosystems due to habitat fragmentation, fire suppression, and land use conversion. Less than 1% of native prairie remains, and less than 10% of oak habitat is still present today. Native plant and wildlife species dependent on these habitats have declined as a result of this, some to the point of requiring protection under the Endangered Species Act, including streaked horned lark (threatened), Fender's blue butterfly (endangered), Taylor's checkerspot butterfly (endangered), Bradshaw's lomatium (endangered), golden paintbrush (threatened), Kincaid's lupine (threatened), Nelson's checkermallow (threatened), Willamette daisy (threatened), white-topped aster (threatened), peacock larkspur (threatened, State) and white-rock larkspur (threatened, State). Restoration will improve the quality and amount of native prairie and oak habitat at project sites to help reverse trends of loss and degradation in these imperiled Willamette Valley habitats. Project partners include UC-Davis, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, ODFW, City of Corvallis, OPRD, and USFWS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on a previous successful phase one investment, will maintain project momentum, and will ensure availability of native plant materials for upland oak prairie restoration.
- Project is leveraged with match and supported by partner involvement, which is demonstrated by letters of support.

- Project will benefit wildlife species across large acreage.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Application would be strengthened by a budget explanation that links the grant request with the project description to better understand how funds will be spent.
- It is unclear whether restoration actions are ecologically sustainable so that outcomes can be maintained without constant financial support.

Concluding Analysis:
Project timing is important to maintain momentum with partners, including Oregon Parks and Recreation and the tribe, utilize the qualified staff from phase 1 to effectively continue this work, and utilize time-limited match. Reviewers highlighted that it is assumed that tribal gathering was an extractive process; however, in reality it was a landscape management tool that tribes relied on to maintain habitats, such as prairies. By re-establishing gathering sites as will occur with the proposed project, it also re-establishes habitat maintenance. The resulting project benefits priority species over a large acreage that results in ecological gains with reasonable cost-benefits.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
7 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 198,654.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 198,654.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3038**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Carnine Upland Prairie and Oak Savanna Restoration Phase 1		
Applicant:	Coast Fork Willamette WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$97,761.00**	**Total Cost:**	$130,991.00
Proposed Match:	$33,230.00		

Application Description

The Carnine restoration project will restore upland prairie-oak savanna vegetation to provide habitat for native Willamette Valley wildlife while contributing to biodiversity and functionality. Activities include invasive weed control, releasing oak through thinning, prescribed burns in prairie areas, and restoring native plant community by seeding and planting forbs and bulbs. The project is located in the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed east of Cottage Grove, Oregon. Restoration will benefit Willamette prairie and oak habitat, which currently has only 2% remaining from historic conditions, along with benefiting populations of grassland birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Project partners include USFWS, landowners, Institute for Applied Ecology, and Kennedy Conservation Corps.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Proposed project design utilizes technically sound and site-appropriate restoration practices, including judicious use of herbicides to control weeds.
- Project location in the Willamette Valley fringe area is a priority for restoring oak and upland plant communities to preserve sensitive species relying on these habitats; the site could potentially provide an anchor location between two Conservation Opportunity Areas.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.
- Project is supported by the landowner, which is demonstrated by match and a letter of support.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Project location among adjacent forested lands could limit whether target species will be able to utilize restored project site as a stepping stone between habitat locations; the site might be too isolated among timber lands.

Concluding Analysis:

The proposed project will benefit oak habitat and species that are dependent on these upland habitats utilizing site appropriate techniques. The extent to which this site can provide connectivity with nearby sites is uncertain due to its location on a fragmented landscape; therefore, potentially reducing the ecological benefit of this project.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
11 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 97,761.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3039**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	South Scappoose Creek Floodplain Restoration - Phase 2, Zong F & I Design		
Applicant:	Scappoose Bay WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Columbia
OWEB Request:	**$27,321.00**	**Total Cost:**	$36,820.00
Proposed Match:	$9,500.00		

Application Description

The "South Scappoose Creek Floodplain Restoration" technical assistance project will develop final construction designs for restoration activities along a 0.2 mile reach of the South Scappoose Creek. Restoration activities will be designed to improve stream function and floodplain interaction by reducing stream incision, erosion and unstable stream banks, removing invasive species, and enhancing riparian and instream habitat. Specific elements likely to be included in the final design are laid-back banks, a floodplain bench, and potential side-channel reconnections. The result (if implemented) will be a waterway with enhanced salmonid habitat that provides additional winter refuge, and rearing habitat in a connection stream reach between the tidal extent and upper watershed. Project partners include City of Scappoose.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous investments, implements restoration on one of the few large land parcels in this watershed, and is identified in a strategic plan.
- Project budget is reasonable with efficient use of funds directly supporting design work.
- Landowner support for the project is demonstrated by letters of support.
- Resulting restoration will functionally connect the estuary with upper watersheds, which are biologically significant habitats for multiple species, including ESA-listed fish.
- Proposed project is responsive to previous regional review team recommendations to look broadly beyond the city park project site.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Project design will address a small stream segment, therefore, limiting overall project impact.
- Resulting restoration project is likely to be a high cost implementation project for the expected ecological benefits gained.

Concluding Analysis:

Proposed project has potential for providing habitat benefits for ESA-listed fish species in a priority watershed. However, the resulting design will likely result in a high cost restoration project, which limits overall cost-benefit of these restoration actions. If the application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to consider a design solution that limits the extent of streambank shaping that results in

costly movement of large amounts of materials, and consider design alternatives to determine a cost-effective design approach.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3040**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Kelley Creek Fish Passage		
Applicant:	Johnson Creek WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Multnomah
OWEB Request:	**$12,489.00**	**Total Cost:**	$29,979.00
Proposed Match:	$17,491.00		

Application Description

The "Kelley Creek Fish Passage" technical assistance will provide a preliminary/30% engineering design and probable cost estimate for a construction project to restore 100% fish passage at the barrier on Kelley Creek, which enters Johnson Creek at river mile 11.4 near the boundary for Portland, Oregon. This six foot high human-made dam on a private property was built in 1989 as a diversion dam to supply the landowner's water rights to an offline pond. This barrier is of particular importance because it is the first 100% salmonid barrier in the Kelley Creek watershed. When implemented, the resulting project will open fish passage to 1.8 miles of habitat on Kelley and Mitchell Creeks (1.6 on Kelley, 0.2 on Mitchell). Project partners include the Johnson Creek Inter-Jurisdictional Committee, East Multnomah SWCD, and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project is identified in a watershed action plan.
- Restoration will address the first full barrier in this stream system, and will open a significant length of stream habitat to fish.
- Project is leveraged by significant match, and supported by partners demonstrated by letters of support.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Landowner project support for restoration is unclear because there is no letter of support from them; furthermore, the landowner agreement provided in the application commits the landowner to only survey and design project elements.
- It is unclear whether the chosen consultant has relevant expertise to address the complexities associated with removing this six-foot dam and associated challenges, such as sediment built up behind the dam. This is a sizeable dam in an urban setting; therefore, it is important for the consultant to have appropriate experience with dams to ensure likelihood for project success.
- Resulting restoration project is likely to have a high cost. Since the application does not include a description of the conditions and importance of fish habitat located above the dam, it is difficult to determine cost-benefits of removing this dam.

Concluding Analysis:
Dam removal has potential for having high impact to watershed benefits, while also having potential for high risk. Without more explicit landowner support for the whole restoration project (i.e. design and implementation), it is difficult to determine whether technical assistance investment will result in a restoration project. If the application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide the following information: (1) design alternatives under consideration and how the applicant will work towards a design approach that is not limited to a high cost, heavily engineered restoration design product; (2) a letter from the landowner articulating support for restoration actions that include implementation; (3) explanation on how permitting agencies will be engaged through the design process; and (4) plans for funding the resulting restoration project.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3041**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	PWP Landowner Recruitment		
Applicant:	Cascade Pacific RC&D		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$49,490.00**	**Total Cost:**	$127,956.00
Proposed Match:	$82,130.00		

Application Description

The "PWP Landowner Recruitment" technical assistance will promote awareness of and participation in the Pure Water Partners (PWP) program, an incentive-based strategy that aims to protect existing healthy riparian areas and restore degraded riparian forests along the McKenzie River through voluntary actions. Landowners will be recruited through mailings and meetings/workshops. Additionally, riparian health assessments, long-term landowner agreements, and funding proposal development will be completed. Riparian forests within the McKenzie River sub-basin have been impacted by multiple land management practices including conversion to urban, residential and agricultural land uses, installation of flood control dams and hydroelectric power projects, forestry, and roads. These land management practices led to a reduction in the quantity and connectivity of riparian forests, and contributed to documented downward trends in McKenzie River water quality and degraded habitat for native fish and wildlife. Increased private landowner participation in voluntary actions designed to restore and provide long-term protection of riparian forests will help enhance water quality and stream habitat within the McKenzie River over the long term. The PWP programmatic approach will allow for developing and maintaining capacity among a wide range of partnering organizations, leveraging funding partners, and prioritizing riparian enhancement and protection in the McKenzie River sub-basin across partners that will result in large-scale implementation of riparian conservation and restoration projects. Project partners include Eugene Water and Electric Board and Upper Willamette SWCD.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on a succeeding, voluntary approach, and incorporates an innovative landowner ambassador concept.
- McKenzie Watershed is an important location for priority fish species, including Chinook, bull trout, and Oregon chub.
- Proposal describes clear, ambitious, achievable, and measurable goals and objectives for landowner recruitment, starting with outreach to securing landowner agreements.
- Applicant staff roles and responsibilities required for successful implementation of technical assistance is clearly described in the application.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis:
Pure Water Partners offers a program that could be transferred to other basins, and provides a unique approach to working with landowners in a watershed experiencing increasing pressure from urban and rural development. Proposed technical assistance benefits a priority watershed for ESA-listed fish species; and leverages a high cost-benefit because of the future landscape-scale watershed efforts that will likely result from this work.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 3

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 49,490.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 49,490.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3042**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Designing for Downstream: Voluntary Urban Water Quality Projects		
Applicant:	Long Tom WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$30,993.00**	**Total Cost:**	$60,902.00
Proposed Match:	$31,586.00		

Application Description

The "Designing for Downstream" technical assistance project will convene a technical team of local stakeholders and partners to create a project prioritization matrix through which potential voluntary urban stormwater retrofit projects can be ranked, and apply this methodology to the current list of nearly 200 proposed project sites. Additionally, project designs will be developed for two of the highest ranked project sites for near-term implementation. Projects are implemented through the watershed council's Urban Waters and Wildlife Program in which commercial and industrial businesses take the "Trout Friendly Landscape Pledge" that provides them incentives to alter or enhance their landscape, maintenance, and business practices to reduce pesticide use, improve soil health, increase native and pollinator friendly species, and to incorporate stormwater management and other pollutant source control measures. Project partners include City of Eugene, City of Springfield, Willamalane Parks and Recreation District, Eugene Water and Electric Board, Springfield Utility Board, ODEQ, USFS, and local businesses.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous urban restoration and provides a tool to prioritize project demand. Applicant's urban program seems to be generating a high level of interest from businesses that want to "do good" for resident trout.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, the project has a likelihood of success.
- Project is strongly leveraged with match.
- Application addresses primary concerns from previous regional review team comments.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Methods described in the application are vague because these will be developed by a technical team as part of the project. As a result, it is unclear how exactly projects will be prioritized.
- Application would be strengthened by an explanation on how these urban stormwater projects will have a measurable impact in the watershed, or efforts the applicant will integrate into the project to determine this impact.
- Proposed team has under-representation of fish-focused expertise considering the "trout friendly" project focus.

Concluding Analysis:
Proposed project addresses a gap in stormwater treatment at locations that were not required to install stormwater infrastructure when they were built. This project model could also be transferred to other watersheds; therefore, providing additional cost-benefits from this technical assistance investment.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 3

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 30,993.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 30,993.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3043**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Sandy-Salmon Confluence Value Engineering		
Applicant:	Sandy River Basin WC		
Basin:	LOWER COLUMBIA	**County:**	Clackamas
OWEB Request:	**$46,552.00**	**Total Cost:**	$78,102.00
Proposed Match:	$31,550.00		

Application Description

The "Sandy-Salmon Confluence Value Engineering" technical assistance project will conduct data and field surveys, hydrologic modeling, and expert reviews to revise conceptual plans and produce permit-level design for implementation of a high-impact restoration project on the mainstem Sandy. The project will develop feasible actions to reconnect the Sandy-Salmon confluence floodplain and restore the area's extensive value as floodplain and off-channel habitat for migrating wild salmon and steelhead. Floodplain reconnection could occur through modification of levees that currently disconnect the floodplain from the mainstem Sandy. Options include levee setbacks, partial breaching, levee removals, and passive restoration of the floodplain surface. Excavating side channels, which are currently connected to the Sandy only at high flows, through the floodplain surface would increase habitat function and diversity. Potential grading strategies will likely be required to restore floodplain processes, as well as limiting risk to nearby roadways, bridges, and other infrastructure. Large wood and log jam placements would be evaluated, with different types of structures assessed to facilitate habitat development and help restore connectivity and geomorphic processes. Project partners include BLM, Clackamas SWCD, Sandy River Basin Partners technical committee, and Sandy Basin Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project location is in a high priority area for ESA-listed salmonid recovery with extensive planning efforts completed that identified this location as one of three priority subwatersheds in the Sandy Basin.
- This technical assistance project focuses on identifying cost-effective approaches to achieving aquatic ecosystem benefits at a large scale.
- Proposed designer has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Application would benefit from a budget narrative that explains the significant staff cost associated with this project to understand their roles in ensuring successful completion of proposed technical assistance.

Concluding Analysis:
Proposed technical assistance will provide restoration designs in a priority location for ESA-listed fish that emphasizes cost-effectiveness of resulting watershed restoration. Applicant is encouraged to ensure technical assistance includes an assessment of design alternatives, and any future restoration applications include a clear explanation of a cost-benefit analysis for the alternative chosen as the final design.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 3

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 46,552.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 46,552.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3044**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Scappoose Bay Watershed Strategic Water Quality Monitoring		
Applicant:	Scappoose Bay WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Columbia
OWEB Request:	**$21,377.00**	**Total Cost:**	$29,522.00
Proposed Match:	$8,145.00		

Application Description

The "Scappoose Bay Watershed Strategic Water Quality Monitoring" project will assess current water quality conditions in the major Scappoose Bay Watershed sub-basins to guide restoration prioritization for a watershed strategic plan. Previous water quality monitoring data found water quality concerns that are likely impacting listed salmonids, including elevated stream temperatures, turbidity and bacteria, and low dissolved oxygen. Proposed monitoring will assess water quality at a subset of previous sampling locations to identify any significant changes since the last 2008-2010 sample events, and to identify key locations for prioritized restoration actions. Data collected will include a combination of continuous temperature sensors and single measurement samples of temperature, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen. Project partners include volunteers and DEQ.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The application's objectives are good and the questions listed in the hypothesis section are mostly achievable and relatively clear.
- The applicant has the qualifications to complete the work.
- The monitoring efforts proposed in the application are focused and build on past monitoring efforts.
- The proposed monitoring efforts are tied to the applicant's internal planning processes.

Concerns:

- There were no letters of support or partners identified in the application; not engaging with other local groups could be an issue with getting people on board at a later date.
- The OPMT questioned if this monitoring would help them determine the effectiveness of past restoration efforts based on the percentage of restoration actions that have occurred in the watershed and how the monitoring is structured (e.g., trends cannot be determined in three years).
- The application does not describe specific monitoring methods and only stated they would follow approved methods.
- The application only described generating reports and did not mention sharing data with local partners or DEQ.

Recommendations:
If funded, coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator to clarify the match they can provide and determine if resources are available to implement the water temperature monitoring.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (50%), Medium (50%)

Certainty of Success: High (50%), Medium (50%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation
*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous monitoring efforts.
- Proposed water sampling covers a large area over the watershed, which results in comprehensive spatial representation of the watershed.
- A DEQ Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) will be completed prior to start of the project.
- Data will be used to prioritize restoration that will benefit Oregon Conservation Strategy species in addition to ESA-listed fish species.
- Application includes detailed maps and sampling table.
- Budget is reasonable.
- Project is leveraged with match from DEQ and volunteers.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Data to be collected will not be useful for meeting monitoring objectives to identify trends because sites are too spatially far apart. It is especially difficult to identify water temperature trends because of spatial and temporal variability in stream temperatures.
- Applicant does not have a critical mass of completed restoration projects for monitoring data to detect watershed changes resulting from these restoration efforts.
- Application would be strengthened by letters of support that document project partnerships.

Concluding Analysis:
It is unclear how monitoring data is a critical need to support restoration planning, when there is already a significant amount of information available. Furthermore, there are more useful tools for identifying and prioritizing projects than water quality monitoring data, including aerial photos and GIS. Applicant should consider planning this monitoring project later, such as in 2020, after there is a critical mass of restoration completed to determine impacts of these efforts on the watershed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3045**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Luckiamute Temperature Monitoring		
Applicant:	Luckiamute WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Polk
OWEB Request:	**$41,079.00**	**Total Cost:**	$53,754.00
Proposed Match:	$12,676.00		

Application Description

The "Luckiamute Temperature Monitoring" project will provide comprehensive, high quality stream temperature data to support prioritizing restoration projects and sound baseline data against which the effectiveness of future restoration projects can be judged. The proposed project will fill a data gap to address the following key questions: (1) are the upper reaches of streams as they emerge from forested watersheds currently providing suitable salmonid habitat in the summer based on the 18º C standard for rearing and migration, and over time, are those temperatures being maintained, warming, or cooling?; (2) what is the current status of reaches targeted for restoration activities (pre-project)?; and (3) are restoration efforts having the expected effect on stream temperatures in the long-term (post-project, future monitoring)? Monitoring activities will include: (1) collection and analysis of surface water temperature data at twelve stations during summer months of 2017 and 2018; and (2) incorporation of existing data and new data collected as a result of this proposal into the Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) project prioritization with the LWC Project Review Committee and Board. Project partners include Meyer Memorial Trust.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The applicant has developed a clear monitoring approach to meet their objectives.
- The applicant identified landowners that are willing to share data and selected sites to be monitored under this project in a way that would allow the applicant to share data with DEQ.
- The applicant proposes to follow approved methods, and the description of methods is adequate.
- There are letters of support from a variety of state agencies and landowners.

Concerns:

- No concerns were identified by the OPMT.

Recommendations:

If funded, coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator on technical assistance on water temperature monitoring. ODEQ may be able to provide resources to reduce the costs for this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)
Certainty of Success: High (50%), Medium (50%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Monitoring methods are technically sound; proposed temperature data could help identify locations of cold water habitat important to fish, therefore, providing useful information to support project prioritization.
- Project builds on previous monitoring efforts, including rapid bioassessment and NetMap products, to establish trends; new data resulting from this project will be integrated into GIS along with this previous work.
- Partnership has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood for success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Project cost seems high for the number of proposed monitoring sites. The application would be strengthened by further explanation on how budget numbers were determined; for example, high cost could be attributed to travel time required to access monitoring sites.
- Application is unclear on how data will be used to prioritize projects, and how this data is necessary or adds value to recent NetMap work that is already providing information for restoration identification and prioritization.

Concluding Analysis:

While project cost seems high for the data, the application demonstrates that resulting data will be high quality and there is strong commitment to use the data in planning future watershed restoration.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 41,079.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 41,079.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3046**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	In-line Pond Temperature Monitoring		
Applicant:	Johnson Creek WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Multnomah
OWEB Request:	**$10,083.00**	**Total Cost:**	$26,091.00
Proposed Match:	$16,008.00		

Application Description

The "In-line Pond Temperature Monitoring" project has a long-term goal to restore high-priority ponds in the Johnson Creek watershed to reduce stream temperatures and provide climate change resilience. Proposed monitoring is the next phase of this longer-term vision and will conduct an on-the-ground survey of the 8 largest accessible in-line ponds in the watershed. Two primary and several secondary data sets will be collected for each pond. The primary data includes temperature and flow data, which will be used to calculate temperature loading--the primary parameter that will be used to gauge each pond's priority ranking for restoration. Secondary data that will be collected and used in considering project ranking include pond shape and structural information, such as depth, outlet release method, and landowner interest. Proposed project will result in a ranked list of the 8 top-priority ponds in terms of restoration potential and benefit to downstream temperature and a survey protocol that can be used for additional future pond surveys, including written procedures, suggested parameters to collect, and/or important questions for landowners. Project partners include East Multnomah SWCD and Johnson Creek Interjurisdictional Committee.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The OPMT liked that the applicant is targeting a temperature stressor in the basin that has been identified through past monitoring efforts.
- This approach would complement existing riparian vegetation restoration efforts to reduce water temperatures.
- There is value in having the Johnson Creek Inter-Jurisdictional Committee (IJC) provide input and oversight to the analytical process.
- The OPMT appreciated that a portion of this project would be to develop and finalize the field methods to monitor additional ponds in the future.

Concerns:

- The application did not describe the field methods in enough detail to give the OPMT confidence they had a firm understanding of what standard methods should be followed when collecting temperature and flow measurements.
- The application was vague on the flow monitoring equipment they proposed to purchase, and the amount in the budget may not be enough to buy all of the equipment needed to collect flow measurements.

- The OPMT questioned what equations would be used to calculate loads given the data they propose to collect.
- There was not enough information in the application to determine if there were potential solutions to alter in-line ponds to reduce temperature impacts.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (50%), Medium (50%)

Certainty of Success: Medium (100%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Information collected through this project will be a useful communication tool to recruit landowners in addressing in-line ponds negatively impacting water quality.
- Data collection includes pond characteristics, such as depth and shape, in addition to stream temperature. This data will be useful in determining which ponds are negatively impacting stream temperature the most and, therefore, a priority for restoration. Not all ponds need to be removed since some deeper ponds can have a cooling affect and, therefore, would not be a priority for restoration.
- Overall project budget is reasonable.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application would be strengthened by additional information on field methods and detail on budget that explains the need for the considerable estimated staff time to implement project work tasks.

Concluding Analysis:

Proposed project will collect information on in-line ponds, which is a priority issue impacting water quality in the Johnson Creek Watershed since there are an estimated 147 in-line ponds in this watershed. Resulting data will support restoration prioritization for strategically addressing these ponds and landowner recruitment efforts. The applicant is encouraged to share resulting data with Oregon Water Resources Department.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 10,083.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 10,083.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3047**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Beaver and a declining amphibian: implications for Oregon spotted frog population recovery		
Applicant:	McKenzie Watershed Alliance		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$173,579.00**	**Total Cost:**	$276,892.00
Proposed Match:	$101,518.00		

Application Description

The proposed Oregon spotted frog (OSF) monitoring project will provide the first data and analysis of OSF population response to habitat alteration caused by beaver in the Northwest, and perhaps the first before-after and treatment-control design for amphibians and beaver in the USA. Understanding these dynamics will inform expectations around wildlife responses to natural beaver expansions, beaver translocations/reintroductions, and other restoration approaches. Monitoring will: (1) determine status of OSF in 2 populations in Mink Lake basin in the Three Sisters Wilderness using mark-recapture sampling; (2) document changes in habitat associated with beaver establishment; (3) evaluate responses of OSF to beaver establishment in the study area; and (4) characterize responses of introduced game fish to beaver in these sites. Project partners include ODFW, USGS, USFS, and McKenzie Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Attention to Oregon spotted frog is warranted and there is potential to feed into management decisions related to non-native fish.
- This project will leverage six years of existing spotted frog data.
- The applicant is working with the USGS staff on this project and, combined, these entities are capable of collecting the data.
- There is a large amount of match being provided by USGS, ODFW and USFS.

Concerns:

- This monitoring project seems very site specific and the OPMT questioned how exportable the findings would be to other areas where beaver may be reintroduced.
- Information provided in the application makes it difficult to determine the benefit; rather, this project seems more like an opportunity rather than a monitoring need.
- There were no specific methods described in the application and it was not clear how the applicant would document the habitat changes, water level differences and vegetation dynamics associated with the different wetland sites.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (100%)

Certainty of Success: Medium (60%), High (40%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Monitoring data is intended to benefit a listed species with few populations remaining, and to inform management decisions that support OSF. This information could also support understanding of other management questions related to beaver and non-native fish populations.
- The project is timely because it takes advantage of current conditions for a natural experiment to understand potential impacts of beaver on OSF populations.
- Project support is demonstrated by letters of support from partners.
- The partnership has relevant knowledge and experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood for success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Overall project cost is high.
- The research strategy is reasonable if the project was only looking at the two monitoring sites described in the application; however, since there is only one control and one treatment site, it would be difficult to infer information to other locations as described in the project objectives because there are too many complicating factors (e.g. influence of beaver, fish, or other element of ecosystem process).
- It is unclear how the applicant would address beaver potentially moving into the control site and compromising the study. Removing beaver would be a complicated process that takes a long time for approval, which would be problematic for this monitoring project.

Concluding Analysis:

There is value to OSF monitoring to learn more about management that can address impacts to their populations; however, uncertainty related to the control site, potential influence of non-native fish, and other potential factors that could be affecting OSF populations may limit the extent to which monitoring results can be inferred to other locations beyond the study sites. This also limits the cost-benefits of this project. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to provide a description of how they will address potential for beaver moving into the control site, how the monitoring design will take into consideration influence of non-native fish as a factor affecting OSF populations along with other environmental factors that may affect monitoring results, and how results can effectively provide information for other locations with OSF populations.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3048**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Lower Willamette Stewardship and Outreach Project		
Applicant:	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Clackamas
OWEB Request:	**$32,742.00**	**Total Cost:**	$45,242.00
Proposed Match:	$13,673.00		

Application Description

The "Lower Willamette Stewardship and Outreach Project" targets third to sixth grade students, teachers, and parents from underserved schools in Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas Counties that have diverse student bodies and poverty rates greater than 40%. The proposed project will provide watershed education and opportunities to help restore habitat through service learning project implementation. Project activities include three hands-on classroom lessons, a field trip, and a post field trip reflection class. Project partners include elementary and middle schools in Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas counties.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Outreach project benefits underserved communities where there are high poverty rates.
- Project design integrates pre- and post- program surveys, is easy for teachers to participate in by providing all necessary materials, and engages parents.
- Project support is demonstrated by letters of support.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Ecological impact of outreach activities is limited because the primary focus of this outreach project is on education.

Concluding Analysis:

While project targets underserved communities, there is limited connection to on-the-ground restoration activities that benefit the watershed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

7 of 8

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 32,742.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3049**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Kings Valley Watershed Stewards - Phase I		
Applicant:	Luckiamute WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Benton
OWEB Request:	**$32,751.00**	**Total Cost:**	$59,798.00
Proposed Match:	$27,048.00		

Application Description

"Kings Valley Watershed Stewards" targets K – 12 students at Kings Valley Charter School in a year-long, integrated program with classroom and outdoor activities; and students from Falls City school district engage in a peer-to-peer Field Day. Proposed outreach activities will improve students' knowledge of ponds, streams, watersheds, riparian function, habitat requirements, and restoration best practices. Community landowners will also participate in a spring tour that will showcase restoration techniques, local native plants for use in the Kings Valley region, and funding opportunities and contacts available for habitat protection and restoration. Project partners include landowners, Benton SWCD, Willamette Habitat Restoration Fund, Meyer Memorial Trust, Kings Valley Charter School, Institute for Applied Ecology, and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Outreach activities include field work in a priority area for the watershed.
- The project will reach a diverse audience including students, teachers, and landowners, and utilizes strategies appropriate and effective for engaging these audiences. Lunch program data indicate this audience includes low income participants.
- Project support is demonstrated by letters of support.
- Application is well written, and describes a thoughtful approach to this outreach project design.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No significant concerns identified.

Concluding Analysis:

This phase 1 project provides a strong combination of active learning, hands-on activities, and data collection that will benefit the watershed. Phase two of this project is planned to be self-propelled and sustained on its own after this initial investment request.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

5 of 8

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 32,751.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3050**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Using the UPRIVER film to increase audience and inclusivity of watershed restoration groups		
Applicant:	Freshwaters Illustrated		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Linn
OWEB Request:	**$17,402.00**	**Total Cost:**	$23,002.00
Proposed Match:	$5,600.00		

Application Description

Proposed UPRIVER film outreach project targets audiences outside the 'inner circle' of watershed restoration who have yet to realize their role in watershed conservation. For example, this includes conservation-minded urban and suburban landowners who might see how decisions in their yard relate to Willamette River water quality and suitability for fish like Chinook salmon. Likewise, rural landowners and farmers might see examples of their agricultural peers making management decisions such as conservation easement agreements, or riparian protection on behalf of water quality and fish and wildlife. UPRIVER is a documentary film focusing on Oregon's watershed restoration movement through a place-based narrative of connected issues and actions in the Willamette river system. In particular, the film illustrates the often elusive connections between public and private lands, rural and urban issues and solutions, and generational efforts to improve water quality and fish habitat over the past century. The proposed project will partner with organizations throughout the valley to coordinate UPRIVER screenings and events with audiences from diverse backgrounds. These screenings will feature take home materials describing practices toward being a better 'UPRIVER Citizen" with links/connections to local conservation groups (e.g., watershed councils, land trusts, SWCDs) that are seeking more members, volunteers, and cooperating landowners.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The proposed project will communicate the value of restoration occurring in the Willamette Valley to a broader community than is typically reached by conservation groups; therefore, it has potential for providing a tool and building outreach capacity for these groups.
- Outreach project has a plan for measuring impact.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application would be strengthened by information on feedback or measures of the film's impact in previous showing events, how watching the film translates to public response that results in watershed benefits, and the level of success of previous events in raising funds for local conservation groups.
- The application would be strengthened by letters of support documenting project match and partner support to demonstrate a need for this outreach by the partners referenced in the application as benefiting from the project.

Concluding Analysis:
UPRIVER is a unique and inspiring placed-based film that could serve as a model for other locations; however, the outreach application is unclear on how this project will directly encourage further watershed restoration and what the level of need is for the proposed outreach activities without partner letters of support indicating benefits of film events to their watershed restoration efforts. If application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to work with local conservation groups, such as those referenced in the application, to actively partner on project development, demonstrate need, and document lessons learned from previous showings.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3051**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Outreach		
Applicant:	Oregon Environmental Council		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Multnomah
OWEB Request:	**$39,905.00**	**Total Cost:**	$49,905.00
Proposed Match:	$10,000.00		

Application Description

"Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Outreach" targets leadership from nine Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships (PSP) in Oregon (including Amazon Creek, Molalla-Pudding, Yamhill, South Yamhill, Clackamas, Hood River, Wasco, Walla-Walla/Milton-Freewater, and Middle Rogue). These leaders include representatives of soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, grower groups, tribal governments, municipal governments, chemical distributors, crop consultants, OSU Extension, and Research and Integrated Plant Protection Center faculty. Project activities include holding face-to-face conversations with leaders of each PSP to: 1) gather stories of success (and failure) and effective outreach material examples; and 2) begin building a sense of relationships and community amongst the PSPs. This information will be shared across PSPs to broaden knowledge and resources for all PSPs; and accelerate the pace and effectiveness of each PSP to leverage greater on-the-ground water quality improvements. Sharing information and outreach materials across the current PSPs will also create a resource library that can facilitate onboarding new watersheds into the PSP program. Project partners include the inter-agency Water Quality Pesticide Management Team.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The proposed project builds on initiatives that started by forming PSPs.
- PSPs can benefit salmonid recovery by addressing water quality issues associated with pesticide use.
- There is value in having a mechanism for sharing materials and outreach approaches to build a strong community of practice.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application is unclear on how outreach project design will be effective; for example, how will populations affected from applying pesticides (e.g. farm workers) benefit from proposed outreach? Two site visits per PSP would limit applicant's ability to build relationships, and there might be some alternative outreach approaches, such as webinars and peer to peer gatherings among PSPs, that would be more effective and expand project impact.
- Overall project cost is high for activities proposed.
- The application would be strengthened by additional context information, such as how active PSPs are and number of people that will be reached through this outreach project.

- The application would be strengthened by letters of support from PSPs and other organizations, such as ODA, to demonstrate partner support and need for proposed project.

Concluding Analysis:
While proposed outreach builds on and potentially improves PSP efforts through peer learning, it is unclear from the application whether PSPs need this work and whether the applicant is well-positioned among the PSP community to provide this service. Letters of support from project partners would provide evidence to demonstrate the need for the proposed outreach project. Furthermore, it is unclear how these outreach efforts will directly lead to watershed benefits.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3052**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Connecting Timberline to Troutdale		
Applicant:	Sandy River Basin WC		
Basin:	LOWER COLUMBIA	**County:**	Multnomah
OWEB Request:	**$31,815.00**	**Total Cost:**	$85,760.00
Proposed Match:	$53,546.00		

Application Description

"Connecting Timberline to Troutdale" targets Sandy River watershed residents and community members (including those who recreate in the basin). The proposed project will build connections between more traditional upper Sandy Basin resident audiences (Timberline and spawning tributaries including the Salmon and Zigzag basins) and expand outreach to diverse, urbanized audiences in the lower watershed residents and recreational community (Gresham, Troutdale, and beyond). Project activities will include the following events: a clean-up, Sandy River Delta Eco-Blitz and celebration, Flood of Information training, and Salmon Carcass Toss. These engagement opportunities provide community focused events and educational presentations that foster a sense for individual and community responsibility in watershed health and stewardship. Project partners include Metro, Multnomah County, local businesses, and SOLVE.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Outreach project will occur in a priority watershed for ESA-listed anadromous fish recovery.
- The applicant has developed a diverse outreach approach that links on-the-ground restoration with engaging stakeholders and landowners, integrates Spanish translation of outreach materials, and works to connect the upper and lower watershed audiences by utilizing the highly visible Sandy River Delta site, which is well positioned for engaging urban area residents.
- Project support is demonstrated by extensive cash and in-kind contribution from the community, including local businesses.
- The application addresses previous regional review team feedback.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It is unclear how applicant will leverage one-time and annual events to build momentum for future watershed restoration work.
- Project will reach a limited number of people for the cost.

Concluding Analysis:

Outreach approach is diverse, strategic, and well supported by community contribution. The unclear connection of how these efforts will directly lead to on-the-ground watershed restoration results in an uncertain cost-benefit for this outreach.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 8

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 31.815.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3053**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	South Santiam Natural Resource Education Program		
Applicant:	South Santiam WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Linn
OWEB Request:	**$55,240.00**	**Total Cost:**	$95,958.00
Proposed Match:	$40,718.00		

Application Description

The "South Santiam Natural Resource Education Program" targets students from Sweet Home Junior High, Sweet Home High, Lebanon High, and Scio High Schools to provide student mentoring between schools and engage youth in civic and watershed enhancement activities as they learn about watershed ecology, watershed councils, and how to create change in their own communities through participating in democratic institutions. Additionally, the Salmon Watch Program will target 5th and/or 6th grade students from Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Scio schools in the four traditional Salmon Watch stations (including salmon biology, macroinvetebrates, water quality, and riparian areas) led by trained volunteers. The Salmon Watch program is designed to foster a deeper connection between humans and ecosystems, recognition of salmon as an indicator of watershed health, greater respect for the value of restoring native wild fish stocks, and understanding of the importance of salmon to native cultures. Project partners include USFS, Meyer Memorial Trust, and Linn Benton Salmon Watch Partnership.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project builds on previous outreach investments and expands into additional schools, including disadvantaged communities with high unemployment rates.
- The project involves young people directly in watershed council activities, including regular meetings, implementing watershed projects, and monitoring restoration.
- Partner support is demonstrated by letters of support from schools and cities, and strong in-kind match from the community.
- Previous program effectiveness is demonstrated from pre-, mid-, and post- program student evaluation integrated into the project.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application would be strengthened by further information on past program implementation and the connection between Salmon Watch and outdoor school project elements to understand why they are packaged together into this application.

Concluding Analysis:

The proposed outreach project builds on a successful program with proven success that directly links students with on-the-ground watershed restoration activities.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 8

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 55,240.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 55,240.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3054**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Watershed Action Teams for Education, Restoration and Stewardship Program		
Applicant:	McKenzie Watershed Alliance		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$49,968.00**	**Total Cost:**	$243,728.00
Proposed Match:	$35,230.00		

Application Description

The "Watershed Action Teams for Education, Restoration and Stewardship (WATERS) Program" is a scalable, regional approach to inquiry-based, field-focused environmental education and public outreach involving secondary students from eight school districts, federal agencies, water and electric providers, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners within Lane County, Oregon. WATERS involves three components including team-based student projects with active watershed project development and monitoring, Salmon Watch, and public outreach. This program focuses on water resources and riparian habitat through collaborative field projects; and the results of these projects will be shared with the public and private landowners in an effort to increase participation in local voluntary restoration and conservation projects. Project partners include private donations, Coquille Tribal Fund, Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, Gray Family Foundation, Collins Foundation, International Federation of Fly Fishers, EWEB, Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, Springfield and McKenzie Public School Districts, EPA, BLM, and McKenzie Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous outreach investments that actively integrates students with on-the-ground watershed restoration by involving them in real projects, and uses this student engagement to build support with landowners.
- Proposed project phase scales up outreach program by expanding into the Coast Fork Willamette watershed.
- Materials will be provided in Spanish, as well as English, for parents.
- Applicant has a strong track record from implementing previous phases of this program.
- The project is supported by diverse partners, which is demonstrated by letters of support.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Scaling up this program by increasing the number of schools could have risk if applicant does not have enough capacity to support this. The application would be strengthened by further explanation on how applicant is planning to meet this new capacity need.

Concluding Analysis:
Proposed outreach project builds on a successful program that directly links students with on-the-ground watershed restoration and monitoring activities while recruiting future watershed restoration.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 8

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 49,968.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 49,968.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3055**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	NCUWC Urban Landowner and Volunteer Outreach		
Applicant:	North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Clackamas
OWEB Request:	**$17,774.00**	**Total Cost:**	$36,224.00
Proposed Match:	$18,450.00		

Application Description

"NCUWC Urban Landowner and Volunteer Outreach" targets streamside landowners in the North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council's (NCUWC) Streamside Stewards Program (SSP) to educate and inspire improved restoration project maintenance and landowner engagement. Since 2011, the NCUWC has worked with private landowners to restore their streamside properties along Kellogg, Mt. Scott, River Forest, Boardman, and Rinearson Creeks located in urban northern Clackamas County through the SSP, which also trains landowners to maintain and enhance their restored properties. Proposed outreach project also targets potential NCUWC volunteers through recruitment to participate in biological monitoring and providing a community presentation. Project activities include landowner trainings on restoration practices, site visits on landowner properties to create property maintenance plans, landowner surveys to identify future outreach activities, volunteer monitoring, and a community meeting focused on "benefits and impacts of living with beavers along their properties." Project partners include Clackamas County, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, Oak Lodge Sanitary District, and Metro.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Proposed project focuses on encouraging landowners to be long-term stewards of restored streamside native vegetation after professional contractors have completed work.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Proposed two-hour landowner training may be too short to ensure landowners learn enough information to effectively maintain restoration.
- Volunteer biomonitoring project elements are unclear; application would be strengthened by additional information on number of volunteers needed, protocols that will be used, how data will be used, and where monitoring sites are located.

Concluding Analysis:

Landowners able to steward restored native vegetation are clearly needed. Proposed outreach offers an interesting approach for transitioning restored sites from professional crew maintenance to landowners providing long-term stewardship. However, it is unclear from the application whether workshops will provide enough opportunity to ensure this transition will successfully occur. The application also lacks enough information to understand the cost-benefit of voluntary monitoring project elements.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions. Remove monitoring project element and focus on landowner training with no funding reduction.

Regional Review Team Priority
8 of 8

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 17,774.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3056**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Oak Creek Open Space Community Engagement		
Applicant:	Calapooia WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Linn
OWEB Request:	**$26,629.00**	**Total Cost:**	$34,578.00
Proposed Match:	$7,950.00		

Application Description

"Oak Creek Open Space Community Engagement" targets residents in the south Albany neighborhood surrounding and adjacent to the 233 acre Oak Creek Open Space, which is owned and managed by the City of Albany. The Calapooia Watershed Council (CWC) recently completed an OWEB-funded Oak Creek Open Space Assessment and Management Plan, which prioritized restoration and community engagement needs. Residents provided feedback at a recent Open Space community meeting about their values, uses, and concerns regarding the Open Space, which included interest in knowing more about Open Space habitat, being more involved in decisions about this site, and the Open Space feeling safer and cleaner while remaining a natural area. Proposed outreach project will address these residents' needs by convening and facilitating an Oak Creek Open Space community engagement group, learning and action events, and producing outreach materials. The group will meet monthly to support Oak Creek Open Space restoration through learning about existing and desired habitats, fostering a sense of pride and ownership in the Open Space, and taking action to enhance restoration efforts and user experiences. A secondary project audience includes students participating in the CWC Youth Education Program that will participate in watershed science field trips to the Open Space since it offers a nearby destination with a multitude of habitats, service learning opportunities, real world restoration processes, and residential interface with involved and engaged citizens. Project partners include TNC and City of Albany.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Application addresses previous regional review team recommendations to consider community outreach that encourages support for habitat restoration and increases likelihood of success for future weed control on this site.
- Proposed project design is ambitious.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Application would be strengthened by letters of support from members of the target community in addition to those provided from TNC and the City of Albany.

Concluding Analysis:

Proposed outreach is critical to secure community support for extensive noxious weed control efforts needed at the Oak Creek Open Space site.

It is unclear if outreach efforts would be more effective if timed before or concurrently with expected weed control efforts. Outreach could build community buy-in ahead of restoration efforts; alternatively, timing outreach concurrently with restoration could increase community engagement and participation directly in that restoration. As a result, it is difficult to determine the cost-benefit and priority of this outreach and likelihood for success.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
6 of 8

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 26,629.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3057**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Engaging Clackamas Communities in the Health of their Watershed		
Applicant:	Clackamas River Basin Council		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Clackamas
OWEB Request:	**$37,375.00**	**Total Cost:**	$176,546.00
Proposed Match:	$118,626.00		

Application Description

"Engaging Clackamas Communities in the Health of their Watershed" targets community members in the rapidly expanding neighborhood developments within Clackamas watershed, as well as underserved populations, including minority and low income community members. Adults and youth will be engaged in a diverse combination of strategies and activities through four programs that will engage students, teachers, volunteers, farmers, and residents of the watershed in stewardship opportunities that promote individual and community engagement in watershed health. Activities include an on-water Down the River Clean Up and Stash the Trash Campaign, teacher training to learn watershed-based curriculum, students raising salmon in the classroom, a salmon carcass toss into Clackamas tributaries, and watershed presentations to engage residents in riparian restoration. Lastly, residents, landowners, and farming operations will receive educational fact sheets, in-person consultations, training workshops, and pledge materials as part of voluntary pesticide reduction and invasive species eradication programs. Community members throughout the watershed will benefit from newsletters, social media, and blog posts that contain a diverse array of information with relevance to a varied population. These communication tools will create ownership of place to increase activity and investment in watershed protection. Project partners include Clackamas County, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, Clackamas River Water Providers, SOLVE, volunteers, ODFW, PGE, and We Love Clean Rivers.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous successful outreach investments and includes a tie in with the local Pesticide Stewardship Partnership.
- Proposed outreach will occur in a priority watershed for ESA-listed anadromous fish recovery and targets urban stakeholders where development pressure is a priority issue.
- Application is detailed and bundles successful outreach approaches into an overall program.
- Project is leveraged with a diversity of match, and supported by partnerships that include minority populations.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Distribution of partner and applicant staff roles and responsibilities in implementing proposed outreach is unclear in the application to fully understand how the project will be effectively implemented.

Concluding Analysis:
The proposed project utilizes proven outreach techniques in a priority watershed ESA-listed fish to engage citizens in watershed issues.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 8

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 37,375.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

Application Funding Status

Central Oregon November 2016

217-4035
217-4027
217-4043
MADRAS
217-4044
OCHOCO CR
REDMOND
217-4034
BEND
217-4033
217-4042
217-4046
217-4023
217-4041
217-4031
217-4025
217-4040
KLAMATH FALLS
217-4038
217-4028

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0 5 10 20 Miles

ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority:EPSG OWEB- April 2017

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November 2016 Applications

- Staff Recommended for Funding
- Below Funding Line

Grants 1998-2016

- Acquisition
- Restoration
- Region4
- Streams

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Salem, OR 97301-1290
(503) 986-0178
http://oregon.gov/OWEB/

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Region 4 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Region 4 - Central Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-4031	Goose Lake Fishes Working Group	Elder Creek Fish Passage	Fish passage restoration will take place on Elder Creek, a major tributary to the Upper Chewaucan River, and will open up eight miles of high quality habitat for sensitive Redband trout.	234,183	Lake
217-4025	Goose Lake Fishes Working Group	North Warner Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project	This large scale dry forest restoration project located in the Warner Basin of Lake County is a multi-partner, multi-approach to increase wildfire resiliency, large tree stand and canopy health, and improve wildlife habitat across thousands of acres by conducting small tree thinning.	537,338	Lake
217-4023	Trout Unlimited Inc	Melhase Ditch Fish Screen	The Melhase ditch fish screen located on the Upper Wood River will be retrofitted to keep fish in the Wood River while allowing allocated water to pass through into the ditch.	23,123	Klamath
217-4027	Hood River SWCD	Neal Creek Instream Enhancement at Denton-Doherty's	This restoration project located in Hood River County comprises engineered large wood jams on Neal Creek, a clear water tributary to the Lower Hood River. The restoration is geared towards improving instream and floodplain processes and spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed salmonids in Neal Creek.	98,559	Hood River
217-4028	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Twentymile Creek - MC Diversion Fish Passage	This project will improve channel connectivity, fish passage, and improve the operational safety of the existing MC Diversion on Twentymile Creek to benefit the endemic Warner Sucker and state sensitive Redband trout.	83,258	Lake
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**976,461**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-4024	Upper Deschutes WC	Cline Falls Dam Removal Project	242,490	Deschutes
217-4026	Crook SWCD	Hidden Falls Steelhead Habitat Restoration	137,783	Crook
217-4029	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Silver Creek Riparian Enhancement	66,934	Lake
217-4030	Goose Lake Fishes Working Groups	KV Bar Ranch Fish Screen and Upper Floodplain Restoration	220,059	Lake
217-4032	Sunriver Nature Center Inc	Oregon Spotted Frog Habitat Restoration	68,620	Deschutes

Region 4 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-4035	Hood River SWCD	Hood River Water Bank Implementation Plan	This technical assistance planning will assess the viability of a Hood River water bank to increase summer stream flows for fish and provide greater irrigation water reliability for perennial crop growers during dry or drought years.	49,990	Hood River
217-4034	Crook SWCD	Camp Creek Watershed Restoration Atlas	This watershed wide atlas for Camp Creek, tributary to the Upper Crooked River, will identify, locate, and prioritize all restoration work necessary to restore Camp Creek's Watershed function to the highest attainable level.	48,895	Crook
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**98,885**	

Technical Assistance Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
217-4038	Ducks Unlimited - Chris Colson	Lake County SONEC Partnership Biologist	49,973	Lake
217-4033	Crook SWCD	Camp Creek Sediment Retention TA	49,638	Crook
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**198,496**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
217-4036	Balancing Act Research and Education (BARE)	Klamath Basin Consolidation Project	49,610	Klamath
217-4037	Hood River WS Group	Meadows Creek Fish Passage Design	40,592	Hood River

Region 4 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-4044	Crooked River WC	Crook County Natural Resources CTE Outreach Program	This outreach project provides engaging activities for Crook County High School students to increase their awareness and understanding of watershed management, water quality, and watershed restoration and protection by offering new outreach programs that are directly linked to ongoing water quality monitoring, specific restoration projects, and pre- and post-implementation data collection projects with the Crooked River Watershed Council (CRWC).	40,344	Crook
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**40,344**	

Outreach Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
217-4043	Middle Deschutes WS	Middle Deschutes Youth Watershed Councils	34,578	Jefferson
217-4042	Upper Deschutes WC	The Deschutes River and Little Deschutes River Outreach Project	66,442	Deschutes
217-4046	Sunriver Nature Center	Watershed Ecology and Amphibian Monitoring Program	42,620	Deschutes
217-4041	Silver Lake Community WC	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council Outreach	31,871	Lake
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**215,855**	

Outreach Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-4045	Wasco SWCD	Urban Conservation Community Outreach	49,286	Wasco

Region 4 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-4040	Klamath Watershed Partnership	Field-Based Data Collection and Verification of the Stream Classification Database for Klamath/Lake	This monitoring proposal will focus on status and trend monitoring by working with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to collect baseline data regarding stream classification, fish presence, fish passage barriers, and restoration opportunities on state and private lands in Klamath and Lake Counties.	112,723	Klamath
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**112,723**	
Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount Requested**	**County**
217-4039	The Klamath Tribes	Evaluating Real-Time Nutrient and Sediment Loads to Upper Klamath Lake Using Surrogate Regressions		267,370	Klamath
Region 4 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**1,228,413**	**13%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**9,315,062**	

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4023**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Melhase Ditch Fish Screen		
Applicant:	Trout Unlimited Inc		
Basin:	KLAMATH	**County:**	Klamath
OWEB Request:	**$186,393.00**	**Total Cost:**	$457,603.00
Proposed Match:	$174,500.00		

Application Description

The Melhase diversion is located on the Upper Wood River near Fort Klamath in the Upper Klamath Lake watershed. The screen currently allows native fish (Redband trout and potentially Bull trout, salmon and steelhead should downstream dam removal proceed) into a myriad of irrigation diversion canals. This project will complete designs and install a new fish screen to keep fish in the Wood River and from entering the irrigation canals. The Melhase screen is the largest diversion on the Upper Wood River and is located near recent restoration and passage efforts on Sun and Annie Creeks.

The screen diverts approximately 35 cfs from the Wood River. Monitoring by ODFW indicates fish are moving past the screen and into the irrigation canals, becoming entrained. The landowner of the screen has an agreement with USFWS to maintain the proposed new screen. This project is a partnership between Trout Unlimited, ODFW, USFWS, USFS RAC, and the private landowner associated with operating the screen/ditch.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Redband trout spawning occurs just upriver from site.
- This project will complement recent restoration on adjacent Sun and Annie Creeks.
- There is potential Bull trout distribution in the area, especially since Sun Creek now connects with the Wood River just upriver of this project location.
- Good balance of project partners and matching funds.
- Upper Wood River is in good ecological condition; seems appropriate to invest there.
- Project will also benefit other native fish, including potentially salmon and steelhead should downstream dam removal proceed.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No letter of support from landowner or any of the water users associated with this screen and canals. The team would like to see more landowner buy-in and involvement.
- No discussion on new screen maintenance and upkeep, who would perform these tasks and who would pay for it. The team acknowledged the landowner agreement with USFWS provided was helpful.

- There was not a lot of discussion regarding the current screen, who maintains it, and why this design is not functional.
- Project budget for the Restoration Coordinator (280 hrs.) seemed high; more detail about tasks and responsibilities managing this project would have been helpful.

Concluding Analysis:
The ecological benefit for replacing the Melhase screen is high. Redband trout, and potentially Bull trout, salmon and steelhead, will benefit by not having access to this large diversion and its associated irrigation canals. The habitat quality in the Upper Wood River is strong, and recent adjacent restoration projects on Sun and Annie Creeks will add value to this area over time, making a strong case for addressing this problem. The project displays a solid list of dedicated partners and match funding. Reviewers questioned the use of a cone screen design; it would have been helpful to understand why this is the preferred option. The proposal lacked information about screen ownership, maintenance, and upkeep. In addition, it would have been helpful to discuss what measures will take place to ensure the new screen is functional at keeping fish in the Wood River and out of the irrigation canals.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions. Prior to first payment, submit written acknowledgement that water right holders are aware of this project, submit a maintenance plan and written acknowledgement from the diversion owner accepting responsibility for screen maintenance.

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 186,393.00

Staff Follow-up
After the review team meeting, the applicant secured additional match funds and reduced the OWEB-requested amount to $23,123.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with Conditions. Prior to first payment, submit written acknowledgement that water right holders are aware of this project, submit a maintenance plan and written acknowledgement from the diversion owner accepting responsibility for screen maintenance.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 23,123.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4024**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Cline Falls Dam Removal Project		
Applicant:	Upper Deschutes WC		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:**	Deschutes
OWEB Request:	**$242,490.00**	**Total Cost:**	$415,724.00
Proposed Match:	$173,234.00		

Application Description

This restoration project will remove old dam infrastructure, and restore geomorphic processes and wetland/riparian/upland vegetation at Cline Falls, located on the Middle Deschutes River west of Redmond. The dam is located near the top of Cline Falls, a naturally-occurring feature on the Deschutes River that is potentially passable by fish at certain flows during limited times of the year. Aging and non-functional dam infrastructure is affecting stream process and potential fish movement at Cline Falls.

This project is a partnership between the Upper Deschutes WC and Central Oregon Irrigation District (dam owner and landowner). The dam to be removed is six feet high and spans 320 ft. across the channel. The dam causes upstream sediment accumulation in the stream channel and prevents natural sediment movement through the reach, reducing the quality and quantity of habitat in the river. An elaborate revegetation plan includes rehabilitation of disturbed uplands, riparian, and wetland areas. The project will also include the canceling of the existing hydro water right associated with the use of Cline Falls Dam. Onsite and effectiveness monitoring will be conducted.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Removing concrete and dam material out of the river channel is beneficial.
- The removal of the material would likely restore geomorphic processes at the site.
- This project ties in regionally to the fish ladder installation at the North Unit Dam on the Deschutes River upstream in the City of Bend.
- The project and its partners are ready to move forward.
- High level of success is anticipated.
- The entire footprint of the dam and its infrastructure will be restored, having wetland, riparian and upland benefits.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Cline falls is a natural, channel-spanning waterfall, which likely acts as a natural barrier to fish movement. Dam removal unlikely to result in increased fish passage.
- Wetland loss would be a result of this project.
- Application lacked discussion of the dam's historical significance and any coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office.

- Project likeliness to move forward without OWEB support appears high;
- No protective caging was listed for planting, despite beaver and ungulate presence.

Concluding Analysis:
The team recognizes the need to remove the non-functional dam material out of the river channel and upland areas. The likelihood of the applicant and partners achieving success at project implementation is high. The project has a reasonable timetable. It appears if OWEB does not support this project, it will move forward regardless. Given the bedrock canyon downstream of this site, the improved sediment transport as a result of dam removal is likely to have marginal benefit to fish. The reviewers questioned the fisheries benefit, given Cline falls likely acts as a natural barrier to upstream migration. While the team supports removing this material out of the river, the marginal fish and watershed benefit for the OWEB request was not supported.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4025**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	North Warner Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project		
Applicant:	Goose Lake Fishes Working Group		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:**	Lake
OWEB Request:	**$537,338.00**	**Total Cost:**	$2,935,527.00
Proposed Match:	$2,398,190.00		

Application Description

This large scale dry forest restoration project located in the Warner Basin of Lake County is a multi-partner, multi-approach to increase wildfire resiliency, large tree stand and canopy health, and improve wildlife habitat across thousands of acres. The proposed project is on public and private lands in the Crooked, Honey, Deep, and Thomas Creek basins north and east of Lakeview and includes small tree thinning in dry Ponderosa Pine and Aspen stands in priority mule deer and sage-grouse habitats. Fire suppression and lack of coordinated forest management has resulted in overstocked stands and loss of Aspen habitat.

This project is a partnership between the Lake County Umbrella WC, NRCS, ODF, ODFW, USFS, private landowners, and OSU extension. The OWEB funded portion will include 3,632 acres of thinning and slash treatment primarily on private lands (13 private landowners are on-board in treatment area), with a total project treatment acreage including 7,917 acres. Onsite and effectiveness monitoring will be conducted.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project is at a landscape scale, an all-lands approach to forest management.
- Project is well supported, with diverse match funding.
- Wildlife benefit is high for multiple species.
- The application discussed the project components well; it is clear what the project is and what funds will be used for.
- This project will provide an economic lift to the local economy.
- Landowner buy-in is strong.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Grazing management on private lands was not well-discussed; reviewers questioned how grazing management will be employed post-project to meet project outcomes.
- Landowner match was limited given project scale.
- Reviewers were concerned with potential capacity issues of the Lake County Umbrella WC, given the small staff and large number of projects.
- Project management costs seem high, reviewers questioned whether additional staff would be needed to assist with the project.

Concluding Analysis:
This project represents a large scale, all-lands approach to actively manage dry forests and Aspen stands to promote wildlife habitat abundance and complexity while building in wildfire resiliency. The number of partners both technical and financial, large scope, and all-lands approach reflects the well-coordinated effort to launch this project, which was recently funded under the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership. However, reviewers did express their concern with the capacity of the watershed council, given its small staff and large volume of projects.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 537,338.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 537,338.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4026**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Hidden Falls Steelhead Habitat Restoration		
Applicant:	Crook SWCD		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:**	Crook
OWEB Request:	**$137,783.00**	**Total Cost:**	$191,295.00
Proposed Match:	$53,512.00		

Application Description

This project proposes final design and restoration of Hidden Falls Creek, located just east of Prineville in Crook County. The restoration includes excavating a new stream channel for Hidden Falls Creek including connectivity with Ochoco Creek, a tributary to the Crooked River. Additional project elements include large wood structures on both Hidden Falls and Ochoco Creeks, riparian vegetation planting, and livestock exclusion fencing. Hidden Falls Creek is spring fed and no longer connects to Ochoco Creek, due to poor land management. This project aims to provide habitat connectivity for the newly reintroduced salmonids in the Upper Deschutes Basin.

This project is a partnership between the Crook County SWCD, USFWS, private landowners, Trout Unlimited, and Crook CWMA. Approximately 700 ft. of new channel will be created for Hidden Falls Creek, which will add ~0.2 cfs of cold water to Ochoco Creek, and 27 instream structures will be installed; planting will occur across six acres and will include 1,500 ft. or livestock exclusion fence.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project is a resubmit; applicant did a good job at responding to previous review team comments.
- Project would add in-stream and riparian habitat value to Ochoco Creek.
- The creation of the Hidden Falls Creek channel would likely add cool water and increased habitat potential.
- The planting plan submitted was thorough and well described.
- Ochoco Creek has documented returning Steelhead which are part of the reintroduction plan for the Upper Deschutes Basin.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Reviewers struggled with the overall approach to the Hidden Falls Creek design, particularly the sustainability of and rationale for turning a multi-thread alluvial fan system into a single thread channel.
- The stated flow benefit to Hidden Falls Creek at approximately 0.2 cfs is small, with marginal fish benefits.

- There were concerns with long-term stability using engineered structures in an alluvial fan system for stabilization.
- Permitting timeline seemed ambitious; likely not a general authorization eligible project. Agency staff has experienced difficulty receiving the right documentation from the project's engineer.
- Lack of landowner contribution or support of project.
- There was no discussion regarding the loss of wetland habitat as a result of diverting flow into a single thread channel.

Concluding Analysis:
This project is a resubmit, and it was noted the applicant provided additional details addressing some of the previous review team comments. Ochoco Creek is within the Upper Deschutes Salmonid Reintroduction area and steelhead have been documented on this property. The project elements proposed are the right actions to improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat, however there were concerns with the design approach for this location. The biggest concern is technical soundness, and the approach being taken of proposing to transform a multi-thread alluvial fan system with associated wetlands and convert this into a single thread channel. The team questioned the sustainability of such an approach, and whether the relatively small flow contribution would make a measurable difference. All this work would occur on private land yet no letter of support or landowner match was included. The team wants to support habitat restoration efforts for the Upper Deschutes Basin Salmond Reintroduction area, but considering all factors discussed, could not support funding this project.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4027**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Neal Creek Instream Enhancement at Denton-Doherty's		
Applicant:	Hood River SWCD		
Basin:	HOOD	**County:**	Hood River
OWEB Request:	**$99,559.00**	**Total Cost:**	$137,483.00
Proposed Match:	$37,925.00		

Application Description

This restoration project located roughly five miles from Odell in Hood River County comprises engineered large wood jams on Neal Creek, a clear water tributary to the Lower Hood River. The proposed restoration is geared towards improving instream and floodplain processes and spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed salmonids. Large wood structures will utilize boulders as ballast; disturbed areas will be reseeded with native vegetation. Degraded habitat conditions are a result of channel straightening for agriculture, aggressive wood removal in the 1980's, and most recently the impacts left from the 1996 historic flood.

This project is a partnership between the Hood River Watershed Group, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Hood River County, and private landowners on Neal Creek. Effectiveness monitoring will be conducted. Roughly 19 wood structures will be developed, utilizing approximately seven trees per structures and boulders for ballast. Wood structures would promote side channel activation at higher flows to increase refuge for juvenile fish. Careful consideration into the design phase will account for the adjacent County road, transportation and private infrastructure in the project area.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Completed habitat surveys are guiding restoration actions.
- Project aimed at improving habitat for ESA listed salmonids.
- Neal Creek is a clear water tributary, which provides more abundant habitat than glacial tributaries.
- Strong landowner support.
- Photo documentation provided was very helpful to understand the need for the project.
- Project has high visibility.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Lack of design details.
- Given the site's history and local hydrology, reviewers questioned the stability of large wood.
- Raising the channel elevation may increase risk of flooding.
- Effectiveness monitoring was checked, but no details were provided.

Concluding Analysis:
The team generally supports the approach and concept of this project. The completed habitat surveys that led the project team to selecting this site for habitat improvement provide assurance that the investment is in the right place. The applicant and its partners have a solid track record of completing successful projects. The landowners are supportive, yet their contribution to the project is marginal. The project does present some constraints, namely a County road which in some locations is very close to the creek, in addition to infrastructure that cannot be impacted as a result of this project. The value and foresight this project presents to ESA listed species warranted its recommendation for funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund Reduced with Conditions; delete $1,000 from the Effectiveness Monitoring budget line.

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 98,559.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund Reduced with Conditions; delete $1,000 from the Effectiveness Monitoring budget line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 98,559.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4028**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Twentymile Creek - MC Diversion Fish Passage		
Applicant:	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:**	Lake
OWEB Request:	**$83,258.00**	**Total Cost:**	$234,258.00
Proposed Match:	$151,000.00		

Application Description

Fish passage restoration is being proposed on Twentymile Creek roughly five miles south of Adel in the closed Warner Lakes Basin of Lake County; target species include the endemic Warner Sucker and state sensitive Redband trout. This project will improve channel connectivity and fish passage, improve the operational safety of the existing MC Diversion, and minimize impacts to existing diversion operations and functionality. The federally listed Warner sucker has suffered in the basin due to habitat fragmentation because of barriers and diversions such as this one.

This project is a partnership between the Lake County Umbrella WSC, BLM, USFWS, ODFW, and private landowners associated with the use of this irrigation diversion. This project will specifically Install a new fish passage culvert adjacent to the MC Diversion gated culverts to provide passage around the gates, build a bypass channel through the new culverts that connects Twentymile Creek upstream and downstream of the diversion area and replace two downstream culverts with culverts that meet ODFW fish passage criteria. A catwalk will be installed for safe access for maintenance and monitoring. Effectiveness monitoring will be conducted.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project focuses on critical habitat for the Warner sucker, which has regional significance.
- With added passage and connectivity, Redband trout will also benefit from this project.
- Project is approved by its water users, their buy-in is critical to the projects longevity and success.
- ODFW's on-going monitoring of the Warner sucker will be valuable to understand project effectiveness.
- Project has good match.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application was hard to follow; project components were difficult to understand.
- Landowner access is improved, yet no match contribution from the landowner was provided.
- Project timeline seemed tight.
- Tasks 3 & 4 ($10,000 for site access and $11,450 for care and diversion of water) identified in the budget were unclear; an explanation of what these mean would have been helpful.

Concluding Analysis:
Working to restore passage and habitat connectivity for the ESA listed Warner sucker and state sensitive Redband trout is a high priority in the closed Warner Lakes Basin. The applicant has successfully completed other projects of this magnitude in this area, which complement this project well. Complicated water diversions and delivery mechanisms can be challenging to describe; the application could have benefited from more detail on the complicated situation this project presents through more graphics. Resource managers have been working for some time in this area to address passage and habitat connectivity for these species, in addition to conducting monitoring. This project presents the correct action at the right location; therefore the project team recommends it for funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 83,258.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 83,258.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4029**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Silver Creek Riparian Enhancement		
Applicant:	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:**	Lake
OWEB Request:	**$66,934.00**	**Total Cost:**	$87,223.00
Proposed Match:	$16,500.00		

Application Description

The proposed restoration project will aim at reducing stream temperatures and improving riparian areas along Silver Creek on private land through the installation of livestock exclusion fencing (including hardened water crossings) and willow clump planting. Located just outside of Silver Lake, Silver Creek is a tributary to Paulina Marsh and is home to Redband trout. Degraded habitat conditions are a result of poorly managed grazing, causing riparian vegetation loss, incised stream channels, and lack of instream complexity.

This project is a partnership between the Lake County Umbrella WSC, USFS RAC, and the Ranch owners. Riparian fencing will span across 2.5 miles along Silver Creek on both sides of the channel, and will include 4 hardened water crossings every half mile of stream. To further increase bank stability, willow clump planting will occur. This will entail willow root wads and cuttings harvested off-site and installed at the toe of slopes where they will be trenched in to reach the water table for long-term stability.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The objective of fencing off livestock from the riparian area is a sound approach for riparian recovery.
- The project was identified in a watershed assessment.
- Landowner letters of support were helpful.
- The project appears essential based on site conditions and site history.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The number of hardened crossings proposed seemed very high. There was some concern with permitting around these structures.
- Would have been helpful to show in map form where hardened crossings will be and where revegetation will occur.
- The planting plan provided was limited in information and didn't provide a full picture of what was being proposed and where on the landscape this planting would take place. No protective measures were identified for plants.
- The grazing plan proposed was also brief and there was some concern the measures proposed would not allow for riparian recovery.

- The application states 5 miles of fence, however the budget shows 6.5 miles of fence.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team acknowledges the need for this project. Landowner willingness and support is great to see. The combination of planting and fencing are the right actions for promoting riparian vegetation recovery and improved long term function. It was noted that fencing should not inhibit the ability of accessing the stream gage on the property. The technical components of this project could not be supported. While the team acknowledges the need for livestock access, the number of hardened crossing structures seemed high and reviewers questioned why so many were being proposed. There was also some concern with permitting these structures. The planting plan was limited in scope and it was challenging to understand planting locations; reviewers also questioned why protective caging was not included. The proposed grazing strategy appears inadequate to promote long-term riparian recovery.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4030**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	KV Bar Ranch Fish Screen and Upper Floodplain Restoration		
Applicant:	Goose Lake Fishes Working Group		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:**	Lake
OWEB Request:	**$220,059.00**	**Total Cost:**	$279,990.00
Proposed Match:	$59,932.00		

Application Description

This restoration project will incorporate some final design to restore an irrigation diversion on Juniper Reservoir/Muddy Creek with a fish screen to prevent native fish entrainment in the flood irrigation infrastructure across the floodplain. In addition, this project will replace two degraded water control structures associated with the point of diversion just below the reservoir. These diversions distribute water across Muddy Creek's floodplain in the form of flood irrigation which serves value to migratory waterfowl. Muddy Creek is a tributary to Cottonwood Creek which releases into Goose Lake. The project site is roughly 15 miles west of Lakeview, OR.

This project is a partnership between the Lake County Umbrella WSC, KV Bar Ranch, Ducks Unlimited, and the USFWS. It is a continuation of a previous OWEB funded technical assistance grant. The screen will be designed to pass 20 cfs, and will keep native fish in the reservoir and from entering downstream into either diversion. The need for the screen and fish to be contained in the reservoir and not be given access downstream is that Muddy Creek below the reservoir is not suitable for fish year round due to temperature, flow, and habitat limitations.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project as planned would provide for improved fish, wildlife and waterfowl habitat.
- New landowners are eager to engage in conservation work.
- Keeping native fish where they will thrive is a benefit.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The flood irrigation appears to be resurrecting an old water right; the 54 acres of land in question is currently in upland vegetation condition.
- No ground photos were included, which would have been helpful to understand current conditions.
- No landowner contribution or letter of support.
- No explanation of floodplain irrigation plan or what this will entail. It would have been helpful to see a plan for how this would be carried out to align with wildlife benefits.
- High cost for marginal watershed benefit.
- No discussion on agriculture use, and how this project fits into or complements its use.
-

Concluding Analysis:
The reviewers commend the applicant for working with willing landowners to address both fish and wildlife habitat in one project. The on-site tour confirmed the need to address the dilapidated water control structure at the outlet of the reservoir on Muddy Creek. The approach of screening in fish to not have access downstream was challenging to understand but seems appropriate given downstream conditions. The proposed flood irrigation and planning around this component was not well-articulated. The 54 acres proposed to be flooded appear to have an abandoned water right. There was no discussion on agricultural use and how this project fits in with that use. There was no landowner contribution either, who stands to benefit greatly from improved water delivery. The team could not support funding this project as proposed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4031**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Elder Creek Fish Passage		
Applicant:	Goose Lake Fishes Working Group		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:**	Lake
OWEB Request:	**$234,183.00**	**Total Cost:**	$304,182.00
Proposed Match:	$70,000.00		

Application Description

Fish passage restoration is being proposed on Elder Creek, a major tributary to the Upper Chewaucan River in Lake County southeast of Paisley, OR. This barrier blocks miles of habitat for redband trout. The perched culvert impedes fish passage, and is located in a high gradient portion of Elder Creek. The culvert is buried under ten plus feet of road fill. The replacement culvert proposed is a bottomless arch with a stream simulated base, and the existing riparian and instream habitat on Elder Creek are in good condition.

This project is a partnership between the Lake County Umbrella WSC, ODFW, USFS, USFS RAC, USFWS, and Green Diamond Timber. This project is a result of a previous technical assistance grant to develop a detailed engineered cost estimate and construction ready design. The culvert replacement will open up eight miles of quality habitat upstream. Onsite monitoring will be conducted.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project will open up eight miles of quality habitat upstream.
- Existing stream and riparian conditions are intact and healthy.
- Project is identified as a high priority in watershed assessment.
- Good match partners, especially from landowner Green Diamond.
- Project was well-explained in the application, solution was articulated well.
- Proposed approach is solid.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Timeline proposed may be tight given associated permitting requirements.
- Total project cost is high for one culvert.
- There was little discussion on how the design will handle sediment inputs from the road.

Concluding Analysis:
This project presents a great opportunity to address a high priority fish barrier to open up access to eight miles of quality habitat for redband trout. The solution and proposed design are solid and credible. The team commented on the total high cost of the project, but recognizes the amount of road fill in this high gradient system as a big contributor to high costs. New bridge technology consisting of pre-fabricated concrete assembled off-site is available and reviewer's questions about whether the applicant considered this alternative, is becoming widely used for its cost and durability benefits. Regardless, the team sees high ecological value in this project and recommends it for funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 234,183.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 234,183.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4032**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Oregon Spotted Frog Habitat Restoration		
Applicant:	Sunriver Nature Center Inc		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:**	Deschutes
OWEB Request:	**$68,620.00**	**Total Cost:**	$110,620.00
Proposed Match:	$42,000.00		

Application Description

This restoration project located in Sunriver in southern Deschutes County is proposing habitat enhancement for the ESA listed Oregon spotted frog. Habitat enhancements are located in ponds and wetlands adjacent to the Upper Deschutes River and include bullfrog eradication and noxious weed control (cattails and reed canary grass). These areas once contained the highest density of Oregon spotted frogs. Data collection points to the introduction of bullfrogs as the biggest threat to the species.

This project will support Sunriver Nature Center staff and their ability to hire contract crews to work on bullfrog eradication and noxious weed control. Project partners include ODFW and USFWS. Bullfrog treatment methods will include using traps and specialized electro-fisher equipment. Sunriver staff and crews will continue to conduct monitoring to ensure they are having success, in addition to making sure the bullfrog is not becoming more widespread in the area. Noxious weed treatment methods were generally described as non-chemical.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project area is critical for the long-term viability and sustainability of the Oregon spotted frog.
- Great to learn Sunriver is already working on safe harbor agreements with the federal agencies.
- Project proposes effectiveness monitoring that is appropriate for this type of work.
- The team recognizes the previous efforts the applicant has done to promote habitat quality and monitor for this ESA listed species.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application lacked details on how electro-shocking would be carried forth, and the anticipated results.
- The components of the vegetation control were not articulated well; reviewers questioned why cattails (which are native) would be targeted. The need for this component was not described well.
- Eradication goal seems ambitious given known bullfrog populations upstream of this site.

- Collaboration with ODFW and USFWS did not seem well established; no letters of support from either agency were included.
- Proposal lacked detail on project timelines and project deliverables.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team applauds the applicant's efforts to date in addressing habitat degradation and invasive species to conserve this critical habitat for the Oregon spotted frog. It is documented that this population of the species is important for its long-term viability, and was once the largest known population. The correlation of bullfrog presence and Oregon spotted frog decline is documented and justified. However, the application lacked details and appeared quickly assembled. The application would have been more compelling if details were provided regarding how control measures would be implemented for bullfrog control. The vegetation management needed justification, details on how it would be implemented, and what the long-term strategy is for managing noxious vegetation. Coordination with regulatory agencies such as ODFW and USFWS was not evident; support letters documenting collaboration from these agencies would have been helpful. The review team strongly suggests the applicant re-apply and provide more details on project components as described.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4033**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Camp Creek Sediment Retention TA		
Applicant:	Crook SWCD		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:**	Crook
OWEB Request:	**$49,638.00**	**Total Cost:**	$72,808.00
Proposed Match:	$23,170.00		

Application Description

This project will develop surveys and designs for in-stream projects aimed at sediment retention along a thirteen mile stretch of lower Camp Creek, a tributary to the Upper Crooked River near Paulina. Camp Creek has been identified as a significant sediment source to the Upper Crooked River, degrading water quality for fish and wildlife.

This project is a resubmit. Camp Creek has been identified by the Crook County SWCD as their number one focus area. This project is a partnership between the District, ODA, local NRCS office, ODFW, and private landowners in the Camp Creek area. An OWEB funded watershed assessment developed in 2007 will serve as the basis for this work. The outcome of the technical assistance will be readily available designs and plan sets to implement projects in the lower 13 miles of Camp Creek with the goal of retaining sediment and promoting better water quality.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The SWCD is committed to focus on Camp Creek.
- Applicant addressed previous review team comments.
- The increased scope of work area gives the project more meaning for potential success.
- The applicant has good relationships with the private landowners.
- Proposed solutions will benefit water quality, an identified problem in Camp Creek.
- Project complements upland projects in the vicinity.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Camp Creek has low aquatic value and little fish presence.
- In addition to engineering, applicant should consider a consultant with a background in ecology and watershed process and function.
- Proposed solution is addressing a symptom, not the root cause of watershed degradation. Sediment is from eroding streambanks, not from uplands. Livestock access and riparian vegetation should be addressed.
- The reviewers questioned the long-term viability of such sediment retaining structures, given that structures previously installed are full of sediment and there was no mention as to what the next step is once this occurs.

- The application did not address the implications of the check dams on water rights and fish passage.
- Resulting solutions will likely be very expensive for relatively low ecological benefit.

Concluding Analysis:
This project is a resubmit, and the applicant did a good job addressing previous review team comments. Increasing the area of scope will add value to the potential impact a future project may have. Active headcuts should be given priority in this study. The District should consider a multi-disciplinary team of consultants to develop viable ecological beneficial projects. The erodible soils are likely coming from the banks, therefore land management, including livestock grazing, should be analyzed and adapted to promote stability and maximize vegetative root growth buffering Camp Creek. Structures placed in Camp Creek in 2006 appear to be full, yet there was no discussion in the application with regards to what the next step is given these structures are full sediment. The applicant is strongly encouraged to consider long term effectiveness of any practice proposed through this technical assistance.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 49,638.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4034**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Camp Creek Watershed Restoration Atlas		
Applicant:	Crook SWCD		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:**	Crook
OWEB Request:	**$48,895.00**	**Total Cost:**	$66,745.00
Proposed Match:	$17,850.00		

Application Description

This watershed-wide atlas for Camp Creek, a tributary to the Upper Crooked River near Paulina, will identify, locate, and prioritize all restoration work necessary to restore Camp Creek Watershed's function to the highest attainable level. This watershed restoration atlas will provide a "blueprint" to begin working cost effectively in specific locations on resource concerns that have the most impact on overall watershed conditions. Camp Creek is plagued by poor water quality, lack of emergent and woody riparian vegetation, juniper encroachment, and historic livestock grazing.

Camp Creek has been identified by the Crook County SWCD as their number one focus area. This project is a partnership between the District, Camp Creek landowners, OSU extension and a variety of local natural resource agencies to participate collaboratively to identify resource concerns, plan, and strategize the restoration of the Camp Creek watershed. An OWEB-funded watershed assessment developed in 2007 will serve as the basis for this work.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The application was well-written and the problem well-articulated.
- The approach of developing the watershed atlas is strategic and brings together the right set of partners.
- The proposed ranking protocol seems appropriate.
- The application provided good detail about their sampling and data collection technique.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Lacked landowner support letters; only one letter was provided.
- Reviewers questioned how the District has used the 2007 assessment; there was little mention of how this assessment was put into action.
- The need for a new assessment, besides having technological advances, was not well articulated.
- Camp Creek has low aquatic resource value.
- The application noted potential future technical assistance required, but with no explanation as to why.

Concluding Analysis:
The application was well-written and the approach described should produce good plans. The applicants seek to bring the right partners to the table and the process for collecting information and prioritizing projects is sound. There was some concern whether Camp Creek should be a prioritized watershed, as it is not a priority for other resource agencies. While the structure and process for developing a watershed atlas seems solid, reviewers questioned whether the ecological uplift to result from projects warranted a new assessment since the 2007 assessment was thorough. That said, the District's commitment to Camp Creek is very strong and they are well positioned to affect change in the watershed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 48,895.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 48,895.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4035**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Hood River Water Bank Implementation Plan		
Applicant:	Hood River SWCD		
Basin:	HOOD	**County:**	Hood River
OWEB Request:	**$49,990.00**	**Total Cost:**	$97,705.00
Proposed Match:	$47,715.00		

Application Description

This technical assistance planning request will assess the viability of a Hood River water bank to increase summer stream flows for fish and provide greater irrigation water reliability for perennial crop growers during dry or drought years. This project will focus on the East fork and Middle fork irrigation district service areas in the Hood River Watershed. The assessment will analyze agricultural land use (annual vs. perennial), conduct economic analysis of pricing, conduct an analysis of legal and permitting pathways, and an analysis of instream benefit of how/where water would be temporarily protected.

This project is a partnership between the Hood River Watershed Group, the East Fork/Middle Fork/Farmers Irrigation Districts, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. Representatives from partnering organizations will participate in a stakeholder group to guide the consultant's work. This project is a creative approach to consider what type of options exists to meet continuing water demands when facing drought conditions.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This project builds off success from a prior pilot project of a smaller scale.
- Good partner and match support.
- Project proposes an innovated approach that could benefit all water users.
- This project is a result of the completed Hood River Strategy.
- The tools and lessons learned here could be transferred to other basins.
- The project deals with lack of water during periods of drought.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Landowner willingness was unclear. Landowner participation will be essential to the project success.
- No support letters provided by landowners who may be impacted.
- It was unclear how instream water savings would be accomplished, and for how long.

Concluding Analysis:
The project presents a unique and potentially innovative way to handle drought conditions ensuring water for perennial growers and for fish and wildlife. Results from of a previous pilot project are encouraging. The reviewers applaud the creativity and that the Hood River Strategy is being put into action. Landowner involvement and participation will be critical for the project to be successful, but the application failed to address details on landowner recruitment and their potential involvement. The application did not articulate how instream benefits would be quantified, and for how long these instream benefits would occur. It was recommended to check-in with the Freshwater Trust as they have helped the Fifteenmile watershed council with similar efforts in neighboring Wasco County. Due to the potential in-stream benefits of the project, the review team recommended funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 49,990.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 49,990.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4036**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Klamath Basin Consolidation Project		
Applicant:	Balancing Act Research and Education (BARE)		
Basin:	KLAMATH	**County:**	Klamath
OWEB Request:	**$49,610.00**	**Total Cost:**	$74,610.00
Proposed Match:	$25,000.00		

Application Description

This project, based in the Upper Klamath Lake watershed, proposes to implement water quality monitoring in support of the stewardship, protection, and restoration of all beneficial uses within the Klamath River watershed, with the ultimate goal of restoring water quality. The technical assistance will help collect, organize and display water data and soil resource information. In addition, this work will update current map tracking for drought permits, erosion and reforestation control.

This project will collect data across a variety of habitats and areas in support of its mission to steward, protect, and restore beneficial uses within the Klamath Watershed. The applicant will work with resource and management agencies to support this effort.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Consolidating data for analysis in support of Upper Klamath Basin stewardship is beneficial.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The consolidation of data is already happening amongst local, state, federal, and tribal entities. The project appears redundant.
- The applicant has not made any contact with the agencies listed as partners in this effort.
- No letters of support were provided.
- The scope and geographic coverage of the project seemed very ambitious given the timetable and limited scope offered by technical assistance grants.
- The budget had errors and some line items were not appropriate or did not make sense.

Concluding Analysis:

This was a challenging application to read and follow. While the intent of the applicant seems good, the application lacked direction and details on project components. None of the resource agencies listed as partners was contacted regarding this project, nor were any letters of support provided. It was unclear what new data was going to be collected, and what the justification was. Consolidation of existing data is currently happening; the need for this was unclear.

The budget contained errors and some line items, such as digital cameras, laptops, and mileage rate did not seem appropriate.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4037**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Meadows Creek Fish Passage Design		
Applicant:	Hood River WS Group		
Basin:	HOOD	**County:**	Hood River
OWEB Request:	**$40,592.00**	**Total Cost:**	$93,091.00
Proposed Match:	$52,500.00		

Application Description

This project will result in construction-ready design plans for replacing two culverts on Meadows Creek, a tributary to the East Fork Hood River in the Mt. Hood National Forest located less than a mile from Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort. One culvert is located under Highway 35, the other is located under Teacup Road 100 yards downstream of the Highway 35 crossing. Meadows Creek is listed as designated critical habitat for the Lower Columbia River winter steelhead. These two barriers are the only two remaining barriers on Meadows Creek.

This project is a partnership between the Hood River Watershed Group and the USFS. Design efforts will be led by the USFS staff. The removal of these two barriers will provide access to 1.1 miles of habitat upstream. The resultant project would benefit fish passage potentially for steelhead and likely for cutthroat.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project would remove last remaining barriers on Meadow Creek.
- A good opportunity to address two barriers.
- Project is identified in various watershed action plans.
- Other work in the vicinity will allow for time and resource savings.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It is unclear why ODOT was not a partner, given one of the proposed culverts for design was under Highway 35.
- Steelhead benefit is marginal; they are not known to be present this far up Meadows Creek.
- 1.1 mile of habitat opened up in the near headwater areas of the creek has marginal benefit.
- There were strong concerns about using an OWEB grant to pay USFS salaries.

Concluding Analysis:

Working to address fish passage barriers is good practice. These two barriers are the last barriers to fish movement on Meadows Creek. Because these two barriers are near the headwaters, benefit to Lower Columbia River steelhead is marginal. Given one of the culverts is under Highway 35, the team questioned why ODOT was not a partner or even mentioned as being approached regarding

this project. Finally, a large portion of the grant would support USFS salaries. The team questioned whether the USFS should pay for the project since it is on their land.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4038**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Lake County SONEC Partnership Biologist		
Applicant:	Ducks Unlimited - Chris Colson		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:**	Lake
OWEB Request:	**$49,973.00**	**Total Cost:**	$139,973.00
Proposed Match:	$90,000.00		

Application Description

This request is for the Southern Oregon – Northern California (SONEC) partnership to support a staff biologist to deliver the conservation programs to maintain and restore 3,000+ acres of flood-irrigated wet meadows on historic floodplains for the benefit of migratory birds. Based in Lake County, the biologist will continue landowner outreach, working with landowners already engaged, and enroll landowners in the conservation programs established to refurbish their flood-irrigation infrastructure.

This project is a partnership between Ducks Unlimited, the Intermountain West Joint Venture, local NRCS office, and participating landowners in Lake County. The partnership biologist works with landowners to enroll them in Farm Bill programs, particularly the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The partnership has established 4+ years of EQIP funding through the NRCS Oregon State 'Waterbird Initiative' and through the $2.6 million SONEC RCPP grant that was recently awarded.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project is aimed at benefiting waterfowl.
- Good match and strong partnerships.
- Outreach to landowners in small rural communities is good and desirable.
- Opportunities also include addressing any noted fish passage issues.
- Groundwater recharge from flood irrigation practice is needed.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The key issue of converting flood irrigation to sprinkler was not well-articulated. Landowners convert for efficiency reasons; the application did not explain how this barrier to maintaining flood irrigation would be addressed.
- There was no plan provided for what happens after the two-year funding sunsets; two years is not long enough to achieve stated benefits.
- Proposal lacked specifics related to deliverables, such as how many landowners would be targeted and if there is a priority area(s) in Lake County.
- Flood irrigation without a functioning riparian area may not be very beneficial. Reviewers encourage the applicant to stress the importance of a healthy riparian vegetation community.

- Some of the statements made regarding sprinklers are general and not based on facts.

Concluding Analysis:
This project is a resubmit. The grant would support a biologist position that would focus on outreach and technical planning to private landowners in Lake County with the focus of producing more flood irrigation practice and better land stewardship for waterfowl and fish. This type of outreach in rural Counties is very important, especially from a non-regulatory entity. The concept of this proposal is supported; however, there were some missing details. The application failed to present how outreach would be conducted and where outreach would be prioritized (Lake County is large). In addition, little detail was provided about how projects would be developed, and what the process would be to enroll landowners. Overall the project was supported, but specifics on deliverables and outcomes were vague.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 49,973.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4039**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Evaluating Real-Time Nutrient And Sediment Loads To Upper Klamath Lake Using Surrogate Regressions		
Applicant:	The Klamath Tribes		
Basin:	KLAMATH	**County:**	Klamath
OWEB Request:	**$267,370.00**	**Total Cost:**	$424,610.00
Proposed Match:	$157,240.00		

Application Description

This monitoring proposal will focus on status and trend monitoring by testing the hypothesis that nutrient loads are decreasing in tributaries to Upper Klamath Lake due to restoration efforts in the Upper Klamath Basin. Surrogate techniques will be used to assess concentrations and loads of total Phosphorus (TP) and suspended sediment as part of this study. Annual load results will be compared to prior water years with similar hydrologic regimes, as measured by mean annual streamflow. Sampling will take place at three locations on the Wood, Williamson, and Sprague Rivers.

This project is a partnership between the Klamath Tribes and USGS. USGS staff would collect and analyze the monitoring data, which will be shared and provided to a variety of data consortiums to disseminate the information. Water quality parameters to be monitored include total nutrients (TP and total nitrogen [N]), and dissolved nutrients (orthophosphate [PO4 as P], ammonia [NH4 as N], and nitrate + nitrite [NO3 + NO2 as N]).

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This method is currently being used for sediment and turbidity, has been published by USGS, and is available on the internet.
- This monitoring is linked to the nutrient TMDL for the Klamath River and will be helpful in tracking sediment and nutrient loads entering Upper Klamath Lake.
- Long-term monitoring is needed to track trends associated with conservation and restoration actions, and builds off previous efforts to develop sediment/turbidity regressions.
- Substantial match is being provided by USGS.

Concerns:

- The application lacked detail on methods to collect nutrient and sediment samples. It was not clear if these different samples would be split using a churn splitter or if they would collect them in separate Equal Width Increment (EWI) passes.
- There was concern raised over the budget due to multiple large USGS line items with very little budget detail.
- It was not clear what the “turbidity sensor operation” line item in the budget included.

- There are no letters of support from USGS or other agencies that are likely to be interested in this data.

Recommendations:
If funded, the USGS line items should be better described as to what work will be completed. The Klamath Tribes should also better account for the match they will be providing to this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)
Certainty of Success: High (100%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation
*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The USGS is well-qualified to carry this out and know the area very well.
- This data will build information from previous OWEB funded restoration projects.
- The project ties directly into the TMDL for these water quality parameters. There is a strong need to understand total loading.
- The data obtained from this project will help inform/guide future projects.
- The application was well-thought-out and demonstrated a justified need.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It was challenging to discern how or if the data would change restoration practices in these basins.
- Due to the chosen scale it will be challenging to determine whether specific restoration practices are effective towards addressing in-stream water quality issues.
- This project reads more like a research endeavor.
- No letter of support from the USGS or other partners.

Concluding Analysis:
The proposed project will continue to allow the USGS to use state-of-the-art science to estimate nutrient and suspended sediment loads in the Upper Klamath Basin. A suite of restoration actions have been on-going in the Wood, Williamson, and Sprague river basins and effectiveness monitoring would be useful for informing this work. While the USGS is well-qualified and the application was well-written, the reviewers questioned the applicability and use of the data given restoration practitioners have a good handle on what actions are needed to reduce pollutant loads for the given parameters. Additionally, making the correlation to specific actions in specific locations on the landscape may be challenging given the scale at which the monitoring would take place. For these reasons, the team could not support recommending this project for funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4040**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Field-Based Data Collection and Verification of the Stream Classification Database for Klamath/Lake		
Applicant:	Klamath Watershed Partnership		
Basin:	KLAMATH	**County:**	Klamath
OWEB Request:	**$112,723.00**	**Total Cost:**	$148,441.00
Proposed Match:	$35,719.00		

Application Description

This monitoring proposal will focus on status and trend monitoring by working with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to collect baseline data regarding stream classification, fish presence, fish passage barriers, and restoration opportunities on state and private lands in Klamath and Lake Counties. This monitoring effort will be directly linked to ODF's Stream Classification Database. Current data lacks sufficient information on the parameters discussed above, which causes delayed actions and additional burden on agency staff.

This project is a partnership between the Klamath Watershed Partnership, ODF, and ODFW. Approximately 420 miles of streams will be ground surveyed over the course of two years. There is an acknowledged lack of, and poor representation of information in the ODF database which proves to be a challenge. In addition to ground surveying stream segments, physical and biological parameters will also be collected to better characterize these systems and to also inform potential future restoration for fish passage and/or habitat enhancements that may be of local importance.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This application covers a wide area in Klamath and Lake counties and may serve as a pilot approach for future efforts in other areas.
- The OPMT liked the coordinated approach with KWP, ODF and ODFW to ground-truth and/or update the stream classification database. It is a good example of a local partnership to address an important data gap.
- There is match funding and letters of support from ODFW and ODF.
- The OPMT liked that the applicant will begin this project by identifying priority areas to work and contacting landowners for access before the field season begins in 2018.
- This information will help ODF regulate timber harvests effectively and assist ODFW in the development of its anadromous fish reintroduction implementation plan.

Concerns:

- It was difficult to determine if landowner approval will be an issue to gain access to property.

- There is a lot of territory to cover, so the schedule may be somewhat ambitious to complete in two field seasons.
- There is a possibility that a landowner may request information to be kept confidential to gain access to their land. All information collected with OWEB funds will need to be made publicly available.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (50%), Medium (50%)
Certainty of Success: High (100%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The effort will generate better data made available across State database platforms.
- The updated data will eliminate hurdles for implementing forest activities, saving time and staff resources.
- Addresses known data gaps that have been identified.
- Collected data will identify habitat needs to potentially inform future restoration opportunities.
- Fish passage inventory data would also be conducted, which would help inform and update the current ODFW database, and prove to help potential salmonid presence should dam removal move forward on the Klamath River.
- Project as proposed has appropriate sequence to achieve success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application did not mention how the data would be made available to other State agency database platforms.
- The description of the habitat evaluation data were vague and provided slim detail.
- The data collected would be used to evaluate restoration potential, but it was unclear how that was going to take place.
- The mileage proposed in the budget is likely inadequate given the scale proposed on the maps provided.
- The project timeline and proposed number of stream miles is ambitious; site access in some areas identified may have late entry due to lingering winter conditions.
- The application did not discuss potential concerns with landowner confidentiality regarding information collected on their property. This has been an issue for agencies.

Concluding Analysis:

This monitoring project presents a good partnership with local State ODF and ODFW offices to address an acknowledged data gap and need for better, more efficient management. In addition, the habitat and fish passage data collected can be used to inform restoration actions and critical barriers to fish access and movement. While the goals and objectives are supported, there was a lack of details provided that would have been helpful to understand. The habitat surveys to be developed lack descriptions on what parameters would be collected and whether these would be done throughout the survey area or only in designated areas. There are scientifically sound protocols for collecting this type of data; the team recommends the applicant choose one that best fits the needs of this effort. It would have been helpful to understand the process of how this data will support future restoration actions.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 1

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 112,723.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with Conditions. Prior to first payment, submit for approval to the OWEB project manager the data collection protocols and a description of the how the data will be used to support future restoration actions.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 112,723.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4041**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council Outreach		
Applicant:	Silver Lake Community WC		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:**	Lake
OWEB Request:	**$31,871.00**	**Total Cost:**	$40,235.00
Proposed Match:	$8,264.00		

Application Description

This outreach effort in Lake County by the Umbrella Watershed Council will reach private landowners, land managers and resource agencies to encourage healthy partnerships among land owners, the Council, and local agencies as well as provide land owners with the information and tools necessary to become overall better land stewards. Additionally, the project serves to promote general awareness of watershed function, protection, and enhancement.

This project is a partnership between the Lake County Umbrella WC, private landowners, land managers and resource agencies throughout Lake County. More than 60 private landowners will be reached. The results of this outreach will be developing stewardship workshops for hands-on training and setting up site tours of accomplished restoration projects to discuss and share results. Additionally, a large benefit of this effort is to bridge any gaps between private landowners, the watershed council, and resource agencies in Lake County. This bridging is necessary to build trust and collaboration to facilitate working together to increase conservation and improve natural resources in Lake County.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- There is value in reaching out to landowners to get them familiar with the watershed council and their programs.
- Collaboration and resource sharing amongst landowners and resource agencies is a strong approach for soliciting new projects.
- Conducting landowner surveys to solicit their input and interest is a good approach.
- The calendar of events provided was thorough and detailed.
- The approach encompasses all of Lake County, a large area with a sparse population.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- This is a large endeavor for a small watershed council; reviewers were concerned that capacity would be an issue.
- It was difficult for reviewers to discern whether some of the proposed activities should be included in the Council Capacity grant.
- Deliverables were unclear, particularly with respect to how the work would directly tie into restoration on the ground.

- The application did not discuss how landowner awareness would be measured.

Concluding Analysis:
This project would bring together over 60 landowners, resource agencies, and the watershed council to bridge gaps and share information about watershed stewardship in Lake County. There is a lot of value and trust gained when people can understand what tools and resources are available to them and how they have been implemented throughout Lake County. Especially in rural areas, this outreach is integral for conservation work and trust building. There were some components in the application that were not well-articulated, particularly how this work would result into restoration on the ground. The activities proposed seemed like actions completed in the Council Capacity program; reviewers had a hard time distinguishing between the two.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 31,871.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below the staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4042**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	The Deschutes River and Little Deschutes River Outreach Project		
Applicant:	Upper Deschutes WC		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:**	Deschutes
OWEB Request:	**$66,442.00**	**Total Cost:**	$111,231.00
Proposed Match:	$39,790.00		

Application Description

This request is a continuation of outreach efforts in the Upper Deschutes River basin targeting civic leaders and community members, middle school and high school students, teachers, and numerous riverfront landowners in LaPine, Bend, and Sunriver critical for restoration along the Upper Deschutes River and the Little Deschutes River. Project proposes engaging participants in community presentations about flow, water quality, riparian health, and Oregon spotted frog habitat needs, in addition to participating in hands-on restoration along a variety of project sites in the Upper Deschutes Basin.

This project is a partnership between the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, Deschutes National Forest, PGE, Sunriver Anglers, and Roundhouse Foundation. Specifically, this proposal will engage youth in active and informed stream stewardship at an early age to connect with decision-makers, civic leaders and other adults through the compelling work of young citizens. Participants will integrate watershed stewardship activities and projects into service learning opportunities and educate future citizenry about the value and importance of stewarding on-the-ground restoration activities throughout the Upper Deschutes River watershed to improve water quality and habitat conditions for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and the Oregon spotted frog.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This project is ongoing and has proven to be successful.
- Good to see efforts focused on teachers and civic leaders to provide long-term sustainability of the program.
- The workforce skills taught will prove to be invaluable to students who otherwise would not be reached.
- Student participation in the watershed summit builds good life skills.
- Project partners and match are strong.
- The metrics developed for effectiveness are very good.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It was unclear how data collected in field studies would be used or applied.
- There is an acknowledged challenge establishing riparian vegetation in the upper basin; reviewers questioned how successful this component would be.

- Staff time budget as compared to other Outreach projects is high.
- Unclear how landowners will be engaged in streamflow restoration.

Concluding Analysis:
This project is a continuation of outreach activities that have been successful. The applicant has a strong track record of delivering these types of programs in other areas of the Upper Deschutes Basin, such as Whychus Creek. The application was well-written and well thought-out, with clear objectives and deliverables. It was questioned whether efforts should be more focused on teachers than students, enabling teachers to carry forth the knowledge and skills over the long-term. There were concerns with planting in the areas identified in the grant since there is an acknowledged challenge of doing this successfully there. It would have been helpful to articulate the project's connection with the Oregon spotted frog, and how this project was going to benefit the species and its habitat.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 66,442.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4043**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Middle Deschutes Youth Watershed Councils		
Applicant:	Middle Deschutes WS Councils		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:**	Jefferson
OWEB Request:	**$34,578.00**	**Total Cost:**	$48,627.00
Proposed Match:	$14,050.00		

Application Description

This request is a continuation of the Middle Deschutes Youth Watershed Council outreach efforts. Through this project students will gain an awareness and understanding of salmon and steelhead life cycles, habitat needs, and restoration opportunities in the Middle Deschutes Watershed. Students will learn about the importance of water quality and how salmonids are regarded as an indicator species. The activities proposed include on-the-ground learning projects that will benefit salmonids and other aquatic species through education. The riparian restoration component will include planting of native species and site monitoring, improving water quality and habitat. These projects are planned to occur on Trout Creek and Willow Creek, both tributaries to the Deschutes River.

This project is a partnership between the Middle Deschutes Watershed Council and local NRCS, USFS, Jefferson SWCD, Children's Forest of Central Oregon, Jefferson County schools, and ODA. The students of the Middle Deschutes Youth Watershed Councils will exhibit an increased knowledge of watershed ecology, current conditions, and the necessary skills (researching, planning, and implementing) to conduct watershed enhancement projects. In addition, students will begin to understand the interconnectedness of their home watershed on a larger scale. They will demonstrate an understanding of the processes that connect the uplands, the upper and middle reaches of a stream, and the lowlands and riparian area of the lower reaches.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Bringing STEM activities into the schools is good to see.
- The applicant is working in an underserved area bringing otherwise unattainable resources to students.
- Proposal is building off previous outreach and program success.
- Utilizing existing restoration projects as field sites is a good learning experience.
- Building off existing restoration with student-led restoration adds a lot of value for learning and improving conditions on the landscape.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Funding request for staff time appears high, given the lack of deliverables presented.
- There are concerns with paying USFS to give presentations; this service is provided for free in other areas.

Concluding Analysis:
This project is a continuation of efforts to bring natural resource instruction and hands on experience to underserved communities and schools in Jefferson County. The utilization of existing restoration projects for instruction, monitoring, and building in additional restoration actions of these sites provides good hands on applicable learning experiences for youth. There was strong criticism for paying USFS salaries to provide presentations; it was noted other USFS offices provide this service for free. The budget was heavy on staff time. Nonetheless, providing this service to an underserved population and getting students hands-on experience with natural resource management and watershed concerns provides a lot of value for small communities.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 34,578.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4044**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Crook County Natural Resouces CTE Outreach Program		
Applicant:	Crooked River WC		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:**	Crook
OWEB Request:	**$40,344.00**	**Total Cost:**	$70,040.00
Proposed Match:	$29,696.00		

Application Description

This request is a continuation of efforts for Crook County Natural Resources CTE Outreach Program which works with local high school students to enroll them in participation that directly links students to restoration projects in Crook County. Specifically, this project provides engaging activities for Crook County High School students to increase their awareness and understanding of watershed management, water quality, and watershed restoration and protection by offering new outreach programs that are directly linked to ongoing water quality monitoring, specific restoration projects, and pre- and post-implementation data collection projects with the Crooked River Watershed Council (CRWC).

This project is a partnership between the Crooked River Watershed Council, Central Oregon Community College (COCC), City of Prineville, Crook County High Schools, and High Desert Education District. The program design will guarantee that every student who enrolls in a CTE-Natural Resource Management course will have the opportunity to participate in at least one outreach field experience per month that directly relates to on-going CRWC projects. The total student population of approximately 82 students per semester will be divided into three separate groups with the optimal maximum of 27 students per group. Over the course of each school year, a total of 22 field outreach afternoons will be offered for the target students. Thus over the two-year grant cycle, a grand total of 44 field outreach projects will be conducted.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This project ties directly into attaining college credits.
- Course work provided spans a variety of natural resource disciplines and allows more in-depth learning.
- Project ties directly into monitoring and expanding restoration actions on current CRWC projects.
- Outreach area is an underserved population of Crook County.
- Project provides opportunity for job shadowing and internships with local natural resource management entities.
- Good support letters from partners.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The course work is general; the program could be more effective with a focus on watershed and aquatic ecology.
- Match from administrative staff, 180 hours, seemed high.

Concluding Analysis:
This project is a continuation of efforts led by the CRWC and partnering with local schools and instructors to provide natural resource coursework and field based hands-on experience with CRWC restoration projects. The project area is an underserved community and provides outreach and related fieldwork opportunities that otherwise would not be possible. The reviewers appreciated seeing the wide support and committed school participation. This project also provides willing students an opportunity to job shadow professionals in the field and, in some cases, secure internships with local natural resource entities in Crook County. Students also get a chance to participate in monitoring and additional restoration actions on current CRWC projects in the watershed, giving participants first-hand experience with watershed restoration.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 40,344.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 40,344.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4045**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Urban Conservation Community Outreach		
Applicant:	Wasco SWCD		
Basin:	HOOD	**County:**	Wasco
OWEB Request:	**$49,286.00**	**Total Cost:**	$64,091.00
Proposed Match:	$14,805.00		

Application Description

This outreach effort will target every streamside landowner within the City of The Dalles to be aware of the need for conservation, best management practices and mitigation of negative impacts within these watersheds. This work is necessary for gaining community support and increasing conservation of high value riparian areas. The District will generate innovative education and outreach materials and mail these documents to its target audience with the intent to result in on-the-ground actions.

This project is a partnership between the Wasco SWCD and streamside property owners within the City of the Dalles, which include Chenowith, Mill, and Threemile Creeks. The District will provide easy to understand, persuasive messaging intended to activate a significant number of people within the community. Additional outreach efforts will include: newsletter updates, local media promotions and an educational workshop outlining the benefits of sustainable backyard habitat best management practices. Collective urban conservation projects will enhance backyard habitat, mitigate stormwater runoff and reduce pesticide use.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project focuses on all the urbanized streams in The Dalles, providing consistent messaging and opportunities.
- Applicant has a strong track record of being successful.
- Good to see the mention and tracking of pesticide use.
- The project has wide support.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- There were no clearly defined outcomes of this outreach.
- The application stated this outreach would result in restoration, but failed to describe how.
- The budget was very lopsided towards staff time.
- Urbanized restoration has low ecological value.
- The application suffered from not providing any ground photos of conditions they are hoping to address.
- Would have been helpful to know how many landowners are within the target area, to get a better sense of the project's scale.

Concluding Analysis:
The team commends the District for targeting all the urbanized stream corridors within the City of The Dalles. It is recognized there are challenges and relatively low ecological uplift potential working in urbanized areas; nonetheless there is value working in these areas. The application suffered by not providing any details of what would result from the targeted outreach mailings. There was no mention of how this activity would translate into on-the-ground restoration. The budget was lopsided on staff time, with most funds going toward assembling and mailing outreach materials. It would have been helpful to provide a pathway and process for how the outreach mailings would translate into restoration, such as how the District plans to follow up after the mailings. More thought and detail would have been helpful to understand how the District will approach and prioritize the community's response from the mailings. Finally, ground photos would have gone a long way to demonstrate the restoration need and problems the restoration would seek to correct.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4046**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Watershed Ecology and Amphibian Monitoring Program		
Applicant:	Sunriver Nature Center Inc		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:**	Deschutes
OWEB Request:	**$42,620.00**	**Total Cost:**	$55,397.00
Proposed Match:	$10,777.00		

Application Description

This outreach effort proposed by Sunriver Nature Center will work in concert with the restoration grant submitted aimed at restoring habitat for the Oregon spotted frog. Specifically, this project targets students in grades three through five in the Bend-La Pine school district in Deschutes County. This program provides opportunities to get outside, build curiosity and engage with the natural world through guided scientific processes and activities. The restoration/monitoring component of this program is answering an immediate need for Bullfrog eradication at the Nature Center grounds where the largest population of Oregon spotted frogs in our region is being decimated through Bullfrog predation.

This project is a partnership between the Sunriver Nature Center, Children's Forest of Central Oregon and a several Ben-La Pine schools. The proposal directly ties students with on-going restoration actions and monitoring specific to Bullfrog control to promote habitat enhancements for the Oregon spotted frog. Students will gain an understanding of watersheds, aquatic ecology, water quality and its impact on all living things, in addition to participating in a long-running amphibian project monitoring Lake Aspen and nearby waterway for populations of the Oregon spotted frog. Finally, students will learn about conservation methods and habitat restoration projects being conducted throughout Central Oregon.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Past achievements have proven their education model is successful.
- This outreach provides a strong nexus with ongoing restoration and monitoring for the ESA listed Oregon spotted frog.
- The proposed in-class presentations offer good primers prior to getting students out in the field.
- The Sunriver Nature Center is an ideal home base for outreach and education, and offers a variety of tools for learning.
- Target audience is underserved school districts.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No letters of support were provided; it would have been helpful to see the schools' commitment to this program.

- The teaching of water quality and chemistry may be challenging to comprehend for the grade level the applicant is targeting.
- Barriers to education are not well articulated.

Concluding Analysis:
This project will engage 3rd-5th graders in the Bend-La Pine school district at the Sunriver Nature Center to connect students with the natural environment and to provide them with field-based hands-on experience of monitoring ongoing restoration. The restoration nexus this outreach project provides is a great connection and is well-articulated in the proposal. The reviewers questioned some of the relatively complex water quality analysis for the grade level of the targeted audience. The application suffered from no support letters, which would have been helpful to understand the commitment from the participating schools.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 5

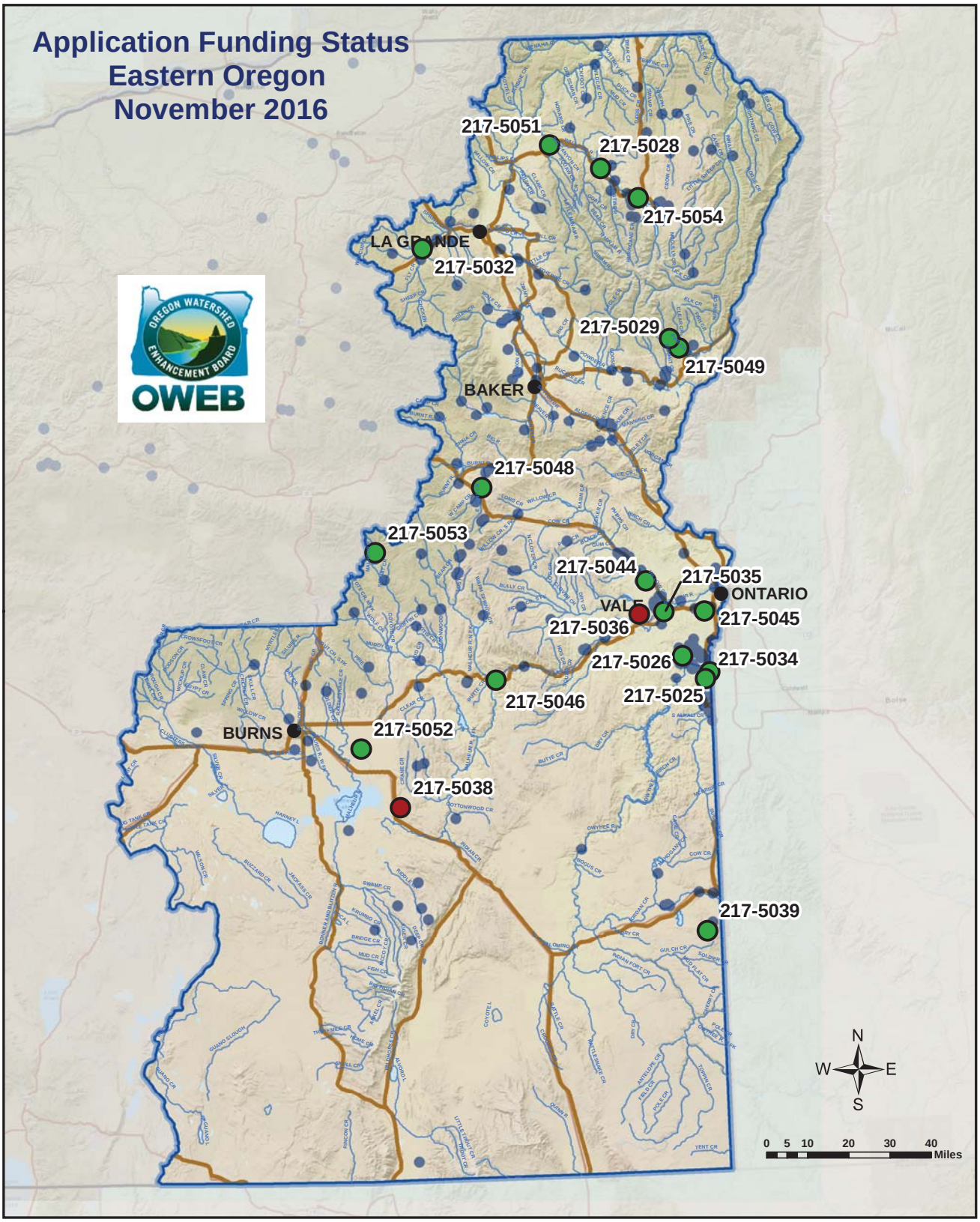
Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 42,620.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00



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November 2016 Applications

- Staff Recommeded for Funding
- Below Funding Line

Grants 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Streams
- Region 5 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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Salem, OR 97301-1290
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http://oregon.gov/OWEB/

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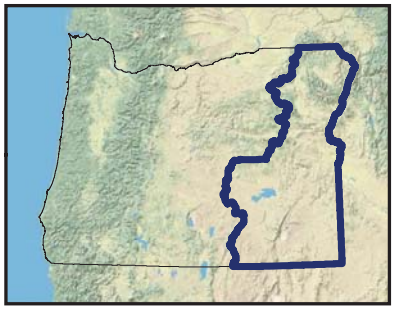

Region 5 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-5045	Malheur SWCD	Vista View Pipeline	Owyhee Irrigation District's will install 10,500 feet pipe in lateral 38.7 that supplies 16 cfs of irrigation water to 640 acres. Implementation will enable landowners to convert from flood irrigation to sprinkler or drip.	323,812	Malheur
217-5028	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation	Lostine River /Tulley-Hill Fish Passage Improvement	The Tulley-Hill irrigation diversion is a seasonal passage-barrier to ESA-listed spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout and other aquatic species. Located on the Lostine River near the town of Wallowa, this diversion will be replaced to provide adequate passage	168,786	Wallowa
217-5029	Eagle Valley SWCD	Thad Leep Diversion	A push-up dam, constructed annually during the late spring and removed in the fall, dewaters 700 feet of Pine Creek. Eagle Valley SWCD and Idaho Power Company (IPC) will install a fish-friendly diversion to provide passage and improve critical bull trout habitat.	99,573	Baker
217-5026	Owyhee WC	Border Line Water Quality Improvement	This project is 5 miles south of Adrian and converts 57 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation to improve water quality by eliminating runoff that directly flows into the Snake River. The project will install mainline, pipe, 10 steel bridge structures and an 856-foot pivot.	27,853	Malheur
217-5039	Owyhee WC	Parsnip #2	The Parsnip Peak Invasive Annuals project is in core sage-grouse habitat in the sagebrush-steppe south of Jordan Valley. It will control 2,000 acres of medusahead using integrated pest management strategies, including chemical treatment, seeding and installation of cross-fencing.	113,736	Malheur
217-5032	Tri-Cnty Co-Op Weed Mgmt Area	Upper Grand Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase II	The Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control project will chemically treat leafy spurge, spotted knapweed and meadow hawkweed. The CWMA proposes to treat 130 acres along 26 stream miles of salmonid habitat in the upper Grande Ronde.	25,000	Union
217-5035	Malheur WC	Cleaning Up Down by th Malheur River	This project 2 miles south of Vale will treat 3 separate properties on 116 total acres that border the Malheur River. Flood irrigation will be converted to sprinklers, sediment ponds and gated pipe.	67,513	Malheur
217-5025	Owyhee WC	Klamath Water Quality Improvement	The Klamath Water Quality project is in the Twilight Water Quality Improvement Zone priority area, 5 miles northwest of Adrian. The project will install pivots and piping to connect to lateral 12.4 and convert of 72 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation to improve water quality.	48,572	Malheur
217-5046	Malheur SWCD	Juntura Riparian Restoration and Pumpback Irrigation System	The project is located on the South Fork of the Malheur River east of Juntura. It will improve riparian conditions by piping a ditch and planting 480 willow posts; eliminate reed canary grass; and installing 80 cages and weed mats on 15 acres.	105,208	Malheur

217-5044	Malheur WC	Getting the Power Outta the Way	Located near Willow Creek this project will complete a project to convert 37 acres from flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation. A pivot irrigates 21 acres and 16 acres are flood-irrigated due to a power line blocking the pivot path which will be removed.	19,300	Malheur
217-5034	Owyhee WC	Tater Road Water Quality Improvement	Tater Road Water Quality Improvement project will converting 32 acres from furrow irrigation to sprinkler irrigation by installing a pivot and piping. Implementation will improve water quality by eliminating tailwater that flows into the South Alkali drain and directly into the Snake River bordering project site.	42,880	Malheur
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**1,042,233**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
217-5038	Harney Co. Co-Op Weed Management	Beaver Tables Medusahead	245,206	Harney
217-5036	Malheur WC	Table Top Water Quality Improvement	30,903	Malheur
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**1,318,342**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-5027	Baker Valley SWCD	Ellis Road Ditch Conversion	238,431	Union
217-5030	Burnt River SWCD	Hereford Stockwater Project	40,193	Baker
217-5031	Grande Ronde Model WS Program	Wallowa River- Baker Restoration Project	126,170	Wallowa
217-5033	Tri-County Co-Op Weed Mgmt Area	Baker Sage Grouse Priority Habitat Restoration Phase I	62,000	Baker
217-5037	Wallowa SWCD	Hurricane Pipeline	459,043	Wallowa
217-5040	Wallowa SWCD	Boner Pivot	51,393	Wallowa
217-5041	Wallowa SWCD	Birkmaier Flood to Sprinkler	86,304	Wallowa
217-5042	Wallowa Resources	West Zumwalt Prairie Weed Control	23,630	Wallowa
217-5043	Powder Basin WC	Lower Clear Creek Restoration (Phase 1)	148,461	Baker
217-5047	Malheur SWCD	Hoodoo Restoration	287,194	Malheur

Region 5 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-5048	Burnt River SWCD	Camp Creek Weed Survey	The Upper Burnt River Weed Control District will inventory 2,000 acres of riparian habitat near Unity for Scotch thistle, medusahead, perennial pepperweed, white top and knapweeds. An intern will compile treatment plans for landowners including maps, vegetation tables, soils and treatment recommendations.	14,447	Baker
217-5049	Powder Basin WC	Upper Pine Creek Flood Restoration Design	Nine landowners along 0.8 miles of upper Pine Creek near Halfway will participate in a technical design project to improve conditions and prevent future flood damage. Pine Creek is critical habitat to ESA-listed bull trout and an important migration corridor.	47,355	Baker
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**61,802**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Requested	County
217-5050	Powder Basin WC	Lower Clear Creek Restoration Plan (Phase 2)	48,626	Baker

Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-5054	Grant County 4-H Association	Wallowa Resources' Watershed Evaluation Teams (WET)	Wallowa Resources in Enterprise initiated a watershed evaluation team (WET) program designed to provide hands-on experience that builds environmental awareness for students. The WET Program reaches approximately 150 students in the 6th, 10th and 11th grade in Wallowa County.	20,728	Wallowa
217-5053	Grant County 4-H Association	2017 Natural Resource Camp	The 2017 Natural Resource Camp targets 40 students in grades 7 through 9. The camp offers students the opportunity to learn the importance of natural resource management and introduce youth to activities that generate interests in conservation and restoration.	20,284	Grant
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**41,012**	

Outreach Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Requested	County
NONE				

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-5051	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation	Grande Ronde Basin Stream Flow Gauging Stations Operation Water Years 2017 & 2018	This project continues the operation of 12 gauges in the Grande Ronde basin in Union and Wallowa Counties. OWRD will operate gauges that document the effects of irrigation on stream reaches and provide numerous other benefits.	101,002	Wallowa
217-5052	Harney Watershed Council	Harney Valley Groundwater monitoring phase 2	This project in the Harney basin will help determine the cause for declining water levels by monitoring additional domestic wells in partnership with OWRD. Determining the availability of groundwater in the Harney Basin depends on acquiring accurate well data from a number of groundwater wells.	20,559	Harney
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**121,561**	

Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Requested	County
NONE				

Region 5 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**1,266,608**	**14%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**9,315,062**	

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5025**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Klamath Road Water Quality Improvement		
Applicant:	Owyhee WC		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:**	Malheur
OWEB Request:	**$53,648.00**	**Total Cost:**	$122,263.00
Proposed Match:	$68,615.00		

Application Description

The Klamath Road Water Quality project is located in the Twilight Water Quality Improvement Zone priority area approximately five miles northwest of Adrian. The project will install pivots and piping to connect to lateral 12.4, recently piped with the assistance of OWEB funding. A total of 72 acres will be converted from flood to sprinkler irrigation. Implementation will improve water quality by eliminating runoff of sediment, nutrients and bacterial transports into the Brewer Drain, Old Owyhee Canal and the Snake River. Project implementation addresses irrigation-induced erosion, inefficient irrigation, water loss through seepage and evaporation and will improve water quality.

The project will install 2,380 feet of 6-inch mainline, 3,380 feet of 4-inch mainline, 1,760 feet of electrical cable conduit and power from Klamath Road. In addition, a 627-foot pivot and a 579-foot pivot will be installed along with solid-set hand-line sprinklers in the corners. Implementation of an improved irrigation system will eliminate runoff. The sediment currently lost by erosion, estimated between 1,400 and 2,160 tons annually, will be eliminated.

Watermark™ soil moisture sensors will be used throughout the growing season to ensure efficient application of irrigation water depending on crop demand. Project implementation continues the ongoing effort between landowners, Owyhee Watershed Council and Owyhee Irrigation District. OWEB funds are requested for salaries, contracted services for materials and administration. The landowner will provide 128% of the OWEB-requested amount.

Implementation addresses water quality by reducing sediment and runoff. Proposed actions will implement recommentations in the *Owyhee Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan*, which include practices that include irrigation water management and conversion from furrow irrigation to sprinklers, and the *Snake River-Hells Canyon TMDL* that also addresses converting from furrow irrigation to sprinklers to reduce sediment, nutrient and phosphorous.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project addresses a significant water quality concern and the photos document the extent of the problem.
- The project is complementary to similar projects in the area and builds on previous efforts.
- Implementation addresses DEQ's priority objectives for the basin.

- Producers and irrigation districts in Malheur County are making significant strides in converting cropped acreage from flood irrigation to sprinklers.
- Water quality will improve as sediment and nutrient loads are eliminated.
- The application provided excellent detail on the budget, photos and maps which depicted the proximity of the project area to the Snake River.
- Including soil moisture monitoring by the landowner will help to demonstrate how effective the completed project will be in achieving its objectives. This will help achieve precision irrigation.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The Watermark sensors were not in the budget.
- The team questioned why two pivots were proposed in lieu of one which would eliminate some corners.

Concluding analysis:
Klamath Water quality project is in the Twilight Water Quality priority area, adjacent to the Fletcher Gulch Priority area. Implementation continues successful efforts by OWC, Owyhee Irrigation District and Malheur SWCD in this area. Eliminating runoff will reduce sediment and *E.coli* transport. Implementation will improve water quality, quantity and irrigation water management by controlling application rates. The team questioned why two pivots are proposed. Installing one wiper pivot would eliminate corners and reduce some installation costs. However, the design may have been proposed by NRCS. If NRCS funding is obtained, the original design would have to be followed. To be consistent with previously funded projects, the team recommends removing the riser assemblies from the OWEB requested amount. The review team agreed there is substantial ecological merit and the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund reduced with conditions. Remove riser assemblies from OWEB request.

Regional Review Team Priority
8 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$48,572.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund reduced with conditions. Remove riser assemblies from OWEB request.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 48,572.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5026**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Border Line Water Quality Improvement		
Applicant:	Owyhee WC		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:**	Malheur
OWEB Request:	**$27,853.00**	**Total Cost:**	$93,136.00
Proposed Match:	$65,283.00		

Application Description

Located five miles south of Adrian on the east side of Snake River, this project will treat runoff flowing directly into the river. The Border Line project is in the Big Bend area which encompasses approximately 7,200 acres of mostly furrow-irrigated farmland. A total of 57 acres will be converted from flood to sprinkler irrigation. Implementation will improve water quality by eliminating runoff of sediment, nutrients and bacteria. Project implementation will improve water quality.

The primary crop rotations in Big Bend are pasture, grazing and hay crops with few row-crop farms. The project will install 1,080 feet of 8-inch mainline; 1,380 feet of 6-inch pipe with risers; 1,180 feet of cable-con; 10 steel bridge structures and an 856-foot pivot. In addition, Watermark™ sensors will be installed to monitor the soil moisture content. The project addresses irrigation-induced erosion caused by excessive runoff, inefficient irrigation and water loss through seepage and evaporation.

The Owyhee Watershed Council (OWC), irrigation districts and landowners in Big Bend are beginning a new collaborative effort to address water quality issues. Black Canyon and Lower Boise are the local irrigation districts. OWEB funds are requested for salaries, contracted services for materials and administration. The landowner will provide 128% of the OWEB-requested amount.

Implementation addresses the *Owyhee Subbasin Plan* by reducing sediment and improving water quality; the *Owyhee Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan* which suggests practices that include irrigation water management and conversion from furrow irrigation to sprinklers and it addresses the *Mid-Snake-Succor TMDL*.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Runoff from this property is deposited directly into the Snake River.
- Any reduction in sediment transport will be an immediate improvement to water quality.
- This is an excellent opportunity to be used as a pilot project in the Big Bend area to engage other landowners in future restoration efforts.
- Project can be implemented and begin right away. It is a relatively low-cost project.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- Property is currently leased and will require landowner agreements to ensure long-term maintenance of the project.

Concluding analysis:
The project is complementary to many projects sponsored by OWC. The council has worked successfully with other irrigation districts, NRCS and landowners to develop priority areas and implement successful projects. Implementation will have significant water quality benefits due to the project's location right on the Snake River. This project has high demonstration value to other landowners in the Big Bend area for future implementation projects. The team agreed that this project has significant water quality benefits and should be implemented in a timely manner. There is high ecological merit and the project is ready to fund this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 27,853.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 27,853.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5027**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Ellis Road Ditch Conversion		
Applicant:	Baker Valley SWCD		
Basin:	POWDER	**County:**	Union
OWEB Request:	**$238,431.00**	**Total Cost:**	$323,031.00
Proposed Match:	$84,600.00		

Application Description

This restoration project is located near North Powder west of I-84 in southern Union County. An open irrigation bypass ditch conveys water to two underground pipelines that convey water to wheel lines and pivots. To gain sufficient pressure to fill the pipeline, excess water needs to be diverted down the bypass ditch from the Coughanour Ditch. After the pipelines fill, excess water continues down the bypass ditch resulting in severe erosion and down-cutting. Sediment and debris are continually released downstream. Project implementation addresses water quality and water quantity.

Proposed actions will address infrastructure issues causing severe erosion and down-cutting that has existed in this system for many years. The applicant proposes to install 5,980 feet of 18-inch pipe and 3,100 feet of 15-inch pipe in the existing ditch. An installed headgate will enable the landowner to convey irrigation water when needed down the pipeline or to remain in the Coughanour Ditch when not needed. Final engineering designs will also be included. Converting the earthen ditch to pipeline will reduce seepage and evaporation and facilitate improved irrigation management. Down-cutting as much as 20 feet or more has occurred in this ditch with sediment transported into the North Powder.

Two adjacent landowners will be providing 34% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount in cash and in-kind labor. Project implementation addresses water quality, excessive erosion and water quantity.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The engineering firm RSI provided the preliminary designs. RSI has successfully implemented many projects in the region and eastern Oregon. The review team is familiar with their work and complimentary on past projects that were implemented.
- It was clear that the new landowners are doing their best to manage the system. They are doing everything feasible with this challenging system. However, the irrigation water conveyance needs to be modified and this is not a management issue. Some fields are already irrigated by pivots and wheel lines which create minimal runoff.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- While preliminary designs were submitted with the application, they were not adequate to provide a detailed budget. A more comprehensive design is needed to better evaluate both the project and the budget.
- It was unclear how much water would potentially be saved and what will actually happen to it once the project is completed. Will the "saved" water stay in the Pilcher Creek reservoir? If so, is there a potential to improve bull trout habitat or to increase the minimum pool?
- The team questioned where the sediment deposition end-point was. It was not clear if sediment went all the way to the North Powder or if it was deposited elsewhere before reaching the river.
- There is a significant amount of pipe to be installed. While the landowners are able to install the smaller-sized pipe, they will need to contract installation of the larger diameter pipe. However, it was unclear the length of the pipe that needs contractor installation as that was not a separate line item in the budget.
- Pipe installation cost per-foot seemed high.
- The actual amount of affected acres was confusing.

Concluding analysis:
The site visit verified the need for restoration of the ditch which is actively downcutting. New landowners are anxious to improve these fields and willing to provide significant in-kind labor. They are taking a pro-active approach to restoring this area. On-farm irrigation is by pivots, wheel lines and flood. The fields irrigated by the pivots and wheel lines are not contributing to sediment transport, but sediment from the bypass ditch is. When the landowner changes wheel lines, approximately 450 gallons per-minute (gpm) is lost during the changeover with no way to shut off the water. The excess diverted water rushing down the bypass ditch causes significant erosion.

The team expressed that the project has merit, but lacked essential design. More detail is needed regarding designs and budget. The team questioned how pipe costs were determined. Also, more explanation on the overall project would be beneficial. A future application needs a better description of the amount of saved water and happens to it; a more detailed budget and additional designs. It is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5028**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Lostine River/Tulley-Hill Fish Passage Improvement		
Applicant:	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:**	Wallowa
OWEB Request:	**$168,786.00**	**Total Cost:**	$342,683.00
Proposed Match:	$173,897.00		

Application Description

The Tulley-Hill irrigation diversion is a seasonal passage-barrier to ESA-listed spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout and other aquatic species. Located on the Lostine River near the town of Wallowa, this diversion will be replaced to provide adequate passage. The Tulley-Hill diversion is located 1.6 miles upstream of the confluence with the Wallowa River. The ditch supplies 119 acres of adjudicated 1879 water rights from May 1 through September 30. The Tulley-Hill diversion is a passage barrier especially in late, low-season flows. It does not meet fish passage criteria currently required by ODFW and NMFS. The structure is an upstream velocity barrier to all fish at high flows; juvenile upstream movement at low flows due to jump height; and adult Chinook at low flow during spawning. The structure mainly affects spring Chinook salmon and steelhead.

Spring Chinook migrate to their spawning areas from July and mid-September. Summer steelhead migrate up the Lostine in late winter and spring. Bull trout are sparse in the area and mainly forage in the area during winter and early spring. Project objectives are to restore fish passage, improve hydraulic complexity and enhance stream habitat characteristics with large woody debris (LWD). Components include installing 8 grade-control structures, an engineered riffle and 8 log-cross structures for LWD. The area will be cleared and grubbed prior to installation and disturbed ground seeded post-construction. The resulting meandering low-flow channel will provide additional habitat diversity and will reduce the grade by 2%.

OWEB funds are requested for contracted services and administration. The Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GMW) and ODFW will contribute 103% of the OWEB-requested amount in both cash and in-kind cost-share. Implementation follows the *Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan* as well as the recently released *Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan*. The project eliminates seasonal barriers for various aquatic organisms.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project will improve instream habitat, habitat diversity and open 29 miles of seasonal fish passage to ESA-listed spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead.
- GRMW and the NPT have a very positive track record for implementation projects. When completed, there will be opportunities for outreach and monitoring. Future monitoring will be useful for similar projects.

- The project is complementary to other diversions on the Lostine. Both the City of Lostine ditch and the recent OWEB-funded project on the Sheep Ridge ditch will all enhance Chinook and steelhead habitat.
- The project design creates minimal disturbance of existing vegetation. The applicant has incorporated lessons learned from previous efforts and adapted design that should prove more successful. These designs have longer footprints by installing roughened channels and over a longer length.
- The project was submitted to ODFW's fish passage team in Salem for review.
- The project will implement NOAA's recently released *Snake River Steelhead Recovery Plan.*

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- A concern was raised that if design changes are required by ODFW, there may be potential impacts to the budget.

Concluding analysis:
The application was well-written and thorough. The Tulley-Hill diversion was upgraded about 20 years ago. However, the footprint was too small and resulting velocities were higher than optimal. In addition, there was a lack of complex wood that did not provide sufficient habitat diversity. The diversion is a migration and spawning barrier. Modifications were needed to decrease velocity. Past monitoring projects funded by OWEB, which PIT-tagged spring Chinook in the Lostine, provided data to inform this project. A previous OWEB project funded the final engineering design. There was good detail regarding the background, coordination between partners, budget and final product. Implementation will provide passage to all aquatic organisms. Chinook populations are in peril here, therefore restoring connectivity is beneficial. The review team agreed that the project has significant ecological merit and the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 168,786.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 168,786.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5029**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Thad Leep Diversion		
Applicant:	Eagle Valley SWCD		
Basin:	POWDER	**County:**	Baker
OWEB Request:	**$129,537.00**	**Total Cost:**	$411,013.00
Proposed Match:	$281,476.00		

Application Description

Eagle Valley SWCD and Idaho Power Company (IPC) are proposing to replace a gravel push-up dam with a diversion in Pine Creek near the town of Halfway. The Thad Leep diversion is a gravel push-up dam constructed annually during the late spring and removed in the fall. It dewaters approximately 700 feet of Pine Creek in the late summer and early fall. The adjudicated water right is 5 cfs and the ditch does not have a fish screen. The oldest water right on the ditch is 1876. Replacement of the pushl-up dam will improve habitat for ESA-listed bull trout. Recent population surveys conducted in 2014 found the largest bull trout populations in the upper Pine Creek sub-basin. Historically, these populations would have migrated out of the Pine Creek watershed to overwinter in the mainstem Snake River.

The new diversion was designed for a 100-year event. The design team included Eagle Valley SWCD, ODFW, USFWS, OWRD and IPC. The intake will be placed in an existing natural pool with a steel trash rack installed in front of the headgate to prevent large debris from entering the pipeline. A 36-foot concrete sill will be placed 50-feet downstream of the diversion intake. An ODFW-approved, rotary-drum fish screen and an OWRD-approved measuring device will also be installed.

Restoring fish passage within migratory corridors of the Pine Creek watershed is emphasized in the 2014 draft *Bull Trout Recovery Plan*. OWEB funds are requested for various contracted services and administration. Project partners including IPC, USFWS, Thad Leep Ditch Company, ODFW, OWRD and Eagle Valley SWCD will contribute cash and in-kind cost-share of 354% of the OWEB-request amount.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project implementation will provide fish passage and screening while improving ditch efficiency. The current push-up dam has a larger footprint than necessary. This new design allows for additional water to remain in Pine Creek.
- Installation of the measuring device will assist OWRD in tracking water use.
- The application provided significant detail. It was clear how OWEB funds would be used as well as the cost of specific project elements. In addition, the initial request was reduced substantially since IPC provided more cost-share.
- The project applies to a senior water right.

- The budget provides a high level of detail.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The contingency budget will need to be itemized.
- There were questions regarding monitoring of the diversion and clarified that ODFW has monthly visits. IPC will have someone inspect the screen weekly. They have also had five years of monitoring at this diversion.

Concluding analysis:
The application was well-written and provided a detailed budget. The Thad Leep diversion de-waters a large section of Pine Creek during the critical low-flow period in late summer and early fall. Removing the seasonal push-up dam will have positive results for the bull trout population in Pine Creek. Passage will be provided for all aquatic organisms. Implementation will assist with future landowner recruitment. The next diversion is two miles upstream and replacing non-fish friendly diversions will be a continuing effort in the Halfway area. Restoring connectivity is very beneficial. The review team agreed that the project has significant ecological merit and the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 89,672.00

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment
The OWEB request was significantly reduced by the applicant prior to the review team meeting. After the meeting, a few design modifications were requested by ODFW, resulting in an increase to the revised budget.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 99,573.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5030**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Hereford Stockwater Project		
Applicant:	Burnt River SWCD		
Basin:	POWDER	**County:**	Baker
OWEB Request:	**$40,193.00**	**Total Cost:**	$68,068.00
Proposed Match:	$27,875.00		

Application Description

Located in Hereford this project will improve rangeland health by implementing improved grazing practices with the addition of reliable water sources for livestock and cross fencing. An upland watering system will be installed to improve distribution and perennial bunchgrass conditions. Past disturbances caused by overgrazing reduced the health of native bunchgrass which led to further annual grass invasion. The current grass stand is dominated by cheatgrass, bulbous bluegrass and medusahead. The area is also sage-grouse habitat. A dominant cover of annual grasses does not provide adequate nesting cover for sage-grouse or the appropriate food source for chicks. Portions of the property also have juniper which act as perch habitat for sage-grouse predators. Juniper currently is being removed by the landowner.

Project components include drilling a well at the south end of the property to provide water for the proposed stock water system. The well drilling will be part of the landowner's in-kind contribution. Other components include installing: 7,250 feet of 2-inch HDPE to convey water from the well to troughs; 4 rubber tire troughs at two locations, one on each side of the fence and equipped with wildlife escape ramps and 3,000 feet of wildlife friendly fence to create two pastures. The upper pasture will be 231 acres and the lower pasture 435 acres. A total of 716 upland acres are proposed for treatment.

Watershed benefits are improved water quality, improved upland vegetation and improved habitat for sage-grouse once the perennial bunchgrass is re-established. The landowner will provide 69% of the OWEB-requested funds in both cash and in-kind cost-share.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The application is straightforward. The proposed project components and map were easy to follow.
- The proposed actions are the right components for livestock distribution.
- The landowner is very invested in the project and wants to improve rangeland quality. He is already removing juniper at his own cost on the upper end of the property.
- Power is available on the road nearby.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- It was not clear if the landowner had researched the delivery system. Since a well needs to be drilled, have nearby well logs been investigated?
- The application lacked a grazing plan. The application stated that with reliable water sources a rest-rotation grazing plan could be implemented. However, there is no description of the plan.
- The proposal is to pump from the well up to the troughs. The site visit indicated that there is a significant amount of relief to reach those troughs. It was questioned if the pump would supply adequate pressure. Also, if power goes off, how would livestock get water? It was suggested to revise the design and pump to a cistern and then gravity feed to troughs below. There is more assurance then that livestock always have water.
- Would the well be powered by solar or grid power?
- Using the well for both domestic and livestock use could be problematic -- they will need to be sure that the flow is adequate for both uses.
- The project needs additional engineering.

Concluding analysis:
The project has merit since it has the potential to improve upland vegetation. However, there are several concerns which need to be addressed. The project needs additional engineering and design to investigate the possibility of using a cistern. Also, nearby well logs should be investigated to ascertain what the well might produce. It is positive that the landowner is doing a lot of juniper removal on his own. Also, a future application needs more detail on the sage-grouse habitat benefits. It was not stated if this is core or general habitat. While the proposal has merit, it is not ready to recommend for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5031**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Wallowa River- Baker Restoration Project		
Applicant:	Grande Ronde Model WS Program		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:**	Wallowa
OWEB Request:	**$126,170.00**	**Total Cost:**	$770,608.00
Proposed Match:	$644,438.00		

Application Description

The project is located approximately three miles northwest of Wallowa. Approximately 0.6 miles of an aggrading section of the Wallowa River is proposed for restoration of off-channel habitat and in-stream wood structures. This reach was historically a braided channel. However, the stream has been manipulated for agricultural practices, gravel extraction and road construction. Few pools are present and vertical, eroding banks limit floodplain interaction and hyporheic exchange. Spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout, redband and lamprey use this reach for migration, spawning, summer rearing and over-winter rearing.

In 1997, stream barbs were installed which exacerbated localized scour and deposition and accelerated lateral migration. The landowner recently enrolled 30.2 acres into a 15-year conservation easement. The project was split into two phases with the first phase now funded by McNary Mitigation. In this phase, the floodplain will increase 11 acres and 32 pools will be created. In addition, 32 engineered wood-habitat structures will be installed to increase habitat complexity. Each structure will have 13 logs per structure. Log lengths will be 20 to 30 feet long and 18 to 24 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet. Off-channel, deep-pool habitat, 5 to 7 feet deep, will provide salmonid holding habitat, overhead cover, zero-velocity margin habitat for juvenile rearing and promote sediment sorting for improved spawning habitat. Three miles of fencing will be installed along the river and all three of the side channels contained within the exclusion fencing. Both leafy spurge and diffuse knapweed will be mechanically and chemically treated. Coyote willow, red-osier dogwood, black cottonwood and peachleaf willow will be planted. Both whips and vertical bundles will be planted. Yearly inspections of the planted materials will occur for the first five years.

Disturbed areas will be reseeded with a native mix and replanted with live stakes. Vertical, eroding banks along the Wallowa River will be regraded to increase floodplain connectivity and promote riparian development. Trees and woody materials will be added to increase roughness and reduce overland flow velocities to induce sediment deposition. The floodplain will be planted with native riparian vegetation to dissipate energy and develop a riparian forest buffer.

The project addresses improving floodplain connectivity, riparian vegetation, channel stability, water quality, reducing sediment and temperature. In addition, it will improve habitat for aquatic and terrestrial resources. OWEB funds are requested for rootwads, fencing, floodplain excavation and side channel C earthwork. Grande Ronde Model Watershed, ODFW, the Nez Perce Tribe, McNary Mitigation Fund and the landowner will contribute 511% of the OWEB-requested funds.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The landowners are willing participants and want to improve current conditions.
- Bids for the first phase were received and there is adequate funding to begin the project. Grande Ronde Model Watershed and the McNary Mitigation Fund are providing significant cost-share.
- The easement is secured.
- There is excellent riparian habitat on the opposite bank, owned by a different landowner. It is hoped that similar habitat can be replicated on this side of the river.
- The side channel habitat provides synergistic benefits.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The previous evaluation recommended completing Phase 1 first to see how the design functions before committing funds for additional channel excavation. This proposal is premature.
- The team questioned whether this is the appropriate site for this type of restoration effort. There appear to be reaches of the Wallowa River better suited for this type of habitat improvement; forcing a man-made channel may be inappropriate here. Excavation involves moving considerable amount of soil. The end-haul point was not outlined in the application.
- The side channel may become filled with sediment
- The river may not respond as intended, potentially resulting in additional lateral erosion and channel development.
- The construction observation listed in the budget was over $35,000 and included four personnel, which seemed very high.
- Water rights were not addressed; it appears that some water rights may be subject to forfeiture.

Concluding analysis:

The project has the potential to provide needed habitat lacking in this watershed and scarce winter-rearing habitat in this stretch of the Wallowa River. Previous concerns about where the substantial volume of spoils would be taken were not addressed in the application, but reviewers noted that there is now an end-haul site secured close to the project side that will keep the dump trucks off county roads. In a previous review, the team recommended that they would like to see the results of the first phase completed; however, the application was submitted prior to the beginning of the first phase. Given the uncertainty about river processes in this reach, the team would like to see the results of the ongoing project prior to recommending additional funding. The project is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5032**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase II		
Applicant:	Tri-Cnty Coop Weed Mgmt Area		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:**	Union
OWEB Request:	**$25,000.00**	**Total Cost:**	$34,500.00
Proposed Match:	$9,500.00		

Application Description

The Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control project targets a specific geographic area and focuses on the treatment of leafy spurge, spotted knapweed and meadow hawkweed along the Grande Ronde River above Hilgard State Park. The Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA) proposes to treat these noxious weeds through various chemical methods. In Phase I the CWMA mapped and updated their database identifying the most current range of leafy spurge. Phase II will focus on areas identified in Phase I. Noxious weeds adversely affect watershed function, decrease wildlife habitat and displace native plant communities. In addition, leafy spurge and meadow hawkweed release alleopathic toxic chemicals.

Under Phase II, the primary target weed is leafy spurge, a long-lived plant that requires multiple treatments. A mix of Tordon™ and 2,4-D will be used in the uplands and Habitat™ used in the riparian area. Other species such as spotted knapweed and meadow hawkweed will be treated using Milestone™ and Transline™. The CWMA proposes to treat 130 acres along 26 stream miles of salmonid habitat in the upper Grande Ronde. Both the upper and middle reaches of the Grande Ronde are proposed for major re-channeling efforts by CTUIR, Union SWCD and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed. Since leafy spurge's taproot can easily reach 30 feet and when broken re-sprout, treatment along the Grande Ronde is critical to riparian health and ensurimg long-term success of future projects. Eliminating potential weed dispersal along the waterway is also beneficial.

Watershed benefits include improved riparian vegetation, water quality and wildlife habitat. Noxious weeds are very shallow-rooted and therefore lead to decreased soil stability. By treating non-native annual plants, native vegetation will be maintained to improve soil stability, interception and infiltration of precipitation. OWEB funds are requested for wages, contracted services and administration. Wallowa-Whitman National Forest will provide 38% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount.

The proposed project has a direct relationship with the *Oregon Conservation Strategy* (2006) as it lists the Upper Grande Ronde Weed Control Project's entire target weed list as invasive species currently considered to be the primary cause of species becoming threatened and endangered.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Some of the proposed treatments will occur on USFS ground where the herbicide ban was finally lifted. The project is trying to address these specific noxious weeds before they spread further in the riparian corridor.
- Using the data collected identifying weed locations in the Phase I project is positive and indicates the CWMA is implementing its project goals.
- This effort is complementary to other restoration projects nearby. As more streambank modifications and in-stream projects occur with increased ground disturbance, the probability also increases for future weed establishment. Therefore treating them before they reach those sites is important.
- This is a proactive approach to help contain infestations. It is providing a critical service in a difficult topography.
- This is a long-standing project with a modest funding request.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The success of prior treatments was not well-described in the application, and it is unclear how success of this work will be monitored. However, previous project completion reports did indicate positive results.

Concluding analysis:
Tri-County CWMA has previously received several OWEB grants. This application provided clear goals and is part of an ongoing programmatic effort. The request was modest. The review team recognizes the importance of treating noxious weeds. Treating noxious weeds is beneficial to wildlife, as it helps maintain habitat. Controlling weeds along the riparian areas of the upper Grande Ronde is positive from both wildlife and fisheries perspectives. It was also noted that while weeds are never eradicated, it is important to keep infestations in check. The ecological benefits of the project are to maintain native plant communities by preventing their being overtaken by invasive annuals. This is a positive partnership with the USFS, the project has significant ecological merit, and it is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 25,000.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 25,000.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5033**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Baker Sage Grouse Priority Habitat Restoration Phase I		
Applicant:	Tri-Cnty Coop Weed Mgmt Area		
Basin:	POWDER	**County:**	Baker
OWEB Request:	$62,000	**Total Cost:**	$285,000.00
Proposed Match:	$223,000.00		

Application Description

The two areas for this project are in Virtue Flats east of Baker City and in the Medical Springs area south of the Union County line. The Baker BLM, USFWS and ODFW recently announced that the Baker PAC (Priority Area of Conservation) for sage-grouse tripped a population "hard trigger" based on the five-year population trend. This project will survey and treat medusahead and whitetop to improve sage-grouse habitat.

Numerous private landowners within the Baker PAC are currently under the CCAA (Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances) and are working under a cost-share agreement to restore sage-grouse habitat. Other landowners are not qualified or not currently enrolled for CCAA's, but want to improve sage-grouse habitat if technical and financial assistance is available. Annual grasses are a leading cause of sage-grouse population decline due to habitat being overtaken by medusahead, cheatgrass and other invasive annuals. Many areas developed into monocultures that provide virtually no benefit to sage-grouse. Crested wheatgrass stands, whether seeded post-cultivation or for grazing objectives, have the potential to successfully be converted to native bunchgrasses given the right steps and time.

Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) is proposing to survey 2,133 acres of private property and 367 acres of BLM to assess the extent of medusahead spread. Survey work will be done on-the- ground and aerially using helicopters or drones. Mapping software will be used to analyze these triggers to provide data for sage-grouse management planning. Herbicides including glyphosate, imazapic (Plateau™) and aminopyralid (Transline™) will be applied to 150 acres of medusahead and whitetop and 272 acres will be seeded. Native seed mix will include crested wheatgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, bottle brush squirreltail and Sandberg's bluegrass. USFWS partner funding will be used to install 11,200 feet of wildlife-safe fencing. Project partners including landowners, USFWS, BLM, ODFW and NRCS will contribute 360% of the OWEB-request amount as in-kind and cash match.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The application provided good photos of the ongoing Phase I project and helpful maps.
- There are many project partners providing excellent cost-share. BLM still has another $200,000 to obligate to these areas. BLM is allocating $100,000 in chemical cost to the northern portion of project area #2. A BLM coordinator is also assisting with this effort.

- Fall and spring treatments are planned which should help to improve the effectiveness of the herbicide.
- USFWS will provide fencing for seeded areas with a two-year grazing rest planned.
- This effort is ready to implement actual on-the-round restoration in a designated priority area.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- Most of the proposed areas to treat are predominately medusahead; glyphosate is only effective if there is a low seedbank present.
- There is a high probability of failure with medusahead treatment. Many restoration efforts have targeted medusahead with few successes.
- Concerns were raised that transitioning sites from crested wheatgrass to natives such as bluebunch wheatgrass has a low success rate. If subsequent phases are not funded, the treatment is likely to fail without the resources required for seeding.
- No post-project monitoring was included in the application.
- Consider adding a shrub component to the proposed seed mix to benefit sage-grouse habitat.
- The application does not mention the status of the 2,100 acres currently being treated

Concluding analysis:
Tri-County CWMA, USFWS and local partners are working to address the significant decline in sage-grouse population trends due to cheatgrass and medusahead monocultures. This is a high priority area to address habitat needs. The project has many partners and excellent cost-share. However, the sequence and timing of restoration components was confusing. It was unclear if current efforts are effective or if glyphosate would be effective in treating the medusahead. While the goals of the project have high merit, it is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5034**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Tater Road Water Quality Improvement		
Applicant:	Owyhee WC		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:**	Malheur
OWEB Request:	**$45,520.00**	**Total Cost:**	$101,928.00
Proposed Match:	$56,408.00		

Application Description

The Tater Road Water Quality Improvement project is located five miles south of Adrian in the Big Bend area east of the Snake River. Owyhee Watershed Council (OWC) proposes to address water quality concerns by converting 32 acres from furrow irrigation to sprinkler irrigation by installing a pivot. Currently, irrigation tailwater flows into the South Alkali drain directly into the Snake River which borders the project site. The primary crop rotations in Big Bend are pasture, grazing and hay crops with few row-crop farms. This area has a history of excessive erosion rates because of highly erodible soils. Based on the slopes of the fields, soil loss is estimated at approximately 20 to 30 tons per-acre per-year, or over 640 to 960 tons of sediment annually from this farm. Project implementation will address water quality.

Project components include installing: 2,200 feet of 6-inch pipe with risers to provide pressurized water to corners; 1,860 feet of 6-and 8-inch pipe; 1,200 feet of cable con and electrical; a 25 hp pump; 8-inch flowmeter and 646-foot pivot. In addition, 1,600 feet of 18-inch pipe will be installed from the take out to connect to another pipeline funded by an OWEB small grant. The 18-inch pipe will replace an existing ditch and allows for pivot travel across the lateral. Piping the ditch will eliminate sediment, erosion, water loss and chemicals from being transported down the ditch. It will also be used in future restoration projects. The landowner will provide 124% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount.

Implementation addresses the *Owyhee Subbasin Plan* and the *Mid-Snake-Succor Creek TMDL* by reducing sediment and improving water quality, and the *Owyhee Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan* which suggests practices that include irrigation water management and conversion from furrow irrigation to sprinklers.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project is complementary to a previous OWEB small grant, which initiated relationships among OWC and landowners.
- The soils in this area appear to be highly erodible. By installing a pivot and reducing excess watering, runoff and sediment transport into the Snake River will be eliminated.
- The project addresses a significant water quality concern and the photos and sediment estimates document the extent of the problem.
- The project is complementary to similar projects in the area and builds on previous efforts.

- Implementation addresses DEQ's priority objectives for the basin.
- Producers and irrigation districts in Malheur County are making significant strides in converting cropped acreage from flood irrigation to sprinklers.
- Water quality will improve as sediment and nutrient loads are eliminated.
- Application provided excellent detail on the budget, photos, and maps.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The need for the 18-inch pipe seemed unclear and would have benefited from more explanation. The application did state that it eliminates a ditch and associated run-off, allows for pivot travel, and will tie into an existing pipeline. By installing this pipe and connecting into the existing pipe, future restoration projects to the north can be implemented.
- The cost per acre was high. However, a high percentage of that cost was due to the 18-inch pipe which has significant additional benefits as described above.

Concluding analysis:
The project is complementary to many projects sponsored by OWC. The council has worked successfully with many local partners to develop priority areas and implement successful projects. Implementation will have significant water quality benefits due to the project's location right on the Snake River. This project has high demonstration value to other landowners in the Big Bend area for future implementation projects. The project will help OWC make Big Bend a future priority area for restoration activities. The team agreed the project should be implemented in a timely manner. There is high ecological merit and the project is ready to fund this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund reduced**.** Remove 3-inch riser assemblies from the budget.

Regional Review Team Priority
11 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 42,880.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund reduced**.** Remove 3-inch riser assemblies from the budget.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 42,880.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5035**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Cleaning Up Down by the Malheur River		
Applicant:	Malheur WC		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:**	Malheur
OWEB Request:	**$67,513.00**	**Total Cost:**	$210,092.00
Proposed Match:	$142,579.00		

Application Description

This project is located two miles south of Vale adjacent to the Malheur River above the confluence with Bully Creek. Malheur Watershed Council (MWC) is working with three landowners to address water quality problems caused by flood irrigation on 116 total acres. All three properties border the river. The proposed actions will convert these fields from furrow to sprinkler irrigation or construct sediment retention ponds, reducing sediment input by 1,160 to 2,320 tons per year, along with associated phosphorus load.

The Malheur River is among the top three most polluted rivers in Oregon according to DEQ, making this location a high priority for restoration. Several project components are proposed for the three properties. The first 36-acre property will have a solid-set and small pivot installed on 9.5 acres. In addition, a sediment pond will be constructed to address runoff from a 26-acre field. The second 37-acre property will construct a sediment pond and replace earthen ditches with gated pipe. The sediment pond will collect silt and fertilizer to settle out before reaching the Malheur. A 1,960 feet 10-inch mainline will be installed from a pumping station to two bubblers, which will remove any debris before entering the gated-pipe. The third property will convert the irrigation system from flood to sprinkler by installing two, 3-tower pivots on 43 acres. A power pole, transformer and phase converter will be required to provide power to the pumping station. In addition, 1,760 of 6-inch and 8-inch pipe will be installed along with 1,850 feet of cable con. The three landowners will contribute 211% of the OWEB-request funds in both cash and in-kind cost-share.

Project implementation addresses water quality and will achieve high results since concerns addressed closest to rivers and creek yield the greatest benefit. Implementation addresses the *Malheur River Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan*, which suggests practices that include irrigation water management and conversion from furrow irrigation to sprinklers and the *Malheur River Basin TMDL* that also addresses converting from furrow irrigation to sprinklers to reduce sediment, nutrient and phosphorous.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project's location right on the Malheur River will greatly reduce the large amount of sediment currently being deposited. Implementing projects adjacent to rivers and streams will have the highest immediate impact on water quality.

- The landowners' cost-share is substantial and shows high likelihood of a successful outcome.
- The amount of tailwater flowing into the Malheur River will be greatly reduced.
- The team appreciated that there were separate maps, photos and summaries for each landowner which facilitated the review of a multi-landowner application.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The cost for the power pole seemed high.
- The watermaster should be consulted to determine whether a "place of use change" will be required.

Concluding analysis:

Project implementation has a very high likelihood of immediate success due to its location adjacent to the Malheur River. Both sediment input and tailwater flow will be greatly reduced. Also, treating three adjacent landowners is positive and has excellent outreach potential for future projects. The landowners also have significant cost-share. In addition to the fields where pivots will be installed, the project also treats acreage that may not convert to sprinklers by constructing sediment ponds. There are limitations to using sprinkler irrigation based on the types of crops, field configuration and other factors. By implementing constructed sediment ponds, water quality in Malheur River will be improved. The review team agreed there is excellent ecological merit and the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

7 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 67,513.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 67,513.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5036**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Table Top Water Quality Improvement		
Applicant:	Malheur WC		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:**	Malheur
OWEB Request:	**$30,903.00**	**Total Cost:**	$49,143.00
Proposed Match:	$18,240.00		

Application Description

Table Top is located west of Vale and is adjacent to Bully Creek. Malheur Watershed Council (MWC) is working with a new landowner to address water quality problems caused by flood irrigation on 28 acres. The project will convert to sprinkler irrigation to stop irrigation-induced erosion on these fields. The previous owner used large amounts of water causing excessive erosion, which resulted in gullies on the 45% slopes below the field. The current landowner has moderated water use, but erosion is still occurring due to the nature of furrow irrigation. The estimated erosion rate on this property is between 10 to 20 tons per acre or 280 to 560 tons annually. The project will improve water quality and eliminate inputs from bacteria, nutrients, sediments and associated pollutants into Bully Creek.

Bully Creek is rated as one of the most impaired streams according to DEQ making this project a high priority for restoration. Project components include installing 1,060 feet of 6-inch pipe; 620 feet of 2-inch pipe; 22 risers; a 10-hp pump and screen. Two power poles and transformer will be required to provide power. The landowner will purchase and install wheel lines as the field configuration is not conducive to pivots. The landowner will contribute 59% of the OWEB-request funds in both cash and in-kind cost-share.

Project implementation addresses water quality and will achieve high results since concerns addressed closest to rivers and creek yield the greatest benefit. Implementation addresses the *Malheur River Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan,* which suggests practices that include irrigation water management and conversion from furrow irrigation to sprinklers and the *Malheur River Basin TMDL* that also addresses converting from furrow irrigation to sprinklers to reduce sediment, nutrient and phosphorous.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The site visit demonstrated the extent of erosion occurring.
- The topographic nature of the property makes soil retention challenging. The review team appreciated the 3-D and other photos of the property that showed the steep nature of the property.
- The application was straightforward and addresses a problem that needs remediation.
- Cost-share from the landowner is significant and indicates that he is highly invested in the project.

- Implementation addresses the two biggest concerns in this basin including improving water quality and reducing sediment deposition into the Malheur River.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The per-acre cost of $1,103 was high.
- The reason for the 2-inch pipe was not clear; however, it seemed that the pipe may be for the 22 risers which were not depicted on the map. The area where the risers would irrigate was also not clearly depicted.
- It appears that while the current irrigation method is better than that used by the previous landowner, additional irrigation management is needed.
- From the site visit, it was not clear how much water was actually going to Bully Creek.

Concluding analysis:
The project is complementary to many projects sponsored by MWC. The council has worked successfully with many local partners in the Bully Creek area with both large grants and small grants. Implementation will have water quality benefits to Bully Creek, but it is unclear just how much runoff actually reaches Bully Creek. Project components will improve irrigation management and reduce the gullying effect that field runoff currently has on the steep adjacent slopes. The team agreed while there are marginal water quality benefits to project implementation, the project is ready to fund this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
13 of 13
Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 30,903.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5037**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Hurricane Pipeline		
Applicant:	Wallowa SWCD		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:**	Wallowa
OWEB Request:	**$459,043.00**	**Total Cost:**	$1,511,387.00
Proposed Match:	$1,052,344.00		

Application Description

The project will reduce erosion caused by irrigation on steeper slopes and decrease the amount of water diverted from Hurricane Creek. A pipeline will be installed to convey water from the takeout to the sprinklers on Alder Slope located west of Joseph and Enterprise. Significant elevation changes contribute to inconsistent pressure throughout the system, which is antiquated and leaking. Irrigation withdrawals, especially in late season, significantly reduce instream flow in Hurricane Creek which is detrimental to ESA-listed steelhead, Chinook salmon and bull trout.

The project is part of the "Alder Slope Cooperative Partnership" between NRCS, ODF and Wallowa SWCD. The Alder Slope Partnership addresses both overstocked forestlands and irrigation improvements. There are three main pipeline systems on Alder Slope: Ruby Peak, Hurricane and Alder Slope. The top end of these systems can have insufficient pressure to run sprinklers while the lower slopes can exceed 150-200 psi. Because of the high pressure, micro-hydro power units can be installed directly in the irrigation pipelines. After the pipeline is installed, NRCS will use EQIP to cost-share on-farm improvements. The Hurricane pipeline will provide improvements to 1,500 irrigated acres.

The project proposes to restructure and/or consolidate multiple pipelines. Once the pipelines are in place, on-farm irrigation systems improvements can be implemented. Project components include the following pipe lengths: 1,860 feet of 36-inch pipe; 5,850 feet of 30-inch pipe; 5,510 feet of 20-inch; 2,620 feet of 16-inch; 5,530 feet of 14-inch; 3,920 feet of 12-inch; 8.880 feet of 10-inch; 1,830 feet of 8-inch; 4,160 feet of 6-inch and 3,120 feet of 4-inch. In addition valves, concrete thrust blocks and sand filters will also be installed. Landowners, OWRD, Energy Trust and NRCS will provide 229% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project is part of the Alder slope Cooperative Partnership with NRCS and ODFW which treats both irrigated agriculture and overstocked private forest lands.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The project lacks sufficient planning and design detail. The application seems premature.
- It is unclear where water is being saved or conserved. Where is the water actually going?
- There does not appear to be sufficient landowner support at this point in the project.

- The project seemed to be more of an upgrade or maintenance of an existing pipeline. It is not clear how much is actually new pipe and whether it is replacing earthen ditches or other conveyance systems.
- It is unclear whether pipeline easements were obtained.
- There were no measuring devices in the budget.
- The ecological benefit is not clear.

Concluding analysis:
The project needs additional planning and design to fully understand the ecological benefit. The application overall lacked essential detail. It is not clear if Energy Trust is a partner and if so what role they will have. Perhaps most of the ecological benefit occurs after the on-farm improvements are implemented. While the project is part of a comprehensive effort from the Alder Slope Cooperative Partnership that will treat both forest fuels and irrigation inefficiency, it is not clear the ecological benefit that this pipeline will have. Further design, planning and landowner recruitment is needed to better ascertain how this pipeline will provide watershed benefits. It is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5038**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Beaver Tables Medusahead		
Applicant:	Harney Co Coop Weed Management		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:**	Harney
OWEB Request:	**$245,206.00**	**Total Cost:**	$529,606.00
Proposed Match:	$185,000.00		

Application Description

Located near Crane by the "Beaver Tables," this project is in sage-grouse preliminary general habitat (PGH) as identified by the BLM. This project area is north and southeast of preliminary primary habitat (PPH) or core habitat. Leks are located to the east. The primary objective is to restore critical sagebrush-steppe heavily impacted by medusahead rye by aerial application of herbicide and upland seeding. The CWMA and project partners are trying to keep the medusahead from spreading into the leks to the north in the Otis PAC (priority area of concern) east towards Crowley.

A second objective is to reduce spreading medusahead to non-invaded areas by treating major dispersal vectors including roads. Project locations were chosen using strategic boundaries such as the Crane-Venator Road and Highway 78. Medusahead infestation was expanded by the 2014 Buzzard Complex wildfire. Adjacent public lands were untreated for many years due to a court injunction that prevented the use of more appropriate herbicides. The BLM is now able to use herbicides that provide a more effective treatment for medusahead. Medusahead adversely affects perennial grasses, as well as sage-grouse forage and brood-rearing habitat. By displacing native perennial grasses and shrubs, important food sources and cover are eliminated or greatly reduced.

The Harney County Coordinated Weed Management Area (CWMA) proposes to treat 1,700 acres on eight separate private ownerships with Plateau™ (Imazapic) and a drift-reducing surfactant. Spraying will occur twice in concurrent years to improve effectiveness. In addition, 1,200 acres of the 1,700 treated acres will be seeded with crested or Siberian wheatgrass to curtail re-infestation of annual grasses. Grasses were suggested from OSU Extension and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Burns. To better penetrate the heavy thatch layer, 5 to 10 gallons of water per-acre will be used along with the 6 to 8 ounces per-acre of Plateau and an adjuvant. In addition, DSL will aerially spray 350 acres sprayed twice over concurrent years. The BLM will also treat another 5,000 acres and NRCS will aerially treat 3,125 acres twice over a two-year period.

Project partners including the BLM, DSL, NRCS CWMA and landowners are providing 116% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Reviewers discussed helpful information provided at the site visit that was not included in the application. CWMA and partners are trying to clean up smaller patches of medusahead before they

expand to larger infestations. They are also successfully using late-fall/early-winter grazing to "soften-up" sites to enable more effective herbicide penetration to medusahead. The BLM has wildfire funding for herbicides, but they is not much core habitat in those areas. The Buzzard Complex was patchy and left a lot of intact sage-brush islands. Private ground seen during the site visit showed successful post-fire forage kochia planting. Also, while much private land was burned during the wildfires, fires in this area were less severe.

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The partners are working to keep medusahead out of core priority areas for sage-grouse.
- Having two aerial applications of herbicide is beneficial. It indicates that the CWMA acknowledges that one treatment is generally ineffective.
- Overall project costs including herbicide, seed and application rates are reasonable.
- This effort is the first phase of a larger project over the next five years which shows future planning and timelines involving multiple partners.
- By private landowner partnering with the agencies, the overall cost of the aerial application of both herbicide and seed is reduced. Mobilization costs for helicopters and other equipment is spread over an economy of scale.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- It was unclear whether seeding through the thick layer of thatch will be effective.
- The application did not include grazing management strategies.

Concluding analysis:
Removal of the herbicide injunction enables the BLM to treat noxious weeds with more effective herbicides. Treating this area in a timely manner may decrease the opportunity for medusahead to spread to core habitat. The CWMA and partners are taking a pro-active approach to protect core sage-grouse habitat. There are numerous project partners treating this area in a landscape-level approach. The project has medium ecological merit and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 245,206.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5039**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Parsnip #2		
Applicant:	Owyhee WC		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:**	Malheur
OWEB Request:	**$131,736.00**	**Total Cost:**	$211,736.00
Proposed Match:	$80,000.00		

Application Description

The Parsnip Peak Invasive Annuals project area encompasses 10,860 acres of state land (5,332 acres) and private land (5,528 acres) in the sagebrush-steppe rangeland eight miles south of Jordan Valley. It is in ODFW's core sage-grouse habitat with 12 active leks nearby. The project proposes to control medusahead using integrated pest management strategies, including chemical treatment, seeding and installation of cross-fencing. Medusahead and other invasive annuals are out-competing native plant communities key for wildlife habitat and economic productivity of resource lands. Project objectives are to help restore native plant communities and improve habitat, especially for sage-grouse.

Project components include chemically treating 2,000 acres of medusahead using Plateau™. To penetrate thick thatch layers, 6 ounces of Plateau will be applied with 20 gallons of water per acre. A bacterial amendment, *Pseudomonas*, will be added with the herbicide. Non-thatch areas will receive 10 gallons of water per acre. The seeding mix will follow NRCS specifications and include Siberian wheatgrass, tall wheatgrass, Great Basin wild rye, bluebunch wheatgrass, sheep fescue, Ladak alfalfa, sweet clover, Idaho fescue and crested wheatgrass. Seed will be applied using a rangeland drill or by broadcast. Broadcast seeding rates will be twice that of drilling rates. Reseeding will occur one year following chemical treatment and ideally after fall precipitation. The 15,000 feet of cross-fencing will be installed into existing fence lines to facilitate implementation of conservation management plans. Grazing utilization transects (GPS points) will be established in treatment and non-treatment areas prior to project implementation; utilization will be monitored at transect locations annually for 5 years.

The project is a continuation of a previous project which completed the survey of 10,000 acres last year. The working group is comprised of NRCS, USFWS, ODFW, Malheur SWCD, OSU Extension, Jordan Valley CWMA, Owyhee Watershed Council (OWC), DSL, BLM and USFWS. The Parsnip Peak area was selected due its significant sage-grouse habitat, critical mule deer and elk winter-range habitat and willing landowners. Watershed benefits are improved upland vegetation, wildlife habitat and decreased soil erosion. Cost-share partners including landowners, DSL, Jordan Valley CWMA and NRCS will provide 61% of the OWEB-requested amount.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The team appreciated the comprehensive nature of the project especially regarding future planning. The project is good follow-up to the survey and inventory funded by the previous project, 215-5060.
- The five-year grazing management plan is beneficial to ensure grass stand establishment.
- Many agencies and organizations are involved with the partnership and are providing substantial cost-share. NRCS recently awarded RCPP funds for the High Desert Drought Resilient Ranching partnership, which is complementary to the Parsnip Peak project. The RCPP will address invasive annual grasses and plant communities impacted by drought conditions across the Great Basin's northern range landscape.
- Seeding detail was well described with a diverse mix and appropriate application rates.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- It was unclear if seeded areas would have follow-up treatment and whether the seeding success rate would be determined.
- Treatment of areas with greater than 50% medusahead without reseeding may be ineffective.

Concluding analysis:
The review team agreed that this application was well-written, providing excellent detail with good maps and photos. Excellent detail on the seed mix and application rates was also included. The project involves multiple landowners and agencies who are collaborating on this effort in a remote area. The team was impressed by the number of agencies and landowners participating in this effort. After the application was submitted, *Pseudomonas* was no longer available for purchase in Oregon. Therefore, that budget element needed to be removed.

The team was impressed by the number of acres affected. The completed inventory from the previous grant is beneficial to prioritize restoration efforts. Additional acres will be treated with future NRCS funding with the RCPP. Overall, the team agreed that this project has high ecological merit and implementation will improve sage-grouse habitat.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund reduced. Remove *Pseudomonas* from budget.

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 113,736.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund reduced. Remove *Pseudomonas* from budget.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 113,736.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5040**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Boner Pivot		
Applicant:	Wallowa SWCD		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:**	Wallowa
OWEB Request:	**$51,393.00**	**Total Cost:**	$118,081.00
Proposed Match:	$66,689.00		

Application Description

This project is located approximately four miles southwest of Enterprise on Alder Slope. A 115-acre farm is currently irrigated by wheel lines. The project will upgrade the irrigation system to pivots to allow the landowner to provide more precision irrigation to meet the vegetative needs and increase water efficiency. It is anticipated that less water will be diverted if on-farm efficiency increases resulting in more water left in-stream. Steep slopes and uneven ground result in inefficient and over- application of irrigation water. Project implementation will result in improved water quality and quantity left in Hurricane Creek.

The project is part of the "Alder Slope Cooperative Partnership" between NRCS, ODF and Wallowa SWCD. The Alder Slope Partnership addresses overstocked forestlands and irrigation improvements. Improving irrigation efficiency will reduce the amount of water diverted from Hurricane Creek delivered to Alder Slope. Working with NRCS, the landowner will monitor water use by estimating crop water requirements and monitoring with flow meters. Project components include installing: 1,200 feet of 8-inch pipe; 8 pivot crossings over Spring Creek; a diversion box and pivot. The existing 6-inch line will remain in place since it serves an adjacent landowner. The landowner and NRCS will provide 130% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount. Watershed benefits include reducing erosion from irrigation on steeper slopes and improving water quantity by reducing the amount of water diverted from Hurricane Creek.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The application is part of the Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) for Alder Slope consisting of forestry improvement and irrigation efficiencies. As such, it complements other previously funded OWEB projects that were incorporated into the partnership
- A flowmeter will measures the amount of irrigation water that is diverted to the site, which is a useful tool for the landowner to evaluate crop needs as part of an efficient irrigation system.
- The project is in a priority area location.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The application lacked essential detail. It was unclear if it connects into a piped lateral or where the take-out is. It also referred to the turn out as the point-of-diversion which was confusing.

- A concern was raised that due to the nature of the slope and location of the pivot point, a very large pivot pad will need to be constructed to keep the pivot in place. Also, the actual slope percentage was not provided.
- There are already wheel lines on the property. Converting to pivots will not greatly increase ecological merit. The amount of erosion currently coming off the property is slight.
- The applicant checked that the project will benefit salmon and steelhead, but those benefits were not articulated. It was unclear if there will be actual water savings and where those savings will be from.

Concluding analysis:
The project is part of the Alder Slope CIS partnership. Treating the irrigation and forest issues concerns on the slope enables the NRCS, ODF and Wallowa SWCD to take a landscape approach to watershed health issues. However, this project did not clearly articulate how it ties into the overall CIS. More detail regarding the CIS would also have been beneficial. It was unclear what the water savings in Hurricane Creek would be. The maps needed additional detail. While the project may have merit, without more clarifying information the team could not recommend it for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5041**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Birkmaier Flood to Sprinkler		
Applicant:	Wallowa SWCD		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:**	Wallowa
OWEB Request:	**$86,304.00**	**Total Cost:**	$142,877.00
Proposed Match:	$56,573.00		

Application Description

This project is located about 4 miles south of Enterprise and is situated between Highway 82 and the Wallowa River. The project will install a conveyance pipeline and sprinklers to replace flood irrigation. There are 52 flood-irrigated acres with a shallow draw running through it. During the irrigation season, uneven ground makes water application challenging. Runoff goes into the draw which flows into the nearby Wallowa River. Sprinkler irrigation will eliminate tailwater reaching the Wallowa and will supply even irrigation. In addition, the landowner is proposing to plant a cover crop to improve soil conditions and tilth. Current soil conditions are poor due to high amount of gravel present. Project implementation will improve water quality and soil health.

Project components include installing 4,600 of 10-inch pipe; 1,330 feet of 8-inch pipe; 1,230 of 6-inch pipe; a flow meter and wheel lines. Conveyance pipe is sized for future participation of downstream landowners. In addition, cover crops will be planted for one to two years to improve soil health. The landowners will work with NRCS to determine optimal irrigation scheduling based on vegetation requirements. They will also record water use and work with OWRD's local water master. Project implementation will eliminate irrigation tailwater, which may contain sediment and nutrients affecting the Wallowa. Instream flow may benefit as a result of a more efficient irrigation system. The landowners will contribute 66% of OWEB-request amount as cash and in-kind match.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project implementation will convert from flood irrigation to sprinkler which has water quality benefits.
- The application had letters of support from OWRD's watermaster and the landowner. The watermaster indicated that increasing the efficiency of delivery benefits all patrons of the Granger Ditch. Pipe and sprinkler conversion helps ensure that a producer can be efficient with water application and stay within their late-season duty cap.
- The landowner cash match is significant and indicates that investment in the project, leading to long-term sustainability.
- Working with the local watermaster to reduce water use and NRCS to ascertain crop irrigation demand is beneficial to understanding the amount of water needed.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The application overstates the watershed benefits and does not include conserved water as a benefit.
- The current system seems to be poorly functioning, and may not be worth improving.
- Planting cover crops in a pasture seems unnecessary.
- The project is designed to reduce nutrient runoff, but it includes adding additional fertilizer.
- It was unclear whether tailwater is causing a water quality problem; additional flows during low-flow periods may be beneficial, especially for salmonids.
- The actual treated acreage is confusing. The application stated both 52 and 130.
- Participation from the other landowners is not addressed.

Concluding analysis:
The application lacks sufficient detail to better understand the actual ecological merit. It seemed that the project would improve the ease and functionality of irrigation, but the watershed benefit is not significant. There are water quality benefits but they are less than other irrigation projects. Water quantity benefits could have been more clearly articulated. The team did not think that this project was ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5042**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	West Zumwalt Prairie Weed Control		
Applicant:	Wallowa Resources		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:**	Wallowa
OWEB Request:	**$23,630.00**	**Total Cost:**	$44,673.00
Proposed Match:	$21,043.00		

Application Description

The Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership (WCP) of Wallowa Resources coordinates noxious weed management on nearly 1.6 million acres of public and private land in northeast Oregon including the Zumwalt Prairie. This proposed restoration action seeks to protect a portion of northwest Zumwalt Prairie treating populations of sulfur cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*), a noxious weed. Surveys in the summer of 2016 found large, previously unknown infestations on the western edge of the North Zumwalt in the Crow Creek Area. Since the population was recently identified, they have the opportunity for Early Detection-Rapid Response (EDRR) to reduce the spread of cinquefoil into the inner grasslands. Zumwalt Prairie is a conservation opportunity area with an intact native bunchgrass community.

The project will conduct ground surveys on 1,000 acres to determine the boundaries of sulfur cinquefoil and document other weeds present. In addition, 420 acres of a large infestation will be treated aerially with the appropriate herbicides. A smaller 35-acre site will be treated using spot or ATV applications of appropriate herbicides. Two photo points will be established per treatment site to assess vegetation change over time. Maintaining an intact native bunchgrass is an important objective of this project to protect this diverse and unique landscape. Cost-share partners including USFS and four landowners will contribute 89% of the OWEB-requested amount.

Implementation is consistent with the *Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan* (2004) that lists identifies noxious weeds as contributors to increased sedimentation as a high priority in the lower Grande Ronde watershed. The *Oregon invasive Species Action Plan* (2005) advocates education and cooperation as key components to an effective strategy to control invasive species.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The application provided historical background and was easy to follow.
- Zumwalt Prairie is a very important rangeland ecosystem in the Pacific Northwest. It is a unique area with an intact native bunchgrass plant community.
- The landowners have a financial investment in the project which indicates a high likelihood of long-term sustainability.
- Using early detection-raid response (EDRR) provides a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- Follow-up treatment, seeding, and the number of applications were not addressed. The herbicide was not listed. It was not clear what was to be applied, at what rate, by what method, and when. It was not clear whether an adjuvant will be needed.
- Project management costs seemed high. The total of wages, indirect and post grant exceeded contracted services.

Concluding analysis:
The team agrees that protecting the native bunchgrass community in Zumwalt from the threat of noxious weeds is very important. The use of EDRR is also positive. However, while the application provided good background detail, it lacked essential detail to recommend the project. Without knowing the type of herbicide or whether seeding is required, the likelihood of success could not be determined. Also, it was unclear how the budgeted amount for the herbicide could be determined without knowing what the selected herbicide is. Project management costs were also high. While the intent of the project is worthwhile, it is not recommended for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5043**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Lower Clear Creek Restoration (Phase 1)		
Applicant:	Powder Basin WC		
Basin:	POWDER	**County:**	Baker
OWEB Request:	**$148,461.00**	**Total Cost:**	$188,573.00
Proposed Match:	$40,112.00		

Application Description

Clear Creek, a tributary of Pine Creek in the Brownlee Subbasin near Halfway, has critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout in the headwaters. Restoration will include fencing, in-stream structures and streambank protection. Sections of Clear Creek were artificially straightened and further compromised by 2007 and 2010 flood events. High flows from Pine Creek flowed into Clear Creek resulting in widespread bank failure, channel migration and loss of pasture along local streams and creeks. In addition, loss of riparian vegetation caused by improper livestock grazing led to most of the current degraded condition. This led to bank failure, channel migration and undesirable width-to-depth ratios.

Powder Basin Watershed Council (PBWC) received a technical assistance grant to develop a comprehensive restoration plan to improve hydrologic function, increase fish habitat diversity, remove fish-passage barriers and meet landowner needs along a two-mile reach of Clear Creek. After collecting base-line data using drone-mounted LiDAR, ground-based surveys, computer modeling, stream gauge data and landowner interviews, 30% designs were developed.

Clear Creek has 7.3 miles of bull trout spawning and rearing habitat with less than 40% canopy cover. Restoring riparian conditions is essential to improve bull trout habitat. On the Gulick property, 3,200 feet of elk fencing is proposed to deter elk from excessive herbivory along Clear Creek. Also, brush fascines, flow deflectors, habitat structures and access ramps will be installed during the in-stream work window. On the Matile property, 1,400 feet of livestock fencing will be installed. In addition, 2.5 acres of woody riparian vegetation will be planted at 1,500 stems per-acre; 0.5 acres of emergent wetland will be planted at 6,000 stems per-acre and perennial grass seed planted on 3.2 acres at 80 pounds per acre.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, USFWS will provide 27% cash cost-share of the OWEB-request amount. Restoring habitat within migratory corridors of the Pine Creek watershed is emphasized in the 2014 draft *Bull Trout Recovery Plan*.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This section of Clear Creek was adversely affected by the previous flood events. There is a demonstrated need for restoration efforts to improve riparian and fisheries habitat.

- The proposed design was based on a recent technical assistance grant that provided the 30% designs with bioengineered solutions.
- Proposed designs will stabilize the bank, lower stream temperatures and improve fish passage.
- Due to the large numbers of elk in this area, the elk fencing is a positive action to protect riparian vegetation.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The application was very confusing. It was difficult to determine which components were associated with which of two properties. It was not clear if the landowners are financially invested with the project which makes the potential for project sustainability uncertain.
- The elk fence cost seemed high.
- The planting plan was not clear. While the planting density seemed appropriate, there was a lack of detail. Plant establishment, including watering and weed abatement, needed more explanation.
- Application rate for grass seed was 80 pounds per acre where a typical rate is 15 pounds per acre.

Concluding analysis:

Clear Creek is an important bull trout stream and will benefit greatly from restoration efforts. Having willing landowners ready to participate is also positive. However, the application lacked essential detail and was not clear. It did not seem that the landowners were willing to commit any resources to the project, which could impact long-term success. The proposed activities are important to implement. A future application should provide a clear description of proposed actions for each property. While future implementation has potential for high ecological merit, the application is not ready to be recommended this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5044**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Getting the Power Outta the Way		
Applicant:	Malheur WC		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:**	Malheur
OWEB Request:	**$19,300.00**	**Total Cost:**	$93,359.00
Proposed Match:	$74,059.00		

Application Description

Located near Willow Creek approximately 8 miles north of Vale, this project will complete a previous effort begun by the landowner by converting flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation on the remaining 16 acres to improve water quality. A pivot was previously installed on 37 acres to address flood irrigation on farm ground with highly erodible soils on slopes varying from 1% to 8%. The previous project was not completed due to the presence of a power line which was planned to be buried. Burying the power line at the time the pivot was installed proved to be cost-prohibitive. Currently the pivot irrigates 21 acres. The remaining 16 acres are flood-irrigated due to the power line blocking the pivot path. Tailwater from furrow-irrigated field flows into Willow Creek approximately one mile away.

Project components include burying 1,250 feet of power line. Project components for the pivot were all previously installed. Landowner contribution will be 384% of the OWEB-requested amount including cash and in-kind.

Implementation of efficient irrigation systems will minimize erosion, reduce transport of farm chemicals into Willow Creek and ultimately the Malheur and Snake Rivers. The project will improve water quality and address limited water availability. The project addresses irrigation-induced erosion caused by flood irrigation. This project will help reduce runoff and pollutants by reducing excess sediment, phosphorus, nitrate and *E. coli* deposition in Willow Creek and ultimately the Malheur and Snake Rivers.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Implementation will complete a previous project in Willow Creek where numerous water quality improvements were made to the irrigation systems. That project was not an OWEB-funded project but financed by the landowner.
- The project connects to a piped lateral previously funded by OWEB.
- There are direct water quality benefits to Willow Creek.
- This project is complementary to the numerous other flood-to-sprinkler irrigation systems in the Willow Creek drainage.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- It was unclear if the powerline services more than just the landowner.

- The cost per acre is high when considering the 16 acres affected by this project; however, if the entire 37 acres is considered, the cost per acre is reasonable and compares well with other similar projects.

Concluding analysis:
The project is complementary to other water quality improvement efforts in this basin and completes a project previously funded by the landowner who had a high amount of financial contribution to the project. The team agreed that the project addresses water quality and should be implemented to complete the previous effort. The project is a fairly simple solution. The team agrees that the water quality benefits are high since flood irrigation will be converted to sprinkler, and that the project is ready to fund this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
10 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 19,300.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 19,300.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5045**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Vista View Pipeline		
Applicant:	Malheur SWCD		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:**	Malheur
OWEB Request:	**$323,812.00**	**Total Cost:**	$857,321.00
Proposed Match:	$533,510.00		

Application Description

The Vista View Pipeline project is located six miles west of Ontario. Owyhee Irrigation District's (OID) earthen lateral 38.7 currently supplies 16 cfs of irrigation water to 640 contiguous acres of highly erodible soils. This project will replace the earthen ditch with pressurized pipe to allow the landowners to convert from flood irrigation to sprinkler or drip. Once the pipeline is installed, NRCS will provide cost-share for on-farm irrigation efficiencies. The current irrigation is furrow-flood utilizing open-earthen and concrete delivery systems. Erosion rates are 10 to 14 tons per-acre (TPA) or 6,400 to 8,960 total annual tons. Heavy enriched sediment is transported to the Shoe String Canal and is either delivered to landowners in the Shoe String or return flowed to the Malheur River. Primary crop rotation consists of grain, alfalfa, corn, beans, onions, potatoes, sugar beets and pasture.

The project will install 10,500 feet of pipe in 12-inch, 21-inch and 24-inch diameters; 7 turnouts and 7 flowmeters into the existing earthen canal. Project implementation addresses irrigation-induced erosion, sediment and nutrient loading, inefficient irrigation and water loss through seepage and evaporation. Project partners include Owyhee Irrigation District, NRCS and landowners will contribute 165% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount.

Implementation addresses the *Malheur Subbasin Plan* (2004) by reducing sediment and improving water quality; the *Malheur Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan* which suggests practices include irrigation water management and conversion from furrow irrigation to sprinklers and the *Snake River-Hells Canyon TMDL* also recommends converting from furrow irrigation to sprinklers to reduce sediment, nutrient and phosphorous.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project has good planning with landowners enrolled with NRCS. It is a comprehensive approach that includes on-farm improvements.
- This is a new priority area for NRCS. They are making significant improvement in irrigation water management throughout Malheur County.
- The pipeline will also convey water to the Malheur Experiment Station, providing outreach opportunities in the future.

- The growers on this pipeline are highly motivated to utilize this system to make on-farm improvements.
- Water quality benefits for implementing the TMDL are very high.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- None

The application provided good detail and background. The application was easy to read and comprehend. Installing pressurized pipe in an earthen lateral has very significant water quality benefits to 640 acres. Implementation will significantly reduce sediment loading, seepage and evaporation. Most of the OWEB funds (96%) are for materials. Cost-share from NRCS and OID is significant and water quality benefits are substantial. Implementation of the Visa View pipeline meets OWEB's mission of restoring healthy watersheds that support thriving communities and strong economies. The project has high ecological merit and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 323,812.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 323,812.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5046**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Juntura Riparian Restoration and Pumpback Irrigation System		
Applicant:	Malheur SWCD		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:**	Malheur
OWEB Request:	**$165,248.00**	**Total Cost:**	$223,994.00
Proposed Match:	$58,746.00		

Application Description

The project is located on the South Fork of the Malheur River near its confluence with the North Fork of the Malheur River east of Juntura. To improve riparian vegetation and reduce sediment transport, the applicant is proposing to install a pumpback irrigation system and plant the riparian area. Streambank conditions are adversely affected by Highway 20, a bridge and an abandoned railroad grade. Much of the river was straightened and vegetation removed in the early 1960's. Beulah Reservoir is 14 miles upstream and dam operations affect stream hydrology. Additionally, Highway 20 restricts the river and constricts the flow to under the bridge. The railroad constricts the river's movement within the floodplain. This has changed sediment deposition and transport, bank stability and the vegetative community. In 2010, high flows and ice jams caused severe bank erosion along this portion of the SF Malheur River, adding to the problem. The riparian area lacks tall vertical structure. The Malheur River is listed as impaired for sediment, nutrients, bacteria and phosphorous.

The pumpback will treat 100% of the tailwater in the field drain before entering the Malheur River. Project components include installing 5,140 feet of 14-inch pipe; 34 alfalfa (cap) valves and a sediment pond. The pipe will replace the south ditch. A pump installed in the sediment pond will convey irrigation water to the fields. Tailwater will flow back into the pond and recycled water will be used again. The pumpback will treat 110 acres.

Riparian vegetation treatments include planting 480 willow posts along one mile of the SF Malheur; site preparation on 1.5 acres to eliminate reed canary grass, install 80 cages and weed mats. Aluminum foil will be wrapped around the base of each cutting to deter rodents. The cages will deter elk browsing. A total of 15 acres of riparian area will be treated.

Watershed benefits include decreased bank erosion, improved riparian vegetation and improved aquatic habitat. The landowner and Idaho Power will provide 35% cash and in-kind cost-share. Implementation follows the *Malheur River Basin Agricultural Water Quality Plan* as it addresses riparian area management to restore vegetation and improved streambank stability.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review:*

- The planting plan was designed well. It was important to take elk herbivory into consideration when designing the project. Adding foil to the cuttings, while labor intensive

and increasing the cost, should greatly improve survival rates. This is a good site to plant willows.

- The plan for reed canarygrass control was also well designed. Eliminating the canarygrass will also improve survival rates.
- Piping the drainage ditch will help to reduce runoff, improve water quality and help to stabilize the banks.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The team was confused by the need for the pumpback system. Also, Clemons filters should not be needed.
- The pumpback and excavation should be taken out of the budget. The excavation cost per yard was very high.

Concluding analysis:
The team agreed that the riparian aspect of the project and piping the ditch had high ecological merit. The pumpback will not improve the ecological outcomes of the project and should not be included. The planting plan was described thoroughly. Primary ecological benefits would be improved water quality, reduced temperature, improved bank storage and reduced sediment. Riparian vegetation and condition will be improved. The project is located in a highly visible area along Highway 20 and therefore has excellent outreach potential. Overall, the team agrees there is high ecological merit to warrant funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund reduced with conditions. Remove the cost of the pumpback.

Regional Review Team Priority
9 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 105,208.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund reduced with conditions. Remove the cost of the pumpback.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 105,208.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5047**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Hoodoo Restoration		
Applicant:	Malheur SWCD		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:**	Malheur
OWEB Request:	**$287,194.00**	**Total Cost:**	$359,031.00
Proposed Match:	$71,837.00		

Application Description

Hoodoo Restoration is located approximately 50 miles west of Ontario on 160 acres of private land and 3,152 of State lands. The applicant proposes to develop one-half of Hoodoo Spring which flows at 6 gallons per-minute (gpm) and install a six-panel, solar-pumping system. The other half of the spring will flow into a trough at the spring site with the overflow conveyed into the nearby streambed. Fencing will be installed to protect the riparian area around the spring site. Medusahead sites will be aerially sprayed and seeded.

Currently, a lack of upland water for livestock and wildlife leads to a higher concentration around the spring site. This higher concentration leads to areas of over-utilization of upland vegetation and under-utilization in other sites due to distance from the spring site. Over-utilization creates runoff and impaired water quality. Under-grazed areas lead to decadent, wolfy plants, resulting in less robust vegetation and increasing the risk of carrying a wildfire. The remote nature of the site and poor ingress limits the ability to make improvements. Areas around the spring create forage opportunities for brood-rearing sage-grouse. The project area is located in PGH (preliminary general habitat).

Project components include: spring development with solar-powered system; installation of 1.6 miles of 3-inch pipe; installation of three 12-foot, 300-gallon, dispersed tire troughs and aerial seeding bluebunch wheatgrass, sheep fescue, thickspike wheatgrass, Ladak alfalfa, Lewis' flax seed, Thurber's needlegrass and bottlebrush squirreltail. One mile of 4-strand smooth wire fencing will be installed to protect 22 acres around the riparian site. Approximately 755 acres will be sprayed with chemical and biological treatment and then seeded.

Watershed benefits include improved water quality, upland vegetation and ancillary benefits to sage-grouse habitat. By providing a consistent and dependable water source for livestock and wildlife, upland vegetation can be improved by better distribution. DSL and the landowner/permittee will cost-share 25% of the OWEB-requested amount. Implementation addresses the *Malheur Subbasin Plan* (2004) by reducing sediment and improving water quality and upland vegetation.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- During the site visit it was recommended to provide fencing to protect the riparian area to provide benefit to amphibians, brood-rearing sage-grouse or other small animals

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- Pipeline installation costs seem too low.
- The cost for the solar-powered electrical system was high. It appears to be double-counted.
- The proposal seemed rush with numerous errors. There is not a clear picture of the outcomes or what the applicant is actually proposing to do.
- There is no monitoring plan or a plan to maintain the fencing. The actual type of fencing needs to be clarified. It was stated as both 4-strand hot wire and 4-strand smooth wire. Will the fencing be temporary or is it permanent?
- No detail was provided on the spraying schedule, application rate or timing.
- There is no grazing plan for the area sprayed for medusahead, and it is unclear whether there will be a rest period after seeding.

Concluding analysis:

The application was previously submitted but fell below the funding line. This applicant changed some of the project components and the end result was very confusing. There were many errors in the application. The OWEB-requested amount increased significantly due to the addition of spraying of medusahead and seeding. However, very little detail describing those actions was included. It seemed that the cost for the solar-powered system was double-counted as the total seemed incorrect. The fencing was stated as both “four-strand smooth wire” and “four-strand hot wire”; however, the fencing was not included in the budget. A grazing plan and a monitoring plan are needed for the area where spraying and seeding occur.

Future implementation will provide a consistent, dependable water source for livestock and wildlife during critical times. The project is in a remote location where access is challenging. Implementation will have benefits to wildlife in a high desert environment where water is scarce. The wet meadow area should stay moist around the spring site in late summer and provide needed habitat for brood-rearing sage-grouse. While there is potential ecological merit in improving upland vegetation for both livestock and wildlife, the application had too many unanswered questions to warrant recommendation this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5048**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Camp Creek Weed Survey		
Applicant:	Burnt River SWCD		
Basin:	POWDER	**County:**	Baker
OWEB Request:	**$14,447.00**	**Total Cost:**	$27,787.00
Proposed Match:	$13,340.00		

Application Description

The Upper Burnt River Weed Control District (UBRWCD) has identified Scotch thistle, medusahead, perennial pepperweed, white top, and spotted, diffuse and Russian knapweeds as problem weeds in the Burnt River watershed near Unity. This technical assistance application will inventory 2,000 acres of riparian habitat and compile treatment plans for individual landowners that include maps, vegetation tables, soils and treatment recommendation. The proximity of these weeds to streams allows seed dispersal via waterways, traveling much farther and faster than other means of dispersal. The riparian areas of West Camp Creek, East Camp Creek and Camp creek have not yet reached a degraded condition. The Camp Creek sub-watershed was chosen as a focus area due to its high potential for restoration projects and projects already implemented.
An intern will be hired to complete the treatment plans. Tasks include identifying dominant vegetation, extent of the weed infestation, dominant land-use, and native versus non-native vegetation. Several maps will be created. Landowners will be provided the information required to treat the weeds.

USFS and BLM are cost-share partner providing 92% of the OWEB-requested funds in cash and in-kind. Landowners signed a commitment to participate. USFS also provided a letter of support.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The inventory per acre cost of $14 per acre seems reasonable.
- Landowners are already on-board with the project; a significant amount of planning has been completed.
- Surveys will take place on streams with good riparian condition. It is positive to protect what is already functioning well so that it stays in that condition.
- The project is building relationships with landowners and getting on top of the weed issue.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The project should coordinate with other entities. Input from the Baker County Weed Department may help the intern and be a good source of knowledge.

Concluding analysis:

The project will assist landowners by providing valuable information on the presence of weeds on their property and describe the most effective treatment. Keeping weed seed dispersal out of the

stream will further help landowners downstream and will keep intact riparian areas weed-free. The Camp Creek sub-watershed has been an area of several OWEB-funded projects and this effort is complementary. The OWEB request is modest. The team agreed the project has the potential to provide important information for landowners. It is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with conditions. Contact the Baker County Weed Department for advice and suggestions.

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 14,447.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with conditions. Contact the Baker County Weed Department for advice and suggestions.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 14,447.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5049**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Upper Pine Creek Flood Restoration Design		
Applicant:	Powder Basin WC		
Basin:	POWDER	**County:**	Baker
OWEB Request:	**$47,355.00**	**Total Cost:**	$61,015.00
Proposed Match:	$13,660.00		

Application Description

Pine Creek near Halfway is a high velocity, high sediment deposition stream with excessive bedload. Powder Basin Watershed Council (PBWC) is proposing to develop engineering designs to address improving hydrologic function within the system. Design objectives are 30 to 85% design-level drawings so landowners can conceptualize future improvements and allow for ODFW to review for fish passage on the diversions. The headwaters of Pine Creek are in the Eagle Cap wilderness. In 2010, Pine Creek experienced a 30-year flood event that washed out the Holbrook Bridge in the upper reach and caused the main channel to migrate laterally up to 50 feet in some places, endangering property and structures. Channel instability can be attributed to a lack of riparian vegetation as well as sediment deposition that deflects flow towards banks resulting in excessive bank scouring. Nine landowners along a 0.8 mile stretch of upper Pine Creek have expressed interest in improving conditions to prevent future flood damage. Pine Creek is critical habitat to ESA-listed bull trout and an important migration corridor.

The area below the Holbrook Bridge site is proposed for design and analysis. This section of Pine Creek has 40 to 70% canopy cover. Upper reaches of Pine Creek are 303-(d) listed by DEQ for water temperature. USFWS and ODFW will review the designs. Approximately 8.5 acres of habitat will be affected by these designs. The Collins and Burning Foundations will provide 29% cash match of the OWEB-requested amount.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The cost seems to be appropriate.
- Bank stabilization is a good idea but needs to be incorporated more in the plan. Bank stabilization is needed for diversion structures to meet current standards. Positive project for bull trout once the restoration phase is implemented.
- Pine Creek is a high-risk creek for diversion structures due to the high velocities and sediment transport issues. This is a good place to start.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- PBWC should use a competitive process to solicit engineering bids.
- There needs to be a check-in at the 30% design with ODFW, USFWS, Idaho Power and other relevant agencies. Alternative analysis needs to be included.

- The engineering budget was lump-sum and should have been broken down into separate budget components to facilitate review and ensure that needed components were included.
- The schedule for design seems excessive. The bedload and debris analysis should be completed in a year.

Concluding analysis:
The project will provide needed designs for this section of Pine Creek. The flooding events of 2007 and 2010 highlight the importance of addressing bank stabilization and improving riparian vegetation. This is a targeted area to restore bull trout and a good location to start the effort. The overall process through implementation will take many years. This design is needed. The team agreed that the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with conditions. The 30% design and alternatives analysis shall be reviewed by the OWEB project manager, ODFW, USFWS, and Idaho Power prior to proceeding with further design.

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 47,355.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with conditions. The 30% design and alternatives analysis shall be reviewed by the OWEB project manager, ODFW, USFWS, and Idaho Power prior to proceeding with further design.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ $47,355.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5050**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Lower Clear Creek Restoration Plan (Phase 2)		
Applicant:	Powder Basin WC		
Basin:	POWDER	**County:**	Baker
OWEB Request:	**$48,626.00**	**Total Cost:**	$62,951.00
Proposed Match:	$14,325.00		

Application Description

Clear Creek, a tributary of Pine Creek in the Brownlee Subbasin near Halfway, has critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout. In order to improve fish passage, PBWC proposes to advance the conceptual design for three diversion upgrades to the 60% design level so these designs can be evaluated by ODFW. Sections of Clear Creek were artificially straightened and also experienced extreme high-flow events in 2007 and 2010. These events resulted in widespread bank failure, channel migration and wider channels with areas lacking in adequate riparian vegetation. Powder Basin Watershed council (PBWC) received a technical assistance grant to develop a restoration plan to improve hydrologic function, increase fish habitat diversity, remove fish-passage barriers and meet landowner needs along a two-mile reach of Clear Creek. The previous technical assistance grant provided for the collection of baseline date, landowner interviews, hydraulic modeling and development of alternatives presented to landowners. That technical assistance grant resulted in 30% conceptual designs.

Clear Creek has 7.3 miles of bull trout spawning and rearing habitat with less than 40% canopy cover. Restoring riparian conditions is essential to improve bull trout habitat. Three irrigation diversions are recommended to be upgraded and each will have to comply with fish passage and screening requirements. The Peer Diversion consists of rock, logs and tarps with a four-foot drop across the channel restricting fish passage. The Pollock Diversion is a gravel push-dam and is not a fish passage barrier. However, the Pollock Diversion requires annual maintenance that adversely affects water quality. The Wilmarth Diversion is a gravel push-up dam supplemented with rock and restricts fish passage during low flow. That diversion was heavily damaged during the 2010 flood and moved downstream which increased its head requirement for water delivery.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will provide 29% cash cost-share of the OWEB request amount.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Clear Creek is critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout. Improving riparian conditions, bank stability and fish passage will be beneficial.
- This section of Clear Creek is in great need of improvement.
- The initial contact with the landowners is a positive start.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- It is unclear whether the 30% project design was successful; it lacks essential details and does not appear to have been evaluated by ODFW. Trying to address several landowners and three diversions in the same project will be challenging and time-consuming.
- The proposed FCA screens are applicable higher in the basin but not in this location. Fish passage seems to be problematic and it was unclear whether bedload was considered.
- The budget lacked specificity and had numerous lump sums.

Concluding analysis

The application lacked essential detail and was confusing. Trying to address three separate diversions simultaneously seemed to be overly ambitious. PBWC should review the alternatives analysis and review each diversion separately. A more detailed budget needs to be crafted. It was suggested that each diversion should have a separate design. Also, providing input from ODFW would be beneficial. While this section of Clear Creek will greatly benefit from future restoration work, the team agreed that this project did not provide the detail necessary to recommend funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5051**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Grande Ronde Basin Stream Flow Gauging Stations Operation – Water Years 2017 & 2018		
Applicant:	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:**	Wallowa
OWEB Request:	**$101,002.00**	**Total Cost:**	$313,982.00
Proposed Match:	$212,980.00		

Application Description

This monitoring project continues the operation, maintenance and record production of stream gauges in the Grande Ronde basin. The partnership between Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program (GRMW) and Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) will continue to operate streamflow gauges in Union and Wallowa Counties. Gauges are strategically placed to document the effect of irrigation on stream reaches.

GRMW will continue monitoring 12 streamflow gauges. The five gauges in Wallowa County are located on Bear Creek near Wallowa, with two on the Lostine River and two on the Wallowa River near Enterprise and below Water Canyon where flows exit the system. Monitoring the Water Canyon gauge helps to understand irrigation withdrawal on the entire Wallowa sub-basin. Two Union County gauges bracket irrigation withdrawal above Union. The Perry site documents flow leaving the upper Grande Ronde. Other gauges provide flow monitoring data at Imnaha, Minam, Lookingglass, Troy and Catherine Creek sites. In addition, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) gauges characterize hydrographs for long-term monitoring of management activities on streamflow and currently provide essential data in the portion of the basin on USFS land.

Flow data assists irrigation water management. Local tribes, ODFW, SWCDs and others also use that dataset. Flow data informs basin-wide management plans to help determine the cumulative effects of conservation relative to TMDLs, forest plans, the Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan and agency action plans. Data assists ODFW, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and the Nez Perce Tribes (NPT) in operating trap-and-haul, screw traps, weirs and hatcheries. Entities requesting data can readily find data on the web. Project staff presents data at irrigation district and agency meetings, conferences or project development discussions.

Quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) includes duplicate flow measurements; peer review of provisional flows records and final records; duplicate electronic and paper copies of raw and final data and periodic survey of known elevation control points correlated with stage-measuring device. OWRD hydrographics staff conducts all data collection and QA/QC.

OWEB funds are requested for contracted services and administration. Cost-share partners include Bonneville Power Administration, GRMW and OWRD, and will contribute 211% of the OWEB-requested amount.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The monitoring actions have a clear connection to the short- medium- and long-term objectives proposed in the application.
- The application provides a good description and assurances that all USGS protocols and standards will be followed.
- The applicant has a great track record of succeeding in performing the same monitoring actions in previous years.
- There is a diverse array of benefits to the data and the application did a good job describing how other groups use the data.

Concerns:

- The application describes that a cumulative response analysis will be performed, but does not provide enough detail to understand how it will be done.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)
Certainty of Success: High (100%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- There is a clear connection to short, medium and long-term objectives.
- USGS standards and protocols are followed.
- GRMW and OWRD have a positive track record for implementing this project.
- Collected data assists with OWRD's water regulatory mandates.
- Application was well-written and the need described.
- Data collected used by many entities and agencies including USFS, BLM, tribal, sport fishermen and many other groups.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- None.

Concluding analysis:

This monitoring project has been ongoing since 1997 through OWEB (then GWEB) and continues the maintenance, review and operations of the 12 streamflow gauging stations. There is a long-term need for the collected data that is critical to designing future restoration projects. Gauges are located strategically throughout the Grande Ronde basin. Locations help to document the effects of irrigation withdrawal.

The information provides an important data set used by OWRD, local river guides, and others as a management tool. There is substantial ecological benefit in maintaining gauges for consistent data. USGS protocols are followed and the applicant has an excellent track record collecting high quality data. The quality of data collected at these sites continues to increase with new technology and continuing years of record establishes excellent history for each site. Data collected is used by various fisheries managers as well as OWRD for irrigation management. Benchmark gauges have recorded data since 1910, having the longest term dataset value. The team agreed that this long-term project provides valuable data and should continue to be funded by OWEB**.**

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 101,002.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 101,002.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5052**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Harney Valley Groundwater Monitoring Phase 2		
Applicant:	Harney Watershed Council		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:**	Harney
OWEB Request:	**$20,559.00**	**Total Cost:**	$34,249.00
Proposed Match:	$13,510.00		

Application Description

This groundwater monitoring project is located in the Harney basin of southeastern Oregon. The goal is to help determine the cause for declining water levels by monitoring domestic wells. Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) began a groundwater study in the Harney basin. The basin may be over-allocated and applications for groundwater permits have increased. OWRD is beginning a five-year study partnering with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to ascertain why water levels are declining in portions of the basin. Determining the availability of groundwater in the Harney Basin is dependent on acquiring accurate well data from a number of groundwater wells.

Currently, OWRD is monitoring 152 wells four times annually. Harney County Watershed Council (HCWC) through an existing monitoring grant is also monitoring 30 wells. Well measurements occur in January during winter months; April-before irrigation season begins; July-during irrigation season and late October-after irrigation season ends. Monitoring objectives are to collect status-and-trend monitoring to determine water-level over time. HCWC and OWRD want to increase the number of wells monitored by 30 to add to the data set. Cost-share partners include OWRD and Harney County Court will contribute 67% of the OWEB-requested amount. OWEB funds are requested for wages, contracted services, materials and administration.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This application is a great example of an applicant pursuing state funding to address a concern that was identified by a local community coming together.
- This application proposes to collect data to contribute to a larger effort initiated by OWRD's on-going Place-Based Planning project, as well as a groundwater study being implemented by OWRD and USGS.
- The applicant has strong engagement with the community and results of this study could help guide what the future looks like regarding groundwater management.
- The application states that OWRD will help develop a QA Plan and an electronic storage structure to facilitate data management and sharing.
- The quarterly seasonal sampling would give a good range of measurements to understand how groundwater levels fluctuate over the course of a year.

Concerns:

- The application did not contain any letters of support.
- The application proposes to collect groundwater levels on additional wells, but did not provide enough detail on the process to determine where these would be located.
- The application lacked details on the methods they would follow to collect the data, specifically in wells that contain pumps and those that are in close relation to pumps.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (40%), Medium (40%), Low (20%)
Certainty of Success: Medium (60%), Low (40%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The team expressed that this is a positive example of state funding with benefits to both landowners and governmental entities wanting to collect valuable information.
- Collected data will help build a watershed model to provide data in determining groundwater levels. Information also assists efforts with OWRD's Community-based Planning project that is ongoing with HCWC and local partners.
- There is an existing monitoring project and adding additional wells to the data set will better inform partners and assist achieving the goal of monitoring 200 wells.
- Using local contractors in lieu of agency personnel to monitor wells will encourage more landowners to participate in the project. Landowners are more comfortable sharing data with local contractors.
- The project will help to build trust with landowners who also benefit from having their well water tested at no charge.
- There were positive remarks about the selected contractor and enthusiasm for the project. USGS is also working with the contractor for the study they are also conducting.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The need for the 30 additional wells was not articulated clearly. The location of the wells was not noted and it was unclear if they were outside the area of groundwater decline.

Concluding analysis:

Harney County Watershed Council (HCWC) previously engaged in technical assistance projects to better understand groundwater issues. This project continues to strengthen data currently being collected in cooperation with OWRD's focus areas. Wells will be monitored before pumping season starts, mid-summer, after irrigation season ends in the fall and in the winter. Status-and-trend data will determine water-level trends over time; determine groundwater/surface water interactions and ascertain how subsurface water flows into the basin. A quality groundwater study will help answer these questions and provide for better management decisions. Knowing what the resource can support and the groundwater influences on the basin will help understand the amount of groundwater and surface water flow and the rate of recharge and recovery. This project will lead to better understanding of valley flow, identify shortages, and help understand the influence of groundwater to surface water flow. The groundwater information will help determine water availability. The team agreed that this project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 20,559.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 20,559.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5053**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	2017 Natural Resource Camp		
Applicant:	Grant County 4-H Association		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$20,284.00**	**Total Cost:**	$107,884.00
Proposed Match:	$87,600.00		

Application Description

The 2017 Natural Resource Camp targets students in grades 7 through 9. Space is limited to 40 campers at the Lake Creek Youth Camp located in Logan Valley in the upper Malheur watershed. Camper selection is based on regional representation from locales throughout the Northwest. Special recruitment efforts will be made to reach youth from disadvantaged areas such as reservations, inner city and rural Oregon. Natural Resource Camp is designed to offer young people the opportunity to learn the importance of natural resource management while partaking in restoration activities. The main goal is to introduce youth to activities that generate interests in conservation and restoration. Professionals from various natural resource fields and organizations in Grant County teach courses at the camp including fisheries, wildlife biology, fire and fuels, forestry in hands-on activity-based learning. Additional classes such as botany, silviculture and entomology are included to insure that youth understand the importance of these sciences and their role in restoration. Various planned activities are proposed during the sessions.

Youth participate in exploration and discovery activities related to the specific learning topic. This includes actual hands-on experiences and interactive learning. Participation has an emphasis on watershed management. There is a clear need for students to have additional skills and a better understanding of watershed and forest management systems. By introducing students to a variety of management subjects, they will have a better understanding of multiple watershed management disciplines. OWEB funds will be used to rent and operate Lake Creek Youth Camp for 2017 and 208. OWEB funds are requested for contracted services and administration. Numerous cost-share partners are providing 431% cash or in-kind cost-share of the OWEB-requested amounts. Project partners include Grant County 4-H, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS), Community Counselling Solutions, OSU Extension, USFS, NRCS, Grant SWCD, South Fork John Day Watershed Council, North Fork John Day WC, BPA and Bank of Eastern Oregon and many others.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project has numerous partners and broad community involvement. This is a positive effort especially for disadvantaged youth. The number of sponsors is very impressive.
- Lake Creek Youth Camp in Logan Valley is a valuable resource in this remote area. Activities planned will increase natural resource awareness.

- Having students participate and learn valuable natural resource disciplines at the camp provides the opportunity for dialogue with parents and other family members. This will help to build trust and open doors with private landowners for potential future restoration efforts. That was shown to happen in other areas where youth are engaged early-on.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- It was questioned if this type of activity can now be covered under the recently passed ballot measure for Outdoor School and if OWEB can continue to fund projects such as this.
- Reviewers questioned the high overhead cost since campers were a1ready paying $120. However, OWEB funds are requested for the camp rental and do not include other costs such as meals, supplies, transportation and wages for non-volunteers,

Concluding analysis:
The team agreed that this is a very positive effort for students in a low-population density area. Grant County has many highly skilled natural resource professionals from the watershed councils, Grant SWCD, NRCS, OSU Extension, USFS, ODFW, CTWS and others who annually participate in this event. The local sponsorship is very impressive. This project is similar to other educational efforts that target middle school students and seems to be the right age to begin to engage students in active hands-on learning. The Lake Creek Camp is close to several OWEB-funded restoration projects and site visits to those projects could be a possibility for students to see on-going restoration. The team agreed that the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 20,284.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 20,284.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5054**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Wallowa Resources' Watershed Evaluation Teams (WET)		
Applicant:	Wallowa Resources		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:**	Wallowa
OWEB Request:	**$20,728.00**	**Total Cost:**	$45,035.00
Proposed Match:	$24,308.00		

Application Description

Wallowa Resources (WR), based in Enterprise, initiated a watershed evaluation team (WET) program designed to provide hands-on experience that builds environmental awareness for students. The WET Program reaches approximately 150 students and 8 teachers in Wallowa County. This program targets 6th, 10th and 11th grade students in Wallowa County. All county schools - Enterprise, Wallowa, Joseph, Imnaha, alternative school and Troy – are included in this effort. Students are introduced to watershed health in hopes of influencing their personal practices. The WET program utilizes classroom and field time to increase awareness of watershed stewardship through participation in real-life watershed activities. Goals are to increase students' understanding of watershed science and how science is used for management.

WET utilizes the watersheds of Wallowa County as the outdoor classroom. Students collect data and analyze conditions. Students field-monitor river conditions for spring Chinook salmon and steelhead. Sampling locations include Prairie Creek, Bear Creek, Lostine, Wallowa River, Camp Creek and the Imnaha River. The high school students teach and mentor the sixth graders. The WET program is focused around multiple class and field days in the fall for each school. The field component includes measuring or discussing water chemistry, dissolved oxygen, pH, nitrates, phosphorous, turbidity and macroinvertebrates, physical conditions, substrate and riparian conditions. Fisheries metrics include presence/absence, age, length and weight of the various species measured.

Students are divided into four field teams and each team performs one of the sampling categories, guided by a natural resource professional and/or Wallowa Resources educator. Following the field session, students analyze data back in the classroom using StreamWeb website and with the guidance of Wallowa Resources' educator. Students present this data and analysis to their peers. In addition, a research component allows 10th and 11th graders to delve more deeply into their data collection. The WET program addresses a variety of learning styles by providing multiple delivery mechanisms. Students also work at the confluence of the Lostine and Wallowa rivers in restoration activities to re-establish riparian vegetation. Field activities help the student better understand the needs for desirable salmonid habitat.

OWEB funds are requested for wages, supplies, travel and administration. Project partners including USFWS, the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), ODFW, Wallowa SWCD, OWRD watermaster, Wallowa County schools and landowners will contribute 117% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount. Several positive letters of support were provided.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- WET works closely with the schools and students are building relationships with landowners.
- Wallowa County has low-population density and this effort provides diversity in the education.
- WET has a very good track record. The project has been on-going for many years and is well-received by the community.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The cost per student is $300 which seems high. However, there is a lot of potential future benefit should students enter a natural resources field or positively influence a future restoration project.

Concluding Analysis:

The Wallowa County school systems have integrated portions of the WET program into their curriculum. The high school students know and understand terminology when they are out in the field having gained that knowledge as a 6th grader participating in WET. Information is presented to these kids in an entertaining way, as opposed to a classroom setting. WET has had a very positive effect on local youth. Sampling sites are close to the participating schools. It is an excellent way for students to have hands-on learning with various watershed and environmental topics.

Involving children early has many positive future results. The application was very thorough and very well-done with good letters of support. The program is excellent. The team agreed that this worthwhile project should continue to be funded due to its positive influence on local youth. It is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 20,728.00

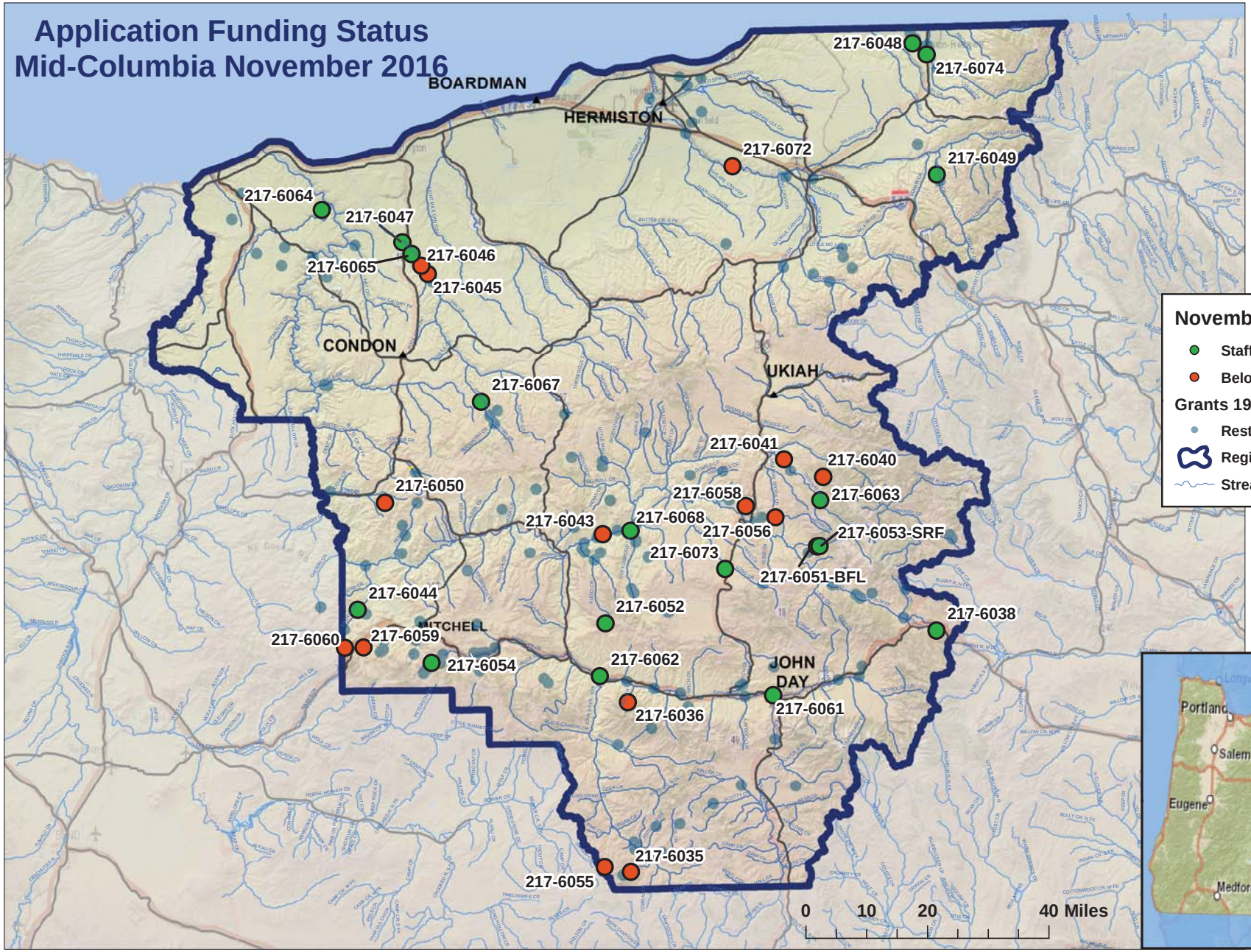
Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$20,738.00

Application Funding Status
Mid-Columbia November 2016



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November 2016 Applications

- Staff Recommended for Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Grants 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Region6
- Streams

N W E S

Software: ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1 NAD 83 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl OWEB- April 2017

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Region 6 - Mid-Columbia

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-6052	Grant SWCD	2017 John Day Basin Fish Habitat Enhancement Program	This restoration proposal is a continuation of the ODFW riparian fencing program initiated in 1984. Proposed exclusion fencing will protect 127.4 riparian acres along Desolation, Lemons, Hinton Creeks and the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County; and Badger and Pine Hollow Creeks in Wheeler County.	151,909	Grant
217-6049	Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation	Meacham Creek Bonifer Reach Floodplain Restoration and In-Stream Habitat Enhancement Program	The project site, located on Meacham Creek in Umatilla County east of Pendleton, will enhance three miles of instream habitat for ESA listed and resident fis, by excavating levees and spur dikes to floodplain elevation; reconnecting primary and secondary historic channels for increased spawning and rearing habitat; incorporating large wood structures; revegetating disturbed soil; and installing bioengineering techniques to provide bank protection for the railroad right of way.	376,030	Umatilla
217-6053	Grant SWCD	Big Creek Reach Four Floodplain Connectivity Project	The project site is located in the Big Creek watershed in Grant County. Designed to breach levees and remove mining tailings, create a half-mile new side-channel; construct a high-flow relief channel and install a bottomless pipe arch culvert integrated above the road; and install log jams and wood structures for added complexity.	216,030	Grant
217-6044	Wheeler SWCD	Middle Bear Creek BDA Restoration Project	This restoration proposal, located on Bear Creek in SW Wheeler County, will install 21 beaver dam analogs (BDA) along a 532 meter reach of Bear Creek that is subject to low flow during late summer/early fall, a period critical to the survival of juvenile steelhead. Bear Creek is the largest spawning tributary to Bridge Creek.	26,959	Wheeler
217-6047	Gilliam SWCD	Olex Diversion Fish Passage Improvement	This restoration proposal is located on Rock Creek, the first fish-bearing tributary entering the Lower John Day River in Gilliam County. This project follows a technical assistance grant that provided funds for design and will reconstruct the fish barrier at Olex diversion so all life stages of steelhead and other aquatic species can easily migrate upstream to critical habitat.	62,013	Gilliam

217-6038	Confederated Tribes Warm Springs	Wiwaanyatt Creek and Meadow Restoration Phase III	The project, located on Wiwaanyatt Creek, a headwater tributary of the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County, will replace fish passage barrier culverts; remove or correct passage on weirs; install a fish screen at an unscreened POD; connect the main channel to floodplain by removing berms; fill incised channels and direct flow back into historic channels; place large wood, both tipped and felled trees, into the channel or on the floodplain; and restore native plant community. Additionally, large or coarse woody debris and beaver dam analogues (BDAs) will be installed to increase aggradation of the stream channel and provide anchor points for resident beaver communities.	132,408	Grant
217-6054	Wheeler SWCD	Badger Creek Diversion #6	This restoration proposal, located on Badger Creek in southeast Wheeler County, will replace a fish barrier irrigation diversion; install irrigation flow measuring devices for the two water users on this system; convert open irrigation ditch to dual buried pipelines; replace a failing and undersized bridge; construct a series of engineered riffles and large wood structures; and exclusion fence and plant the area directly around the diversion and downstream to the neighboring fence line through the CREP program.	93,774	Wheeler
217-6048	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Walla Walla Managed Aquifer Recharge for Instream Flow	This restoration proposal is located in the floodplains of the Walla Walla River in Umatilla County. This project would design and construct five aquifer recharge sites; submit to OWRD applications for limited licenses; and work with OWRD and DEQ to update existing monitoring plan to include the new sites. Recharge sites have been selected to provide maximum groundwater and surface water benefits.	346,746	Umatilla
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**1,405,869**	

Region 6 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-6059	Wheeler SWCD	Circle Bar Ranch Restoration Project	65,359	Wheeler
217-6045	Gilliam SWCD	Harper Diversion Removal and Habitat Enhancement	41,457	Gilliam
217-6046	Gilliam SWCD	Hewes Diversion Removal And Channel Restoration	116,724	Gilliam
217-6036	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Flat Creek Juniper Removal	60,429	Grant
217-6043	Monument SWCD	Smith POD Transfer and Riparian Restoration	51,540	Grant
217-6055	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Kee Property Restoration	27,373	Grant
217-6060	Wheeler SWCD	Heflin Creek Restoration	66,787	Wheeler
217-6041	North Fork John Day WC	Desolation Creek Wet Meadow Restoration - Phase II	77,627	Grant
217-6051	North Fork John Day	Big Mosquito Restoration Phase II	106,079	Grant
217-6050	Bridge Creek WC	Pine Creek Upland Improvement 2	59,528	Wheeler
217-6056	North Fork John Day	RLMT Granite Creek Restoration: Burnette	48,556	Grant
217-6035	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Izee Allotment Improvements - 2017	39,214	Grant
217-6058	North Fork John Day	RLMT Granite Creek Restoration: Walton	48,406	Grant
217-6040	North Fork John Day WC	Kelsay Creek Culvert Replacement	67,076	Grant
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**2,282,024**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount**	**County**
217-6037	North Fork John Day	Phipps Meadow Rehabilitation Project	59,812	Grant
217-6039	North Fork John Day WC	Livingston Springs 2016	18,627	Grant
217-6042	North Fork John Day WC	Boundary Creek Fish Passage Enhancement	237,298	Grant
217-6057	North Fork John Day WC	Rice Creek Spring Protection	15,040	Grant

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-6061	Blue Mountain Land Trust	Habitat Conservation Outreach - John Day Basin	This landowner recruitment TA will fund a full-time Conservation Officer whose role would be to identify and develop opportunities for conservation easements and other conservation projects within the John Day Basin, leading to increased conservation and enhancement of critical fish and wildlife habitat on private lands. Objectives include evaluating an estimated 20-30 identified potential easement sites; reaching out to an additional 200 landowners with information about conservation easements and other habitat protection tools; and connecting interested landowners with a land trust capable of completing and holding a conservation easement.	50,000	Grant
217-6063	North Fork John Day WC	Junken's Creek Culvert TA	This technical assistance application for design will result in a design set for a UTV bridge and stream bed restoration on Junken's Creek, a tributary of Desolation Creek in Grant County. $100,000 has been secured for implementation in 2018, once designs have been approved. Junken's Creek is identified as spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed steelhead and is listed as a high priority for the Umatilla National Forest.	28,196	Grant
217-6062	Cascade Pacific RC&D	South Fork John Day Coordinated Resource Management Planning	This technical assistance application for planning will re-initiate the South Fork John Day River Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) group that includes the SFJDWC, the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Wildlife, USFS, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Grant SWCD, private landowners and the Dayville Grazing Association. Deliverables would include a five-year scope of work plan of restoration projects.	12,337	Grant

217-6065	Gilliam SWCD	Rock Creek Summer Streamflow	This technical assistance application for planning will survey 34.5 miles of Rock Creek, first fish-bearing tributary on the lower John Day River. Summer flows; water quantity, temperature, summer steelhead abundance, and riparian habitat including large woody debris, riparian cross-sections, vegetation extent and shade in these wetted reaches will be inventoried and mapped. The data collected will guide the direction of planned future flow and habitat restoration efforts in Rock Creek, as well as identifying sites for future long-term monitoring.	27,692	Gilliam
217-6064	Sherman County Area WC	Lower Grass Valley Canyon Weed Management	This technical assistance application for planning will occur in the Lower Grass Valley drainage in Sherman County. The proposal would survey, treat and document Class A & B invasive and noxious weeds on 9,370 acres of private property. Terrain is steep so all survey will be done on foot.	45,760	Sherman
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**163,985**	
Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount**	**County**
NONE					

Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Recommended	County
217-6074	Walla Walla Basin Wastershed Foundation	STELLAR Watershed Education and Community Outreach	This outreach proposal targets 100+ adults and 800+ youth from the Milton Freewater area in NE Umatilla County. Project components impact both adult and youth include presenting to various citizen groups, hosting booths at community events, hosting project tours and public restoration activities. For the youth portion of the program, about 800 fourth through 12th grade students will participate in field trips and hands-on activities demonstrating the uniqueness and value of the watershed they live in, including six different student activities: Fish Eggs to Fry, Watershed Field Days, Wildlife Habitat Field Day, Hydromania Summer Day Camp, Leidall Outdoor Lab and Wonderful World of the Watershed.	28,231	Umatilla
217-6073	North Fork John Day WC	Grant County Youth in Restoration Phase III	This outreach proposal, implemented all across Grant County, will incorporate a two-part program: one is held during the school year and provides students with outdoor classroom activities related to restoration and natural resource subjects; and the second subsidizes the Oregon Youth Conservation Corp (OYCC) summer program providing youth of Grant County employment in restoration related projects and educational opportunities related to those projects. Target audiences for the school year program include 50 junior and senior high school students from five schools across Grant County. For the summer program, the goal is to engage more than last year's 60 member youth crews. Restoration work covers a broad range of activities.	28,000	Grant
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**56,231**	

Outreach Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
217-6072	Umatilla Basin WC	Umatilla County Online Rural Living Handbook	11,924	Umatilla
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**68,155**	

Outreach Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Requested	County
NONE				

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-6068	Monument SWCD	Cottonwood Creek Steelhead and Stream Temperature Monitoring	This status and trend monitoring proposal, located in Cottonwood Creek near the town of Monument in Grant County, will provide baseline data on juvenile steelhead, stream temperatures and stream discharge in Lower Cottonwood Creek. The data gathered will be used to develop a stream temperature forecasting model; and assess the success of future restorations actions within the watershed. The intent is that successful implementation of this monitoring effort will lead to a *Cottonwood Action to Stabilize Temperature* (CAST) project, similar to the successful model FAST, used on Fifteenmile Creek in Wasco County.	139,324	Grant
217-6067	Gilliam SWCD	Lonerock Effectiveness Monitoring	This effectiveness monitoring of a restoration project, located in Lonerock Creek in SE Gilliam County, would include habitat, stream and vegetation surveys; juvenile fish abundance surveys; and surface monitoring of flow, temperature and sediment. One year of baseline data will be gathered prior to a large-scale prescribed burn removing encroaching juniper, followed-up with several years of data to help quantify benefits from this type of landscape scale restoration project.	75,224	Gilliam
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**214,548**	

Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Requested	County
217-6066	North Fork John Day	North Fork John Day Bull/Brook Trout eDNA Collection and Analysis	7,286	Grant
217-6069	North Fork John Day WC	Upper Middle Fork Allotment Monitoring	84,496	Grant
217-6070	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Upper Walla Walla Watershed Hydrology Assessment	58,469	Umatilla
217-6071	Confederated Tribes Warm Springs	Long-term Ecological Effects of Passive vs. Active Restoration in the MF John Day	193,203	Grant

Region 6 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**1,840,633**	**20%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**9,315,062**	

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6035**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Izee Allotment Improvements - 2017		
Applicant:	Cascade Pacific RC&D		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$39,214.00**	**Total Cost:**	$58,844.00
Proposed Match:	$22,041.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal, located in the Malheur National Forest Emigrant Creek Ranger District south of the town of Izee in Grant County, will exclusion fence Latigo Creek, and construct a water lot around Duncan pond to provide livestock and wildlife an alternative water source for two pasture units. Project components include installing wildlife friendly "lay-down" fencing on the ridge along Latigo Creek to exclude livestock, installing cattle guards across USFS roads, and building a water lot around Duncan pond as an alternative water source to two pastures. Ecological benefits realized from removing livestock access to Latigo Creek include re-establishment of riparian vegetation, reduced sedimentation and improved water quality.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Good redband trout habitat.
- Well-written application that provided detailed explanations and data justification.
- A priority project identified in the Izee Allotment Management Plan Environmental Analysis.
- The project will result in improvements in water quality of this perennial stream, including reductions in sediment, bacteria and temperature.
- NEPA is complete; implementation timing is critical.
- Permittee is fully supportive of the project.
- The grazing use for this allotment and the project site were clearly explained.

Concerns:

- Latigo Creek is not used by anadromous fish.
- The overall conservation benefit compared to the cost appeared to be low.

Concluding Analysis:

This was a well-written application with good detail on the problem statement and proposed solution. There was some discussion on the level of overall ecological benefit since Latigo Creek does not provide habitat for any listed species. The project will enhance water quality and riparian vegetation and was identified as a priority project in the Emigrant Ranger District 5-year restoration plan.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 39,214.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6036**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Flat Creek Juniper Removal		
Applicant:	Cascade Pacific RC&D		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$60,429.00**	**Total Cost:**	$85,329.00
Proposed Match:	$28,680.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located along Flat Creek, a tributary to the John Day River and within the Murderer's Creek Mule Deer Initiative Focus Area in Grant County. Encroachment of juniper and invasive annual grass species has been exacerbated by fire suppression and historic grazing management, leading to a loss of shrub and forb components. This project would protect, enhance and restore critical winter habitat for mule deer and increase water quality by removing juniper on both sides of Flat Creek, a stream listed as critical habitat for steelhead.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Good track record of successfully removing juniper.
- The application provided a long-term juniper management plan and grazing strategy.
- Builds on other resource management activities on the property.
- Active land managers who successfully address resource challenges in multiple ecosystems.
- Complements the strategic plan to restore the Flat Creek watershed.
- Good example of grazing and wildlife successfully co-existing on healthy landscape.

Concerns:

- The application and maps were a little confusing, it wasn't clear if some components were a part of this proposal or planned for future restoration.
- Because Flat Creek is a fish-bearing stream, ODF must be consulted on plans and permits.
- To provide added channel complexity, it was suggested that dropping some of the juniper instream would help hold back sediment, improve gravel sorting, and disperse energy in this high gradient system.

Concluding Analysis:

This proposal is one of many efforts to improve habitat on both riparian and upland sites on wildlife management areas. For many years, ODFW has worked to reduce juniper and annual grass encroachment, enhance mule deer habitat and improve water quality and forest health. If resubmitted, the review team would like more detail on juniper treatments along the riparian corridor and encourage consideration to strategically drop some cut juniper instream.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

12 of 22

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 60,429.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6037**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Phipps Meadow Rehabilitation Project		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$59,812.00**	**Total Cost:**	$74,935.00
Proposed Match:	$15,123.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal, located at the headwaters of the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County, will install beaver dam analogs to trap sediment and aggrade the stream channel, reconnect the floodplain, and encourage neighboring beaver colonies to re-establish in this high-meadow system. Phipps Meadow is two-thirds private land, and is overseen by a single land manager. The fenced riparian corridor has excluded livestock for thirty years. Fish utilizing this high elevation meadow include Chinook and steelhead. In addition to the beaver dam analogs, existing willow clumps will be protected by caging.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Good steelhead and Chinook habitat, with a lot of potential for juvenile rearing.
- This reach contains a major spring source of cool flows to the headwaters of the Middle Fork John Day River.
- The application provided good photos that clearly showed the site condition.
- This reach is highly degraded and disconnected from the floodplain.
- The project complements other work being done in this area of the upper Middle Fork JDR.
- Located on a property that previously was not interested in restoration.

Concerns:

- More thought and actual survey data needs to be considered to locate structure sites. The conceptual design provided with the application incorporated several different types of channel structures, such as constructed riffles to add instream complexity, deal with channel elevations, and reconnect to the floodplain. This proposal substituted beaver dam analogs at each structure location, which may or may not be appropriate depending on further analysis.
- The budget was confusing. OYCC crew costs seem high and it was questioned whether this project would be more cost-effective using a contractor.
- Work is being done on the upstream neighboring USFS property; it may be beneficial to explore collaboration on similar components such as willow caging and supplemental planting.

Concluding Analysis:

With restoration, this site has high aquatic habitat potential. There is an amazing spring source of cool water in the middle of the meadow. The goal of aggrading the stream channel using structures and reconnecting to the floodplain is appropriate; however, more thought needs to be put into the

number of structures, the goal of each structure type, and the location and elevations of the beaver dam analogs. The review team is supportive of using OYCC on appropriate projects; however, in some cases they may significantly increase the costs of restoration implementation. The review team would like to see this project resubmitted with 1) a more detailed explanation on each BDA structure objectives and location siting; 2) collaboration on planting and caging with upstream USFS; and 3) clear justification of using OYCC crews, specifically what they would be doing, and a breakout of hours required by task.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6038**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Wiwaanyatt Creek and Meadow Restoration Phase III		
Applicant:	Confed Tribes Warm Springs		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$132,408.00**	**Total Cost:**	$347,376.00
Proposed Match:	$241,049.00		

Application Description

The project site is located on Wiwaanyatt Creek (formally known as Squaw Creek) a headwater tributary of the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County. The goals for Wiwaanyatt Creek restoration are to improve floodplain connectivity and steelhead habitat by replacing fish passage barrier culverts; removing or correcting passage on weirs; installing a fish screen at a point of diversion to prevent fish entrapment; connecting the main channel to floodplain by removing berms; filling incised channels and directing flow back into historic channels; placing large wood, both tipped and felled trees, into the channel or on the floodplain; and restoring native plant community. Riparian grazing will be excluded on this allotment for the next 20 years as it has been for the past ten years. Additionally, large or coarse woody debris and beaver dam analogues (BDAs) will be installed to increase aggradation of the stream channel and provide anchor points for resident beaver communities.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Good steelhead habitat. With improvements, there is a potential to get Chinook as well.
- Headwater tributary of the Middle Fork John Day River. Meadow restoration has the potential to add flows to the Middle Fork in a more sustained timeframe.
- Restoration is needed, and builds on prior restoration projects.
- Opening up fish passage and increasing floodplain connectivity will reap high ecological benefits.
- There is a good slate of partners on the project.

Concerns:

- There was some confusion because the budget did not include culverts as a line item.
- The beaver dam analogs in the photos appeared to be too tall; it was unclear from the photo if they were in the middle of installation or if that was the finished height, which should be 6 to 12 inches above the water surface.

Concluding Analysis:

This project, by increasing flow, removing fish barriers and reconnecting to floodplains all along the reach, will add significant ecological value to prior restoration done in the headwater meadows of this creek system.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 132,408.00

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment: Staff will confirm with grantee that BDAs will be installed at the appropriate height, and clarify that the two culverts are a project component and how their purchase will be funded.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 132,408.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6039**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Livingston Springs 2016		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$18,627.00**	**Total Cost:**	$23,592.00
Proposed Match:	$4,965.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on two different sites near the town of Long Creek in Grant County. Three upland springs will be developed as a water source for both livestock and wildlife. Sensitive wetland seeps around spring sources will be exclusion fenced, and troughs installed with overflow returned to the wetland or adjacent drainage. A shut-off valve will be installed at the head of each system to assure that only needed water is diverted. By developing these upland water sources, livestock will better distribute across the landscape; wetland areas will be protected from hoof trampling; and water quality will be enhanced.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The concept of the shut-off valve that will keep water in the wetland is sound, but is reliant upon good management of the system.
- The project includes significant buffer exclusion fences around the wetland seeps.
- There was good landowner match.

Concerns:

- The application was poorly written, left out a component line item in the budget, lacked critical information and didn't concisely explain what was planned or the ecological or species benefit.
- Without some level of design, it was difficult to assess the likelihood of success.
- The application would have been stronger with better maps showing pasture fences in relation to the spring/trough locations and any downslope or adjacent live streams.
- There was no grazing management strategy explained to help show how the investment in the ecological benefit would be protected.

Concluding Analysis:

Spring developments can result in good ecological benefit, but applications need to provide enough detail and relative information to make that clear determination. If resubmitted, the review team would want to see 1) more detailed site information such as elevations from source to trough and estimated flow; 2) conceptual designs relative to the specific site; 3) maps that show pasture fences, adjacent live streams and locations of both spring source and trough placement; and 4) a grazing

management strategy that explains the investment in the spring developments will result in improved distribution and an upward trend in healthy grass stands.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6040**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Kelsay Creek Culvert Replacement		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$67,076.00**	**Total Cost:**	$167,348.00
Proposed Match:	$100,272.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on Kelsay Creek, a tributary of Desolation Creek and the North Fork John Day River in Grant County. Kelsay Creek is a perennial, fish-bearing stream that could provide 9.1 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead, redband and bull trout. An undersized culvert now inhibits passage to this critical upstream habitat because of velocity issues during high flows. The proposed solution is to replace the undersized culvert with a 14' channel-width aluminum box culvert with natural stream channel simulated throughout.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The review team liked the open bottom approach to culvert design with dimensions allowing for annual high stream flows and improved alignment.
- Good habitat above the culvert.
- The review team appreciated having complete designs submitted with the application.
- Upstream and downstream have been fenced to exclude livestock.

Concerns:

- The role of watershed council project management on public land projects is unclear; staff costs seemed high.
- The culvert is a partial barrier affecting juveniles, is not a high ODFW priority, and is not critical to address at this time.
- It was unclear whether there are additional barriers upstream. If so, the statement about 9.1 miles being opened up was thought to be somewhat misleading.
- The application would have been stronger if it had included some discussion about any alternatives considered.
- There was no good explanation of why effectiveness monitoring would be useful.
- The budget did not include costs for footings or other materials necessary for streambed simulation.

Concluding Analysis:

This project appeared to be shovel-ready, except for the lack of funding for culvert purchase and pending ODFW funding for installation. By request post-submission, NFJDWC staff provided an

engineer's estimate for culvert installation; however, it still wasn't clear that materials were included. More detail in the budget would have been helpful. It would be welcomed back as a resubmit with: 1) more detail in the discussion of alternatives considered; 2) verification that no other fish passage barriers are within the 9.1 mile upstream reach; 3) a clear explanation of watershed council roles in the implementation process; and 4) what monitoring questions or gaps the effectiveness monitoring would address.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. Reduce budget by $1,500 and delete effectiveness monitoring from scope of services.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 67,076.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6041**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Desolation Creek Wet Meadow Restoration- Phase II		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$77,627.00**	**Total Cost:**	$140,250.00
Proposed Match:	$62,624.00		

Application Description

Located in northern Grant County, this project seeks to increase the input of cold, high-quality water to Desolation Creek during low and base-flow seasons by exclusion fencing four high-elevation wet meadows. Desolation Creek provides important habitat to both steelhead and Chinook salmon. This project builds on a prior funded and completed OWEB project (Desolation Creek Phase I), to improve the hydrologic processes of wet meadow uplands and increase connectivity to downslope streams.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Protecting wet meadows will result in clear and valuable ecological benefits.
- This builds on other restoration being done in this watershed.
- Costs are reasonable.
- Desolation Creek is important Chinook and steelhead habitat.

Concerns:

- The application would have been easier to read if it was more concise and to the point.
- It would be helpful to provide the Desolation Creek comprehensive grazing management plan that is currently under development; or, at a minimum, some information describing grazing use on this property.
- Once completed, it would also be good to include the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Desolation Creek Assessment to help illustrate restoration priorities and long-term planning.
- The application did not provide enough detailed information on the monitoring component.
- Without clear protocols it was difficult to determine if piezometers and instantaneous moisture monitoring would be effective in documenting meadow changes.
- It was suggested that in meadow gullies, small branches and woody debris be placed to help arrest further erosional forces.
- There was a lack of coordination related to the ODFW fencing match.

Concluding Analysis:

This is the second phase of wet meadow protection and restoration in the Desolation Creek watershed. The previous project was successful and well-done. It would have been helpful to include photos of the prior phase showing success of this type of restoration and any upward trends in the landscape. The issue with ODFW match was resolved prior to review, by substituting

another pending fund source. A future application would be expected to have verification of partners' match prior to application submission.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. Reduce budget by $2,200 and delete effectiveness monitoring from scope of services.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 75,627.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6042**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Boundary Creek Fish Passage Enhancement		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$237,298.00**	**Total Cost:**	$451,050.00
Proposed Match:	$213,752.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on Boundary Creek and Corral Creek, tributaries to Bull Run and Granite Creeks and the headwaters of the North Fork John Day River in Grant County. Three undersized culverts were identified as priorities and build on other restoration work completed that was identified in the 2012 Wallowa-Whitman National Forest *Bull Run Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan* (WRAP). This proposal would correct two undersized culverts on Lower and East Fork Boundary Creek and one undersized culvert on Corral Creek by installing open bottom arch culverts that incorporate natural streambed configuation. Combined, 9.2 miles of high-elevation steelhead and bull trout habitat would be opened up.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- These streams provide excellent habitat for steelhead, bull trout and possibly juvenile Chinook.
- The photos submitted with the application gave a good view of the culverts.
- There is good secured match.
- Permitting is in place except for DSL and ACOE.
- Good letters of support.
- Appropriate designs by USFS engineers.
- Projects are identified and prioritized in the WRAP – and are some of the last high-priority projects to be completed. Would complement previously completed projects.

Concerns:

- The watershed staff salaries seemed excessive; the application did not provide enough detail to gauge what those hours were being used for.
- It was unclear what time of year and for how long velocity is an issue on these tributaries; it would be helpful to see velocity modeling.
- The application would have been stronger if there had been more discussion about the ecological need balanced with the large investment. More information about fish use above the culvert would have been useful.
- The application would have been stronger if it had demonstrated a clear need for the effectiveness monitoring and what protocols would be followed.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team liked the project but there were enough questions about the cost/benefit of the project that they recommended it as a do not fund for this cycle. If resubmitted reviewers would like to see: 1) some analysis of the velocity issue; 2) flow data; 3) more detail on the watershed council tasks; and 4) more information on the protocols used in the effectiveness monitoring component.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6043**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Smith POD Transfer and Riparian Restoration		
Applicant:	Monument SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$51,540.00**	**Total Cost:**	$64,416.00
Proposed Match:	$12,876.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal, located along 1.2 miles of the North Fork John Day River, would transfer an existing POD downstream to a permanent scour pool; install a pumping station, fish screen and flow measuring device; bring power to the new site; and link existing irrigation infrastructure to the new pumping system. These actions will eliminate the current need for heavy equipment in the riparian area to maintain the legal push-up dam and reduce impaired riparian vegetation and channel form. Additional restoration actions include weed treatment focusing on leafy spurge funded by a pending OSWB grant. This reach of the North Fork John Day River provides critical migrating habitat for spring Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Straight-forward well-written application.
- Good to keep heavy equipment out of the main river and reduce disturbance.
- Water quality will benefit by eliminating excessive sediment and allowing riparian vegetation to establish.
- Riparian area is already fenced to exclude livestock use.
- The current POD would be abandoned.
- New POD site is located in a natural and historically stable scour hole.

Concerns:

- Some budget line items appeared to be high, especially installation and water rights transfer costs.
- The variable frequency drive appeared to be more of a landowner benefit and it was suggested items related to that component be removed.

Concluding Analysis:

This project will result in an increase in riparian vegetation, improved water quality and channel stability along this reach of the North Fork John Day River.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions. Exclude installation of the variable frequency drive and reduce amount by $10,164.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 41,376.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6044**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Middle Bear Creek BDA Restoration Project		
Applicant:	Wheeler SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Wheeler
OWEB Request:	**$26,959.00**	**Total Cost:**	$38,124.00
Proposed Match:	$11,165.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal, located on Bear Creek in SW Wheeler County, will install beaver dam analogs (BDA) along a 532-meter reach of Bear Creek that is subject to low and often intermittent surface flow during late summer/early fall, a period critical to the survival of juvenile steelhead. Bear Creek is the largest spawning tributary to Bridge Creek. Wheeler SWCD staff is partnering with NOAA beaver analog experts on the design and monitoring.

Project components include installing beaver dam analogs; providing a hands-on workshop for local restoration and contractor implementers; monitoring water quality, quantity and fish presence; producing a manual for restoration practitioners documenting lessons learned during design and implementation; and a summary of monitoring information.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This project complements other restoration and protection work being done in this watershed and on this property.
- Well-written application with excellent maps and detailed attachments.
- The table providing design specifications for each BDA structure is excellent– this made review easier with detail on expected outcomes relative to design and placement at each structure site.
- Bear Creek is a high priority stream for steelhead recovery.
- The project has the right partners and there is a good deal of confidence the project will be successful.
- Connecting this dry reach with up- and downstream perennial flow and holding back sediment will result in high ecological benefits of surface-flow connectivity and increased shade from enhanced riparian vegetation.
- Producing a manual for local landowners contemplating this restoration concept and workshops for local restoration practitioners taught by qualified professionals with expertise in beaver dam analog design will provide additional benefits throughout the region.

Concerns:

- Because flow goes subsurface for part of the year, clear benefits may not happen quickly.

Concluding Analysis:
This was a very well-written application. The project is designed on private land where quite a bit of restoration has already been done. There is confidence this project will be done well and the resulting document and workshop will assist in replicating this concept in other stream systems. There is a high level of confidence because of the track record of the applicant as well as partners from NOAA who have been doing beaver dam analog research for over ten years.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 26,959.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 26,959.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6045**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Harper Diversion Removal and Habitat Enhancement		
Applicant:	Gilliam SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Gilliam
OWEB Request:	**$41,457.00**	**Total Cost:**	$120,876.00
Proposed Match:	$79,420.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on Middle Rock Creek, a tributary of the Lower John Day River in Gilliam County. An abandoned concrete diversion structure poses a threat by entrapping migrating and rearing steelhead and other resident fish species when flows recede. This proposal would completely remove the existing concrete structure and enhance the side channel and backwater habitat area for juvenile and holding steelhead. This project builds on prior restoration projects on Rock Creek to remove all fish passage impediments and, with the other two Rock Creek projects being reviewed this cycle, will open up over 137 miles of good steelhead habitat.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Rock Creek is an important lower John Day River basin steelhead stream.
- This project builds on other restoration projects on this stream system.
- Good to eliminate the potential for fish entrapment and death.
- The restoration proposal followed a technical assistance for design.
- Has good match.

Concerns:

- Excavation costs seem high; fill removal calculated by the hour instead of by volume (cy) made review difficult.
- There were questions about why a portion of the concrete would be left on the off-side of the stream and where the berm removal was proposed. There was no clear explanation in the narrative or the designs.
- The application referred to multiple log and boulder structures but such structures were not included in the designs.
- There was no clear explanation of the goal of the effectiveness monitoring request.

Concluding Analysis:

This resubmitted application builds on numerous fish passage barriers on this significant steelhead stream in the lower John Day basin. The last submittal did not include designs because of a delay in BPA review. This time there were questions related to the design and planting plan that were not explained well in the application. If resubmitted, the application should include: 1) more detail and explanation of the structures proposed and have them identified in the designs; and 2) a clear explanation of the expectations of the effectiveness monitoring component.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions. Reduce award amount by $3,450 and eliminate effectiveness monitoring from the scope of work.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 38,007.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6046**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Hewes Diversion Removal And Channel Restoration		
Applicant:	Gilliam SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Gilliam
OWEB Request:	**$116,724.00**	**Total Cost:**	$206,903.00
Proposed Match:	$90,179.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on Middle Rock Creek, a tributary of the Lower John Day River in Gilliam County. This proposal will completely remove the concrete diversion structure; enhance side channel habitat by placing large wood structures, boulder clusters and regrade the disturbed channel to natural stream form. Banks will be sloped back, seeded and planted. Historic flood events resulted in the main channel bypassing a concrete-chamber irrigation diversion now abandoned in a side-channel. During high flows, steelhead become trapped in the chambers as flows recede. High sediment loading to the stream occur when flows strike the concrete structure and careen into the eastern streambank. Rock Creek is an important lower basin steelhead spawning and rearing stream and abundance and productivity is limited when vital gravel substrate is buried by sediment.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Rock Creek is an important lower John Day River basin steelhead stream.
- This project builds on other restoration projects on this stream system.
- Eliminates the potential for fish entrapment and death.
- Permits are in process.
- Good planting plan and detailed designs.
- The restoration proposal followed a technical assistance project for design.
- Has good secured match.

Concerns:

- The construction engineering and administration line item was unclear; administration is not an eligible direct cost. Also there was no clear explanation of the CTWS grant administration line item as match.
- Excavation costs were hard to evaluate, since line items were calculated by the hour instead of by volume (cy.)
- There was some confusion about the designs of the side channels; they appeared to dead end at the streambank. A similar question came up relating to the main channel as it appeared to hit the bank perpendicularly.
- The narrative left questions about the status of the water rights. Would a point of diversion be rebuilt on this site for future use or would the water right be leased instream?

- It was unclear whether this reach has live flow all year or what the actual timing of fish use was. How close is this site to the next wetted section?
- There was no clear explanation of the goal of the effectiveness monitoring request.

Concluding Analysis:
This resubmitted application builds on numerous fish passage restoration projects on this significant steelhead stream in the lower John Day basin. Removing an entrapment issue is always a strong benefit. However, there were several questions relating to the design of the side channels and wood placement. Knowing the timing of flow, hydrology of this system, and timing of fish use would help reviewers to more fully evaluate the investment. The cost of this project went up significantly from the last submission and the application did not provide an explanation.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. Reduce by $3,450.00 and eliminate effectiveness monitoring from scope of work.

Regional Review Team Priority
11 of 22

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 113,274.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6047**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Olex Diversion Fish Passage Improvement		
Applicant:	Gilliam SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Gilliam
OWEB Request:	**$65,463.00**	**Total Cost:**	$158,792.00
Proposed Match:	$93,329.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on Rock Creek, the first fish-bearing tributary entering the Lower John Day River in Gilliam County. The proposal will reconstruct the fish barrier at Olex diversion so all life stages of steelhead and other aquatic species can easily migrate 144 miles upstream to critical habitat. The project follows a technical assistance grant that provided funds for design and builds on successful efforts by Gilliam SWCD and the Gilliam East John Day Watershed Council to remove all known fish passage barriers on this lower basin steelhead stream. It will improve connectivity for juvenile steelhead to cool water upstream habitat during periods when lower reaches of Rock Creek dry up.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Rock Creek is an important lower John Day River basin steelhead stream.
- This project corrects a significant fish passage barrier and builds on other restoration projects on this stream system.
- The restoration proposal followed a technical assistance project for design.
- Has good secured match.
- Designs are well done and easy to understand.

Concerns:

- The area that was included for seeding in the planting plan is part of a pasture. The application would have been stronger if there had been a grazing management strategy included and some explanation on how that strategy would protect the investment of the seeding component.
- There was no clear explanation of the goal of the effectiveness monitoring request.

Concluding Analysis:

This application was resubmitted after a do not fund last cycle because of a lack of designs. This submission provided clear designs that had been vetted by BPA's engineers. This is a site that previously has not been available for restoration. It is also one of the last known juvenile barriers on this important lower basin tributary.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund Reduced with Conditions. Reduce by $3,450 and remove effectiveness monitoring component from the scope of work.

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 62,013.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund Reduced with Conditions. Reduce by $3,450 and remove effectiveness monitoring component from the scope of work

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 62,013.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6048**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Walla Walla Managed Aquifer Recharge for Instream Flow		
Applicant:	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation		
Basin:	UMATILLA	**County:**	Umatilla
OWEB Request:	**$346,746.00**	**Total Cost:**	$623,874.00
Proposed Match:	$277,129.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located along the Walla Walla River and the town of Milton Freewater in Umatilla County. This project will design and construct five aquifer recharge sites; submit OWRD limited license – a short-term permit for use of winter/spring water in the aquifer recharge program; and work with OWRD and DEQ to update existing monitoring plans to include the new sites. Recharge sites have been selected to provide maximum groundwater and surface water benefits. The project sites will result in an instream benefit of ~4.2 cfs from July to October, bringing the total to 15 cfs for all phases to date. The long-term goal is an increase of 25 cfs instream.

Through the process of agricultural and urban development and a seven-mile long levee system, the hydrology of the Walla Walla Basin has been altered from a system that previously spread out into a distributary network that delivered winter and spring flows out across the valley floor. This distributary system not only provide off-channel habitat for fish and wildlife; it also allowed for natural aquifer recharge into the valley's alluvial system. This is the fifth phase of aquifer recharge projects in this area; the first OWEB funded project was initiated in 2003.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Benefits the Walla Walla River, important habitat for steelhead, Chinook and bull trout.
- The applicant has over ten years of experience implementing successful aquifer recharge.
- Demonstrated technology and modeling is used to identify future recharge sites with the potential for highest ecological benefit.
- Already have limited licenses for four of the five sites.
- The instream flow model shows recharge potentially increasing flow by 4.2 cfs in the Walla Walla River from July to October.
- Increases connectivity of tributaries and mainstem Walla Walla River for fish habitat.
- The applicant works with DEQ and OWRD on monitoring plan development.
- The right partners are involved on the project. Strong landowner support as well.
- There is a high level of monitoring and science-based aquifer recharge.
- Serves as an example of groundwater recharge solutions for other basins dealing with declining aquifers.

Concerns:

- The application lacked a description of current fish use and probable fish use with increased cfs in the lower tributaries to the Walla Walla River.
- On future applications, the review team would appreciate executive summaries and a link instead of uploading entire lengthy documents.

Concluding Analysis:
This applicant has a long history of implementing science-based aquifer recharge. They are well known in the field and have on staff a respected team with aquifer recharge expertise. BPA is a significant partner on these projects and helps offset the cost of implementation and monitoring. OWRD and DEQ have been involved since the beginning, assuring quality control on water injected into the ground and legal water diverted for the use of groundwater recharge. The project makes significant progress toward the ultimate goal of the council to protect 25 cfs instream.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 346,746.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 346,746.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6049**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Meacham Creek Bonifer Reach Floodplain Restoration and In-stream Habitat Enhancement Project		
Applicant:	Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation		
Basin:	UMATILLA	**County:**	Umatilla
OWEB Request:	**$493,950.00**	**Total Cost:**	$1,735,420.00
Proposed Match:	$125,000.00		

Application Description

The project site is located on Meacham Creek, a tributary of the Umatilla River in Umatilla County east of Pendleton. This landscape scale project builds on prior funded and completed OWEB restoration and monitoring projects to improve an additional three miles of instream habitat for ESA listed and resident fish, improve channel morphology, restore instream and floodplain processes and maintain protection of the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way.

Project components of this phase include excavating levees and spur dikes to floodplain elevation; excavating and reconnecting primary and secondary historic channels for increased spawning and rearing habitat; incorporating large wood structures; revegetating disturbed soil; and implementing bioengineering techniques to provide a less intrusive method of bank protection for the railroad.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Important habitat for Chinook, steelhead and lamprey.
- Landscape-scale project with high ecological benefits.
- Well-written application with excellent maps and designs.
- Substantial match.
- Addresses identified limiting factors.
- Builds on similar, completed restoration on contingent sites and incorporates lessons learned from previous projects.
- Native vegetation has quickly reestablished on prior restoration. This site also has potential for a rapid response post-construction.

Concerns:

- The review team had questions about the cost of hauling rock offsite all the way to Milton Freewater and asked whether there are pit or crusher operations closer to the site where the angular rock could be dropped or sold to offset hauling charges.

Concluding Analysis:

Meacham Creek is a priority stream for the Umatilla tribes and integral in their First Foods policy for natural resources. It is important critical habitat for ESA-listed and resident fish. Investments in restoration on this stream will remain protected because of tribal and USFS ownership. The CTUIR team working on this project has the depth of knowledge and a solid track record of successful

implementation. The review team recommended funding at a reduced rate, dropping the costs of hauling the angular rock offsite.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions. Reduce award by $117,920.00 that would have paid for hauling rock offsite.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 376,030.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund Reduced with Conditions. Reduce award by $117,920.00 that would have paid for hauling rock offsite.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 376,030.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6050**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Pine Creek Upland Improvement 2		
Applicant:	Bridge Creek WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Wheeler
OWEB Request:	**$59,528.00**	**Total Cost:**	$78,367.00
Proposed Match:	$18,840.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal, located in the uplands above Pine Creek in Wheeler County, will build on actions of a prior OWEB-funded project by removing more juniper, building cross fence, installing additional livestock water sources, and treating and reseeding a field of medusahead. These conservation practices will contribute to an additional 8.3 million gallons of precipitation reaching the ground instead of being intercepted by juniper cover. The springs, cross fencing, weed treatment and reseeding will enable the landowner to better manage future livestock grazing on the property and better distribute grazing pressure. Increased grass cover will limit overland runoff and improve infiltration which will improve water quality in Pine Creek.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The land manager has a good track record of successful restoration implementation.
- Weed treatment is included in the proposal.
- Large property kept mainly for wildlife habitat.
- Deferred grazing for 2-5 years on treated sites; then minimal grazing (30 pair) would occur.
- A long-term juniper management plan and grazing management strategy was included with the application.

Concerns:

- Crested wheat grass is proposed rather than seeding native perennials.
- Spring source fencing should encompass more area to protect natural seeps and any native vegetation around the spring site.
- The application would have been stronger if it had included conceptual designs for each spring site, including detail on spring collection type, piping, spring source protective fencing, troughs, and amount of elevation drop from source to trough.
- It was noted that ODF notification of operations permit would be required.

Concluding Analysis:

This property sits adjacent to the large Pine Creek Conservation Area, has Pine Creek running through the northern side, and provides high value habitat for numerous wildlife species. The landowner has shown commitment to restoring the property by implementing various restoration actions, many at his own expense. This project builds on those actions by improving the upland grasslands, improving management capacity by cross fencing into smaller pasture units, and developing numerous water sources in higher pastures that will benefit both wildlife and livestock.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 59,528.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6051**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Big Mosquito Restoration Phase II		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$106,079.00**	**Total Cost:**	$147,490.00
Proposed Match:	$41,412.00		

Application Description

The goals of this restoration proposal, located in the Big Creek sub-watershed of the Middle Fork John Day River, are to increase wet meadow water storage capacity, reduce sedimentation and head cutting in tributaries feeding into key salmon and bull trout spawning and rearing habitat, and improve the productivity of meadows for wildlife. The project builds on a prior funded and completed OWEB project (Big Mosquito Phase I.) This phase will include thinning encroaching lodgepole pine; stockpiling and processing appropriate sized lodgepole logs for use in aspen protection fences on various sites around the Middle Fork John Day watershed; moving downed large trees to gullies; and hand-piling and burning some slash while placing other slash within meadow gullies.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Big Mosquito is important habitat for steelhead and bull trout.
- Addresses process and function in high wet meadows. The review team liked the techniques used to hold back water in these high meadows.
- Good to engage local youth through OYCC.
- Phase one has been completed and results are encouraging.
- Builds on other restoration occurring in this basin.
- Good mitigation for future climate changes by providing more storage for water.

Concerns:

- The application would have been stronger with maps that clearly showed what had been done in phase one, what was proposed in phase two, and a third map of other restoration work being done in the basin. The map provided was inadequate and confusing.
- It would have been helpful to reviewers to have the previous phase's completion report available.
- The application would have been stronger if a grazing management strategy or plan had been included.
- The OYCC costs in the budget seemed very high and the application indicated that in many instances, the OYCC crews were limited in what they could accomplish and how fast.
- Effectiveness monitoring was requested but it wasn't clear what and where the monitoring would occur and what questions monitoring would answer.

Concluding Analysis:
This project comes on the heels of a completed phase one project and expands with similar objectives on some of the same meadows. This added some confusion to the review and without having a completion report from phase one, or even good maps, it was difficult to distinguish the overlap. There was also concern that the high cost of using OYCC youth may have inflated the restoration costs on this project. There is support for using OYCC crews in restoration, but appropriate tasks need to be identified so the work is done within a reasonable timeframe and cost. The review team likes to see restoration in these high meadow systems and would suggest this be resubmitted with: 1) better maps showing work that has been done, work proposed for the new application, and other restoration work being done in the watershed; 2) breakout of OYCC tasks and related budget line items; 3) the grazing plan for this allotment; and 4) if effectiveness monitoring is requested, more detail on what monitoring will be done, where and why.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions. Reduce by $3,300.00 and eliminate effectiveness monitoring from scope of work.

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 102,079.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6052**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	2017 John Day Basin Fish Habitat Enhancement Program		
Applicant:	Grant SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$151,909.00**	**Total Cost:**	$525,265.00
Proposed Match:	$373,356.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is a continuation of the ODFW riparian fencing program started in 1984. Proposed exclusion fencing will protect stream miles along Desolation, Lemons, and Hinton Creeks and the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County; and Badger and Pine Hollow Creeks in Wheeler County. The success of this project outcome is assured through 15-year exclusion contracts through a long running, established program which has protected over 219 miles of riparian areas. The proposed riparian fencing will enhance riparian conditions of summer steelhead and Chinook habitat on six waterways protecting at least 127.4 acres.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Strong partners supporting the program.
- Good secured match.
- Successful, long-term program with good track record of implementation.
- This application is protecting some important streams and rivers that provide critical steelhead, Chinook and sometimes bull trout habitat.
- High water quality benefits, including shade and reduced sediment and bacteria.
- Builds on prior fencing projects.
- One site is located where landowner has previously been resistant to riparian fencing. Good opportunity to protect a critical reach of the Middle Fork John Day River.
- Application was well-written and provided clear detail, good maps and photos.

Concerns:

- There were questions about the benefit of the cattle guards but it was explained the riparian fencing crossed USFS land in two places. USFS is providing the cattle guards; grant funds will help cover installation costs.
- On the Badger Creek site, reach E, there were concerns that planned channel work and instream restoration has yet to occur. It would have been good to know whether the timing of the instream restoration correlated with the timing of the fence installation.

Concluding Analysis:

This long-time, successful program has done so much good work and has a stellar reputation for quality fence installations in the John Day Basin. They partner with a multitude of restoration practitioners, sharing their expertise in riparian fencing and providing 15-year exclusion contracts

that also cover fence maintenance during that time. OWEB funds are used for new fence installation and not maintenance costs. The streams selected are high-priority for listed species and will also result in improved water quality. Matching funds from BPA significantly extend the reach of this program.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 151,909.00

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment: OWEB staff will check that the fencing contract for Badger Creek considers the timing of the fence and the OWEB-funded restoration project located in same reach.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 151,909.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6053**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Big Creek Reach Four Floodplain Connectivity Project		
Applicant:	Grant SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$217,154.00**	**Total Cost:**	$285,726.00
Proposed Match:	$68,573.00		

Application Description

The project site is located in the Big Creek watershed, which drains into the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County. This project is designed to restore geomorphic processes to provide for biotic and hydrologic functions by: breaching legacy levees and removing mining materials, creating a half-mile new side channel; constructing a high-flow relief channel integrated into the network above the road; installing a bottomless pipe arch culvert to extend the side channel beyond USFS road 4560; installing log jam and wood structures; and installing a debris catcher just upstream of the existing bridge to minimize potential structure damage during high flows. The project will result in increased spawning and juvenile rearing for steelhead, bull trout, and Chinook salmon; increased duration and frequency of floodplain inundation; and increased amount and diversity of instream and floodplain wood supply. Post-construction, the project area will be replanted, reseeded and follow-up treatment applied to emerging weeds.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Well-written application. Mining impacts were clearly described.
- Clear and detailed designs were provided with the application.
- This is an important steelhead, bull trout and juvenile Chinook stream.
- Will provide high water quality benefits.
- Accomplishes floodplain reconnection by removing historic mining levees and ponds.
- Cultural resource assessments have already been completed.
- Applicant has a good reputation for sound engineering on similar projects.
- This reach is highly degraded and needs active restoration.
- Builds on other restoration being done in this watershed.

Concerns:

- Errors in the engineer and engineer tech rates in the budget were identified and will be corrected, lowering the requested ask.
- It would have been helpful to reviewers to have included a map showing how this project fits in with other restoration activities being done in this watershed.

Concluding Analysis:

This location is highly degraded from legacy mining impacts. The active restoration design will help the stream, which provides critical cold water habitat to multiple ESA-listed and resident fish

species, reconnect to the floodplain, restore depositional processes for stream channels, increase channel complexity, and add side channel habitat. This is an important project that adds to overall restoration activities occurring in the Big Mosquito watershed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced. Reduce award to correct budget error.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 216,030.00

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment

OWEB staff will work with grantee to correct budget error; the scope of work stays the same.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund Reduced. Reduce award to correct budget error.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 216,030.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6054**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Badger Creek Diversion #6		
Applicant:	Wheeler SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Wheeler
OWEB Request:	**$93,774.00**	**Total Cost:**	$195,516.00
Proposed Match:	$101,742.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on Badger Creek, a tributary of Mountain Creek and the John Day River in southeast Wheeler County. This proposal will replace a fish barrier irrigation diversion opening up an additional 7.3 miles of habitat; install irrigation flow measuring devices for the two water users on this system; convert open irrigation ditch to dual buried pipelines; replace a failing and undersized bridge; construct a series of engineered riffles and large wood structures; and exclusion fence and plant the area directly around the diversion and downstream to the neighboring fence line through the CREP program.

The upper section of Badger Creek is a highly productive system providing cool water refugia with consistent flows throughout the year. It provides some of the best spawning and rearing steelhead habitat within the watershed. This project will return this reach of Badger Creek to properly functioning condition and builds on enhancements in the Badger Creek and Mountain Creek drainage to improve fish passage, stream and upland habitat.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Corrects a full fish passage barrier so all life stages of steelhead can access upstream cold water refugia.
- This multi-component restoration project is located on Badger Creek, a priority steelhead stream.
- Complements other restoration done on Badger Creek.
- Result of prioritization from the Wheeler SWCD Mountain Creek Reach Assessment.
- Landowner was previously hesitant to participate in restoration on her land; neighbor's projects completed upstream have made a positive difference in her willingness to allow enhancements.
- Includes installation of flow measuring devices on both pipes so landowners and watermaster can control and manage water use.
- Enrolls a portion of the creek in CREP; could result in even more acres enrolled.
- Comprehensive designs were included with the application. The team also liked the addition of small overflow culverts on the roadway to allow high-flows to access historic side channels.

Concerns:

- The application would have been stronger if there had been more landowner match for bridge installation expense.

Concluding Analysis:
This is a restoration project following an OWEB technical assistance grant for design. Badger Creek has had a lot of restoration work done both up- and downstream. Steelhead that reach Badger Creek will be able to access cool water and good spawning grounds once this project is complete. The applicant addressed all prior evaluation comments. This is a good project with high-likelihood of success.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 93,774.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 93,774.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6055**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Kee Property Restoration		
Applicant:	Cascade Pacific RC&D		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$27,373.00**	**Total Cost:**	$36,023.00
Proposed Match:	$10,320.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal, located in the Flat Creek drainage south of Izee in the Upper South Fork John Day River watershed, will enhance biodiversity and restore resiliency for four valuable habitat types on the Kee property: aspen stands, wet meadows, bitterbrush shrubland and old growth forests. An additional element of the project is a pilot to determine the economics and efficacy of juniper extraction to incentivize biomass salvage and minimize slash burning. Multiple restoration components include: thinning encroaching junipers and conifers to open up aspen colonies; protecting aspen stands to allow regeneration of a multi-age class stand; removing encroaching conifers and juniper on wet meadows and riparian zones; removing encroaching juniper from upland bitterbrush communities; enhancing stands of replacement old growth ponderosa pine; and designating upland juniper removal test sites to assess economic viability of juniper extraction and transport.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The appropriate locations were selected for restoration – these are very productive sites.
- The applicant demonstrated good pre-project planning; the project is an innovative approach to scope the economics of juniper removal and marketing, which, if successful, could be replicated on other sites to offset juniper removal costs.
- This is a unique large, high meadow site adjacent to old growth roadless area and BLM land.
- The property is used only for recreation and wildlife habitat, and includes a large resident elk population.
- The site includes multiple aspen clones with some of the largest trees in the region.
- Evaluation comments from a previous submittal were satisfactorily addressed.

Concerns:

- The application would have been stronger if it had included a comprehensive long-term juniper management plan.
- There was some concern about the likelihood of follow-up maintenance.

Concluding Analysis:
This is a resubmit from the previous cycle and the applicant addressed all review team concerns noted in the evaluation. This unique ecosystem is adjacent to Snow Mountain and provides important habitat for a multitude of wildlife species. On previous site visits, there was evidence of beaver colonies and the landowner is excited to see beaver make a comeback. Reducing the encroaching juniper will help increase wet meadow storage and increase re-establishment of appropriate tree and shrub species.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. A long-term juniper management plan must be submitted prior to or with the first payment request.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 27,373.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6056**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	RLMT Granite Creek Restoration: Burnette		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$48,556.00**	**Total Cost:**	$61,714.00
Proposed Match:	$13,158.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located along Lick Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County. Lick Creek is a perennial stream that provides 2.7 miles of spawning and rearing steelhead habitat and historically provided the majority of livestock water on the ranch. The landowner has been actively working to fence off Lick Creek and provide alternative upland water sources for livestock. This project builds on those efforts by fencing riparian areas on both upper and lower Lick Creek; construct rocked road crossings; install a culvert; and develop springs to provide upland water sources for livestock.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This is a highly motivated landowner involved with the Ritter Land Management Team.
- Lick Creek is identified as steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.
- Grazing management strategies were included with the application.
- Good match from landowner. Builds on prior restoration work accomplished on his lands.
- One of two highest priority watersheds in the RLMT action plan.
- The project could result in additional riparian fencing on upper Lick Creek.
- The highest ecological benefit is realized by fencing lower Lick Creek.

Concerns:

- The application would have been stronger if it had included a broad explanation of all planned future projects and completed restoration work on this property, including the overall expected ecological benefits.
- The construction components lacked sufficient detail on what would be done.
- Fencing for spring sources was not included in the budget.
- No letter of support from the Ritter Land Management Team.
- Application refers to “Discovery Tool” used by the RLMT. Information relating to how this tool is used would have been helpful to include in the application.

Concluding Analysis:

The landowner on this property has a reputation for being a good manager of the land. He has participated in multiple restoration projects, all successfully completed. Protecting Lick Creek is being accomplished in phases – this project would make progress toward that goal. The application would have been stronger if it had included designs or better explanations of construction elements.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 48,556.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6057**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Rice Creek Spring Protection		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$15,040.00**	**Total Cost:**	$19,039.00
Proposed Match:	$3,999.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on uplands near Rice Creek, a tributary to Slide Creek and ultimately the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County. Currently livestock water out of a draw above Rice Creek, trampling wet zones and degrading surface water. The proposal would develop a spring halfway up the drainage and then exclusion fence both sides of the draw to help enhance riparian vegetation and filter any surface flows.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Fencing riparian area and protecting a spring source is beneficial.

Concerns:

- The application didn't explain if live flow from this drainage is directly connected to Rice Creek. It didn't appear to from maps provided nor from the site visit.
- The application was poorly written and didn't clearly explain resulting ecological benefits.
- There were no designs or conceptual detail on spring development, associated piping and trough system.
- The spring source was located in a steep drainage, which could be a difficult site to develop.
- On the site visit, the landowner didn't appear to know what the plan was for the project.

Concluding Analysis:

This landowner is new to restoration and this project could result in future restoration on the property. Perhaps an OWEB small grant would be a better way to introduce enhancement benefits. The applicant will need to clearly describe the ecological benefits of the project, whether applying through open solicitation or the small grant program.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6058**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	RLMT Granite Creek Restoration: Walton		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$48,406.00**	**Total Cost:**	$60,928.00
Proposed Match:	$12,523.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located along Granite Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County. The landowners have undertaken many conservation efforts, some including OWEB-funded riparian fencing, feed bunk relocation, and off-channel water developments to improve Granite Creek. This proposal builds on those efforts by exclusion fencing along additional reaches of Granite Creek; developing upland spring sites to provide water for livestock in pastures now excluded from the creek; and constructing hardened rock crossings across Granite Creek for reduced sediment inputs when moving livestock or equipment. Eliminating livestock access to Granite Creek will result in increased vegetation health, vigor, diversity, and density; and will mitigate sediment inputs and livestock waste inputs to the creek.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Ritter Land Management Team (RLMT) priority in Granite Creek watershed, identified by their landowner discovery tool and Action Plan.
- Reducing livestock use of Granite Creek would have high ecological benefit.
- Site is very visible alongside Hwy 395.
- Detailed landowner letter of support.
- Would add 1.85 miles of protected steelhead habitat on Granite Creek.
- Builds on previous restoration on Granite Creek and helps the momentum of the RLMT restoration planning.

Concerns:

- The application lacked critical information related to construction elements.
- Rocked crossing would require ODFW fish passage approval.
- Application described riparian fence buffer of 30-foot width, which is below most buffer requirements.
- Photos submitted with application did not adequately portray the site conditions, especially the crossings.
- The map would have been more helpful if it had provided more detail.
- There appeared to be a lack of coordination with the RLMT, with no letter of support included with the application.
- The discovery tool for this property mentioned weeds as a priority issue but the application didn’t include any weed treatment.

Concluding Analysis:
This project would build on previous riparian fencing completed upstream and would improve the condition of Granite Creek by removing livestock access. However, there were too many questions left unanswered relating to the project designs, especially the spring developments and the rock crossings. The project does have merit and if resubmitted, the review team would request the application include: 1) conceptual designs for spring sites, with enough detail to adequately describe what would be done; 2) designs or at minimum, specifications on the rocked crossings (consultation with ODFW fish biologist on design in advance would be beneficial); 3) letter of support from the Ritter Land Management Team; 4) better photos that accurately show site conditions; 5) a map with more detail, including proposed project components and past restoration actions such as riparian fencing, feed lot relocation, etc.; and 6) riparian buffer width be designed at a minimum of 35 feet from the ordinary high water level or vegetation green line.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
21 of 22

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 48,406.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6059**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Circle Bar Ranch Restoration Project		
Applicant:	Wheeler SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Wheeler
OWEB Request:	**$65,359.00**	**Total Cost:**	$237,240.00
Proposed Match:	$171,881.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located along the West Branch of Bridge Creek, a tributary to the John Day River in Wheeler County. West Branch provides productive steelhead spawning and rearing habitat. This multi-component restoration project seeks to improve riparian and upland health by removing encroaching juniper from select rangelands and in proximity to aspen communities; treating invasive annual grasses in pastures and along roads; installing exclusion fencing/individual cages around three aspen stands; developing upland water sources to disperse livestock and provide for both livestock and wildlife; and enrolling riparian areas into CREP with enhanced planting and exclusion fencing. Historic fire suppression and grazing practices have degraded the landscape; however, the present landowner has been working since he purchased the property to restore the landscape's health and resiliency. Watershed benefits include improved health and vigor of riparian vegetation, improved grasslands ability to capture, store and release precipitation to increase groundwater and reduce sedimentation to downslope streams, and improved habitat for both fish and wildlife species in riparian, upland and aspen communities.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Well-written application for an outstanding project with diverse components.
- The applicant has a good reputation for successful projects; likelihood of success is high.
- Great match through NRCS RCPP funds.
- Landowners are very motivated and are engaging the second generation to be responsible land managers and continue restoration on the ranch.
- High ecological benefits from a mosaic of projects.
- The follow-up juniper maintenance plan and the comprehensive weed management plan were submitted with the application.
- The NRCS comprehensive grazing management plan and spring development design packet were helpful in the review and left team members feeling confident implementation would be done well.
- This is the first restoration project on West Branch Bridge Creek in many years; it could lead to additional work in the watershed.
- On the site visit, healthy pastures and native grass stands were evident.

Concerns:

- There was some concern about what would happen to the juniper once cut. Would it be left where it was felled or piled and burned?
- The team would like to see the juniper, once felled or pulled in the riparian areas, be placed back in the stream channel to add complexity.

Concluding Analysis:
This is a very aggressive, expansive project for relatively little cost. West Branch Bridge Creek has not had restoration opportunities for quite a long time. This is the first landowner to enroll in CREP on this stream system, which may provide motivation for neighbors to inquire about the program. After the site visit, the applicant provided a concise summary of the grazing that was extremely helpful. Overall, this is a well-planned project that will result in high ecological benefits.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
9 of 22

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 65,359.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6060**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Heflin Creek Restoration		
Applicant:	Wheeler SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Wheeler
OWEB Request:	**$66,787.00**	**Total Cost:**	$173,736.00
Proposed Match:	$106,949.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on Heflin Creek, a headwater tributary of Bear Creek in southwest Wheeler County. It is a spring fed system that maintains cold water flow even during late summer months. This proposal will consolidate three PODs to one location downstream; install a fish-friendly irrigation diversion, fish screen and flow measuring device; restore streamflow to the natural channel and install an appropriate sized open bottom arch culvert; convert open ditches to buried pipe with risers; install vertical post structures (VPS) to catch debris and sediment to help reconnect the floodplain; and strategically place logs in the stream channel and floodplain for additional complexity and cover. Currently, existing push-up dams are used as irrigation diversions on the property; the first diversion directs the entire flow of Heflin Creek out of its natural channel into an irrigation ditch. An undersized culvert with a large downstream jump is located in the historic channel and poses a compete barrier to fish, including potential steelhead habitat. After flowing a short distance in the artificial channel, some of the water re-enters the natural channel and is diverted twice more to irrigate adjacent fields. All three existing diversions do not allow for fish passage and are not screened to protect fish from entrapment or measured to accurately manage the water right. Past the diversions, Heflin Creek begins extensive down cutting and floodplain disconnect.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- As a resubmit, the applicant addressed all concerns noted on prior evaluation.
- High likelihood of success.
- Landowner contributing in-kind labor, materials and cash.
- Good match from NRCS RCPP funds.
- ODFW is looking at potential solutions to the downstream barrier on Dodd's Creek.
- The review team liked the concept of a willow whip threaded through the lower end of the VPS structures before installation.
- Consolidating three PODs into one, and screening and installing a flow measurement device add high value to the project.
- Keeping flow in a natural channel and removing fish passage barriers are good objectives.

Concerns:

- More details are needed about the VPS installation.
- The application may have overstated steelhead use; the fish present are more likely resident redband populations.
- The culvert component only had conceptual designs provided.

Concluding Analysis:
This application is a resubmit from a prior cycle. Heflin Creek has the potential to provide great habitat once downstream barriers are corrected. And, by reconnecting to the floodplain, there is also potential to increase flows. The project is sound; however, Heflin Creek is not considered as high a priority as other streams in the basin.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
15 of 22

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 66,787.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6061**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Habitat Conservation Outreach - John Day Basin		
Applicant:	Blue Mountain Land Trust		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$50,000.00**	**Total Cost:**	$119,035.00
Proposed Match:	$12,500.00		

Application Description

This landowner recruitment TA will identify and develop opportunities for conservation easements and other conservation projects within the John Day Basin, leading to increased conservation and enhancement of critical fish and wildlife habitat on private lands. Using secured match, this proposal would fund a full-time Conservation Officer, working with partners in the John Day Basin. Guidance for the Conservation Officer would come from a Project Oversite Committee made up of partner agencies, local residents, and staff and board from the Blue Mountain Land Trust. Objectives include evaluating an estimated 20-30 identified potential easement sites; reaching out to an additional 200 landowners with information about conservation easements and other habitat protection tools; and connecting interested landowners with a land trust capable of completing and holding a conservation easement. Results will demonstrate the demand for land trust services and community support for conservation necessary to maintain the Conservation Officer as a permanent staff position.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The application demonstrates a clear need in the John Day Basin for having someone within the basin dedicated to the position and with technical expertise in easements and acquisitions.
- The application was well-written and showed that a lot of thought went into defining the needs of this position.
- The right partners are involved and show strong commitment in both time and resources.

Concerns:

- The continuity of the position is unclear after the two-year funding period.

Concluding Analysis:

The time is right for establishing a collaborative position in the John Day Basin to help facilitate easements and acquisitions. A large number of landowners have expressed interest but at this time there is no local land trust or personnel with the technical level of knowledge available. Partners formed a working group that has been active for over a year planning how to resolve the issue.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 50,000.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 50,000.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6062**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	South Fork John Day Coordinated Resource Management Planning		
Applicant:	Cascade Pacific RC&D		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$12,337.00**	**Total Cost:**	$18,097.00
Proposed Match:	$6,538.00		

Application Description

This technical assistance application for planning will re-initiate the South Fork John Day River *Coordinated Resource Management Planning* (CRMP) group that formally existed from 1980 to 1992. The formal partnership would include the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Wildlife, USFS, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Grant SWCD, private landowners and the Dayville Grazing Association. The South Fork John Day Watershed Council recently expanded their boundaries to the lower half of the South Fork drainage and propose to reactivate and staff the CRMP to increase collaboration and restoration activities in the entire South Fork John Day Basin. Deliverables would include a five-year scope of work plan of restoration projects. This planning will encourage more collaboration and landscape scale watershed restoration projects; better represent all interests in the entire watershed, and form a realistic 5-year plan for prioritization of needed restoration actions.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Focuses on an area that has many natural resource issues that need to be addressed.
- Have strong partners involved.
- Cost-effective; builds on existing plan framework.
- Resulting 5-year plan could help bring in additional funding from non-traditional sources.
- Will help future restoration efforts and pull in an entirely new landowner base in the lower basin.

Concerns:

- NRCS was missing as a partner. Usually that agency plays a large role in CRMP development and implementation.

Concluding Analysis:

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council is the right organization to pull this together. They have been actively partnering with all agencies originally involved in this CRMP plan. This planning process will also help them with landowner outreach in the lower portion of South Fork John Day River drainage. The state and federal agencies involved have expressed an interest but they do not have staff available for the organizational capacity, although NRCS should be included as a partner.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 12,337.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 12,337.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6063**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Junken's Creek Culvert TA		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$28,196.00**	**Total Cost:**	$38,177.00
Proposed Match:	$9,982.00		

Application Description

This technical assistance application for design will result in a 100% design set for a UTV bridge and stream bed restoration on Junken's Creek, a tributary of Desolation Creek in Grant County. $100,000 has been secured for implementation in 2018, once designs have been approved. Junken's Creek is identified as spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-listed steelhead and is listed as a high priority for the Umatilla National Forest.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Good project to restore passage to both steelhead and bull trout.
- There is guaranteed funding for implementation up to 2018.
- Permitting (ARBO) is complete.
- This stream is in good condition and provides critical habitat during summer flows.

Concerns:

- It is only about one mile to the next culvert that is also a barrier to fish passage.
- Photos submitted with the application were not adequate to demonstrate project need.
- Council staff time seems high for the amount of work proposed.
- The application did not clearly justify the need for a 50' span and did not include a good discussion on alternatives considered.
- The application would have been stronger if it had included information on the timing and use of UTVs on this trail, as well as an analysis of a bridge vs. a rocked ford.
- Currently, the culvert is more of a partial barrier during low-flows; fish are getting above it.

Concluding Analysis:

Removing barriers on steelhead and bull trout streams to access habitat is valuable work. For this project, having secured funding for implementation within a specific timeframe was also a strong consideration. The benefit will be maximized if the upstream barrier is also corrected in the near future. While the photos were not helpful in illustrating the problem, reviewers familiar with the site were able to affirm the need for the project.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. Prior to beginning work on the design, a progress report shall be provided to the OWEB project manager with a comprehensive assessment of whether a ford is more appropriate for this site.

Regional Review Team Priority:

2 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 28,196.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board:

Fund with Conditions. Prior to beginning work on the design, a progress report shall be provided to the OWEB project manager with a comprehensive assessment of whether a ford is more appropriate for this site.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 28,196.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6064**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Lower Grass Valley Canyon Weed Management		
Applicant:	Sherman County Area WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Sherman
OWEB Request:	**$45,760.00**	**Total Cost:**	$59,738.00
Proposed Match:	$13,978.00		

Application Description

This technical assistance application for planning will occur in the Lower Grass Valley drainage in Sherman County. The proposal would survey, treat and document Class A & B invasive and noxious weeds on 9,370 acres of private property. Terrain is steep so all survey will be done on foot. Data collected will include infestation size and species focusing on rangeland in the uplands of the Lower Grass Valley Canyon. CRP, CREP and cropland acres are excluded from proposed acres due to existing weed treatment requirements. The applicant will contract with the Sherman County Weed District to do the field work. Data will be transferred from field GPS units to the SWCD office computers, then analyzed and mapped, noting whether the weeds were treated or not.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The strategic approach to mapping before large-scale treatments was appreciated, as well as the plan to treat isolated sites during inventory with a backpack sprayer.
- Submitting landowner agreements along with the application was helpful.
- There is a definite need to treat weeds in this drainage and it is good that they are working in the Sherman County ODA Focus area.
- The Sherman County Weed District has the knowledge and the equipment so success is likely.

Concerns:

- There was no landowner match for the inventory work, which may affect long-term effectiveness.
- Because it is so low in the watershed, there is less ecological benefit.
- The budget could have used more detail and should not include lump sums.
- It would have been helpful to know what future phases of restoration are planned in this watershed.

Concluding Analysis:

This is a very remote and steep drainage with no lack of invasive weeds. The cropland, CREP and CRP fields are already addressing weed issues, but that leaves a large amount of range and upland untreated. Funding for weed treatments on these sites is hard to acquire, especially if the weeds are not a targeted species. Having this data in an electronic format will help obtain future funding for implementation, as well as inform future restoration projects.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 45,760.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 45,760.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6065**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Rock Creek Summer Streamflow		
Applicant:	Gilliam SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Gilliam
OWEB Request:	**$27,692.00**	**Total Cost:**	$45,581.00
Proposed Match:	$17,890.00		

Application Description

This technical assistance application for planning will survey 34.5 miles of Rock Creek, the first fish-bearing tributary on the lower John Day River. Summer flows, water quantity, temperature, summer steelhead abundance, and riparian habitat, including large woody debris, riparian cross-sections, vegetation extent and shade in the wetted reaches, will be inventoried and mapped. The data collected will guide the direction of planned future flow and habitat restoration efforts in Rock Creek, as well as identifying sites for future long-term monitoring.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This proposal was generated from prior review team comments about identifying wetted reaches of Rock Creek relative to proposed restoration activities.
- Rock Creek is an important lower basin John Day steelhead tributary. There is good restoration momentum with all fish passage barriers addressed; now the focus is on enhancing habitat.
- The partners on this project are appropriate.
- The proposal was low-cost and incorporated robust tools and technical aspects that can be replicated on other sites.

Concerns:

- The application would have been stronger if it had provided more detail on monitoring, inventory, and mapping protocols.
- Two years of data may not accurately portray enough information to be useful in the long term, but will help identify future long-term monitoring sites.

Concluding Analysis:

This inventory and baseline gathering of data on wetted reaches of Rock Creek will not only provide locations for continued monitoring, but also serve as a tool for prioritizing habitat enhancement project sites and baselines for effectiveness monitoring after restoration is completed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

4 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 27,692.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 27,692.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6066**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	North Fork John Day Bull/Brook Trout eDNA Collection and Analysis		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$7,286.00**	**Total Cost:**	$9,314.00
Proposed Match:	$2,029.00		

Application Description

This rapid bioassessment monitoring proposal is focused on headwater tributaries of the North Fork John Day River in Grant County. Utilizing relatively new technology, known as Environmental DNA or eDNA, the protocol involves collecting and testing water samples for Bull and Brook Trout DNA. The goal of the proposal is to develop or add to the current data set of bull trout and brook trout distribution in the North Fork John Day River basin, while progressively informing watershed management decisions in order to strive for the most efficient conservation practices. Monitoring activities will include recording the presence, absence and distribution of both juvenile and adult species of both Bull and Brook Trout. This proposal would pay for the analysis on samples taken at 39 sites.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- eDNA to determine Bull Trout and Brook Trout distribution is a reasonable use of this technology.
- The applicant is helping the Forest Service collect the data (all sampling sites are on USFS lands) and a reputable Forest Service lab is being used to analyze the water samples.
- The applicant proposes to provide updates on this project on their website as it evolves and to present information at a local workshop once the project is completed.
- The application has a clear objective and reasonable timeline to complete it.

Concerns:

- The application was brief and provided minimal information; the attachments give a better understanding of the project.
- The application referenced both distribution and density. This data will provide fish distribution information, but density is much harder to determine without incorporating a lot of other pieces of information that are not proposed to be collected.
- It wasn't clear if the information collected is going to be used to verify a distribution model or inform model development.
- The application references a range-wide bull trout eDNA project, but it wasn't clear how this proposal would contribute to it.
- There is a local Bull Trout monitoring effort that has been underway for some time and the applicant does not appear to be working with ODFW on this project.

Recommendations:
If funded, the applicant should take the necessary steps to better coordinate this work with ODFW.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (60%), High (40%)

Certainty of Success: Medium (60%), High (40%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The request of funding was modest.
- This is a great use of new technology.

Concerns:

- The application was unclear on how the 39 locations were chosen for testing and what methodology was used in that selection process.
- The map showed many more sites than the 39 mentioned in the application.
- There was no collaboration on monitoring sites with the local Bull Trout Working Group.
- There was no discussion of coordination with ODFW eDNA monitoring being done around the state.

Concluding Analysis:
Although it was a modest request for funds, there were enough questions related to site selection, the potential duplication of monitoring already being done on bull trout in this area, and the lack of coordination with both the local Bull Trout Working Group and ODFW statewide eDNA efforts that the review team recommended a do not fund.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6067**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Lonerock Effectiveness Monitoring		
Applicant:	Gilliam SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Gilliam
OWEB Request:	**$75,224.00**	**Total Cost:**	$112,409.00
Proposed Match:	$37,185.00		

Application Description

This effectiveness monitoring of a restoration project would include habitat, stream and vegetation surveys; juvenile fish abundance surveys; and surface monitoring of flow, temperature and sediment along a reach of Lonerock Creek in SE Gilliam County. One year of baseline data will be gathered prior to the implementation of a large-scale prescribed burn to remove encroaching juniper along Lonerock Creek, followed-up with several years of data to help quantify benefits from this type of landscape scale restoration project.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The application had a good explanation of what ODFW would work on and the OPMT has confidence this portion of the project would be successful.
- This is an important restoration action to monitor given the quantity of juniper removal projects considered by OWEB.

Concerns:

- Fish monitoring methods were explained well, but the other monitoring actions did not have a similar level of explanation to understand exactly what they were going to do.
- The grass monitoring that was proposed only included measuring height and did not include species.
- The application did not describe any support from OWRD or DEQ and there was no letter of support from ODFW.
- The requested funding seems low for the amount of work needed to be done to be successful.
- Monitoring design narrative and budget didn't seem to line up with the number of sites they were proposing to monitor.
- It is unclear if the applicant has the experience to collect, manage and summarize all of the data to be collected over a four-year period and synthesized into a meaningful final report.
- The application did not mention monitoring precipitation, which is needed to fully understand the surface and groundwater dynamics.
- One year of pre-project data collection is not enough information to establish baseline hydrologic conditions to evaluate the effects of the restoration actions that are scheduled to be implemented in Fall 2017.

Recommendations:
If funded, coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator for technical assistance on water temperature monitoring. ODEQ may be able to provide water temperature loggers for this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (100 %)

Certainty of Success: Low (80%), Medium (20%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This data would help fill a gap on the knowledge of impacts of landscape-scale prescribed burns to reduce and/or control juniper infestation.
- Recording new flow data and compiling the 15 years of historic flow data for this stream would be beneficial even beyond this monitoring project.
- Prescribed burning as an economical control and maintenance of juniper encroachment are becoming more acceptable.
- The fish monitoring protocols were clearly explained.

Concerns:

- There was some concern about only having one year of pre-treatment data; however, the review team concluded that this type of differential model of monitoring mitigates the concern about short-term data sets.
- There was concern that the data would not factor in wet/dry years.
- The application did not clearly explain how precipitation data would be integrated into monitoring analysis; a precipitation gauge should be installed at the control site.
- The application alluded to how juniper removal affects juvenile steelhead abundance numbers, but did not provide reference or citations to any such studies.
- It wasn't clear if the methodology would be able to be replicated in other prescribed burn project areas or how the resulting information would be shared.

Concluding Analysis:
This data would be helpful since prescribed burns are becoming more frequent in controlling juniper encroachment and there is a dearth of available information related to impacts on adjacent streams. There was high confidence in ODFW's fish monitoring protocols but the review team wanted assurance that the grantee will seek appropriate expertise in implementing other monitoring protocols related to flow, temperature and precipitation.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff:

Fund with Conditions. To facilitate transferability of the data, the final report shall include a white paper summarizing the results; the white paper shall be distributed to OSU Extension, the Juniper Alliance, the John Day Basin Partnership, and at the BPA Coordination Meeting.

Regional Review Team Priority:

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 75,224.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund with Conditions. To facilitate transferability of the data, the final report shall include a white paper summarizing the results; the white paper shall be distributed to OSU Extension, the Juniper Alliance, the John Day Basin Partnership, and at the BPA Coordination Meeting. The grantee shall coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator for technical assistance on water temperature monitoring protocols.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 75,224.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6068**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Cottonwood Creek Steelhead and Stream Temperature Monitoring		
Applicant:	Monument SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$139,324.00**	**Total Cost:**	$198,794.00
Proposed Match:	$57,910.00		

Application Description

This status and trend monitoring proposal will collect baseline physical and biological data currently lacking in Cottonwood Creek, a significant tributary of the North Fork John Day River near the town of Monument in Grant County. This project will provide baseline data on juvenile steelhead, stream temperatures and stream discharge in Lower Cottonwood Creek. The initial monitoring results will identify current abundance, survival, and growth rates of juvenile steelhead, and provide baseline data on stream temperature and discharge. The data gathered will be used to develop a stream temperature forecasting model and assess the success of future restorations actions within the watershed. The intent is that successful implementation of this monitoring effort will lead to a *Cottonwood Action to Stabilize Temperature* (CAST) project, similar to the successful model FAST, used on Fifteenmile Creek in Wasco County.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The OPMT liked that the applicant is following a similar approach that has had success and is applying it to another basin that has a similar need.
- The applicant is working with relevant partners including ODFW, The Freshwater Trust (TFT) and Sustainable Northwest (SNW) to receive support and perform the monitoring.
- The OPMT liked that the applicant is taking a proactive approach to addressing competing needs for streamflow during low-flow periods.
- The model that is being developed will allow the stakeholders to balance irrigation needs and provide instream flows for fish.
- The OPMT liked that the applicant will submit a TA application next grant cycle to engage landowners in preparation for monitoring and implementing conservation actions.

Concerns:

- Due to the current lack of buy-in by some landowners, it is unclear if landowners will be receptive to curtailing water use after the model is developed.
- There were no letters of support from ODFW, TFT or SNW.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)

Certainty of Success: High (80%), Medium (20%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This monitoring project will result in the design of a program that will help assure sufficient flow during critical times for steelhead.
- Cottonwood is important habitat for steelhead spawning and rearing.
- The project is based on a successful model and could be replicated on other John Day Basin streams.
- Proactively addressing the issue was a noted strength, rather than waiting for regulatory reaction to a fish kill.
- Appropriate and strong partnerships were involved.
- The project includes installing a fixed-flow gauge..
- Good to begin acquiring fish data on this tributary, filling a noted gap in the data.

Concerns:

- There was some concern about the number of willing landowners to participate in the resulting program.
- The application would have been stronger with letters of support from partners and landowners associated with monitoring sites.

Concluding Analysis:
Cottonwood Creek is an important tributary of the North Fork John Day River but has little fish and water quality data. This monitoring will not only begin to fill that data gap but will also provide the necessary information for developing a stream temperature forecasting model to be used to balance irrigation needs and flows for fish.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 139,324.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board:

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 139,324.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6069**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Upper Middle Fork Allotment Monitoring		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$84,496.00**	**Total Cost:**	$157,228.00
Proposed Match:	$72,733.00		

Application Description

This status and trend monitoring proposal would produce real-time data to help inform grazing management decisions for three Malheur National Forest permittees on allotments on the upper Middle Fork John Day Basin using Land EKG™ software. Sampling data would be entered on a field computer and include 100' and 200' line-transacts, forage hoop measurements, photo points, and narrative detailing conditions. Parameters assessed during transect measurements and plot visits include: surface cover percentages, plant/organism inventories, ecosystem process indicators, precipitation tracking, grazing tracking, and forage production. Data would be uploaded to the Land EKG website and made available to land managers.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This monitoring will provide additional information to the permitee on the condition of the allotment after the grazing is completed.
- Information will be uploaded to a website and available to the permitee and public.
- The permitee(s) appear to be supportive and receptive to additional information to contribute to adaptive management of their grazing on public lands.

Concerns:

- There are no letters of support or in-kind match from the Forest Service, and it is unclear how much the applicant has coordinated with them prior to submitting this application.
- This application seems to seek funding to gather information to respond to regulation and/or litigation, rather than focusing on providing information about how the grazing impacts are affecting riparian areas adjacent to sensitive fish species habitat.
- The proposed project will only pay for one year of monitoring and will include training that takes place in Wyoming.
- There appears to be little/no engagement by the full suite of parties involved in grazing issues, which may limit the project's ability to contribute to the dialogue on this important issue.
- The monitoring schedule will provide information on grazing impacts after summer grazing is complete and during the fall, after recovery begins. However, seasonality may result in recovery not occurring in the fall and, thus, may not be a good comparison.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Low (100%)

Certainty of Success: Low (75%), Medium (25%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Understanding how uplands are impacted by grazing is important information to have both from the agency and permittee perspective.
- The EKG software appeared to be a strong tool for the permitee to manage forage resources.

Concerns:

- The requested amount for one-year monitoring seemed high; one year of data wouldn't provide much information; and the application didn't explain how future monitoring would be funded.
- The number of acres to be monitored seems exaggerated and there was some confusion between the timeline mentioned in the narrative and the project schedule and budget.
- There was no letter of support from the Malheur National Forest and there were concerns there had not been enough coordination with the appropriate USFS department.
- The application did not identify the proposed monitoring sites.
- The resulting data may not be made readily available to the public.
- The application alluded to this data being important for ongoing defense of public lands grazing.
- The application mentioned monitoring being done in riparian areas, but the EKG model seems to focus entirely on the uplands.

Concluding Analysis:
Monitoring on public lands is valuable, but it must be done in conjunction with the USFS. The application would have been stronger with more detail on monitoring sites, coordination with existing monitoring done by the USFS, and some information on how this program will continue into the future.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6070**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Upper Walla Walla Watershed Hydrology Assessment		
Applicant:	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation		
Basin:	UMATILLA	**County:**	Umatilla
OWEB Request:	**$58,469.00**	**Total Cost:**	$98,764.00
Proposed Match:	$40,296.00		

Application Description

This status and trend monitoring project will collect and analyze data on water quantity, temperature and pH of both surface and ground water in the upper South Fork of the Walla Walla River in Umatilla County near the town of Milton Freewater. The data will establish baseline conditions for the location and flow of spring inputs to better understand the upper watershed's hydrology. The assessment will also investigate the correlation between precipitation and spring flows; potential climate change impacts; and current forest management practices in the surrounding headwater timberland. Data will be cataloged, mapped and reside in a geodatabase to be shared with monitoring partners and management agencies, resulting in better and adaptive management of the upper watershed to preserve and/or improve critical cold water spring flows to the Walla Walla River.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The application proposes to collect data on declining stream flows in a tributary to the Middle Columbia River, which is timely given recent drought conditions.
- The applicant has a lot of experience with installing gages, collecting streamflow data and analyzing it.
- The applicant has the necessary software to manage the time-series data they propose to collect (i.e., water temperature and stage height).

Concerns:

- The applicant did not describe how gaging the South Fork Walla Walla River and its tributaries will identify and characterize the flow of springs in the SF Walla Walla River basin. Are these large springs or small springs spread across the watershed? Do they plan to perform walking surveys to identify springs that are contributing flow?
- The application did not describe participation with state agencies or local organizations, and there were no letters of support.
- The rationale for the project was not clear, and does not appear to be part of an existing strategic plan.
- The objective to evaluate past forest management actions using the data they want to collect over two years does not seem reasonable.
- The application does not describe the methods to collect the data.

Recommendations:
If funded, coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator on technical assistance with water temperature monitoring, and OWRD for streamflow monitoring to develop a Sampling and Analysis Plan. ODEQ may be able to provide water temperature loggers for this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan*:* Medium (75%), High (25%)
Certainty of Success: Medium (75%), Low (25%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Good to have hydrology information from the headwaters of this watershed.
- Successful team with monitoring expertise on staff.
- Identifies a major data gap in the South Fork Walla Walla River.
- Having long-term relational data sets of spring flows and precipitation could be useful in climate change modeling.

Concerns:

- The application would have been stronger if the hypothesis of the correlation between forest practices, flows and precipitation had been better described, as well as a better explanation of how this information would be used.
- More information on scale, location and type of proposed timber management activities in the headwaters occurring during the life of this project would have been helpful.
- There was concern a two-year study would not provide enough data.
- The application would have been stronger with letters of support from state/federal agencies or other entities interested in this information.

Concluding Analysis:
This watershed council has an exemplary record for monitoring both surface and ground water and has been doing aquifer recharge in the Walla Walla basin for almost 20 years; however, the application left too many unanswered questions to recommend funding at this time.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6071**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Long-term Ecological Effects of Passive vs. Active Restoration in the MF John Day		
Applicant:	Confed Tribes Warm Springs		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$193,203.00**	**Total Cost:**	$266,040.00
Proposed Match:	**$117,429.00**		

Application Description

This landscape scale effectiveness monitoring proposal is located on the Middle Fork of the John Day River in Grant County. The goal of this proposal is to provide a long-term assessment of stream and riparian response to passive and combination (passive + active) restoration strategies. Utilizing 1995-2000 baseline data, sites will be replicated for vegetation surveys done on both floodplain and riparian zones and include data acquisition of canopy cover, percent cover, percent shade, stem density and species diversity, as well as stream surveys noting channel longitudinal profile surveys, bed material sampling, and habitat unit mapping. This project will produce a user-friendly database/geodatabase containing past datasets from MFJDR, modernized and digitized as necessary and organized using best data management practices, ready for use in analysis. In addition, a data dictionary will be created, listing and briefly describing datasets. The 57-kilometer reach of the Middle Fork John Day River identified as the monitored reach has had and continues to have extensive active and passive restoration, since the initial datasets were created.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This project will repeat monitoring that occurred in the 1990s to evaluate the impacts of active vs. passive vegetation.
- The applicant is coordinating with the universities and professors that did the initial monitoring.
- The OPMT believes the information this project would produce is very important given the amount of restoration actions that have been implemented in this basin.
- The methods were well described, and the approach to meet the proposed objectives is solid.
- The application was well written and there is sufficient amount of match being contributed to this project.

Concerns:

- It was not clear how the project would tease out the difference of the active and passive restoration actions, given that they have occurred at different periods of time and the planting projects are not mature.
- The budget includes time to write a peer-reviewed journal article, yet there is uncertainty if that will actually happen after the monitoring is completed.
- The budget and administrative costs are high.

- There is too much variability in the temporal, spatial and condition of restoration activities to get a clear signal. There will be differences in every stream and every site and every time.
- Not sure the outcomes will be transportable to other locations or situations.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)

Certainty of Success: High (60%), Medium (40%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Good information to have with a long-term data set. It is rare to have that much historic and repeatable data and known sites.
- It was a well-written application.
- The right parties were involved.

Concerns:

- The application would have been stronger if it had provided better defined study objectives.
- There were concerns on the stated goal of comparing passive vs active restoration techniques without more detail on how that would be done.
- The varying timeframes of passive and active restoration actions at different locations could be a confounding factor.
- A lot of the active restoration has not had enough time to show results.

Concluding Analysis:

Overall the team liked this proposal and saw this as a unique opportunity to integrate monitoring with available long-term data sets. However, enough concerns and questions about comparing active to passive restoration were expressed that the review team recommended it as a do not fund. The review team would welcome the proposal as a resubmit; but suggested using a simpler concept of comparing two data sets and not attempt any inferences about the type or technique that were done. Passive and active techniques are often done in different locations with different needs, objectives and constraints. Often, both techniques are used on the same site, so teasing them apart and making comparisons would seem to be problematic.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6072**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Umatilla County Online Rural Living Handbook		
Applicant:	Umatilla Basin WC		
Basin:	UMATILLA	**County:**	Umatilla
OWEB Request:	**$11,924.00**	**Total Cost:**	$17,774.00
Proposed Match:	$5,850.00		

Application Description

The components of this Umatilla County community outreach proposal serve to engage residents in activities and opportunities to protect, restore or monitor native fish or wildlife habitats and improve water quality or stream flow by increasing awareness of local technical expertise, vital natural resource concerns and problems they may face living in a rural residential area through an online *Rural Living Handbook*, to be accessible on the existing Umatilla Basin Watershed Council website. Information will be available in both English and Spanish to serve populations in Umatilla County. The website would be annually updated and locally advertised to maximize exposure and usage. Hardcopies of the handbook will be made available upon request and in local libraries, SWCD, OSU extension and the watershed council office.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Great idea – would like to see this replicated in other counties.
- The table of contents page example was well thought out and a comprehensive collection of good information and contacts.
- Would be a good resource for new residents.
- Liked having it bilingual to serve the Hispanic population.
- Marketing strategy seemed strong.

Concerns:

- Having minimal printed copies available was a concern. Not all residents are comfortable with electronic media and having printed copies for those populations would be a good idea.

Concluding Analysis:

The review team liked this concept and their only real concern was that there wasn't enough money in the budget for printed copies. After some discussion, it was recommended to increase by $1,000 to provide additional funding to resolve that concern.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. Increase budget by $1,000 to increase number of printed copies.

Regional Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 12,924.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6073**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Grant County Youth in Restoration Phase III		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$28,000.00**	**Total Cost:**	$79,071.00
Proposed Match:	$27,471.00		

Application Description

This outreach proposal will be implemented across Grant County and incorporates a two-part program: one is held during the school year and provides students with outdoor classroom activities related to restoration and natural resource subjects, and the second subsidizes the Oregon Youth Conservation Corp (OYCC) summer program providing youth of Grant County employment in restoration related projects and educational opportunities related to those projects. Target audiences for the school year program include 50 junior and senior high school students from five schools across Grant County. For the summer program, the goal is to engage more students than last year's 60-member youth crews. Restoration work covers a broad range of activities.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This is a continuing and successful program in Grant County.
- Important to employ rural youth, especially in the natural resource and conservation fields.
- Crew leaders play a big role in the level of crew productivity.
- Can lead to more rural students following a natural resource career path.

Concerns:

- Limitations to what the crews can do; younger ages are limited by skill and focus.
- Given the lower quality and amount of work completed, it can increase the cost of restoration projects.
- It was challenging to the weigh the cost/benefit of the project in terms of balancing increased costs vs. experience for rural youth.
- The application would have been stronger with more explanation in the budget related to crew time, how kids cycle through, etc.

Concluding Analysis:

There was consensus that introducing rural youth to conservation work will reap huge benefits on a social level. Reviewers knew natural resource professionals that began their career path when they were in similar programs. While the level of competency of the crews on restoration projects can sometimes increase costs of implementation and effect project success, the team recommended it for funding due to the long-term benefits gained from rural youth actively participating in watershed restoration.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 28,000.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 28,000.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6074**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	STELLAR Watershed Education and Community Outreach		
Applicant:	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation		
Basin:	UMATILLA	**County:**	Umatilla
OWEB Request:	**$28,231.00**	**Total Cost:**	$57,843.00
Proposed Match:	$29,613.00		

Application Description

This outreach proposal targets 100+ adults and 800+ youth from the Milton Freewater area in NE Umatilla County. The long-established STELLAR program continues to instill a growing awareness within the community of local water conservation improvements, watershed restoration projects, fish passage and flood control projects, and the impact of those projects on local landowners and the public. Project components that impact both adult and youth include submitting newspaper articles, utilizing social media, presenting to various citizen groups, hosting booths at community events, hosting project tours and a public restoration activity. For the youth portion of the program, about 800 4th through 12th grade students will participate in enhanced classroom learning on important concepts of watershed composition and management through field trips and hands-on activities demonstrating the uniqueness and value of the watershed they live in, including six different student activities: Fish Eggs to Fry, Watershed Field Days, Wildlife Habitat Field Day, Hydromania Summer Day Camp, Leidall Outdoor Lab and Wonderful World of the Watershed. A majority of the school population is Latino and many parents affirmed that the watershed knowledge children gain is also shared with other family members, helping to spread restoration outreach across the community.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This is a solid, on-going program with 20 years of proven track record and trust in the community.
- Good match, solid partners and reaches a diverse population.
- Broad base of programs focused on watershed issues.
- Has expanded their partners and funding base for program sustainability.

Concerns:

- There were no concerns.

Concluding Analysis:

This program has been continuously running for the last 20 years and has developed an effective program of both adult and youth outreach. STELLAR's multiple programs are kept running with a relatively low budget, a lot of volunteers and without impairing the quality of their outreach.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 28,231.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 28,231.00

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Miriam Hulst, Acquisitions Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item P– October 2016 Land Acquisition Grant Cycle Awards
April 25-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the October 18, 2016 land acquisition grant cycle and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards for the cycle.

II. Land Acquisitions – October 2016 Cycle Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The October 2016 grant cycle is the second of two annual land acquisition grant cycles for the 2015-2017 biennium. Approximately $4.3 million of the land and water acquisition budget is available for land acquisitions for this grant cycle.

Four land acquisition grant applications were received this grant cycle, requesting approximately $1.5 million. The applications are summarized in Attachment A. Information contained in the attachment is further described in Section II.B of this staff report and in the application evaluations that are included as Attachment B.

Applications 217-9901, 217-9902, and 217-9903 are recommended for funding with conditions. Application 217-9904 is not recommended for funding.

B. Review Process

The land acquisition applications were reviewed in accordance with the process adopted by the board at its January 2013 meeting and refined by the board in 2015. The process evaluates ecological outcomes, project soundness, organizational capacity, and community benefits and impacts. It also includes submission of public comment by interested parties.

Site visits were conducted by staff and teams of ecological reviewers consisting of subject matter experts selected by the applicant and chosen by staff from Regional Review Teams. Each ecological reviewer completed a project evaluation form, and the input of all ecological reviewers was summarized by staff.

Project soundness reviews were conducted by a team consisting of staff, the land acquisition program's due-diligence technical assistance contractor, and the Oregon Department of Justice. The reviews included identifying project soundness concerns, which were described in terms of yellow and red flags. A yellow-flag concern is a matter that reviewers think is likely resolvable in the 18-month timeframe allowed for closing transactions after the board awards funding. A red-flag concern is a matter that reviewers think is insurmountable in the granting timeframe.

Staff and the due-diligence contractor 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, including yellow and red flags, and scores for each project, calculated from specific sections of the grant application. The process by which projects were scored was described in advance to applicants. After evaluations were completed, they were provided to the applicants.

Using the revised review process approved by the board in 2015, the board Land Acquisition Subcommittee met with staff during the evaluation process for the October 2016 applications. The purpose of the meeting was for subcommittee members to understand the content of the applications and the information used for evaluation that was gathered up to the time of the meeting, and to ask for additional information to help the Board make sound funding decisions.

III. Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend the board award funding for land acquisition grants as specified in Attachment A, with the project-specific conditions detailed in Attachment C. The grant requests total $1,021,720.

Attachments

Attachment A: Summary of Land Acquisition Applications and Recommended Awards, October 2016 Grant Cycle
Attachment B: Land Acquisition Project Evaluations
Attachment C: Project-specific Conditions (to be provided at the April Board meeting)

ATTACHMENT A

Land Acquisition Applications
October 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Staff Do-Fund Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray						
Application #	**Region**	**Project Name**	**Total OWEB Request**	**Total Amount Recommended**	**Score***	**Flags°**
217-9901	1	Botts Marsh^	161,685	181,685	55	yellow
217-9902	1	Ecola Creek Wetlands^	189,240	189,240	51	yellow
217-9903	6	Canyon Creek Ranch Conservation Easement^	600,795	650,795	42	yellow-red
217-9904	1	North Fork Siuslaw	500,675		29	yellow
Total Land Acquisition Applications Submitted in the October 2016 Cycle for OWEB Funding			**$1,452,395**			
Total OWEB Funding Recommended				**$1,021,720**		

* 60 Possible Points

° Flags Are Explained in the Project Evaluation:

Yellow: concerning but likely resolvable in OWEB's granting timeframe

Red: insurmountable in OWEB's granting timeframe

^ Fund as Specified in the Project Evaluation

October 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Land Acquisition Application

Application No.:	217-9903		
Project Name:	Canyon Creek Ranch Conservation Easement		
Applicant:	Northwest Rangeland Trust	**Region:**	Mid-Columbia
Basin:	John Day	**County:**	Wheeler
OWEB Request:	**$**600,795.00	**Total Cost:**	**$2,246,826.00**

Application Description

Northwest Rangeland Trust (NWRT) is requesting funds for the purchase of a working lands conservation easement on a 6,785-acre ranch property in Wheeler County, near Mitchell. The property includes stream, riparian, floodplain, and upland areas. The property's streams are tributaries of the John Day River. The application states that the property has been the subject of restoration work for 15 years, and that the conservation easement will protect the restoration efforts for the benefit of steelhead, a conservation priority. The application is a revised resubmission of Application No. 216-9902 submitted by Blue Mountains Conservancy in October 2015.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that significant progress appears to have been made on certain due diligence items that raised concerns during the evaluation of the previous application. The current application indicates that the project partners have completed a phase 1 environmental site assessment, obtained an updated title report, completed an appraisal, addressed mineral rights issues, and clarified the relationship between the life estate and remainder estate owners of the property.

Reviewers were pleased to see that the previously identified mineral rights issue appears to have been resolved through the ORS 517.180 extinguishment process, although the results of the effort must be verified by the title company's willingness to remove the mineral rights exceptions from the preliminary title report for the property.

Reviewers previously raised concerns about the lack of confirmed project coordination between the seller of the conservation easement (a life tenant on the property) and the holder of the vested remainder interest, both of whom must sign the conservation easement. The life tenant and holder of the vested remainder interest now appear to have reached an agreement on working together on the project, and both also appear to be satisfied with the results of an appraisal that was completed for the conservation easement. Given the timeframe for completion of the project and the appraisal requirements of other funding partners, OWEB will review an updated appraisal rather than the appraisal that was submitted with the application, if the Board awards funds for the project.

Reviewers noted that title work remains to be done for the property, including confirming that the property's access is sufficient for future restoration and monitoring and enforcing the conservation easement, including ecological monitoring that is necessary to track the property's conservation values and inform management of the property over time. Reviewers also noted that the title includes exceptions related to timber cutting rights, water rights matters, various easements and

interests, and trust deeds which require examination as part of due diligence. The exceptions may potentially require removal from the title if they are determined to pose a risk to the project's intended conservation outcomes.

Reviewers also noted that the transaction, as described, will result in a conservation easement that protects resources that appear to be currently protected in some fashion by the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The interplay between the CREP program's requirements and protections and the conservation easement's terms and conditions would need to be examined and clarified, and addressed as appropriate.

Reviewers noted that although the language in the current draft conservation easement is much clearer than the language in the conservation easement submitted with the previous application, the current easement emphasizes agricultural uses over protection of the property's conservation values, despite the life tenant's and funding partners' apparent desire to protect the property's restored conditions from the potential effects of agricultural use. Revisions would be needed in the conservation easement to: (i) ensure that the easement's primary purpose is protection of the property's conservation values; (ii) clearly define the conservation value zones depicted on the Land Use Protection Map submitted with the application, with the zones derived from GIS-based boundaries included in a baseline report; (iii) clearly define uses that are allowed or prohibited in the zones; (iv) describe the ecological performance goals associated with the zones; and (v) incorporate standard OWEB-required easement provisions. The conservation easement would also need to be revised to include language that specifically addresses the relationship between the life estate, remainder estate, and conservation easement over time. The easement would need to state that the holder of the vested remainder interest will be the fully vested owner of the property at some future date and intends to sell the property subject to strict compliance with the terms and conditions of the conservation easement. OWEB would complete an exhaustive review of the conservation easement if the Board opts to award funds for the project, with such review possibly identifying additional items for revision.

Reviewers stated the property's yearly grazing lease should be reviewed by OWEB before being renewed, and should contain specific mention of the life tenant's plans to encumber the property with a conservation easement and that all grazing will be required to be consistent with the conservation easement.

Lastly, reviewers felt that the soundness of the project is in question due to capacity concerns regarding NWRT (see Organizational Capacity, below). Capacity issues could present challenges in completing the transaction in OWEB's 18-month granting timeframe, particularly in coordinating the seven parties that are anticipated to play roles in approving the easement. The Board should consider providing financial assistance to NWRT for hiring one or two independent contractors to complete the conservation easement and associated management plan, and other due diligence required for a successful transaction. NWRT's capacity issues also present risks to the long-term outcomes of the project, including the effectiveness of long-term monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement.

Ecological Outcomes

The application states that the project will permanently protect habitat for fish and wildlife, including 3.1 miles of habitat for ESA-listed summer steelhead, and guide management of the property to improve ecological processes and function for range, riparian, and stream systems. The application also states that the project will protect landscape connectivity and a large, intact area.

The application states that the two most significant threats facing the property are subdivision and degradation of recent ecological improvements. Although the application states that protection of the property's uplands will benefit terrestrial species, no OWEB priority upland species are cited in the application.

The current life tenant bought the property in 2000, stopped grazing which had badly damaged the property, and began working with Wheeler County Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS) to restore the property's degraded ecological systems. Since 2000, the project partners have enrolled all of the property's eligible streams in CREP, addressed fish passage and fish-friendly water diversions, removed juniper and managed weeds in upland areas, and recently introduced light upland grazing for rangeland health.

Reviewers noted that the Bridge Creek Watershed, in which the property is located, is ranked high for protection and restoration activities in the Mid-Columbia River Steelhead Recovery Plan. The reviewers stated that the application presents an opportunity to demonstrate a working lands easement on a large, relatively intact property, and that without the conservation easement, the ecological investments made by the life tenant and funding partners could be threatened.

The reviewers agreed that the property has been well stewarded under the current life tenant and there have been significant investments in restoration activities on the property to date. Reviewers noted that additional work, including improving in-stream structure and floodplain connectivity and natural fluvial processes, and combatting juniper encroachment and weeds in the uplands, is needed in order for the property to more fully recover from the previous ecological degradation. Reviewers noted that in order to have successful project outcomes, it is critically important that grazing and invasive species are addressed and managed appropriately.

Reviewers felt that the draft management plan submitted with the application is an improvement over the plan submitted with the previous application. Although the management plan includes substantive information, it will need additional revisions to meet OWEB guidelines for management plans and ensure that the goals of the project are met. Examples of revisions include but aren't limited to developing ecological performance goals; developing grazing, restoration, and monitoring plans with actions that specifically relate to achieving and tracking the ecological performance goals; clearly referencing maps within the text; and including actions for analyzing monitoring data and incorporating it into management plan updates. Further, the baseline information in the management plan will be relatively old by the time of any easement purchase, and will need to be updated. Finally, reviewers stated that the final management plan should specify the Mid-Columbia River Steelhead Action Plan tasks (by identification number) that have been addressed by previous restoration efforts and those that will be addressed by the actions contained in the management plan.

Reviewers noted that the application does not state, but should be clear, that NWRT will be responsible for management plan updates, including interpretation and incorporation of monitoring data to inform adaptive management. Further, reviewers felt that ecological monitoring is needed for the property's uplands, in addition to the riparian areas, to ensure that ecological performance goals are being met. Finally, reviewers stated that the conservation easement requires revisions to protect the property's ecological improvements as the life tenant and funding partners intend.

- Needs and opportunities: 13 points awarded out of 15 possible points

- Results and Benefits: 18 points awarded out of 25 possible points
- Conditions and Function: 7 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Community Benefits and Impacts

The application states that the project will demonstrate sustainable land management practices to the community. The property will continue to be privately owned and on the Wheeler County tax roll. The application also states that the project will provide jobs to local contractors that will be hired for restoration work on the property, and that the project's beneficial effects on the property's creeks will result in healthier steelhead populations and improved recreational opportunities in the John Day River watershed. The application also states that outdoor educational opportunities will be available to the local school district for annual fieldtrips. Finally, the application states that the project is part of a regional conservation project to improve water quantity and quality in the John Day River watershed, and that the regional effort is expected to result in an economic stimulus of approximately $2.7 million. It is not clear how much of the economic stimulus would be attributable to the conservation easement project.

Organizational Capacity

Reviewers felt that although NWRT's mission is well matched with preventing the property from being subdivided or converted to other uses, it is unclear how the application's stated ecological outcomes align with NWRT's mission, expertise, draft conservation easement, and project selection and prioritization process.

Reviewers noted that it appears NWRT is a very small organization with limited in-house capacity and financial resources, and one part-time staff person, the executive director. NWRT does not appear to follow financial policies and procedures recommended for land trusts, such as external audits of financial records, and it does not appear that NWRT has assets invested for generating stewardship funds. Further, it does not appear that NWRT regularly receives operating grants or other financial assistance, and it appears that significant reliance will be placed on NWRT's volunteer board members, as well as staff from partner organizations, such as CTWS and NRCS. Given its limited capacity, it is unclear how NWRT will pay for the project's necessary ecological monitoring, or enforcement actions if they become necessary. The Board should consider requiring NWRT to purchase conservation land defense insurance to ensure that NWRT has resources to address any enforcement matters that arise before NWRT receives funds from a sale of the property as described in the application.

In OWEB's experience, working lands conservation easements designed to protect specific conservation values are complex projects that require significant and sustained ecological and real property expertise and organizational capacity for successful implementation. A key short-term component of this project would be agreement among seven parties on the final form of the conservation easement. The draft easement, while clearer than the version submitted with the previous application, does not adequately address OWEB conservation easement requirements and does not align with the landowner's stated desire to protect the restoration outcomes achieved on the property to date. The application implies that final easement negotiations will be left to an unknown negotiation contractor.

Reviewers felt that although the project's apparent team approach has strengths, it is important to consider whether or not NWRT has the base capacity to monitor and enforce the conservation easement and coordinate management plan implementation without the assistance of others, because such work cannot reasonably be expected to be performed by NRCS or other funding

entities in perpetuity. Based on information in the application, it appears that NWRT does not have the capacity necessary for OWEB to be reasonably confident of successful long-term project outcomes. In light of this, reviewers suggested that if the project is a funding priority for the OWEB Board, then staff should include specific language in the conservation easement that allows for a subsequent transfer of the easement to another qualified conservation organization, although there is not currently an organization qualified and ready to accept the conservation easement. Reviewers also suggested that a memorandum of understanding among the project partners could be helpful in establishing roles, documenting commitments of assistance, and coordinating partner efforts for at least the short-term, if the Board opts to fund the project.

- 4 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Public Review

No members of the public attended the hearing OWEB staff held for the proposed acquisition on January 20, 2017 at the City of Mitchell Community Hall. Had the public attended, the hearing would have focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project.

Summary

Total Score: 42 points awarded out of 60 possible points. While reviewers appreciated that good efforts have been made on various due diligence items since the previous application, reviewers felt that NWRT did not demonstrate the organizational capacity, including staffing and financial resources and technical expertise, necessary to appropriately administer public funds to established standards, effectively monitor and enforce the working lands easement the partners intend, and effectively partner on property stewardship and management activities in the long-term. Reviewers did not feel that NWRT's mission, expertise, and capacity are consistent with the expert, high-functioning organizational structure and resources that OWEB has found are necessary for working lands conservation easement projects to succeed in meeting the purpose and goals of OWEB's land acquisition program over time. Reviewers felt that NWRT's capacity issues would make it difficult for NWRT to lead in meeting OWEB's requirements in the grant period, including complex easement negotiations and coordination of the project partners, and could present a significant risk to the success of an OWEB investment in the long-term.

Reviewers determined that the purpose and form of NWRT's easement and its inconsistencies with the application's stated goals and the purpose and goals of OWEB's land acquisition program is a yellow flag (concerning, but likely resolvable in OWEB's granting timeframe) bordering on a red flag (insurmountable in OWEB's granting timeframe).

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board award NWRT $600,795 plus $50,000 for project-specific capacity assistance, for a total grant of $650,795, in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with NWRT to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2017 meeting.

October 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Land Acquisition Application

Application No.:	217-9902		
Project Name:	Ecola Creek Wetlands		
Applicant:	City of Cannon Beach	**Region:**	North Coast
Basin:	North Coast	**County:**	Clatsop
OWEB Request:	**$**189,240.00	**Total Cost:**	**$371,929.00***

*Match funds requested from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Wetlands Program

Application Description

The City of Cannon Beach (the City) is requesting funds for the purchase of a 28-acre property in Clatsop County's Ecola Creek watershed. The property is adjacent to the City's existing 1,040-acre Ecola Creek Forest Reserve (ECFR). The application states that the property contains forested wetlands and approximately 3,000 linear feet of streams. The application also states that the property's wetlands are part of a 278-acre palustrine wetland, of which 185 acres are already protected within the ECFR. The City proposes permanent protection of the property to preclude future development, restore hydrologic connectivity throughout the wetlands, and accelerate future large woody debris recruitment to streams. Upon acquisition of the property, the City intends to remove the remains of a derelict culvert and portions of a remnant logging road, and plant trees. The application states that protection of the property will benefit OWEB priority species such as coho salmon and steelhead.

The City intends to match the requested Lottery funds with a grant OWEB requested from the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant program (Coastal Wetlands), which is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). OWEB applied for the Coastal Wetlands funds specifically for the City's use. OWEB staff were notified by USFWS that OWEB will receive a federal award letter for the funds after OWEB and the City complete certain paperwork necessary to receive the letter. Using the newly established process for Coastal Wetland grants, the Coastal Wetlands funds will be accepted only if the Board formally approves the project and accepts receipt of the funds.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that although the proposed transaction appears to be relatively straightforward, the City has not initiated actions that demonstrate the likelihood of acquisition success. Specifically, the City has not established an agreed-upon purchase price with the seller, or legal and sufficient access. The lack of a negotiated purchase price is potentially significant because the City has to date relied on the Clatsop County Assessor's estimate of the property's value in communications with the seller. County Assessor estimates of property value are typically not a reliable indicator of fair market value. In addition, the City's lack of a formal agreement with the neighboring landowner for access implies that the restoration outcomes cannot be assured for this project at this time.

Reviewers recommended that if the Board opts to award funds for the project, the City prioritize the execution of a binding purchase and sale agreement and demonstration of legal and sufficient access to the property. Reviewers also noted that the City would need to ensure that the property's vesting is clear, and that items related to a deed of trust are removed from the title upon purchase of the property by the City.

Reviewers noted that environmental contamination may also impact the soundness of the project. Although historic uses of the property are not likely to have resulted in contamination of the property, nearby waste water treatment ponds appear to have impacted other lands in the vicinity, and may have affected the property. The City has budgeted for phase 1 and 2 environmental site assessments to address this possibility. The environmental site assessment contractor should be instructed to give careful consideration to contamination issues, known and unknown, associated with the treatment ponds.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers expressed mixed opinions about the ecological merits of the project. Overall, positive opinions outweighed negative opinions.

Reviewers who were supportive of the project stated that: (i) the project is a good opportunity to protect ecological connectivity between the property's forested wetlands and the wetlands on the adjacent ECFR; (ii) the project moves the Ecola Creek watershed toward whole-watershed protection, which is rare on the north coast; (iii) acquisition of the property will protect its mature trees, which are at risk of being harvested if the property is not conserved; (iv) the property is located in an important transition zone between tidal wetlands and the ECFR, and that such transition zones afford valuable habitat to salmon; and (v) acquisition of the property is necessary for addressing the logging road spur and culvert debris on the property, thereby enhancing habitat for fish.

On the other hand, reviewers stated that: (i) the impacts of the road spur and culvert debris are minimal and therefore the proposed restoration is not likely to have significant benefits; (ii) the City will need to maintain the trees it intends to plant, including clearing competing vegetation from around the new plantings for up to three years; (iii) given the small relative size of the Ecola Creek watershed and the fact that its coho population is a dependent population, the project is unlikely to contribute significantly to coho recovery; (iv) regulatory protections already prevent the property from being developed or harmed by land uses: and (v) the project does not address the biggest challenge for salmonid production in this part of the Ecola Creek watershed: the City's municipal water withdrawals and their impact on fish at various times of the year.

- Needs and opportunities: 13 points awarded out of 15 possible points
- Results and Benefits: 21 points awarded out of 25 possible points
- Conditions and Function: 9 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Community Benefits and Impacts

The application states that the City will incorporate the property into the ECFR. The primary goals of the ECFR are to restore the ecological integrity of the forest ecosystem and its aquatic and riparian habitats, and to preserve and enhance municipal water quality. The goals are intended to benefit the community of Cannon Beach and the surrounding areas.

The application states that access to the property is limited and therefore it's unlikely that recreational opportunities will be provided by the project, but nonetheless, the project will benefit the community by providing ecosystem services.

The application states that the property will become part of the ECFR, and that the City does not pay taxes on land in the ECFR. The amount of property tax levied on the property is approximately $980.00.

Organizational Capacity

Reviewers felt that the City is a logical owner for the property, because the property is adjacent to the City-owned ECFR. Reviewers noted that the City appears to have staff members who have acquired other properties that have been added to the ECFR. Further, given the relatively uncomplicated circumstances associated with the proposed purchase, the City staff is likely to successfully complete the transaction. However, reviewers noted that the City does not have an extensive history of working with OWEB, and that it is important that the City be prepared to respond to OWEB's information requests in a timely manner and seek review of project documents before executing them, to ensure that the transaction proceeds smoothly.

Reviewers noted that the City manages the ECFR in accordance with a management plan completed with the help of an interdisciplinary consultant team and a citizen's advisory council. Such assistance should be used to incorporate management actions for the property into the ECFR plan, while ensuring that long-term management of the property is consistent with protection of the property's conservation values including retention of the property's trees.

Reviewers stated that the City needs to ensure full implementation of the management plan. It appears that management funds would be available for the Property as part of the $13.5 million City operating budget. However, government agency budgets are subject to periodic shortfalls, which could challenge the City's capacity to manage the property for conservation purposes during those periods of time. It is important that implementation of the management plan remain a priority despite budget fluctuations.

- 8 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Public Review

OWEB staff conducted a public hearing regarding the proposed acquisition on January 6, 2016 at the Cannon Beach City Hall. The hearing focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

Project Benefits

- Protection of the property is good environmental conservation, and will: (i) be permanent and consistent with local plans and studies; (ii) prevent development; (iii) lead to habitat restoration on the property; (iv) benefit the watershed; and (v) create a connection to previously conserved land (the ECFR).
- Management of the property will be integrated with the ECFR, and could include recreational possibilities such as trail connections (although the application states that recreational use will be limited by the property's access constraints).
- The property affords numerous fish benefits, marbled murrelet habitat, and beaver habitat.
- The property is a good source of oxygen, contains some large trees, and is visible from the City.

- The watershed council has supported conservation of the property for 18 years.
- The anticipated transaction will be equitable for the seller.

Project Questions or Concerns
No questions or concerns were raised at the hearing.

Summary
Total Score: 51 points awarded out of 60 possible points. The proposed project presents a good opportunity to add additional land to a previously protected area, thereby increasing wetland conservation outcomes in the Ecola Creek watershed. Although the project is not especially complicated from a transactional standpoint, yellow flags (concerning, but likely resolvable in OWEB's granting timeframe) include the need for the City to: (i) clarify the property's vesting; (ii) obtain a binding purchase and sale agreement; (iii) demonstrate legal and sufficient access to the property; (iv) assess whether the property has been impacted by nearby contamination; and (v) address deed of trust-related items on the property's title.

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends the Board award the City $189,240 in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with the City to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2017 meeting.

October 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Land Acquisition Application

Application No.:	217-9901		
Project Name:	Botts Marsh		
Applicant:	Lower Nehalem Community Trust	**Region:**	North Coast
Basin:	North Coast	**County:**	Tillamook
OWEB Request:	**$**161,685.00	**Total Cost:**	**$254,469.00**

Application Description

Lower Nehalem Community Trust (LNCT) is requesting funds for the purchase of approximately 33 acres on the edge of Nehalem Bay, just outside the City of Wheeler, in Tillamook County. The acreage (referred to as "the property" in this evaluation) is part of a larger ownership and consists mostly of estuarine marsh and tidal channels, but also has mudflats and forested areas. The property is directly connected to Nehalem Bay, with approximately 1,500 feet of bay frontage. The property is zoned for water-related development, and has been the subject of numerous development plans for approximately 30 years. A recent change in ownership of the property has given LNCT an opportunity to purchase the property to ensure its permanent protection. Protecting the property will conserve habitat and wetland functions for a variety of OWEB-priority species.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that the project, while not unsound, is complicated for a small-scale acquisition of this nature, with key issues being: (i) confirmation of property ownership and an understanding of the membership that controls the LLC that is the stated owner of the property; (ii) County land use approvals that are necessary to make the property a legally conveyable parcel; (iii) unpaid property taxes that pose a risk of loss of the property to Tillamook County; (iv) uncertain effects of an intended recreational trail reservation; (v) the presence of possible contamination on adjacent property; (vi) the seller's apparent intention to condition sale of the property on the seller's receipt of County approval of a zoning change for adjacent property; and (vii) the Department of State Lands' (DSL) requirement that it receive payment for the release of its interest in the property and its apparent intention to reserve mineral rights that might affect the property.

The matters above may take significant time and expertise to resolve. In addition, standard due diligence actions will be necessary, including but not limited to, evaluating the compatibility of the property's title encumbrances relative to the ecological goals of the project. The encumbrances include a large number of easements relative to the property's size, with the majority of the easements apparently related to the railroad on the eastern boundary of the property.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers felt the property's estuarine marsh provides clear and significant ecosystem benefits, such as: (i) intact transitional habitat for salmon moving from freshwater to saltwater; (ii) cold water refugia that is particularly important in Nehalem Bay, which is water-quality limited for temperature; (iii) natural sediment transport; and (iv) high-quality habitat for a variety of sensitive species, such as coho salmon, chum salmon, green sturgeon, great-blue heron, and Townsend's big-

eared bat. If the most recent development proposal, which was for a marina, had been approved, construction of the facility would have destroyed habitat, degraded water quality, and disrupted wetland functions. Reviewers felt that the threat of development is ongoing for the property. Reviewers stated that the most recent development proposal was denied partly because of a lack of access to suitable mitigation sites by the developer, and that there are mitigation sites in the vicinity that could be secured by a different developer in the future.

The application states that protection of the property will complement a strong network of protected lands in Nehalem Bay, including four areas owned and protected by LNCT. It also states that the property's location, just outside the City of Wheeler, is a transition area, and that protecting the property will provide a buffer between development and Nehalem Bay.

Reviewers noted that the application states that LNCT might remove remnants of a derelict dike on the property. Reviewers appreciated LNCT's willingness to investigate removal of the dike, but stated that the property's wetlands are functioning very well in their current condition and there would problably be only minimal gains from any active removal of the dike.

- Needs and opportunities: 15 points awarded out of 15 possible points
- Results and Benefits: 23 points awarded out of 25 possible points
- Conditions and Function: 9 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Community Benefits and Impacts

The application states that the City of Wheeler's vision includes protecting wetlands and natural drainage areas from development, and therefore, the proposed project is consistent with the City's vision. The application also states that the City previously submitted a grant application to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to purchase an upland portion of the larger ownership, for a city park, although the application was not funded. The City appears to remain supportive of LNCT's intention to purchase the wetland portion of the larger ownership for conservation.

The application states that LNCT will not pay property taxes on the property because, as a 501(c)(3) organization, the IRS has exempted LNCT from paying property taxes. LNCT does not currently have a policy to pay taxes on conserved land. The amount of tax levied on the property and the larger ownership, is approximately $430.00. The amount of tax LNCT would forgo paying on the property would be less than $430.00, due to the proposed partitioning of the property, although the exact amount isn't known.

Organizational Capacity

The application states that LNCT's executive director will play a significant role in overseeing the project. However, LNCT's executive director left the organization in December 2016. LNCT's timeline for rehiring an executive director is unclear. A volunteer Board member, with a limited amount of help from a contract attorney, intends to fill the role originally intended for the executive director. Reviewers felt that the executive director's departure may place unintended burdens on the volunteer board member, and that the burdens could hamper resolution of the project's soundness issues within OWEB's granting timeframe. Reviewers suggested that if the project is a funding priority from an ecological standpoint, the Board consider providing financial assistance to LNCT for hiring a qualified contractor to coordinate due diligence efforts. Such an approach was successfully used for two acquisition projects recently completed by OWEB grantees.

The application states that property stewardship will be directed by LNCT's land steward, with help from LNCT's dedicated volunteer base. Reviewers felt that LNCT has sufficient capacity for ensuring the project's long-term outcomes, particularly because the property is likely to require monitoring and attentive weed management, but not any significant restoration work.

- 8 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Public Review

OWEB staff conducted a public hearing regarding the proposed acquisition on December 6, 2016 at the Wheeler City Hall. The hearing was well-attended, and focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

Project Benefits

- The property is the most beloved piece of land adjacent to the City of Wheeler, and is visually accessible. Conserving the property is consistent with the Wheeler Comprehensive Plan, and would realize a vision that the City and the greater Nehalem Bay community have had for three generations.
- The value humans place on the property springs from ecological values.
- The property is a rare, remnant ecosystem that aids in carbon sequestration and provides habitat for young fish of various species in the saltwater-freshwater transition zone. Approximately 90 percent of such wetlands have been converted to other uses.
- The property presents a good opportunity for intergenerational education about the benefits of conserving salt marshes low in the estuary, with such conservation being a priority for the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council and other organizations.
- The property is located near other conserved properties, such as Cape Falcon Cove Marine Reserve.
- Conserving the property would help with flood reduction, which is consistent with the goal of the Governor's Regional Solutions process for Tillamook County.
- The property presents great opportunities for water recreation such as kayaking, and is located on the Tillamook County Water Trail, a national recreational trail designated by the National Park Service. The property is accessible from the public boat launch in the City of Wheeler.
- There are economic benefits of conserving wetlands.
- LNCT is a well-respected, capable organization.

Project Questions or Concerns

- The seller of the property intends to develop adjacent land. It is uncertain what will be built on the adjacent land and how it might affect the property.

Summary

Total Score: 55 points awarded out of 60 possible points. The proposed project presents an excellent opportunity to achieve significant ecological outcomes. The project is complicated from a transactional standpoint, with yellow flags (concerning, but likely resolvable in OWEB's granting timeframe) that include the need for land use approvals, release of a state claim to the property, payment of overdue taxes, assessment of numerous title exceptions and an intended trail reservation, establishments of access, and assessment of possible contamination on adjacent land. Reviewers suggested that OWEB provide financial assistance to LNCT to ensure that these matters

are addressed to OWEB's satisfaction within the granting timeframe, thereby conserving an ecologically valuable property that has been at risk of development for several decades.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board award LNCT $161,685 plus $20,000 for project-specific capacity assistance, for a total grant of $181,685, in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with LNCT to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2017 meeting.

October 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Land Acquisition Application

Application No.:	217-9904		
Project Name:	North Fork Siuslaw		
Applicant:	McKenzie River Trust	**Region:**	North Coast
Basin:	North Coast	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$**500,675.00	**Total Cost:**	**$667,928.00**

Application Description

McKenzie River Trust (MRT) is requesting funds for the purchase of a 250-acre diked agricultural property on the North Fork Siuslaw River, near the City of Florence, in Lane County. The application states that MRT wishes to buy the property in order to preserve the opportunity to restore the property to tidal wetlands. The application states that restoring the property to tidal wetlands would benefit OWEB priority species such as Chinook and coho salmon.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that overall, the acquisition component of the project appears to be relatively straightforward and is a good match for MRT, which is an accredited land trust with a staff that is experienced in acquiring properties for conservation. The application states that the property is near land already protected by MRT, and that acquisition of the property is consistent with MRT's strategic conservation plan for the Siuslaw Basin.

Reviewers noted that MRT has a signed option agreement that terminates in December 2018, and that the option provides MRT with adequate time to complete due diligence for the acquisition. In addition to typical due diligence necessary for any sound acquisition, MRT would need to address: (i) potential boundary line uncertainties stemming from the movement of waterways on and adjacent to the property; (ii) the property's derelict mobile home, removal of which is necessary and may raise asbestos, and septic and other utility-related concerns; (iii) powerlines and associated easements which could hamper later tidal wetland restoration; (iv) maintenance obligations and costs associated with the bridge and the road and levee that serve the property and two adjacent properties; and (v) a deed of trust which must be removed from the property's title upon purchase of the property by MRT.

Although MRT's ability to complete acquisition of the property appears good, the long-term soundness of the project caused significant concerns for reviewers. Reviewers felt that based on an October 3, 2016 memo from MRT regarding MRT's perspectives on organizational liability, it's reasonable to conclude that MRT is generally uncomfortable assuming risks associated with tidal wetland restoration. Nonetheless, the property requires tidal wetland restoration to restore its former function and benefit OWEB priority ecosystems, species, and plant communities. MRT has not collected sufficient data about the property's restoration potential to understand the specific restoration risks associated with the property and assure reviewers that it will proceed with the restoration in a certain timeframe. Risks include but aren't limited to neighbors objecting to increased flooding on or adjacent to their properties, community opposition to the project, and

permanent and potentially significant maintenance costs associated with surrounding infrastructure including that which provides access to the property and the neighboring properties. Similar risks have resulted in MRT delaying and canceling other projects, including the Waite Ranch project (Grant No. 211-102), which MRT committed to restore to tidal wetlands.

In light of these circumstances, reviewers felt the only sound outcome of the project at this time is land banking the property for future restoration initiatives. Reviewers noted that given MRT's long option period, MRT may have time to withdraw the application and gather data necessary to assure reviewers that the property will be restored to certain conditions in a definitive and reasonable timeframe, thereby meeting OWEB's acquisition principle of investing in naturally functioning ecosystems.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers thought that restoration of the property could result in valuable improvements in fish and wildlife habitat and water quality in an estuarine area that has a significant network of protected lands. They noted that the current condition of the property is poor and that, without restoration, acquisition of the property will not meaningfully advance OWEB's land acquisition principles and priorities, such as protecting large, intact properties and exceptional biodiversity. Reviewers disagreed with the application's statement that the project will stabilize an area on the brink of unrecoverable ecological degradation, and noted that many other factors are likely to influence ecological outcomes in the Siuslaw River estuary.

Reviewers noted that the application does not clearly state which OWEB priority terrestrial species will benefit if the property is restored. Reviewers also stated that very young coho tend to prefer habitats with limited tidal exchange, and therefore the property might currently be used to a small extent by the youngest coho, and restoration of the property might reduce such use. Reviewers also pointed out that the application states that restoration of the property will result in tidal marsh, but that in light of the property's obvious subsidence, a significant portion of the property could be tidal mud flat upon restoration. Reviewers stated that consistent terminology is important with regard to the expectations of project funders as well as to adjacent property owners, some of which have expressed reservations about restoration of the property and how it might change the landscape and hydrology.

Reviewers felt that the need to maintain the access road, and therefore the levee on which the road is built, could present potential challenges for full tidal wetland restoration of the property. Reviewers stated that as much dike as possible needs to be removed for the sake of ecological benefits, and that a reduced ecological effect may result if dike removal is limited, although it's hard to know without adequate data for the property. Reviewers noted that the application summarizes the potential for multiple restoration actions which will require technical assessments, but does not suggest relative costs, or clear funding sources or timeframes for the suite of assessment actions that will likely be required. Costs of such assessments can be high, as MRT has experienced with regard to its Waite Ranch property.

- Needs and opportunities: 10 points awarded out of 15 possible points
- Results and Benefits: 10 points awarded out of 25 possible points
- Conditions and Function: 3 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Community Benefits and Impacts
The application states that the property will be an integral part of the existing network of conservation lands in the lower Siuslaw River estuary, which provides significant scenic and recreational resources to the population of the City of Florence and surrounding communities. The application states that the property will be managed for, among other things, water quality protection, scenic viewshed protection, and compatible recreational values. The application does not elaborate on compatible recreation, or whether the property will be open to the public. The application does state, however, that the property is on the Siuslaw River water trail and in a stretch of the river that is popular with recreational boaters and anglers. The application also states that over time, economic activity will be generated in the form of contracts for work on the property.

The application indicates that MRT pays taxes on all of the land it owns. Taxes for the property are approximately $2,480.00 per year.

Organizational Capacity
MRT is an accredited Land Trust and has the demonstrated qualifications to acquire the property. However, one of MRT's key transaction negotiators is leaving the organization for a new job.

A portion of the organizational capacity analysis is the organization's demonstrated track record and history with projects. In this case, MRT has a project that is nearly identical to the one being proposed. As noted above, significant questions exist regarding MRT's capacity and commitment to proceed with restoring the property to tidal wetlands. As with Waite Ranch, restoration of the property is necessary in order to benefit OWEB priority ecosystems, species, and plant communities. And like Waite Ranch, MRT did not establish a solid understanding of the risks and expense of restoring the property before proposing to purchase it.

A $50,000 technical assistance grant from OWEB, which MRT has signaled it will apply for in order to assess the property's potential for restoration, is unlikely to provide adequate funds for the work that is needed. MRT has spent much more than $50,000 in an effort to develop a design for restoring Waite Ranch. MRT has also signaled that it wishes for OWEB to apply to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for a Coastal Wetlands grant for eventual restoration of the property. However, it is uncertain whether OWEB would feel comfortable doing this, or USFWS would fund another grant for use by MRT, in light of MRT having cancelled a recent Coastal Wetlands grant in reaction to community concerns about a tidal wetland conservation project, and having not restored Waite Ranch which is also the subject of a Coastal Wetlands grant. Further, MRT has not calculated, and demonstrated the ability to afford, the potentially expensive infrastructure upkeep costs associated with the property.

Lastly, in light of MRT having unmet obligations for restoring Waite Ranch, it would be prudent and reasonable for OWEB to require MRT to make significant progress toward tidal wetland restoration on Waite Ranch, and thereby gain valuable experience, before granting MRT more funds for the purchase of property that could pose the same challenges as Waite Ranch.

- 6 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Public Review
OWEB staff conducted a public hearing regarding the proposed acquisition on December 21, 2016 at the Florence City Hall. The hearing focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

Project Benefits

- The property is located in an area with other conservation lands, including a nearby Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program parcel which has been the subject of passive restoration.
- The property is rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids.
- The property's return to tidal wetlands is inevitable because the dikes are old and expensive to fix, and therefore, it would be challenging to find someone who wants to try maintaining the property as a farm.
- It is important to purchase the property before the opportunity is lost.
- The project will result in good recreational and economic benefits, and will help with floodwater retention.
- Stopping grazing on the property will eliminate a source of manure and carcasses to the water.
- The property's varied elevation provides opportunities to restore several wetland types.

Project Questions or Concerns

- Access needs to be maintained in good condition for any vehicle, for the benefit of neighboring properties. The access easement indicates a "reasonable road."
- The dike that the access road is built on will need shoring up.
- Some attendees indicated that there should be the possibility of public access and hunting on the property because there are fewer places to hunt now. Conversely, the neighbor would prefer that the property not be publicly accessible, in part because access would entail use of a privately maintained road.
- There is a need to inform the public, and neighbors, about the relationship between restoration, climate change and sea level rise.
- The change in hydrology on, and appearance (view) of, the property and neighboring properties could be difficult to accept.
- There is a change happening, from a farming mentality to an environmental mentality.

Summary

Total Score: 29 points awarded out of 60 possible points. Reviewers felt that while the proposed project could lead to later restoring the property to tidal wetlands, MRT has not committed to restoration, and without restoration, acquisition of the property will not meaningfully advance OWEB's land acquisition principles and priorities. Reviewers noted that MRT has not collected sufficient data about the property's restoration potential to understand the specific restoration risks and costs associated with the property and assure OWEB that it will proceed with the restoration in a certain timeframe. The risks likely to be posed by restoring the property are similar to risks that have resulted in MRT delaying and canceling other projects. Reviewers felt that until MRT succeeds in finding a path to restoring Waite Ranch, MRT does not have the demonstrated track record of success in tidal wetland restoration. Reviewers also noted that MRT has not calculated, and demonstrated the ability to afford, the potentially expensive infrastructure upkeep costs associated with the property.

Reviewers felt that from a transactional standpoint, acquisition of the property would pose several yellow flags (concerning, but likely resolvable in OWEB's granting timeframe) identified as: (i) title exceptions, including power lines that could later complicate any restoration efforts, costs and obligations of maintaining access to the property and neighboring properties, and costs of removing

the mobile home and any related infrastructure; and (ii) boundary uncertainties that would need to be resolved with a survey.

Staff encourage MRT to continue working to achieve the Waite Ranch restoration goals, and use the lessons learned there to assure the Board that if it funds the North Fork Siuslaw project in a future grant cycle, MRT would restore the property to tidal wetlands in a certain timeframe. Staff also encourage MRT to conduct planning and design work for the North Fork Siuslaw project before resubmitting any application for acquisition funds for the property, to ensure that challenges such as those MRT encountered at Waite Ranch do not prevent MRT from restoring the North Fork Siuslaw property to tidal wetlands.

Staff Recommendation

Based on the evaluation above, staff do not recommend the Board award funding for the North Fork Siuslaw project.

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item Q – Strategic Plan
April 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

OWEB's strategic planning facilitator, Dialogues In Action, will join the board to facilitate a strategic planning discussion building on the January board meeting planning session, board interviews, and listening sessions that were held around the state in March. The board will receive an update on listening sessions and stakeholder surveys. The discussion will focus on early refinements to the "Who We Are" portion of the plan and outline common themes from the interviews that were completed in January and February.

II. Background

OWEB approved its last strategic plan in 2010, during a time when the agency and its associated funding were set to sunset in 2015. However, at the same time, a campaign had begun to make the agency's funding permanent through Constitutional Ballot Measure 76. After the strategic plan was completed, Oregon voters overwhelmingly approved Ballot Measure 76.

As a result of the approval of permanent funding, the board then undertook an effort in 2012-13 to develop a Long-Term Investment Strategy (LTIS) for granting. This extensive process engaged stakeholders from across Oregon to set a vision for how the agency's strategic plan would be "operationalized" through its granting investments. The LTIS was approved by the board in 2013 and has become the framing through which the board develops and approves its two-year spending plan in support of the strategic plan.

It has now been seven years since the board approved its last strategic plan and 2018 will be five years after board approval of the LTIS.

III. Board Meeting, Interviews, Listening Sessions and Survey

Who We Are: In January 2017, the board formally initiated its strategic planning process. Under the guidance of Steve Patty, the facilitator with Dialogues In Action, both the board and OWEB staff began developing the "Who We Are" portion of the strategic plan. This includes work on the agency's Ultimate Aims, Premises, Intended Impact, and Best Means.

Interviews: Also in January, the board began the process of interviewing a range of OWEB stakeholders about their experiences and work with OWEB. Each board member interviewed at least one stakeholder. Staff have established a "Staff Process Team" to coordinate with the board throughout the planning process. Those team members also interviewed stakeholders, resulting in over 30 interviews with individuals across Oregon.

Listening Sessions: In March 2017, OWEB staff traveled with Steve Patty to six locations across Oregon to hold strategic planning listening sessions. These face-to-face meetings were held in Pendleton, Ontario, Bend, Medford, Clackamas and Newport, in addition to one virtual listening session webinar. In total, approximately 80 individuals attended, including grantees, regional review team members and other agency partners, among others. The listening sessions followed a format similar to the January board and staff meeting, focusing on the "Who We Are" portion of the strategic plan.

In addition, participants were asked to begin identifying innovative actions the board may want to consider over the next ten years, and the challenges OWEB will face. That information will be used later in the planning process after the board determines its strategic direction.

Stakeholder Surveys: At writing of this report, surveys will be sent out broadly in early April for stakeholders and partners to identify what is working well in their interactions with OWEB, as well as areas for improvement. That information will be finalized for board review at their June strategic plan meeting.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.