



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Materials

for

**October 24-25, 2017
Board Meeting**

Lebanon, Oregon



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Agenda

October 24-25

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Best Western Premier Boulder Falls Inn and Conference Center
Room A

505 Mullins Drive
Lebanon, OR 97355

Directions: <http://www.boulderfallsinn.com/location>

Business Meeting – 8:00 a.m.

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. The board may also elect to take an item out of order in certain circumstances. During the public comment periods (Agenda Items D, E, I, J, and N), 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.*** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after October 18th, 2017 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

A. Board Member Comments (8:10 a.m.)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies will provide an update on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. This is also an opportunity for public and tribal board members to report on their recent activities and share information and comments on a variety of watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics. *Information item.*

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (8:40 a.m.)

The minutes of the July 24-26, 2017 meeting in Boardman will be presented for approval. *Action item.*

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (8:45 a.m.)

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

D. Public Comment (9:05 a.m.)

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

E. Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (9:35 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 11:05 a.m.

Introduction

Prior to hearing public comment, Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives will provide background information on the Spring 2017 Open Solicitation grant offering.

Public Comment [approximately 11:05 a.m.]

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 October 18, 2017 deadline. ***The board encourages speakers to limit comments to three to five minutes.***

Board Consideration of Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications

The Board will consider grant applications submitted through the Spring 2017 Open Solicitation grant offering. Proposals, supporting materials, and funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the Board. *Action item.*

F. Winter Lake Restoration Project Funding Request (2:00 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy, and Region Two Program Representative Mark Grenbemer will update the board on the status of the Winter Lake restoration project and request the board award additional funding for the project. *Action item.*

G. OWEB Strategic Plan Update (2:30 p.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the board on the status of the OWEB Strategic Plan that is currently under development. *Information item.*

H. Executive Director's Update (3:00 p.m.)

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

Tour – 3:30 p.m.

The OWEB Board and staff will participate in a field tour of a riparian restoration project along a tributary to the South Santiam River, which is associated with the Willamette Model Watershed Program. The tour will be leaving from the Best Western Premier Boulder Falls Inn and Conference Center. Anyone is welcome to join the tour, but please be prepared to provide your own transportation and be prepared for inclement weather.

Informal Reception – 5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The public is invited to join the OWEB Board and staff at a reception sponsored by local partners and stakeholders.

Location:

Best Western Premier Boulder Falls Inn and Conference Center

Room F

505 Mullins Drive

Lebanon, OR 97355

Wednesday, October 25, 2017**Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.**

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. The board may also elect to take an item out of order in certain circumstances. During the public comment periods (Agenda Items D, E, I, J, and N), 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.*** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after October 18th, 2017 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

I. Public Comment (8:00 a.m.)

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

J. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) - Capacity Building Grant Awards (8:15 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 8:25 a.m.

Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff will update the board on the FIP Capacity Building program and the 2017-2019 grant solicitation offering. Following public comment, the board will consider the 2017-2019 FIP Capacity grant awards. The board will also consider authorizing an additional grant offering during the current biennium. *Action item.*

K. FIP Gathering (9:05 a.m.)

Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff will request the board amend an existing grant with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to award funds to host a gathering for FIP Implementation and Capacity Building grantees. *Action item.*

L. Strategic Implementation Areas and Coordinated Streamside Management (9:20 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden, Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff and representatives from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) will provide a presentation to the board on updates to ODA's Strategic Implementation Areas and the Coordinated Streamside Management Partnership (formerly the Clean Water Partnership). *Information item.*

M. FIP Rulemaking Update (10:20 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will update the board on the FIP rulemaking process. *Information item.*

N. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (10:35 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 10:45 a.m.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Project Manager Nellie McAdams will update the board on the Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program and request approval to initiate rulemaking. *Action item.*

O. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Update – Implementation (11:25 a.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Bonneville Environmental Foundation Model Watershed Program Director Robert Warren, and Upper Deschutes Watershed Council Executive Director Ryan Houston will update the board on monitoring efforts associated with the six Implementation FIPs. *Information item.*

P. Other Business (12:25 p.m.)

1. Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will update the board on due diligence for the Mountcrest Working Forest Conservation Easement Project and request the board approve a time extension to allow the grantee to close the transaction. *Action item.*

2. Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff will brief the board on the Organizational Collaboration grant program that supports new or expanded collaborations between organizations. The board will then consider Organizational Collaboration grant awards. *Action item.*

Meeting Rules and Procedures

Meeting Procedures

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

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

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

General public comment periods will be held on *Tuesday, October 24 at 9:10 a.m.* and *Wednesday, October 25 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.* Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after October 18, 2017 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

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*
Vacant, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Bob Webber, *Fish and Wildlife Commission member*
Vacant, *Board of Forestry*
John Roberts, *Water Resources Commission*
Jason Robison, *Public (tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Will Neuhauser, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Randy Labbe, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Dan Thorndike, *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

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
503-986-0178
Fax: 503-986-0199
www.oregon.gov/OWEB

OWEB Executive Director – Meta Loftsgaarden
meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov

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 24-26 in Boardman
October 24-25 in Lebanon

2018 Board Meeting Schedule

January 30-31, in Florence
April 24-25, in Frenchglen
June 26-27, Stevenson, WA and Cascade Locks
October 16-17, Brookings/Gold Beach

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!**

OWEB 2017-19 Spending Plan for the October 2017 Board Meeting

	OWEB SPENDING PLAN	July 2017 Spending Plan	TOTAL Board Awards To- Date	Remaining Spending Plan as of July 2017 awards	Oct 2017 Proposed Board Awards	Remaining Spending Plan as of Oct 2017
1	Open Solicitation:					
2	Restoration	28.550	0.000	28.550	8.205	20.345
3	Technical Assistance					
4	Restoration TA	3.600	0.000	3.600	0.809	2.791
6	CREP TA	1.125	1.125	0.000		0.000
7	Stakeholder Engagement	0.700	0.000	0.700		0.700
8	Monitoring grants	2.500	0.000	2.500		2.500
9	Land and Water Acquisition					0.000
10	Acquisition Projects	6.200	0.000	6.200		6.200
11	Acquisition Technical Assistance	0.300	0.000	0.300		0.300
12	Weed Grants	3.000	3.000	0.000		0.000
13	Small Grants	3.300	3.300	0.000		0.000
14	Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring	1.587	0.000	1.587		1.587
15	TOTAL	50.862	7.425	43.437	9.014	34.423
16	% of assumed Total Budget	59.50%				
17	Focused Investments:					
18	Deschutes	4.000	4.000	0.000		0.000
19	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat	2.445	2.445	0.000		0.000
20	Harney Basin Wetlands	1.970	1.970	0.000		0.000
21	Sage Grouse	2.355	2.355	0.000		0.000
22	Ashland Forest All-Lands	2.340	2.340	0.000		0.000
23	Upper Grande Ronde	2.417	2.417	0.000		0.000
24	Capacity-Building FIPs	1.150	0.120	1.030	0.452	0.578
25	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.750	0.000	0.750		0.750
26	TOTAL	17.427	15.647	1.780	0.452	1.328
27	% of assumed Total Budget	20.39%				
28	Operating Capacity:					
29	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	13.547	13.547	0.000		0.000
30	Statewide org partnership support	0.450	0.450	0.000		0.000
31	Organizational Collaborative Grants	0.400	0.200	0.200		0.200
32	TOTAL	14.397	14.197	0.200	0.000	0.200
33	% of assumed Total Budget	16.84%				
34	Other:					
35	CREP	0.600	0.600	0.000		0.000
36	Governor's Priorities	1.000	0.850	0.150		0.150
37	Strategic Implementation Areas	1.200	1.200	0.000		0.000
38	TOTAL	2.800	2.650	0.150	0.000	0.150
39	% of assumed Total Budget	3.28%				
40	TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	85.486	39.919	45.567	9.466	36.101
41	OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION					
42	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF	10.450	10.450	0.000		0.000
43	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.309	0.309	0.000		0.000
44	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF	0.500	0.500	0.000		0.000
45	PSMFC-IMW	0.438	0.438	0.000		0.000
46	PSMFC-Coho Habitat Tools	0.166	0.166	0.000		0.000
47	Natural Resources Conservation Svc-CREP TA	0.250	0.250	0.000		0.000
48	TOTAL	12.113	12.113	0.000	0.000	0.000
49	TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds	97.599	52.032	45.567	9.466	36.101

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

July 24, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting

Port of Morrow, Riverfront Center

2 Marine Drive

Boardman, Oregon

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording at <https://youtu.be/-uX1d1XL04w>)

OWEB Members Present

Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Masterson, Laura
Neuhauser, Will
Robison, Jason
Thorndike, Dan
Webber, Bob

ABSENT:

Marshall, Gary
Roberts, John
Stangl, Kathy
Wenner, Karl

VACANT:

Environmental Quality Commission
Board of Forestry

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Greer, Sue
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Leopold, Kathy
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Williams, Eric

Others Present

Beamer, Kelley
Collins, Whitney
Faucera, Jason
Fitzgerald, Pat
Luiz, Jessamyn
Morford, Shawn
Patty, Steve

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Co-Chair Randy Labbe.

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Update (Audio = 0:00:00)

Co-Chair Randy Labbe called for public comment.

The board heard comments on the latest draft of OWEB's strategic plan from Kelley Beamer of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Shawn Morford of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, Jason Faucera of the Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network, and Pat Fitzgerald and Whitney Collins of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, all of whom represent the Conservation Partnership.

Strategic plan facilitator Steve Patty from Dialogues in Action led the board in a discussion of the "Who We Are" and "Strategic Priorities for Impact" components of the strategic plan in their advanced draft phases. Suggestions for text changes were provided. With those changes, the board generally agreed these documents are ready to be moved forward.

The meeting was adjourned for the day by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 6:09 p.m.

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

July 25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting

Port of Morrow, Riverfront Center

2 Marine Drive

Boardman, Oregon

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording at <https://youtu.be/UTjvHgZ5t3k> Please keep in mind that sometimes agenda items are discussed out of order.)

OWEB Members Present

Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Marshall, Gary (by phone)
Masterson, Laura
Neuhauser, Will
Roberts, John (by phone)
Robison, Jason
Thorndike, Dan
Webber, Bob
Wenner, Karl

ABSENT:

Stangl, Kathy

VACANT:

Environmental Quality Commission
Board of Forestry

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Greer, Sue
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Leiendecker, Karen
Leopold, Kathy
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Others Present

Arnold, Jennifer
Beamer, Kelley
Bell, Dan
Collins, Whitney
Eagle, Bill
Farris-Olsen, Erin
Faucera, Jason
Fitzgerald, Pat
Houston, Ryan
Joki, Tyler
Keeney, Selene
Marriott, Deb
McAdams, Nellie
Morford, Shawn
Morrison, Katie
Rankin, Anna
Siebert, Paul
Stewart, Dave
McGinnis, Cheryl
VanNatta, K.C.

The meeting was called to reconvene by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 8:00 a.m.

B. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:00)

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.

C. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 0:31:11)

Minutes of the April 24-26, 2017 board meeting in Salem were presented to the board for approval.

Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the minutes from the April 24-26, 2017 meeting in Salem. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:31:42)

D. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 0:32:00)

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

E. Public Comment (Audio = 0:45:38)

The board was addressed by members of the Conservation Partnership to provide an update on activities of each group individually and collectively. Presenters included Shawn Morford of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, Pat Fitzgerald of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Jason Faucera of the Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network, and Kelley Beamer of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts.

Erin Farris-Olsen, Executive Director from the Montana Watershed Coordination Council, also addressed the board to discuss complementary work being accomplished by her organization in supporting watershed groups across the state of Montana.

F. 2017-19 Spending Plan (Audio = 1:11:15)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden introduced the 2017-2019 Spending Plan for board review and approval. Board Member Gary Marshall joined the discussion by telephone.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 1:21:00)

There was no public comment.

Debrah Marriott from the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership presented to the board components of the Estuary Partnership structure, programs, and ongoing projects.

Katie Morrison from the Oregon Department of Forestry addressed the board to review community-based forest collaboratives and OWEB's role in the forest collaborative technical assistance grant program.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden presented follow-up items from the April board meeting and proposed changes to the Spending Plan, including carry-forward, policy, and delegation recommendations.

Will Neuhauser moved the board adopt the proposed 2017 spending plan as described in Attachment A to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Karl Wenner. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:02:45) Will Neuhauser moved the board amend the proposed 2017 spending plan to reduce the Forest Health Collaboratives line from \$750,000 to \$500,000. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:03:27)

Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the carry-forward amounts as described in Table 1 of Attachment C to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:04:08)

Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the policy recommendations and receipt of funds from other sources as described in Table 2 of Attachment C to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:04:41)

Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the delegation of authority to the Executive Director for the spending plan line items and award dates described in Table 3 of Attachment C to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:07:06)

L. OWEB Technical Assistance and Focused Investment Partnership Rulemaking

(Audio = 3:11:20)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein, supported by Grant Program manager Eric Williams, requested the board approve initiation of rulemaking for OWEB Technical Assistance grants and the Focused Investment Program.

Bob Webber moved the board authorize rulemaking for OWEB Technical Assistance grants and the Focused Investment Partnership program. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously (Audio = 3:17:16).

G. Council Capacity Grant Awards (Audio = 3:19:18)

Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff reviewed for the board OWEB's role in assisting watershed councils around the state, and explained the eligibility determination and review process for council capacity grants. Shaff described the three funding levels for council capacity: full funding, reducing funding, or no funding. OWEB's Region 1 Program Representative, Katie Duzik, assisted Shaff in responding to questions from the board about staff recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 3:44:45)

K.C. VanNatta, chairman of the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council (LCRWC) and Selene Keeney, Coordinator for LCRWC, addressed the board to request full funding for their watershed council and responded to questions from the board.

Dave Stewart from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Tyler Joki, a private citizen, also addressed the board to talk about the momentum of LCRWC and to request full funding.

Bill Eagle from the Columbia Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to talk about the relationship between the SWCD and the watershed council, and requested the board consider funding LCRWC.

Anna Rankin from the Pudding River Watershed Council addressed the board to talk about Pudding River issues and to thank the board for capacity funding for the next biennium.

Randy Labbe moved the board award the 2017-2019 Council Capacity grants as described in Attachment C to the staff report, with an award date of July 1, 2017. The motion was seconded by Laura Masterson (Audio = 4:53:51). Following discussion, Dan Thorndike then moved to amend and provisionally fund the LCRWC at half of the reduced amount with the award of the second half contingent upon the watershed council completing the normal application process, demonstrating they have met all five merit criteria and are separate and distinct from the soil & water conservation district, and that, if award of the second half of the funding occurs, the board would increase the spending plan accordingly. Laura Masterson seconded the motion as amended. Following discussion, the amendment to the motion passed with one member - Bob Webber - voting against the motion. With passage of the amendment, the original motion was voted on as amended and passed unanimously. (Audio = 5:07:25)

O. Executive Director's Update (Audio = 5:14:20)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein presented highlights of the 2017 legislative session, including OWEB's 2017-2019 budget and pertinent policy bills. Davis also announced the receipt of a Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund grant award from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden discussed with the board that the passage of House Bill 3249 established the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, which will be administered by OWEB. Executive Director Loftsgaarden, with input from board member Will Neuhauser, discussed a recent trip to Washington D.C.

The meeting was adjourned for the day by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 2:54 p.m.

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

July 26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting

Port of Morrow, Riverfront Center

2 Marine Drive

Boardman, OR

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording <https://youtu.be/9e83SwpKEVw>.)

Please keep in mind that sometimes agenda items are discussed out of order.)

OWEB Members Present

Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Masterson, Laura
Neuhauser, Will
Roberts, John
Robison, Jason
Thorndike, Dan
Webber, Bob
Wenner, Karl

ABSENT:

Marshall, Gary
Roberts, John
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT:

Environmental Quality Commission
Board of Forestry

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Greer, Sue
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Leopold, Kathy
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Williams, Eric

Others Present

Abraham, Kyle
Arnold, Jennifer
Banks, Graham
Bell, Dan
Houston, Ryan
McAdams, Nellie
McGinnis, Cheryl
Morford, Shawn
Tucker, Lena
Warren, Robert
Wolcott, Brian

The meeting was called to reconvene by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 8:03 a.m. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden reviewed logistics for the day.

H. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Update – Partnership Learning Project

(Audio = 0:00:00)

Deputy Director Renee Davis introduced Jennifer Arnold from Reciprocity Consulting to provide an update on the Partnership Learning Project being led by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. Arnold stated her expertise is in helping new partnerships form around conservation and community development issues. Arnold provided a presentation to the board outlining her report on the Partnership Learning Project, related to the eight Capacity-Building FIP Grantees.

I. Public Comment (Audio = 1:00:05)

There was no public comment.

K. Outreach/Stakeholder Engagement Administrative Rules (Audio = 1:00:40)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on the Stakeholder Engagement grants rulemaking process, and requested the board adopt the revised rules.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio =1:25:24)

Graham Banks and Brian Wolcott from the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council addressed the board to request continued funding for educational outreach grants.

Randy Labbe moved the board approve the Stakeholder Engagement Grants rules as specified in Attachment D to the staff report with a technical correction to the proposed Stakeholder Engagement Grant rule numbering on page 3, rule (2)(a) from 695-015-0050 to 695-015-XXXX. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The amendment passed with Bob Webber voting against the motion. (1:57:00)

J. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Update – Implementation (Audio = 2:02:15)

Deputy Director Renee Davis introduced Robert Warren from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and Ryan Houston from the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council to update the board about the process of developing a progress monitoring framework for each of the six Implementation FIP partnerships.

N. Collaborative Voluntary Measures (Audio = 2:46:40)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Oregon Department of Forestry Division Chief of Private Forests Program Lena Tucker and Deputy Chief of Private Forests Program Kyle Abraham presented to the board a report on the voluntary actions forest landowners in western Oregon are undertaking that benefit salmon and watersheds.

M. Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (Audio = 3:22:35)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch updated the board on the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, which brings together multiple state and federal agencies to evaluate the effects of conservation and restoration investments on water quality and watershed conditions.

P. Other Business (Audio = 3:54:40)

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 12:12 p.m. (Audio = 3:54:40)

October 24-25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting Focused Investment Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee members: Gary Marshall, Chair, Ron Alvarado, Alan Henning, Jason Robison, Dan Thorndike

Background

The Focused Investment Subcommittee met on September 8th to discuss Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) capacity building and implementation program developments.

Summary of Focused Investment Subcommittee Work this Quarter

Capacity Building FIP Solicitation

OWEB received and reviewed seven capacity building FIP applications. Staff summarized the review process and evaluation results, along with the staff recommendation to the board. Given that there are other partnerships working on capacity-building for which the timing was not conducive to submitting an application, and that this spending plan line item will have funds remaining even if all recommended applications are awarded funding by the board, in October, staff will request the board authorize an additional capacity-building FIP funding cycle.

Timeline for 2019-2021 Implementation FIP Solicitation

The subcommittee reviewed the solicitation timeline and discussed the subcommittee interview process planned for November. In the previous solicitation, the application was divided into two phases; the planned solicitation for 2019-2021 will have only one. The subcommittee will receive the review team evaluations and staff recommendations prior to a public interview session. Subcommittee members will be provided an opportunity to check in with staff to ask clarifying questions on the content of the applications and evaluations. The subcommittee will make funding recommendations to the board in January 2019.

FIP Rules Advisory Committee (RAC)

Staff walked through the rule-making process, which was initiated by the board establishing a Rules Advisory Committee at the July meeting. The RAC is scheduled to meet on September 27 and complete its work in October. Noting that the board will be acting on the rules in January, the subcommittee asked that staff include a subcommittee review step in the process.

Capacity and Implementation FIP Gathering

Staff summarized the work to date with FIP partnership learning and noted that it became apparent through the process of working with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) and the FIP partnerships that there is a great opportunity to share lessons learned among existing FIP partnerships to help inform their work moving forward. Initially the concept of a partnership gathering was envisioned for the capacity building FIPs. However, as the work on progress monitoring frameworks progressed, it became apparent there would be great benefit to having the implementation FIPs participate in such a gathering. At the October board meeting, staff will be requesting funds for BEF to help OWEB hold a FIP gathering at a low-cost facility, such as Manucha, for a two-day event. To allow for travel time, there would be an afternoon session on the first day and a morning session on the second day.

To Be Presented at the October 2017 Board Meeting by:

Gary Marshall, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047.

October 24-25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee members: Rosemary Furfey, Chair, Stephen Brandt, Karl Wenner, Alan Henning, Jason Robison

Background

The Monitoring Subcommittee is tracking ongoing work associated with both open solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring (EM) and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) monitoring. They also are overseeing the process to develop improved guidance for applicants submitting monitoring grant applications. Finally, the subcommittee is discussing potential areas of focus for EM investments in the 2017-19 biennium.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on August 1, 2017, and discussed the following topics and highlights:

- 1) Debrief from the July board meeting – The results chain process being applied by Bonneville Environmental Foundation could be used in other monitoring projects and results of the monitoring guidance process for adaptive management.
- 2) Review of feedback from regional review teams and the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team as part of the monitoring guidance process – Adaptive management should inform restoration practitioners and agencies; options for leveraging existing monitoring guidance from other agencies; connecting grantees to tools and resources about consistent analysis and reporting; and gathering the ‘right’ data to answer questions. The next step in the process will survey monitoring grantees for their input.
- 3) Approaches to ‘tell the story’ using programmatic EM funding – Based on input from other agencies, three approaches—retrospective, prospective, and hybrid approaches—could be used to describe the ecological effects of restoration through time. While prospective is ideal, retrospective and hybrid are practical alternatives and can be applied in the near term. The next step is outreach to grant program staff.
- 4) Brief review of in-progress programmatic EM projects – tide gate removal/restoration literature review, final year of 10-year livestock exclusion monitoring, and Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed.

The subcommittee will meet again on October 3, 2017.

To Be Presented at the October 2017 Board Meeting by:

Rosemary Furfey, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact:

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203

October 24-25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting Open Solicitation Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee members: Bob Webber, Chair, Stephen Brandt, Rosemary Furfey, John Roberts, Kathy Stangl

Background

The Open Solicitation Subcommittee completed some major work on the small grant program evaluation and outreach application revisions, and is now reviewing the funding line process.

Summary of Open Solicitation Subcommittee Work this Quarter

Funding Line Process

Since the April board meeting, the subcommittee has discussed whether it should recommend a more predictable process to address potential worthy projects that fall below the staff-recommended funding line. Staff presented four options:

1. Build a 10% contingency into the spending plan – both the board and applicants will be aware that these funds are available for particularly compelling projects.
2. Use recapture funds – when projects are cancelled or finish under budget, the remaining funds are recaptured and included in the next biennium spending plan. There are two sub-options:
 - a. Allocate recapture funds when they are available – this would result in inconsistency when such funds are available;
 - b. Amortize the anticipated recapture for the biennium – this would provide a predictable reserve, but could potentially allocate more funds than available if the anticipated recapture does not materialize.
3. Allocate funds from future funding cycles – this would result in an inconsistent reserve pool, and could result in funds being unavailable for worthy projects in the final grant cycle of the biennium.
4. Use unallocated spending plan line item funds – similar to April 2017, this would only be available in the last grant cycle of the biennium.

Following discussion of the options, the subcommittee agreed that, regardless of method, transparency and predictability are the most important factors. Since option 1 best meets those criteria, it was preferred; however, the subcommittee felt that 10% was too much money to set aside for a funding line contingency. Since the board recently approved a spending plan for the biennium, there is time to determine an appropriate funding line contingency amount in the 2019-2021 spending plan. In the meantime, the subcommittee would like staff to note whether there are recommended projects below the line that are exceptionally worthy of funding. This would improve the board's ability to fund worthy projects in particularly competitive cycles. The board can then determine whether to award funds based on available options. The subcommittee will present the concept at the October board meeting and seek board approval in January 2018.

To Be Presented at the October 2017 Board Meeting by:

Bob Webber, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item E – Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering and funding recommendations. Staff request the board approve the funding recommendations outlined in Attachments D to the staff report, including funding for 54 restoration projects and 21 technical assistance projects.

II. May 2017 Grant Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Cycle offered Restoration and Technical Assistance applications. A total of 116 grant applications were received seeking over \$15 million. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

B. Applications Withdrawn

Following the application deadline, three applications (218-1007, 218-1009, and 218-4015) were 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 based on the evaluation criteria of proposal clarity, technical soundness, watershed context, capacity of the applicant, and cost effectiveness. 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 forwarded to the board all written comments received from applicants regarding the RRT and staff recommendations.

III. Spring 2017 Grant Offering and Board Policy Decisions

A. Salmon License Plate Projects

Since it is the beginning of the biennium, there are not ample revenues to allocate salmon license plate projects in this grant offering. Staff expect that revenue will be sufficient to recommend salmon plate project funding in the Fall 2017 Grant Offering.

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 Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering, there are five projects (218-4000, 218-5020, 218-5006, 218-5014, and 218-5003) recommended for funding that meet these criteria, requesting \$441,236. Note that the board's July 2017 award of \$2,355,250 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 \$3,649,728. If the recommended projects are awarded funding from the board, the new total will be \$4,090,964.

IV. Funding Recommendations

The funding recommendations for the Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: 2017-19 Spending Plan and Spring 2017 Grant Offering Staff Funding Recommendations

Grant Type	Spending Plan Total	Previously Awarded	Grant Funds Available	Staff Recommendations	Difference
Restoration	\$32,000,000	\$0	\$32,000,000	\$7,979,680	\$24,020,320
Technical Assistance	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$4,000,000	\$808,696	\$3,191,304
Monitoring*	\$2,750,000	\$0	\$2,750,000	\$0	\$2,750,000
Stakeholder Engagement*	\$700,000	\$0	\$700,000	\$0	\$700,000
TOTAL	\$39,450,000	\$0	\$39,450,000	\$8,788,376	\$30,661,624

*Not offered in the Spring Offering

Table 1

A. Development of Staff Recommendations

OWEB staff considered the RRT recommendations and the funding availability in the 2017-2019 spending plan in developing the staff funding recommendation to the board. Attachment B 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.

B. Spring 2017 Grant Offering – Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend the board fund the applications listed in Attachment C.

Attachments

- A. Grant Applications Submitted
- B. RTT and Staff Funding Recommendations
- C. Regions 1-6 Funding Recommendations

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering

Types of Applications Received

	TA	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	5	10	15
Region 2	7	14	21
Region 3	4	15	19
Region 4	6	10	16
Region 5	6	21	27
Region 6	4	14	18
STATEWIDE	0	0	0
Totals	32	84	116

Dollar Amounts by Application Type

	TA	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	225,555	1,680,139	\$1,905,694
Region 2	247,297	2,444,720	\$2,692,017
Region 3	157,341	2,455,339	\$2,612,680
Region 4	233,205	3,415,668	\$3,648,873
Region 5	196,120	2,638,885	\$2,835,005
Region 6	163,830	1,189,082	\$1,352,912
STATEWIDE	0	0	\$0
Totals	\$1,223,348	\$13,823,833	\$15,047,181

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering

RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations

Region	Restoration Projects Recommended			Technical Assistance Projects Recommended		
	RRT	Staff	%	RRT	Staff	%
Region 1	5	5	100%	3	3	100%
Region 2	10	10	100%	6	6	100%
Region 3	13	11	85%	2	2	100%
Region 4	7	5	71%	3	3	100%
Region 5	12	11	92%	3	3	100%
Region 6	12	12	100%	4	4	100%
Total	59	54	92%	21	21	100%

Funding Recommended by Region

Region	Restoration Funding Recommended	Technical Assistance Funding Recommended
Region 1	\$575,935	\$147,175
Region 2	\$1,787,051	\$215,911
Region 3	\$1,827,971	\$76,018
Region 4	\$1,577,457	\$111,107
Region 5	\$1,146,672	\$94,655
Region 6	\$1,064,594	\$163,830
Total	\$7,979,680	\$808,696

North Coast - Region 1 Spring 2017 Application Funding Status



Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2017SpringCycle\Projects\Region1_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2017Spring.mxd
 ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Int WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB-PK Wills Sept. 2017

Spring 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region 1 Boundary

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Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration and Technical Assistance - Spring 2017 Grant Offering

Region 1 - North Coast

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-1001	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	Nestucca River and Clear Creek Riparian Restoration	This project will improve water quality and stream habitat along the Nestucca River and Clear Creek on a working dairy farm in Cloverdale, OR. Native plants will be installed and livestock exclusion fencing installed to protect and enhance nearly two and a half miles of riparian habitat.	76,759	Tillamook
218-1003	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	NORP Project Management 17-19	The Northwest Oregon Partnership (NORP) provides native plant materials to watershed scale restoration projects in the north coast basin. This project will partially fund a coordinator position for the next three years, allowing the program to focus on growing and distributing native plants to the 41 conservation organizations that depend on NORP for their plant material each year.	84,231	Tillamook
218-1006	MidCoast WC	South Beaver Creek (Ona Beach) Stream Habitat and Riparian Restoration	A group of eight landowners along Beaver Creek in Lincoln County have joined together to improve stream habitat on their properties in this watershed scale restoration project. Native trees will be planted and large wood placed along the creek to improve stream habitat within the creek- which is widely recognized for its optimum habitat for Oregon coast coho salmon.	234,332	Lincoln
218-1004	MidCoast WC	Crazy Creek Fish Passage	An undersized culvert on Crazy Creek in the Five Rivers watershed is currently blocking fish passage to nearly two miles of important fish habitat. This project will replace the culvert with a newly designed structure that will provide free access for native fish, including Oregon coast coho salmon.	120,991	Lane
218-1008	Lincoln SWCD	Long Prairie Creek Plant Establishment	This project builds upon a previously constructed restoration project on Long Prairie Creek in the Siletz watershed. Along a 5 mile reach of stream where large wood structures were previously placed, native trees will be extensively planted to improve the health of the riparian area and provide for future naturally-recruited large wood.	59,622	Lincoln
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				575,935	

Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
NONE					
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				575,935	

Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration and Technical Assistance - Spring 2017 Grant Offering

Restoration Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
218-1000	MidCoast WC	Ernest Creek LWD and Riparian Restoration	61,520	Benton
218-1002	Necanicum WC	Coho Creek Culvert Replacement - Seaside	455,326	Clatsop
218-1005	The Nature Conservancy	Kilchis Porter Wetland Restoration Project	384,243	Tillamook

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-1013	Siuslaw WC	North Fork Siuslaw Tidal Restoration Technical Assistance	This project will investigate options to return a diked and drained property along the North Fork of the Siuslaw River to tidal wetland habitat that will host a range of native fish species. Project partners will conduct outreach to neighboring landowners and community members as part of the process to assess possibilities for restoration.	49,964	Lane
218-1011	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	North Coast Watershed Councils Restoration Assistance	A coalition of watershed organizations on the north coast have joined together to increase the collective technical expertise and restoration capacity within the north coast basin. This project funds a highly qualified consultant that assists the group of councils with project development, project designs, and contracting.	47,386	Tillamook
218-1010	Lower Nehalem WC	North Fork Road Fish Passage Projects	This project will produce designs to address three road crossings that currently inhibit fish passage in the lower Nehalem River watershed. The barriers are located along North Fork Road, and once replaced, will provide impeded access for fish to important tidal wetland habitat.	49,825	Tillamook
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				147,175	
Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
NONE					
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				147,175	

Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration and Technical Assistance - Spring 2017 Grant Offering

Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
218-1012	Columbia SWCD	Fox Creek Fish Passage Feasibility Analysis	50,000	Columbia
218-1014	Tillamook Bay WC	OK Ranch Habitat Enhancement Project	28,380	Tillamook

Region 1 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	723,110	8%
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Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	8,788,376	
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Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1000-15572

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Ernest Creek LWD and Riparian Restoration

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$61,520

Total Cost: \$88,150

Application Description *(from application)*

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 Ernest 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 17 large wood structures on 0.7 miles 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 long term large wood recruitment. Project partners include the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership, Biosurveys LLC, Thyme Garden, Georgia Pacific, and a local landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will add more habitat complexity to Ernest Creek, an identified limiting factor for coastal coho salmon.
- The landowner is very engaged and does a great job providing outreach about watershed issues to the public.
- The revised application changed the permitting approach and removed the boulders from the design, both review team recommendations from the last submittal.

Concerns

- The team had reservations about the technical aspects of the project related to the geomorphology of the site. They noted that the creek had not yet stabilized in its current channel, and felt that the incision had other causes besides the lack of large wood.
- The team found the hydrology of the site not explained well in the application, and there was confusion about why the channel's elevation seemed artificially high, the hydrologic impact of the landowner-maintained impoundment, and how the water table issue affects current and proposed site conditions. The site's hydrology may not have been fully considered in the 2002 restoration actions.

- In recent years the creek has not contained flow in the summer, creating concern that fish may become entrapped when the flow is subsurface. The addition of large wood is unlikely to address this issue.
- The application would have benefited from more explanation about why Ernest Creek is a priority location in which to work in the context of fish populations.

Concluding Analysis

The reviewers appreciated the opportunity to continue the work on Ernest Creek and had praise for the dedicated landowner involved. They recognized that the landowner went above and beyond to provide educational opportunities for the public, promoting restoration actions and watershed issues to a broad swath of the public that regularly visits Thyme Garden. This was a significant reason that a previous iteration of this project was recommended for funding in the last funding cycle, although it ranked too low to be funded.

The review team continued to have a lot of questions about the stream's hydrology as it related to the original diversion funded in 2002. During this discussion, more concerns about the site's geomorphology and hydrology arose. Reviewers found the site and application confusing and felt that the stream's incision was not primarily due to the lack of large wood, but rather that the stream was still working its way through a sediment slug. They felt that the addition of large wood would likely not address the issue, but rather would aggrade more sediment that could exacerbate fish entrapment issues within the reach. It was noted that in recent years, the stream goes subsurface during the summer under current conditions. The review team elected not to recommend the project for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017 North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1001-15574

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Nestucca River and Clear Creek
Riparian Restoration

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds
Council

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$76,759

Total Cost: \$95,953

Application Description *(from application)*

The project is located south of Cloverdale (Tillamook County) and west of Hwy 101. It includes 2 landowners; the Trent Farm and the Cloverdale Baptist Church. The project includes 2,200 ft. of Nestucca River frontage and 9,900 ft. of Clear Creek frontage, from the mouth upstream to Hwy 101. The whole project encompasses approximately 8 acres. The Nestucca River and Clear Creek watersheds support populations of coho, chinook, chum, cutthroat, lamprey and steelhead. Clear creek contains 3.4 miles of coho habitat. Many of these populations have steadily declined in large part due to the loss of key habitats. The riparian areas included in the project are severely impaired and do not adequately provide shade, habitat complexity, and erosion control benefits. Degraded riparian conditions are identified as a limiting factor to water quality and salmon production in the Nestucca River Watershed Assessment and TMDL. The riparian areas of the project are primarily vegetated with non-native invasive species; reed canary grass and Himalayan blackberry. There are areas of active erosion and sloughing banks. There is a need for live-stock exclusion riparian fencing along one segment of Clear Creek. The Tillamook Soil and Water Conservation District will install that fencing prior to planting. The project will include the manual control of non-native species, the planting of approximately 3,000 native trees and shrubs and 4,000 willow cuttings, the installation of 900 ft of riparian fencing, and the maintenance, or tree release, of the plantings for 3 years post implementation. The Nestucca, Neskowin and Sand Lake Watersheds Council has a long history of successfully implementing riparian restoration projects. Since 2002, we have worked with over 145 landowners to improve the riparian areas along 45 miles of river, encompassing approximately 220 acres.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant and project partners have a good track record of success with this type of work, having regularly completed many similar projects under budget within the last decade.
- The project as proposed will have excellent water quality benefits for both temperature and bacteria--two limiting factors in this watershed.
- The approach proposed by the project for site preparation and planting is technically sound and likely to be successful.
- The landowner, a local dairy farmer, is committed and enthusiastic about restoration work and eager to improve his property. The buffers that are proposed are of good size for a working dairy.

- This reach of the Nestucca River and Clear Creek has excellent fish use, including populations of chum and coho. Intact headwaters support healthy populations of a variety of anadromous and resident fish species.
- The project has good connectivity to other riparian planting projects on the Nestucca River, and continuing the effort at this location will further increase the realized benefits of the landscape-level effort.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were noted during review.

Concluding Analysis

The review team found the project to be compelling and straightforward-- a technically sound riparian planting project that addresses key limiting factors within a watershed in a priority location that is well connected to other adjacent restoration work. They appreciated the dairy farmer landowner's willingness to conduct restoration on his property and improve water quality within the Nestucca River and Clear Creek, and enthusiastically recommended the project for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$76,759

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$76,759

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017 North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1002-15599

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Coho Creek Culvert Replacement - Seaside

Applicant: Necanicum WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$455,326

Total Cost: \$587,655

Application Description *(from application)*

Coho Creek is a tributary to Neawanna Creek in the Necanicum River watershed within Seaside city limits in Clatsop County. The culverts to be replaced are juvenile and adult fish passage barriers under certain flow conditions and impair natural channel processes impacting ESA listed coho, cutthroat trout and winter steelhead. The project involves three existing, undersized culverts. The project proposes to permanently remove two culverts and relocate the City's sewer main which currently is piped over the top of the culverts. In addition, the project proposes to replace the existing undersized culvert crossing under Wahanna Road with a 19' open bottom, multi-plate arch with natural stream simulation that meets the design criteria of 1.5x active channel width. The project will improve fish access to 0.5 miles of stream habitat. Project partners include: City of Seaside and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds upon previous OWEB investments in fish passage upstream, and this crossing is the last remaining obstacle in the system.
- The applicant has good capacity for completing this type of project-- the upstream crossing was successful and is functioning well.
- Coho creek has a thriving coho population that is under threat from the demise of the subject crossing.

Concerns

- The cost-benefit ratio of the project does not seem favorable. The crossing in question is currently only a partial barrier and will provide access to only 0.5 mile of habitat.
- Ecological benefit from the project may be minimal.
- A significant portion of the project cost (nearly 20%) is slated for the removal and replacement of the city's water and sewer lines, located just upstream of the crossing in a berm that crosses the creek.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the successful work implemented by the applicant upstream on Coho

Creek as the result of a past OWEB investment and were impressed by how well the project was functioning. They recognized that the school had taken ownership of that site and utilized the crossing and the creek regularly for environmental education opportunities, and were worried about how the demise of the culvert proposed for replacement in this application would affect that investment. However, they found the cost-benefit of the project to be unfavorable, with a minimal amount of habitat present upstream in combination with the fact that the current crossing is still passable to fish at certain velocities. They felt that the City should largely take ownership of the existing infrastructure issue and did not recommend funding for the removal and replacement of the water and sewer lines and other project elements, given the limited amount of habitat available upstream.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017 North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1003-15603

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: NORP Project Management 17-19

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$84,231

Total Cost: \$160,011

Application Description *(from application)*

The Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP), a Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) program, is an integral part of the conservation community in northwest Oregon. Locally adapted, genetically appropriate native plant materials are critical for ensuring success in watershed scale restoration projects. NORP supports 41 organizations by propagating and distributing 75,000 – 100,000 native plants annually, which would otherwise be unavailable to restoration partners. In addition to providing this much needed native plant material for restoration, NORP supplies the plant material at 25% of the cost to its restoration partners. This allows partners of varying capacity to utilize the remaining 75% of the plant value as match to leverage additional funding needed to implement their restoration projects. As a result of NORP's efforts, landscape-scale watershed restoration projects are being implemented by partners on private and public lands in eight counties (Tillamook, Clatsop, Lincoln, Columbia, Washington, Yamhill, Polk, and Benton). Due to this unique partnership, every dollar invested in NORP has an exponential benefit in terms of on-the-ground watershed restoration accomplished. Partners include the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, watershed councils, land trusts, Oregon State Parks, the National Park Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, local schools, and private landowners. NORP's on-going program and is evaluated annually by TEP's project manager, the NORP coordinator, and its partners. The partnership is requesting \$84,231 from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to assist in funding the project coordinator over the next three years.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The program actively supports dozens of restoration projects each year by providing high quality material genetically appropriate for the north coast.
- The program has an excellent track record of success, and past OWEB investments have been well utilized to diversify funding opportunities.
- The effort continues to expand, with more partners added over the last few years and the nursery is currently undergoing a 20,000 plant expansion to better serve the group of partners.
- The program fosters collaboration among the region and encourages the development and sharing of information among practitioners.
- There is much anticipated need for this program and its services over the next three years.
- This proposal will cover three years of funding, giving the program time and security to focus on the continued development of a business plan.

- The project has taken steps to become more self-sufficient, with partners now contributing some funds toward plants. The project team indicated on the site visit they are actively working to reach a higher level of self-sufficiency.

Concerns

- The program continues to require capacity investments, despite the goal of achieving self-sufficiency.

Concluding Analysis

The review team was very familiar with this project and aware of how integral it has become to restoration work on the north coast. They recognized that numerous projects relied on the program for genetically appropriate plant material for the north coast. Such plant material is unavailable commercially in the size of stock necessary to compete successfully against the prolific understory vegetation common in the region. The program continues to expand since the previous OWEB request with the coordinator diversifying funding sources, increasing the capacity of the nursery in Tillamook, taking on new nonprofit and agency partners, and securing outside foundation support for capacity. There was a concern that the program hadn't moved far enough toward self-sufficiency since the initial OWEB investment, but the reviewers recognized the difficulty in finding stable funding for a coordinator position and were impressed with the program's vision and dedication to becoming more self-sustaining, and did find that key steps had been taken toward that goal. They recommended the project for funding, recognizing how the program would benefit from three years of stable funding for a coordinator position.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$84,231

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$84,231

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1004-15606

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Crazy Creek Fish Passage

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$119,907

Total Cost: \$641,702

Application Description *(from application)*

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 Crazy and Lord Creeks. Both creeks are tributaries of Five Rivers, which flows into the Alsea River at river mile 25, 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 two culverts on Crazy and Lord 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 1.75 miles of coho habitat critical for summertime rearing. Project partners include Lane County Public Works, Siuslaw Collaborative Watershed Restoration Program and the USFS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The habitat upstream of Crazy Creek is excellent, and the project would make available approximately 1.75 miles 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 region – water temperature and access to cold water refugia.
- The design for the project is clear and straightforward, with the application much improved from earlier submissions.
- The applicant has been successful in diversifying funding sources for the project's implementation.

Concerns

- The Cougar Creek culvert, in danger of failing, has been removed from the project due to lack of continued interest from the county. This has reduced the cost of the project significantly, but also has reduced the habitat benefit.

Concluding Analysis

This is the fourth time that the review team has reviewed an application to fix the Crazy Creek culvert. The team recommended the project for funding upon the third submission, but it did not receive funding due to a lower priority ranking in a competitive cycle. Again- this time the review team found the application clear and detailed, the project planning thorough, and the design appropriate for the site. They appreciated the applicant's ability to diversify funding sources for the project implementation, noting that the request had decreased as more partners were involved. They regretted that the Cougar Creek portion of the application had to be removed from the project, but understood that the county's priorities had changed and were nonetheless supportive of moving forward with the plan to restore full fish passage to Crazy Creek.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$119,907

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Increase by \$1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount

\$120,991

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1005-15614

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Kilchis Porter Wetland Restoration Project

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$384,243

Total Cost: \$1,075,312

Application Description *(from application)*

The Kilchis Porter project is located in the lower Kilchis River estuary on the east side of Tillamook Bay in Tillamook County near Bay City. The 60.26 acre project area lies between Stasek Slough to the south and Hathaway Slough to the north and borders the Kilchis Estuary Preserve to the south, a TNC preserve that is undergoing active restoration. The Porter project will restore former tidal wetlands that were converted to pastures, thereby providing critical off-channel rearing habitat for salmon and other species dependent upon tidal wetlands. The restoration will remove dikes, recreate tidal channels, fill agricultural ditches and restore tidal wetland vegetation through planting of wetland species. Weedy species will be reduced across the site to encourage native wetland habitats. In addition, the restoration will provide for a more active connection between Stasek Slough and Hathaway Slough by removing a constricting culvert and re-designing a connecting ditch to better function as a natural tidal channel. This new channel will foster better drainage of farmlands that are along Stasek Slough upstream and east of Highway 101; the new channel will also provide enhanced tidal flow onto the existing Kilchis Estuary Preserve to the south of the Porter project. Project partners include Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, ODFW, USFWS and adjacent landowners who are interested in native wetlands mitigation of flooding effects. Access will be maintained across the new channel via a constructed bridge for the purposes of maintaining restoration plantings and an easement to private property.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will restore and enhance 60 acres of estuarine habitat, a high priority in the north coast basin.
- The applicant has a good track record of success having implemented a similar restoration project on the adjacent property. This project will expand the habitat connectivity and landscape level benefits of that project.

Concerns

- The submittal of the application seemed premature, with many details missing from the application. Only draft conceptual designs were available to review.

- The applicant was currently working on a technical assistance grant to procure designs and cost estimates for restoration, which was still underway and final copies were not available at the time of review.
- The budget provided was extremely limited in detail for a project of this nature, with items listed as lump sums in each category.
- The project was very expensive per acre for this type of work, especially given the lesser amount of earthwork required for this site compared to the neighboring Dooher property.
- The site preparation and maintenance plan indiscriminately applied herbicide, with native plant communities slated to also be sprayed.
- The proposed use of plastic cages was not preferred as a plant protection strategy.
- The component of the project that involved reconnecting the two artificial sloughs to the Kilchis River was unclear.

Concluding Analysis

Reviewers appreciated the opportunity to further expand the successful Kilchis River Wetland project onto the subject property and were enthusiastic about estuarine habitat restoration, a top priority for north coast watersheds. Overall though, it seemed that the application submittal was premature. The designs were not yet complete as a technical assistance project was still underway at the time of application submittal, so many details remained unclear. The budget submitted was also very limited in detail for a project of this scope and size, containing only a few lump sum amounts. A more detailed project budget was provided after the site visit and available for review at the meeting, but it still remained unclear what OWEB would be paying for with this request and the reviewers would have liked the additional detail provided upfront at the time of application.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017 North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1006-15624

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: South Beaver Creek (Ona Beach)
Stream Habitat and Riparian Restoration

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$233,248

Total Cost: \$365,427

Application Description *(from application)*

Beaver Creek is a direct ocean tributary, meeting the Pacific two miles north of Seal Rock, in Lincoln County. Walker Creek is a direct tributary to Alsea Bay, 2 miles over a ridge from S. Beaver Creek. The seven properties on S. Beaver Creek represent a significant portion of the private land between the protected lands in the lowest 1.5 stream miles to lands being managed for old growth in the headwaters. Stream channels on all seven properties lack large wood, are incised and disconnected from the floodplain, minimizing groundwater storage and release. The stream corridors also lack native riparian vegetation with most areas dominated by reed canary grass. Additionally, beavers in the area lack of forage and dam building materials. Limiting factors on S. Beaver Creek are elevated summer temperatures, low dissolved oxygen (DO) and failure to capture spawning gravels. Additionally, a culvert limits fish passage to rearing habitat on a side tributary. On Walker Creek, a lack of native riparian corridor through former agricultural properties limits stream shading and channel stability. Our restoration will address these factors by restoring native vegetation on 17.02 acres (15.15 on S. Beaver, 1.87 on Walker Creek), placing large wood, installing four beaver dam anchors, and removing the problematic culvert. In some areas, plantings will enhance previous restoration work, increasing stream buffers from "one-tree width" up to 180 feet. Large wood placement will increase stream and wetland complexity and floodplain connectivity and increase habitat for salmonids and other animals. Thirteen project partners are involved, including the seven private landowners, Hancock Timber, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, BioSurveys, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians and the Seal Rock Water District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project addresses key limiting factors in a highly productive coho stream and will have a positive impact on water quality issues plaguing the Beaver Creek watershed, including temperature, dissolved oxygen, and bacteria.
- The project is comprehensive, involving a multitude of willing landowners enthusiastic about improving the habitat on their properties.
- The applicant was open to suggestions on the site visit and had a thoughtful approach to project design and implementation.

- The project manager had built good partnerships in the project development phase. Notably, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians is slated to provide crew labor in exchange for opportunities to forage for first foods within a portion of the project area.
- The proposed buffer sizes are substantial and will adequately provide critical stream shading throughout this reach.
- The project has the potential to promote future phases of this work in the watershed, including efforts to re-meander the creek where it has been diverted and channelized and increase floodplain interaction.

Concerns

- Some of the planting was slated to occur directly under the powerline corridor and within the right of way, raising concerns that the plants may be someday vulnerable to maintenance by the power company.
- The current restoration plans in the proposal may have missed key opportunities to increase wetland and floodplain function by remeandering the creek, especially on the Beaver Creek Community property.
- The Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) proposed for the low gradient and low velocity areas may not have the intended impact given the limited stream power and scour potential. The goals of the BDAs were unclear and the application would have benefited from more discussion of the desired intent.
- Elk are a natural component of the ecology within the watershed, and the hardened crossings proposed to accommodate their transport through the project site on Walker Creek seemed unnecessary.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the breadth and scope of the project as well as the enthusiasm demonstrated from all the involved landowners. They liked that the project addressed key limiting factors within the Beaver Creek watershed, including temperature, dissolved oxygen, and habitat complexity. Given the enthusiasm of some of the landowners, it was felt that the application could have been more ambitious in places when it comes to floodplain reconnection and addressing the locations where the stream has been diverted and channelized. The team would be supportive of a delay in project implementation on properties where more comprehensive floodplain restoration is possible in order to accommodate more project planning time, should the possibility arise. However, the review team appreciated that opportunities could arise for this type of work after the successful implementation of this project and they understood that future phases of the project were planned that would look at stream re-meander on high priority locations.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

3 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$233,248

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Fund with Conditions: Reduce elk crossings to 1 equipment crossing, reduce BDAs to 1 pilot on Kesselring property, design the planting plan so that no trees are planted within the powerline right of way, and investigate moving the power line farther from the creek. Increase by \$1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$234,332

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017 North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1007-15627

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Fishhawk Creek Restoration

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$84,800

Total Cost: \$129,948

Application Description *(from application)*

The project is located on Fishhawk Creek, which is a tributary of the Nehalem River, and is 5 miles above the confluence with the Nehalem, and 0.70 miles upstream of Fishhawk Lake. The site is near the Fishhawk Lake community in Columbia County. The environmental issue is the complete lack of riparian plants along this reach of Fishhawk Creek, which has resulted in a large cut bank with unnaturally exacerbated erosion rates. The active grazing and deteriorated root structure in conjunction with unconsolidated soils has resulted in an aggressive cut bank that extends for 350 feet along the river right side of the channel. This issue was identified by Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) as a compliance issue in 2016 through the Strategic Implementation Areas program (SIA). The property owners have since been eager to implement an ecosystem informed solution. The compliance issue was recognized due to the lack of riparian vegetation next to the stream; however, the steep and rapidly eroding nature of the bank prohibits simply planting trees. The restoration funding requested would support funds from the SIA program to complete the implementation of the re-vegetation and stream channel improvement project. The project seeks to both take pressure off the eroding bank to allow re-vegetation, while increasing beneficial habitat for native salmonid populations, through extensive riparian planting, sloping the existing degraded bank, and adding large wood structures. The reforested bank will provide strong root networks and long-term bank cohesion. The District is partnering with the landowners and ODA.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- N/A

Concerns

- N/A

Concluding Analysis

Application withdrawn by the applicant prior to review.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Withdrawn

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Withdrawn

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017 North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1008-15639

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Long Prairie Creek Plant Establishment

Applicant: Lincoln SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$59,622

Total Cost: \$74,532

Application Description *(from application)*

The project location is 5 miles of riparian area along Long Prairie Creek, which is a tributary of the Siletz River. The restoration location is about 6 miles east of the town of Siletz in Lincoln County. The 5 miles of riparian area to be addressed are dominated by hardwood trees and scattered reed canary grass openings. The lack of conifer species within the riparian area is the major limiting factor because it reduces future large woody debris recruitment. Large woody debris help to improve habitat for aquatic species, improve channel complexity and floodplain conductivity, and as trees mature they help maintain high water quality. This proposed project will target 2.4 net miles (~45 acres) along the 5 mile stretch of riparian habitat of Long Prairie Creek starting at the confluence of Sams Creek. Within the 5 mile treatment area on Long Prairie Creek, 7.36 acres are dominated by reed canary grass meadows which will be planted with a mix of 1100 (150 trees/acre) conifer and hardwood species. The other 37.4 acres of riparian corridors are dominated by hardwoods with little to no conifer within one tree height back from one or both banks and will be planted with 4675 (125 trees/acre) conifer trees to improve future recruitment of large woody debris. The project partners are: Nestucca Forest LLC, Forest Investment Associates, Starker Forests Inc. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will have positive impacts on water quality, particularly temperature and sedimentation.
- The project area provides excellent habitat for salmonids, including Oregon coast coho salmon.
- The limiting factor of instream habitat complexity is addressed through providing for long term large wood recruitment.
- The project complements existing restoration work on Long Prairie Creek and directly responds to a review team suggestion to increase the potential for large wood recruitment in the project area.
- The project has good partnerships and participation from a number of different timber and agency landowners.
- There is good cost-benefit for the scale of the planting proposed.
- The application responded to comments from the review team from previous submissions and incorporated suggestions into the revised proposal.

Concerns

- A good portion of the trees are being planted within the riparian zone managed by industrial timber landowners, and no assurances could be obtained that the landowners would commit to preserving the trees planted into the long term.
- Douglas fir was suggested as a species to be planted in the understory, a species that typically does not do well in shady conditions.
- ODFW was a past project manager on this project and due to staffing reductions may not be able to provide the level of assistance previously expected when the application was developed.

Concluding Analysis

This project will provide a greater potential for future large wood recruitment throughout a stretch of Long Prairie Creek, which was an idea initially suggested by reviewers on an earlier site visit for a companion restoration project that placed large wood in the stream over a 5 mile reach. The review team liked that the applicant had considered previous suggestions and simplified the site preparation plan to include just manual and mechanical control of the reed canary grass, a technique reviewers felt would have a greater likelihood of success than the previously proposed herbicide applications. There were concerns remaining about the prospect of the industrial timber landowners using existing procedures within the Forest Practices Act to enter the riparian zone and harvest some of the trees planted, and while current land managers indicated that this was not a likely outcome, no written assurances could be offered. However, the review team ultimately understood the nuances of working in an industrial timber landscape and also that the current Forest Practices Act made harvest of the planted riparian trees an unlikely possibility. They felt that the project as proposed would address a key limiting factor within north coast basin watersheds by providing future large wood recruitment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$59,622

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$59,622

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1009-15674

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Nehalem River Ranch Riparian Enhancement

Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$120,483

Total Cost: \$150,583

Application Description *(from application)*

A substantial amount of the lowland areas within the Lower Nehalem Watershed are privately owned rural properties (agricultural or residential), many of which have severely impaired riparian conditions and do not adequately provide shade, habitat complexity, and erosion control benefits to streams. The North Coast Subbasins TMDL (2003) emphasizes the role of riparian vegetation in abating excessive stream temperature, controlling bacteria run-off and erosion, and providing habitat for fish and wildlife. The report lists sections of the Nehalem watershed as water quality limited due to bacteria, temperature and dissolved oxygen. According to the 2007 OWEB Summary of Watershed Health Indicators, limiting factors to instream and riparian health included temperature, water quality, large wood and invasive species. The Lower Nehalem Watershed Council and Tillamook Estuaries Partnership aim to address these limiting factors through the control of invasive species, vegetative bank stabilization, and the establishment of native trees and shrubs on 6 acres of agricultural land along 7,000 feet of the mainstem Nehalem River in the next five years. The Nehalem River Ranch Riparian Enhancement project is located near Mohler in Tillamook County. The site is off of Foss Rd., approximately 3 miles east of the Foss Bridge over the Nehalem River. The riparian area of the site is largely dominated by Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan blackberry and Reed-canary grass, and generally lacks diversity of native trees and shrubs. Project partners recognize lowland riparian restoration as an achievable strategy to address the root cause of degraded water quality, improve habitat for fish and wildlife, and work cooperatively with agricultural landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- N/A

Concerns

- N/A

Concluding Analysis

Application withdrawn by applicant prior to review.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Withdrawn

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Withdrawn

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017 North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1010-15578

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: North Fork Road Fish Passage Projects

Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$49,825

Total Cost: \$99,825

Application Description *(from application)*

The North Fork Road Fish Passage project seeks to address three fish passage barriers along North Fork Road in Nehalem, Tillamook County. Bob's Creek (culvert 445) and two unnamed Nehalem River/North Fork Nehalem tributaries (culverts 446 and 470) that have been identified as fish passage barriers in the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council's 2016 Culvert Assessment and Fish Passage Prioritization Report, Clearway Environmental. The three undersized culverts cross under Tillamook County owned North Fork Road and impair fish passage for ESA listed coho, winter steelhead, chum and fall chinook. North Fork Road is a significant local access and emergency route and is important to transportation of locally produced goods and materials. All three tributaries drain to the Nehalem River/North Fork Nehalem River, identified as Salmon Anchor Habitat (Oregon North Coast Salmon Conversation Assessment, 2008) . The Council proposes to contract with a qualified engineering firm to design a crossing for culvert 445. Due to the site conditions, this location will likely necessitate a bridge. Tillamook County Roads Department will provide engineering designs for the remaining two sites, which will be new culverts. All three crossing designs will meet federal fish passage criteria to satisfy the 1.5x Active Channel Width.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project stemmed from the completion of the Lower Nehalem Culvert Assessment, and the Bob Creek location ranked high in that process as a priority for the watershed council.
- The culverts appear to be in poor condition and if allowed to fail could create even more fish passage problems at the three locations.
- There is a strong partnership behind this project, with Tillamook County engaged and contributing designs for two of the three locations.
- There is high coho use in this system and restoring fish passage on these three tributaries will increase available habitat for anadromous fish.
- Increasing hydrologic connectivity in this location will have water quality benefits.
- Other opportunities for conservation and restoration may exist in this area of the watershed and project partners are actively engaged in pursuing additional floodplain restoration and acquisition projects.
- The project partners seemed opened to considering ecologically preferable design options for the other two crossings, including alternatives that would allow the tributaries to interact more freely with the floodplain.

Concerns

- With potential for a more comprehensive floodplain restoration project noted upstream of two of the crossings, design for the culvert replacements at this time may be premature.
- The designs slated to be completed by the County could be complex given the system of braided channels and estuarine soils.
- Given the presumed complexity, the eventual construction costs for all three of the projects could be cost-prohibitive for the amount of habitat involved.

Concluding Analysis

This project is the first effort by partners to move forward with a restoration project stemming from the recently completed culvert assessment and prioritization in the watershed, and the review team appreciated the marriage of both ecological and social benefit that could result. There clearly is a good deal of opportunity present along North Fork Road, and reconnecting the three tributaries involved with the estuary could have broad habitat benefits. There was much discussion around the other potential projects in the area that were mentioned on the site visit, particularly the potential to conduct more comprehensive floodplain restoration in the vicinity of Bob Creek. Should this possibility come to fruition, only one crossing may be needed and there was concern that the designs may not be able to accommodate the expected increased flow. The project team should consider a design for Bob Creek that could carry increased flow and not hinder future restoration opportunities.

The review team had two specific recommendations for project partners:

- 1) Engage with ODFW during the design process, and
- 2) Consider designs at all three culvert locations that will allow for maximum interaction with the floodplain.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,825

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$49,825

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017 North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1011-15581

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: North Coast Watershed Councils
Restoration Assistance

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds
Council

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$47,386

Total Cost: \$57,886

Application Description *(from application)*

Between 2012 and 2017, a coalition of north coast watershed councils have joined together to increase the collective number of grant applications submitted for restoration projects. This coalition encompasses watersheds from Nicolai-Wickiup on the lower Columbia River all the way south to Neskowin Creek, all of which are within Clatsop and Tillamook Counties. This proposal is intended to continue this very successful collaboration. With the assistance of OWEB funding, our North Coast councils share the resources of a highly qualified consultant for pre-project field work, project design solicitation, proposal drafting, and contract preparation. Each Council's needs are similar, so sharing the services of a highly qualified contractor effectively leverages our ability to win funding opportunities and move high-priority projects forward. This has resulted in a proven model that takes advantage of economies of scale with only one contract. Partners US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) support this program, seeing the value in hiring a "third arm" for the participating Councils. The partners increase that value by providing additional match. This cooperative effort has demonstrated the efficiencies that can be created by sharing resources among Councils, and it is more important than ever considering the ongoing reductions in ODFW and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) staffing and budgets. The best way to maintain or increase restoration is to find efficiencies through contracting. Deliverables include 8 submitted grant applications.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The councils involved have extremely limited resources and this continuing project provides important technical capabilities to multiple organizations.
- The project fosters good collaboration and coordination among councils, allowing them to pool resources to achieve additional technical assistance with project development.
- Continuing to fund this resource for the councils helps maintain consistency through staff changes, builds partnerships, and keeps the councils engaged with landowners.
- Past iterations of this project have been successful, with involved organizations regularly meeting benchmarks for project development and implementation.
- The quality of projects and applications has been steadily improving with the availability of this additional resource.

Concerns

- Many of the stated projects that the groups will be working on with this next iteration of the project focused solely on culverts and additional technical assessments. Reviewers would prefer to see more habitat projects and more on-the-ground restoration come out of this work.

Concluding Analysis

The benefits this project has had to the watershed councils in the region were well understood. The ability of the organizations to access technical assistance with project development has improved the quality of project applications and translated to success with project implementation. The organizations involved have a good track record of success and consistently have met the goals of past iterations of this effort. There was some concern about the limited type of work that the organizations planned to focus on with this next technical assistance grant, with much of the work revolving around additional assessments and fish passage projects. There is recognition that culvert projects are expensive and a favorable cost-benefit analysis is difficult to achieve given that fish passage is often not recognized as a primary limiting factor for coho salmon, causing some to wonder if the subsequent restoration projects would be competitive for funding. The review team would have liked to see more habitat complexity projects under consideration by the councils with this funding but they understood that each individual council is responding to separate watershed priorities. The project was recommended for funding with the knowledge that this collaborative technical assistance approach has been successful in supporting restoration work of all types in the north coast basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$47,386

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$47,386

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1012-15629

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Fox Creek Fish Passage Feasibility Analysis

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$50,000

Total Cost: \$85,000

Application Description *(from application)*

The Fox Creek Culvert in Columbia County runs from the Columbia River, under Highway 30 and through the town of Rainier, OR. During the flood event of 12/7/2015 and subsequent days, the culvert was overwhelmed with material leading to multiple clogged points within the undersized metal culvert. This led to significant flooding on Hwy 30, and prevention of all fish passage. A sink hole developed in the middle of the culvert reach threatening the three businesses located within the vicinity of Fox Creek. The SWCD is proposing in this Technical Assistance to conduct a feasibility analysis to determine the most ecologically and economically viable solutions to allow fish passage through Fox Creek. Deliverables will include a brief report showing design alternatives, costs, and long-term sustainability for at least 3 proposed alternatives. Project partners include the SWCD, City of Rainier, ODFW, ODOT, NRCS, and private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location has been a problem area for decades, and this effort could achieve a daylight solution to the creek that could provide for unfettered fish passage to the Fox Creek watershed.
- The urban setting and City involvement could showcase the restoration efforts and provide for educational opportunities.
- OWEB's involvement in the project could promote a more ecologically preferable design approach.

Concerns

- There was no letter or show of support from the City of Rainier, a major project partner. The City did not attend the site visit, and when the review team requested a letter of support from the City one could not be procured by the applicant in the intervening month between the site visit and review team meeting.
- Letters of support were also notably lacking from the businesses and residents who own the property involved in the project.
- The quantity and quality of the fish habitat located upstream was debatable, with some concern that the expected expense of the resulting restoration project would far outweigh the benefits able to be achieved.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the opportunity to work on the last remaining piped reach of Fox Creek, and agreed with the applicant that the opportunity for a demonstration restoration project through the center of the City of Rainier would have wide social benefits in addition to restoring passage for anadromous fish species. However, the success of the project largely hinges upon the City of Rainier's participation and willingness to engage in a design process that considers ecologically preferable alternatives such as daylighting the creek and restoring a naturally functioning riparian area through the City's center. Without being able to gauge the City's and local business community's support during the review process, the review team could not comfortably recommend the project for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017 North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1013-15665

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: North Fork Siuslaw Tidal
Restoration Technical Assistance

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$49,964

Total Cost: \$68,805

Application Description *(from application)*

The North Fork Siuslaw Tidal Restoration Technical Assistance project will investigate baseline site conditions and restoration options for a 250-acre property on the lower North Fork of the Siuslaw River. The property is located in the Siuslaw River estuary, northeast of Florence, Oregon, in Lane County. The property is composed of diked and drained former tidal wetland and is separated into two hydrologically-disconnected grazing pastures, each drained by ditches and protected from tidal inundation by tidegates. This property is a segment of the lost tidal wetland habitats in the Siuslaw River estuary. An estimated 67% of tidal wetlands in the Siuslaw River estuary have been lost as a result of agricultural, development, and transportation infrastructure land use actions. Estuarine habitat quantity and quality are identified as key limiting factors in the health of the Siuslaw watershed and its ability to support healthy populations of species such as Oregon Coast coho, making restoration of estuarine habitat a high priority for local and regional organizations. This project proposes to gather baseline site data including property boundaries, elevation, and hydraulic modeling which will be used to inform outreach efforts with neighboring landowners and community members, to assess the restoration options for the property, and to support property acquisition and restoration. Partners on this TA project include McKenzie River Trust (MRT) and the Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC). In addition to the efforts associated with this TA project, McKenzie River Trust is conducting due diligence activities in support of acquisition of the property from the willing landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location has excellent potential for restoration and presents a good opportunity to restore estuarine habitat for fish and wildlife species within the Siuslaw estuary.
- The project and site constraints are complicated, making the technical assistance funds a good investment.
- This project has been identified as a top priority for coho recovery by numerous processes and agencies, including NOAA, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, and the Siuslaw Coho Business Plan.
- The landowner is committed to the project and has been a key social representative within the community.
- The resulting restoration project will have a significant impact on improving water quality within the estuary.

- The project is proposed for one of the last remaining properties in the lower North Fork estuary that is still under agriculture ownership and it connects well with other conserved properties. Once restored, the site will contribute to a corridor of connected estuarine habitat.

Concerns

- No concerns were noted during review.

Concluding Analysis

The review team found a lot to like about this project, recognizing that the proposed work would implement a priority action in a priority location that has been identified in numerous plans and assessments. The landowner is committed to selling the property for restoration and conservation purposes, but more technical information addressing the feasibility of restoration with the existing site constraints is necessary to move forward with the acquisition and restoration process. The review team felt that this technical assistance grant will provide partners and funders with enough information needed to move forward with project implementation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,964

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$49,964

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1014-15666

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: OK Ranch Habitat Enhancement Project

Applicant: Tillamook Bay WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$28,380

Total Cost: \$71,540

Application Description *(from application)*

The OK Ranch sits at the top of the Miami River floodplain five river miles above the reach of tide and the town of Garibaldi. Landowners Doug and Mary Lee live and farm on the property, and are growingly concerned about the migration of the river channel toward one of their barns, a septic drain-field and a prime piece of pasture. The last 100 years of land use in Tillamook Bay watershed has left its main stem rivers nearly devoid of riparian trees, log jams, or other significant woody debris. The Tillamook Bay Watershed Council (TBWC) has been looking for opportunities to work with area farmers to place and accumulate large woody debris in the floodplains, and the Lee's situation has resulted in a growing partnership between the OK Ranch, the TBWC, the US Forest Service, and Stimson Lumber to design and implement a major large-wood placement project that will provide significant, lasting fish habitat enhancement to the river, and protection for important farm infrastructure. The technical assistance this grant would provide will help pay for the design and engineering services of the US Forest Service's TEAMS unit to prepare the project for implementation. In addition to the measurable improvement in fish habitat that this project represents, it is hoped that a successful demonstration of soft-structure techniques might generate interest among other farmers to employ similar treatments where infrastructure is threatened.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The lower Miami River watershed is limited in large wood, and could benefit from some additional habitat complexity.
- The soft-structure approach is preferable to hardened banks and could provide some additional rearing habitat in this reach.

Concerns

- This stretch of the Miami River is dynamic with a large bedload and would require very large material in the design; the project partners did not seem to have a plan to acquire appropriately sized material.
- The design team involved was very expensive and required air transportation for biologists from elsewhere in the country. Reviewers questioned whether similar resources could be found closer to the project site at a more competitive rate.

- The resulting restoration project was likely to be very expensive and may be cost-prohibitive due to a marginal benefit to the resource.
- The project seemed overly focused on protecting the eroding banks of the property involved rather than on habitat benefits appropriate for OWEB funding.
- The project was touted as a demonstration project to show other landowners how banks could be stabilized using a soft-structured approach, but the reviewers felt that the geomorphology of the site was quite unique in Tillamook County and that it may not be representative of typical site conditions.
- One aspect of the design was planned to protect the drainfield, but on the site visit it appeared that the drainfield was already perilously close to the river. Relocating the drainfield would seem much less expensive and complicated.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the willingness of the landowners to conduct restoration focused work on this reach of the Miami River, but they felt that habitat benefits likely from the project would be marginal. While the soft-structured approach proposed was favored, it seemed the focus of the project was more about protecting the banks of the property than creating more aquatic habitat. The task of protecting the property with this method was likely to be expensive, complicated, and may not have a high likelihood of success given the geomorphological characteristics of the Miami River along this reach. The review team felt that other less expensive solutions would be more appropriate to meet the landowners' goals, including focusing on protecting the residence, relocating key pieces of infrastructure farther from the river, and adopting a willingness to accept the dynamic nature of the river along this reach. OWEB may not be the best source of funding for activities focused solely on property protection.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

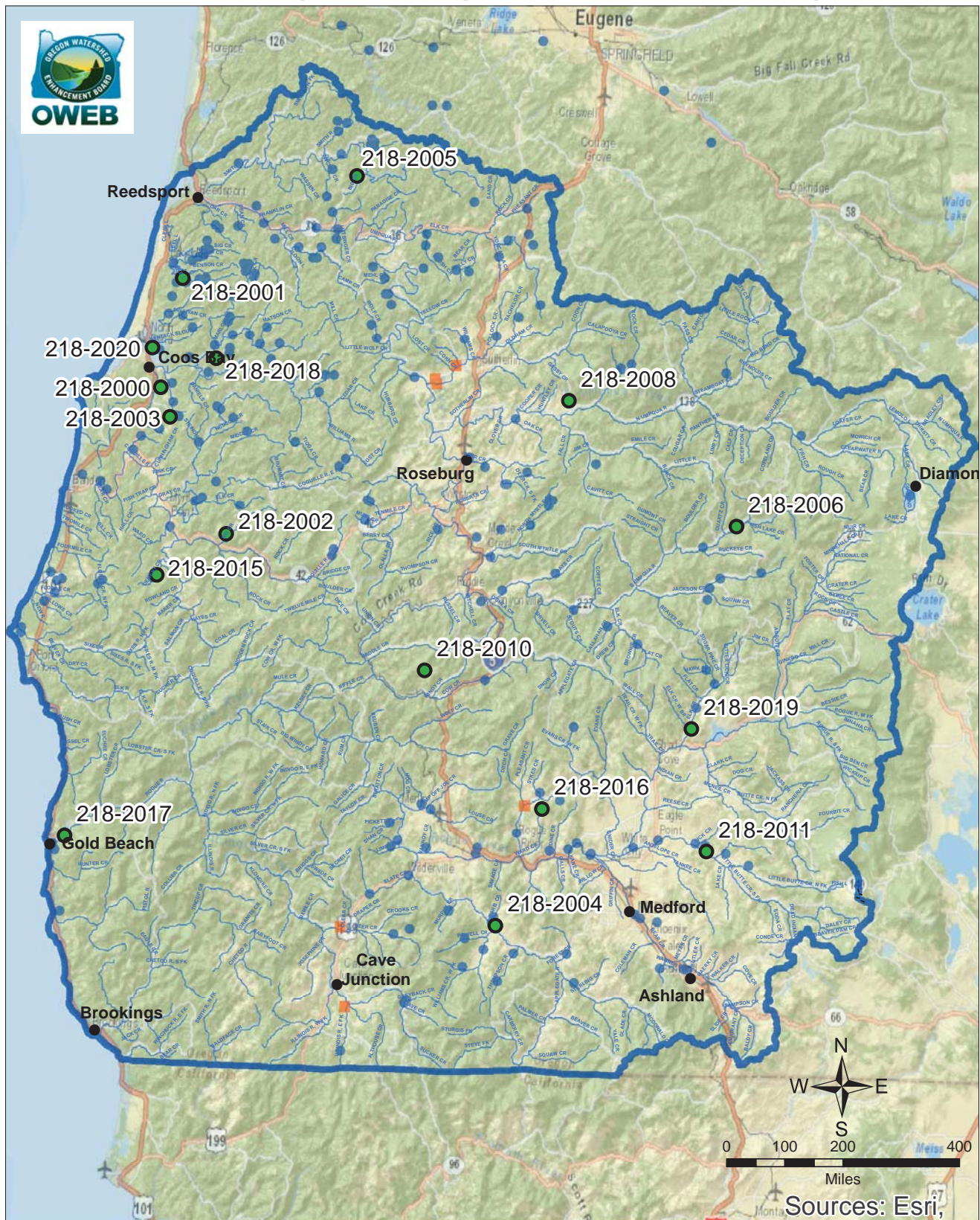
Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Southwest - Region 2 Spring 2017 Application Funding Status



Software: ESRI ArcMap 10.2, Oregon Lambert Projection, NAD 83, WKID 2992, OWEB- PK Wills Sept. 2017

Spring 2017 Applications

- **Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)**
- **Below Funding Line (BFL)**

Previous Grants - 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- ~ Streams
- ☞ Region 1 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 2 - Southwest Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-2008	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	French Creek Instream Restoration	By adding log and boulder structure to 2.25 miles of French Creek, a tributary to the North Umpqua near Glide, instream habitat for native fish will be improved.	161,384	Douglas
218-2004	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Applegate Riparian Restoration Project - Provolt	This project focuses on improving stream health and water quality across 48 acres at the BLM Provolt Seed Orchard located along Applegate River and Williams Creek near Williams, by removing invasive plants and planting native tree species.	343,542	Jackson
218-2000	Coos Watershed Association	Ross Slough Fish Passage Bridge Restoration Project	The project will restore more natural stream function on Ross Slough near Coos Bay, by replacing an undersized culvert with a bridge.	137,446	Coos
218-2011	The Freshwater Trust	Little Butte Creek Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project	The project will improve water quality and stream health on Little Butte Creek near Eagle Point by placing large wood structures and planting native trees and protecting them with fencing on a 1.75 acre stretch of stream.	316,130	Jackson
218-2003	Coos Watershed Association	Catching Creek Riparian Restoration Project	The project will improve water quality and stream health through fencing, planting native tree species, replacing an under-sized culvert and restoring a historic stream channel on Catching Creek a tributary to Catching Slough near Coos Bay.	134,559	Coos
218-2006	South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership	Upper South Umpqua Habitat Restoration Project Phase IV	The project will help restore spawning and rearing opportunities for Spring Chinook on the upper South Umpqua River near Tiller by placing spawning gravel and structures to hold the gravels.	110,949	Douglas
218-2010	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	McCullough Creek Instream Restoration	To improve instream habitat for native fish, log structures will be placed instream in 1.02 miles of McCullough Creek, a tributary to Cow Creek near Glendale.	36,853	Douglas
218-2001	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Lower Adams Creek Riparian and Passage Enhancement	The project will improve fish passage and improve stream health on Adams Creek, a tributary to Tenmile Lakes near Lakeside, by replacing two failing culverts with bridges and installing, fencing and planting native trees along 5,500 feet of stream.	146,567	Coos
218-2005	Smith River WC	Big Creek Sub-Basin Instream Restoration Phase II - Helicopter	By placing large wood instream with a helicopter, the project will improve instream habitat for a variety of native fish species in seven tributaries to Big Creek, a tributary to the Smith River located near Reedsport.	186,557	Douglas

Region 2 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration and Technical Assistance - Spring 2017 Grant Offering

218-2002	Coquille Watershed Association	Fall Creek and Huff Creek Fish Passage Enhancement and Habitat Restoration	The project will restore native fish passage and improve instream habitat on two tributaries to the Middle Fork Coquille River near Bridge by replacing two impassable culverts and placing large wood instream.	213,064	Coos
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,787,051	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
NONE				
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT			1,787,051	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
218-2007	The Freshwater Trust	South Fork Little Butte Creek Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project	169,396	Jackson
218-2009	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Glover Tidegate Replacement and Channel Re-meander	346,203	Douglas
218-2012	Coos SWCD	Adams Creek Culvert Removal and Riparian Enhancement Project	93,299	Coos
218-2013	City of Roseburg	South Umpqua River and Tributaries Riparian Restoration	55,273	Douglas

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-2019	Rogue River WC	Elk Creek River Mile 3.0 Side Channel Design and Permitting	This project will result in a 1,300-foot long, engineered design required to construct the side channel at river mile 3.0 of Elk Creek, a Rogue River tributary, near Trail.	28,703	Jackson
218-2017	Curry SWCD	Lower Rogue Estuary Enhancement TA	This project will support the design of large wood placements and native tree planting designs on God Wants You Slough in the Rogue River Estuary near the town of Gold Beach.	25,719	Curry
218-2020	Coos Watershed Association	Coos Bay Tide Gate Inventory and Restoration Planning	The project will conduct a comprehensive basin-wide tide gate inventory and develop a strategic restoration plan for tide gates in the Coos River estuary.	36,229	Coos

Region 2 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration and Technical Assistance - Spring 2017 Grant Offering

218-2016	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Evans Creek Fish Passage Evaluation	The project will identify fish passage barriers on Evans Creek near Rogue River and on Birdseye, Foothills, Galls, Kane, Sardine, and Ward creeks near Gold Hill.	36,218	Jackson
218-2015	Coquille Watershed Association	South Fork Coquille River/Dement Creek Project Development	The project will review of watershed habitat conditions on Dement Creek a tributary to the South Fork Coquille River, near Broadbent, in order to develop, prioritize, and design habitat enhancement projects.	39,688	Coos
218-2018	Coos Watershed Association	Coos Watershed Aquatic Inventory Action Plan & Basin Wide Restoration Prioritization	The project will complete the basin wide restoration prioritization plan for the Coos watershed by surveying the final 26 miles of 384 miles accessible by anadromous species.	49,354	Coos
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				215,911	

Technical Assistance Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
NONE					
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				215,911	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
218-2014	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Tenmile Lakes Watershed Land Acquisition Technical Assistance	31,386	Coos

Region 2 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	2,002,962	23%
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Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	8,788,376	
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Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2000-15571

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Ross Slough Fish Passage Bridge
Restoration Project

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$137,446

Total Cost: \$236,706

Application Description *(from application)*

Ross Slough is a historical tidal wetland and a 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. Ross Slough supports fall Chinook, coho winter steelhead, resident and cutthroat trout, pacific lamprey, and other aquatic species. Restoration projects in the Ross Slough sub-basin are of high priority due to the high coho and steelhead intrinsic potentials (0.8-1.0), as described in the Catching Slough, Daniels Creek, and Heads-of-Tide Assessment & Restoration Opportunities (Coos Watershed Association, 2008). This project proposes to replace an undersized culvert with a bridge on Old Wagon Road to alleviate drainage and fish passage issues. The current culvert is a 72" corrugated steel pipe that is extremely undersized for the present 8' active channel width. The current culvert will pass a maximum of 178 cfs and the 50-year and 100-year peak flows are 417 cfs and 481 cfs, respectively. The proposed bridge is a 40' X 25' modular bridge with guardrails with a 12' active channel width, designed to pass a 100-year flood event. The culvert is located at the bottom of the recently completed channel re-meandering and riparian restoration project (OWEB 216-2045). OWEB funds will be used for project management, project materials, contracted services, and indirect costs. The Coos County Road Department and ODFW will provide match that includes bridge materials, temporary detour, and technical assistance.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This road crossing is the last culvert to be replaced on Ross Slough.
- Proposed restoration is the last piece of the channel reconstruction work occurring directly upstream, and will result in a more natural stream flow and function through the stream reach.
- Restoration work will improve water quality and benefit coho, and other salmonids as well.
- Project partners have extensive experience with this type of watershed restoration work.
- The downstream landowner is interested in continuing restoration work onto their property; which will expand the benefit of this project investment.

Concerns

- Final project designs should comply with both the ODFW and NOAA fish passage criteria.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds on restoration efforts directly upstream, as well as offering an opportunity to recruit work downstream. Replacing the culvert with a bridge will allow for a more naturally functioning stream. The resulting investment will have a high cost benefit from the restoration activities. The review team recommends a "Fund with Conditions" with the following condition: final designs must comply with both ODFW and NOAA fish passage criteria.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

3 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$137,446

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Fund with Conditions: Final designs must comply with both ODFW and NOAA fish passage criteria.

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$137,446

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2001-15592

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Adams Creek Riparian and Passage Enhancement

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$144,400

Total Cost: \$188,371

Application Description *(from application)*

Historically, the Tenmile Lakes Basin has been an excellent producer of Coho salmon and may have been the largest producer on the coast of Oregon. Currently, Tenmile Lakes is considered to have the highest potential for Coho habitat on the coast. Fish passage, exotic species, and habitat complexity are limiting factors negatively impacting Tenmile Coho and other Tenmile native fish species. Native fish habitat and water quality in the lower reaches of Adams Creek, a high priority basin within the Tenmile Lakes Watershed, is negatively impacted due to 2 improperly sized and placed metal pipe stream crossings and reduced riparian zone functions, a result of past land-use practices. Nutrient loading and a lack of a functioning riparian zone from these and similar sites has direct linkages to the growth, distribution, and densities of toxic blue-green algae, and the heavy infestation of the exotic aquatic plant, *Egeria densa* in the Lakes. Project Partners Winfield and Ben Muffett, the landowners, the Watershed Council, and ODFW, have expanded this previously resubmitted project to encompass OWEB RRT recommendations. This multifaceted project will utilize OWEB and match funding to 1) Correct 2 improperly functioning historic stream crossings with bridges, 2) Install approximately 5,500ft of wooden exclusion fencing, and 3) Plant and protect a mix of Oregon Ash and Douglas fir seedlings within the fenced 5,500 foot riparian area. All proposed project components and locations have been identified as high priorities within the Tenmile Lakes Watershed Assessment and Action Plan (TLBP 2006) and the Tenmile Lakes TMDL (ODEQ 2007), and TLBP Action Plan (February 2017). All of these actions have been proven to be successful in achieving the Watershed Council's objectives of riparian enhancement, sediment abatement, and improving water quality and native fish habitat.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed restoration will benefit water quality, and support TMDL implementation in this watershed.
- The landowner is highly supportive of restoration and engaged in the project.
- This project is well leveraged with cash and in-kind match.
- Areas upstream from the project site have quality Coho spawning habitat.
- Proposed fencing is designed to withstand water flows and elk browsing pressure; and a grazing plan was submitted with the application.
- Proposed restoration builds on other nearby projects.

- Applicant has built a successful track record of developing and implementing similar types of projects.
- The project is ready for implementation.

Concerns

- For the proposed project to provide ecological benefits, it will be important for the gates to remain closed so that livestock cannot access the riparian area and cause damage.

Concluding Analysis

The application is a resubmitted project and the applicant addressed previous review team concerns. Furthermore, the applicant expanded the project scope to provide a restoration project with greater impact in addressing several watershed limiting factors. The approach to fencing is sound and based on lessons learned from earlier work. The project builds on other successful fish passage and riparian work completed in this stream, which expands the benefit of this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$144,400

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Increase by \$2,167 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount

\$146,567

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2002-15594

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Fall Creek and Huff Creek Fish Passage Enhancement and Habitat Restoration

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$210,897

Total Cost: \$364,228

Application Description *(from application)*

The Coquille Watershed Association (CWA) and partners have been working with the Coos County Road Department to identify habitats upstream of road/stream crossings obstructed by infrastructure. Two such problem culverts were found on tributaries to Big Creek in the Middle Fork Coquille River (MFCR) sub-basin. The MFCR sub-basin (HUC 1710030501) and Big Creek watershed are found in Coos County near the town of Bridge, Oregon. Big Creek is a productive anadromous fish stream but is limited in access to high quality spawning and rearing habitat. Specifically, it is lacking in instream habitat complexity and is plagued by fish passage issues blocking access to cold-water refugia and spawning gravels. The CWA proposes to implement restoration actions that would replace the two problem culverts on tributaries Fall and Huff Creek as well as installing designed LWD structures in both streams. Both culverts are perched to a point that they diminish adult fish passage and completely prohibit juvenile passage during all flows. This will be ameliorated by the installation of two new culverts that will meet state and federal fish passage standards, as well as installation of LWD structures that will increase habitat complexity. The project also proposes 0.6 acres of riparian invasive removal and native planting which will aid in cooling stream temperatures further enhancing in-stream habitat. Project partners include BLM, ODFW, Coos County Road Department, Coquille Indian Tribe and Coquille Watershed Association. The project OWEB request is \$210,785; partners will provide the remaining budget total of \$364,109.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal presented a straight forward, technically sound restoration approach.
- Project designs meet ODFW and NOAA fish passage criteria.
- This project addresses several watershed issues, including: instream fish habitat, fish passage to provide juvenile fish access to thermal refuge, invasive plants, and water quality.
- The project is supported by partnerships.

Concerns

- Project cost is somewhat high for a culvert replacement that gains fish access to 0.6 miles of stream habitat; however, there is higher cost associated with the fill on the site.

- Application would be strengthened by highlighting the water quality benefits that could be realized from the proposed project because the culverts are approaching the end of their serviceable life and if they fail sediment will be mobilized downstream.
- Application would be strengthened by the following information: (1) whether the need for grade control with the culvert replacements was assessed as part of the design, the results of that assessment, and design plans for when grade control is needed; (2) the percent embedment proposed for the culvert replacements; and (3) the estimated scour prism and plans for limiting any needed scour protection to outside of the scour prism.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is straightforward and is likely to succeed in achieving its restoration goals. Providing juvenile salmonids opportunities for access to thermal refuge is a restoration priority; and the project will provide water quality benefits that also benefit ESA-listed fish.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

10 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$210,897

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Increase by \$2,167 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount

\$213,064

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2003-15596

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Catching Creek Riparian Restoration Project

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$134,559

Total Cost: \$175,279

Application Description *(from application)*

The project proposes to restore riparian function through riparian planting and fencing and improve fish passage and off-channel habitat through the replacement of an undersized culvert on Catching Creek and one of its tributaries. Catching Creek, a tributary to Catching Slough near Coos Bay, 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 install livestock exclusion fencing along a 3925' of stream on the mainstem and tributary with a 20' and 14' setback that will be planted with a variety of native tree and shrub species according to the planting plans developed. Prior to planting, invasive blackberry will be addressed along this 3925' reach of stream and a 350' section with steep bank will receive a pull-back treatment. Plant establishment activities will occur for 5 years after the planting to insure a goal of 80% plant survival. An undersized culvert will be upgraded to pass a 100-year flood event and meet NOAA fish passage criteria. Tributary channel reconfiguration will removed one undersized crossing, connect existing drainage, and provide approximately 1150' of off channel habitat and connect a cold water seep. OWEB funds will be used for project management, contracted services, engineering designs, plant establishment, travel, project materials, and indirect costs. Landowner and OYCC match will cover a portion of contracted services and fully fund an 8-member youth crew for plant stewardship activities.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This application presents a straightforward, technically-sound restoration project that is well rounded and addresses multiple limiting factors.
- Applicant has extensive experience in this type of restoration work.
- The project is supported by a very enthusiastic landowner, which is demonstrated by match and a letter of support.
- This project builds on restoration efforts in adjacent areas; and is the result of successful outreach efforts.
- Project plantings will improve water quality by addressing water temperature and sediment inputs caused by erosion.
- The project is located in Coastal coho habitat.

Concerns

- Project designs would be strengthened by use of larger streamside vegetation buffers; however, it is understood that the project location is a working landscape that requires a balanced approach to restoration.
- The application would be stronger if designs for the channel reconfiguration were included. However, since only a short stretch of the stream will be routed through a historic channel and the applicant has extensive experience with this type of restoration activity; the project as described in the application is likely to succeed.
- The application is unclear on whether culvert designs will meet ODFW and NOAA passage standards.
- This application would be strengthened by an increased diversity of partnerships typically associated with this applicant's projects.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project builds on and adds value to the channel re-meander and riparian work located upstream because it will create a more naturally functioning stream condition. The applicant has a great deal of experience with these types of projects, and the highly visible nature of the site makes for a valuable outreach opportunity. As a result, this project has a significant cost-benefit for the investment. The review team recommends a "Fund with Conditions" with the following condition: final designs must comply with both ODFW and NOAA fish passage criteria.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

5 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$134,559

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Fund with Conditions: Culvert designs must meet ODFW and NOAA passage standards.

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$134,559

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2004-15605

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Applegate Riparian Restoration
Project - Provolt

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$343,542

Total Cost: \$565,892

Application Description *(from application)*

This project focuses on riparian restoration along both the Applegate River and Williams Creek across 48 acres at the BLM Provolt Seed Orchard. This property is located in Provolt, Oregon and is split between Josephine and Jackson Counties. The Applegate River and Williams Creek are both listed by the ODEQ as 303 (d) water quality limited for summer temperature and this reach has suffered from historic agricultural encroachment on the riparian areas and heavy invasive species encroachment. This habitat supports Chinook, SONCC Coho, Steelhead and Pacific Lamprey, and is considered in the highest Intrinsic Potential ranking for SONCC Coho habitat. This project will work to address limiting factors, including long-term shade and large wood recruitment, improvement of off-channel refugia habitat for salmonids, as well as erosion and agricultural runoff prevention. This project will help provide cold-water rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids. Invasive vegetation, including ArmEnian Blackberry, English Ivy, Poison Hemlock, Teasel, Vinca, and Reed Canary Grass will be mechanically removed from the riparian habitat, and replaced with a diversity of native trees and shrubs at 350 stems/per acre and within widths of 100' to 400' from the edge of the riverbank. These plantings will be maintained (mulched, watered and protected) for 5 years after planting while invasive species regrowth will continue to be suppressed. Project Partners include the Middle Rogue Steelheaders, the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Applicant addressed all review team concerns raised during previous application evaluations.
- Applicant has begun invasive species removal and planting native vegetation on the project site. Work accomplished to date was viewed during the review team site visit and appears to be successful.
- The project site has a large infestation of invasive blackberry and California grape that will be challenging to control; however, the site is the only location known with a California grape infestation in the Applegate watershed so treatment is timely.
- Applicant is building a successful track record for addressing invasive species and implementing plant establishment activities in the challenging Applegate watershed environments.
- This project will benefit water quality; and provide a more diverse floodplain habitat and refuge for coho during high water events.

Concerns

- Some match funding is in jeopardy of being lost if this OWEB project is not funded.
- The project management costs are higher than other similar projects; however, it is reflective of the hands-on management approach and the extensive work required to establish native plants at this location.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant has done a good job of focusing the project activities and developing a proposal that has a high likelihood of success. The need for the project and the restoration approach is laid out well in the application. There is currently momentum underway at the site as matching funds are being used to implement sections of the project already.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$343,542

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$343,542

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2005-15608

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Big Creek Sub-Basin Instream
Restoration Phase II - Helicopter

Applicant: Smith River WC

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$186,557

Total Cost: \$540,787

Application Description *(from application)*

The project area is in Douglas County in the Big Cr. Hydrologic Unit, 35 miles east of Reedsport. Streams in this area have been simplified by past timber harvest practices, large-scale fires and subsequent timber salvage operations. Streams are below benchmarks for large wood, lack complex pools for salmonid rearing, lack historic substrate beds and are thermally impacted. This project will place large wood in 7 creeks with the use of a vertol helicopter. Creeks to be treated with helicopter: Argue, Big Cr. Headwaters, Blind, Clearwater, Coldwater, Devils Club and Slide. Marsh Creek will be treated by directionally falling 94 riparian trees into the channel. 217-2038 was the previous submission of this project. We have found other funding for the excavator portion of this project which has greatly reduced the funds we are requesting during this submission. Project Partners include: Bureau of Land Management, Roseburg Resources Co., Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Umpqua Fishing Derby/Douglas County Timber Operators and Western Native Trout Initiative.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Applicant addressed recommendations from previous review team evaluation by providing project designs in this application.
- The project is well leveraged by match, and is a reasonable cost for the restoration actions.
- Proposed restoration will benefit coho.
- Large wood structure design is site appropriate.

Concerns

- This application would be strengthened by detail on why past large wood structure placement failed; and how this information was used in the current design approach to ensure project success.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds on multiple large wood placement projects completed in this basin. Proposed project addresses low large wood recruitment, which is a key habitat bottle neck to coho in this basin. Using

helicopter large wood placement has shown to be an effective method to create stream habitat in this watershed where there is not easy access to the stream for these restoration activities.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$186,557

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$186,557

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2006-15612

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper South Umpqua Habitat
Restoration Project Phase IV

Applicant: South Umpqua Rural Community
Partnership

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$109,865

Total Cost: \$265,705

Application Description *(from application)*

Upper South Umpqua Chinook Restoration Project Phase IV – Skillet Cr. is requesting \$109,865 to restore 500' on the mainstem of the upper South Umpqua River (Douglas County, approximately 25 miles upstream of Tiller) for one of the few remaining wild spring chinook populations in Oregon. This project directly addresses limiting factors identified within the FY 2011 Skillet-Emerson Watershed Restoration Action Plan (WAP) and the 2014 ODFW Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan, namely redd scour and juvenile swimming fatigue. The project will treat Priority Site #4 providing approximately 9,000 ft² of stable spawning gravel and constructing two rock/wood structures designed to reduce the over widened stream channel width and provide juvenile rearing habitat using ground based equipment. Project partners include SURCP and the US Forest Service, Tiller Ranger District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed restoration actions target a very depressed population of spring Chinook and will provide valuable spawning habitat to these fish.
- The project is technically sound and builds on other restoration efforts in the area.
- This project is well leveraged with match.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project demonstrates an effective working relationship among project partners and builds on other restoration efforts within the area. The proposed restoration work is important to helping restore depressed spring Chinook populations in the South Umpqua River. Therefore, the resulting restoration is likely to succeed and provide significant ecological benefit for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$109,865

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Increase by \$1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$110,949

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2007-15632

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: South Fork Little Butte Creek
Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$169,396

Total Cost: \$631,689

Application Description *(from application)*

South Fork and North Fork Little Butte Creek form Little Butte Creek near the town of Lake Creek, eventually joining the Rogue River after flowing through Eagle Point near Medford in Jackson County. Little Butte basin has a 303(d) listing that includes temperature, bacteria, and sedimentation. Altered hydrologic regimes from agricultural water delivery and withdrawal, removal and degradation of riparian and upland forests from residential, industrial, forestry, and agricultural land-use practices, lack of large wood and channel complexity, simplification and confinement of stream channels for transportation and development infrastructure, and sedimentation and nutrient pollution have contributed to lowered water quality and habitat conditions. In 2016, The Freshwater Trust (TFT) initiated a two-phase effort to restore mainstem and side channel habitat on private land between river miles 1.15 and 1.75 of South Fork Little Butte Creek. Phase I included installation of mainstem large wood structures and riparian revegetation completed with funding from US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). OWEB funding is sought to support Phase II, which will 1) reactivate flow to 0.35 miles of side channel fed seasonally by the mainstem and an unnamed tributary; 2) install 7 large wood structures within the reactivated side channel and 1 at its inlet; 3) revegetate riparian areas; and 4) install livestock exclusion fencing. The proposed side channel restoration will work in concert with the mainstem actions to enhance overall watershed benefits. TFT will lead this effort in partnership with the site's landowner (C2 Cattle Company), and US Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This application includes a well thought out vegetation plan with a five year plant establishment plan.
- Restored side-channel will provide valuable off channel habitat in the winter.
- Little Butte Creek provides important critical habitat for SONC coho.
- Restoration builds on successful instream work completed in the area by the applicant.
- The project is well leveraged with match.

Concerns

- Application does not provide enough design information to determine the likelihood for success since restoration described is at a conceptual stage; application would be strengthened by including a

longitudinal profile survey, and additional information on the water control structure and the extent to which it will control water.

- Areas adjacent to the project location has severe blackberry and Reed canary grass infestations; therefore, it is important for project designs to ensure invasive species are controlled since the Reed canary grass could potentially choke the stream channel once it is exposed to more sunlight.
- Some areas with previously completed plantings on the project property appear to be lacking plant stewardship necessary for plants to successfully reach a free-to-grow state; therefore, proposed plant stewardship plans would benefit from adding a watering plan for new plantings.

Concluding Analysis

Little Butte Creek is important for coho production in the Rogue basin. Side-channel habitat in quality condition as found in the proposed project reach is rare in Little Butte Creek. Therefore, since there does not seem to be time restrictions on this project, it is important for restoration activities to be designed to ensure work does not damage this habitat; for example, by increasing invasive species presence. The proposed work is important to address loss of habitat opportunities for coho. The application can be strengthened by additional detail about the side-channel surveying and design, additional plant stewardship to ensure plants reach a free-to-grow state, and potentially consider phasing the project to include long-term invasive species management. If this project is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide this additional project design information for the review team to evaluate the likelihood of success for this project to provide value-added habitat benefits without risking existing quality habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2008-15642

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: French Creek Instream Restoration

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$160,300

Total Cost: \$263,740

Application Description *(from application)*

French Creek Watershed is a 2,975-acre tributary to the North Umpqua River above the town of Glide in Douglas County, Oregon. It is home to spawning and rearing OC coho, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout and other native fish. The Strader family owns and manages 56% of the watershed and nearly 100% of the 2.25 miles of coho habitat. The family voluntarily recorded coho run counts each year since the 1990's. Peak counts ranged between 500-800 fish/day, 20 years ago. Now, peak runs are closer to 100-200 fish/day. Eliminating the release of hatchery coho in the North Umpqua, combined with worsening fish habitat conditions in French Creek, are some of the reasons for this decline. After eliminating upstream barriers to fish passage with bridge and culvert replacement work and enrolling the lower 1.25 miles of French Creek into the CREP streamside fencing program, the family was concerned when fish numbers never improved. PUR, ODFW and BLM are partnering with the Straders to address the poor habitat conditions remaining in French Creek to restore quality instream habitat for fishery recovery. The Straders are donating time and use of their construction-scale equipment to place 775 boulders, 268 logs and 3 trees at 45 sites across 2.25 miles of French Creek. The ranch will donate the rock, trucking and the family/staff time spent preparing for and implementing the instream and willow planting projects. OWEB funds will be used for project management, log delivery, purchase of logs, trees and boulders, mileage and PUR administrative costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is a resubmitted project and the applicant addressed previous review team concerns by providing designs for the use of boulders.
- Strong landowner support is demonstrated by a letter and match support.
- The project will provide a great outreach opportunity for other landowners.
- Proposed project builds on past restoration efforts; and the landowner is looking at renewing their CREP contract.
- French Creek has a high intrinsic habitat potential for coho; and supports trout, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant worked with project partners to address concerns from previous application reviews. The proposed restoration will benefit coho and address a key stream habitat issue in this watershed. This project also represents a good outreach opportunity. Reviewers encouraged the landowner and project partners to continue looking at future fencing in the upper stream reaches.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$160,300

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Increase by \$1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount

\$161,384

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2009-15643

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Glover Tidegate Replacement and Channel Re-meander

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$346,203

Total Cost: \$612,456

Application Description *(from application)*

The Umpqua/Smith River Estuary provides salmon, steelhead and eulachon with important feeding areas, refuge from predators and transition zones as they move from fresh to saltwater. However, many estuarine wetlands along the coast have been filled, cleared, diked and drained for agriculture or urban development. Tidal wetlands along the lower Smith River were converted to pastures on 135 acres of the Glover Ranch by building levees, reconfiguring stream channels to ditches and installing tidegates to control the incoming tide. To restore natural drainage, create lost wetlands for winter rearing, fish passage and improve water quality to this critical area for anadromous fish, PUR, Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District, ODFW, Natural Resources Conservation Service, NMFS and the Glover Family are collaborating to reestablish 2.25 miles of sinuous tidal channel and replace two failing tidegates with one 8' side-hinge tidegate that is adjustable throughout the year to manage water for fish habitat needs. Approximately 3.6 miles of livestock exclusion fence is proposed to be built 35' from the channel, and over 28,000 native plants will be established along the new meandering channels. This project is located in the tidal wetlands of the Umpqua River Estuary near the communities of Gardiner and Reedsport in Douglas County; an area important to ESA listed Oregon Coast coho salmon and eulachon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific lamprey and a variety of other native fish. OWEB funds will be used for project management, engineering, tidegate and channel work, fencing, native plants, mileage and PUR administrative costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed project provides a high potential for creating quality over-wintering habitat opportunities for coho in a tidally influenced area.
- This new landowner is very supportive and committed to the project.
- Project site is highly visible and has potential for recruiting additional watershed restoration projects.
- Proposed restoration is site appropriate for the location; and could result in as much as 110 acres of habitat available for coho during winter flows.
- The project ranked as a medium-high priority in an assessment undertaken by the applicant and project partners.

Concerns

- Project design plans changed significantly between application submission and the review team meeting. This redesign was undertaken to increase restoration benefit of fish passage efforts; and this design change resulted in a significant increase in the project cost.
- Currently only preliminary designs are available for review; therefore, it is difficult to evaluate the project for likelihood of success.
- Landowner may not be fully apprised of all the design changes.
- No written agreements on water management plans are developed yet; and any future plan will need to include an approach for addressing mosquitoes.
- Without all the final design details, it is unclear whether geo-technical concerns were considered, including: bearing capacity of the soil (as it relates to installation of the bridges and possibly a concrete headwall for the new tidegate), investigation of the existing dikes at the locations where the two existing tidegates are to be removed and the dike repaired, and hydrology studies or calculations to show current fish passage requirements can be met (i.e flow depth and velocity) by installation of the proposed 8' tidegate.
- The in-water work period for the Umpqua River estuary is November 1 to January 31, which is not an optimal time for heavy equipment to drive in a tidally influenced pasture areas. Applicant is encouraged to investigate the potential for an exemption from permitting agencies or work from barges.

Concluding Analysis

Following application submission, project partners significantly changed the project scope that resulted in a different design approach and increased budget. These changes resulted in a more efficient approach while maintaining original goals and objectives of the project. However, there were enough fundamental changes in design and approach that it is difficult to evaluate the project for likelihood of success based on the review criteria for proposal clarity, technical soundness, watershed context, and cost effectiveness. This project has a large potential for benefits to coho and water quality, as well as enhancing the landowner's ability to effectively manage the property. If application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to include: design details, a water management plan, a planting plan, fencing setbacks details, geo-tech work, revised budget, a livestock water system and design, description of herbicide use, and discussion on any monitoring plans.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount \$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2010-15644

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: McCullough Creek Instream Restoration

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$36,853

Total Cost: \$80,423

Application Description *(from application)*

This project is located in McCullough Creek, northwest of the rural community of Glendale in Douglas County. McCullough Creek is a tributary to Cow Creek in the Middle Cow Creek 5th Field Watershed. Fish present in the watershed include winter steelhead, coho salmon, fall Chinook salmon, Pacific lamprey and cutthroat trout. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Surveys and associated maps identify McCullough Creek as having areas of higher to highest winter intrinsic potential for coho salmon but the lowest quality winter habitat (<0.1 parr/square meter). Winter rearing habitat for fish in the project area is limited by a lack of instream large wood (Middle Cow Creek Watershed Assessment, 2002). PUR, in partnership with Oregon Department of Forestry, will place logs at 37 sites throughout 1.02 miles of the creek to generate pools, cover, gravel deposition and access to off-channel areas that are currently limited in the area and needed for quality winter rearing and spawning habitat. Structures will include approximately 5 pieces of wood each for a total of 185 logs placed into McCullough Creek. Project partners include Oregon Department of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Bureau of Land management and Oregon Department of Forestry will both contribute logs from a nearby timber sale and Biologist and Forester Staff time to help manage the project. OWEB funds will be used for PUR project management, log and boulder placements, mileage and PUR administrative costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed project is located in critical habitat for Oregon coastal coho.
- The project is supported by partnerships, which is demonstrated by match contributions of logs and equipment use.
- Restoration design is technically sound, will address a limiting factor for coho, and incorporates incense cedar that will last longer in the stream structures.
- This project is ready for implementation.
- Project cost is reasonable.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by including information on how the project will benefit water quality, which is also an important limiting factor for this watershed.

Concluding Analysis

This straight forward project will benefit coho by addressing a key limiting factor in critical habitat for this fish. The project is ready for implementation, and provides significant ecological benefits for a reasonable cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$36,853

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$36,853

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2011-15649

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Little Butte Creek Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$316,130

Total Cost: \$551,782

Application Description *(from application)*

The proposed project is located on private lands at river mile 13 of Little Butte Creek in Jackson County near Eagle Point. Little Butte is a tributary of the Rogue River and is considered a priority stream at the state and federal level for endangered coho salmon recovery. The Creek also has a 303(d) listing for temperature, bacteria, and sedimentation. Limiting factors include: Reduced large wood supply; Lack of channel complexity and aquatic habitat; Sediment impacted spawning surfaces due to erosion; Degradation of riparian forests; and High water temperatures due to lack of shade and summer flows. Restoration components of the proposed project include: Construction of five large wood structures along "river left" to create salmonid habitat, stabilize the bank, reduce erosion, and protect riparian plantings. Installation of 3.75 acres of irrigated riparian tree plantings with five years of maintenance and monitoring. Approximately 1.75 acres will be planted with native trees and shrubs on river left as a City of Medford thermal credit project; requested funds will complete a similar 2.0 acre planting on river right. Installation of livestock exclusion fencing to protect all project work. TFT has completed four similar wood projects and two additional riparian restoration projects within the basin. This requested OWEB investment will enhance and expand on the benefits of these nearby projects. The Freshwater Trust (TFT) will lead this effort, in partnership with the landowners, the City of Medford and US Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed project presents an outreach opportunity to raise other landowners' interest in watershed restoration because the project landowner is enthusiastic and much of the restoration work will be visible from the adjacent highway.
- Applicant has proven experience with similar restoration efforts; therefore, project is likely to succeed.
- This project will tie into another riparian project on the opposite stream bank.
- Project will primarily benefit water quality by improving stream temperature and reducing sediment inputs from the actively eroding bank. This will provide some benefit to anadromous fish as this section of the stream is a transportation reach between habitats for these fish.

Concerns

- The budget was unclear on what project components will be contracted and what materials will be purchased directly.
- The cost per large wood structure is significantly high compared to similar projects and it is unclear from the application on why.
- The City of Medford Thermal Credits may not be eligible as match under OWEB's mitigation policy.

Concluding Analysis

Project offers a great outreach opportunity to demonstrate riparian restoration in an agricultural area where there is a lack of stream bank vegetation, a high degree of invasive plant species, and bank erosion is occurring in much of the stream area. The project is supported by partnerships and has potential to be a step towards improving water quality in the mainstem Little Butte Creek.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$316,130

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

The City of Medford Thermal Credits will not be used as match; without this match source there is still greater than 25% match for the project.

Furthermore, City of Medford cannot receive thermal credits for OWEB funded restoration.

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$316,130

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2012-15651

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Adams Creek Culvert Removal and Riparian Enhancement Project

Applicant: Coos SWCD

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$93,299

Total Cost: \$116,855

Application Description *(from application)*

The Adams Creek Culvert Removal and Riparian Enhancement Project proposes to address the issues of stream temperature, riparian shade, and nutrient and sediment contamination through the proven methods of fencing to exclude livestock from the riparian and planting native trees to provide both streambank stability and eventual shade. The Coos SWCD has recognized the strong need for fish passage and stream riparian improvements in the lower Adams Creek watershed, tributary to South Tenmile Lake, Lakeside, Coos County OR. Historical stream manipulations including channelization, riparian clearing, and installation of numerous undersized culverts on Adams Creek and tributaries has resulted in the current condition. The project area is on agricultural land that is seasonally grazed (May-October) by a herd of 11-14 cows. During the rainy season, the cattle are moved off location. The main Adams Creek stream channel has a severely undersized failing culvert where a farm access road crosses to the north side of the valley. Additionally, main Adams Creek and tributaries channels are without riparian woody vegetation. This project will install a bridge at the failing Adams Creek Culvert that meets state and federal standards as well as a new CMP on the southerly pasture channel that is substantially larger. A total 8,225 feet of stream corridor fencing will be installed on the mainstem Adams Creek and southerly channels with planting of native tree species within the fence. We are working collaboratively with the Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership watershed council, landowner, and ODFW to develop and implement this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project resulted from successful outreach efforts; and the landowner is very supportive of proposed restoration.
- The resubmitted application is much improved from the previous submission with more project details provided.
- Restoration activities will benefit water quality, which is a watershed limiting factor in this basin.
- Applicant engaged NRCS to provide a livestock feed/forage analysis.

Concerns

- The fencing and planting plan could reinforce a straight stream channel configuration that prevents the stream channel from creating natural meanders.

- The lower portion of the field near the lake, which is inundated during the winter, is a mucky peat dominated soil that has low grazing value and is not ideal for forage for the livestock operation located on the property.
- The north side of the project that has the old stream channel, and feeder stream into that channel, will remain unfenced and accessible by livestock.

Concluding Analysis

This resubmitted application has improved from the previous submission; however, the project approach limits potential ecological benefits that could be gained by this project. The project site offers an opportunity to look at how grazing is approached on the property to increase ecological benefit of a restoration investment. For example, since the mucky peat soils with low grazing value provides only 9% of total forage for this livestock operation and the remaining portion of the property produces more than adequate forage for the number of livestock identified; applicant might consider working with the landowner to see if USDA's Wetland Reserve Program is an acceptable land management tool. This would allow for the lower quality peat dominate portion of the pasture to not be grazed. The application would be strengthened by an alternatives analysis to that includes restoration options that with actions, such as channel remeander, rotational grazing, and farm bill programs.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2013-15672

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: South Umpqua River and Tributaries Riparian Restoration

Applicant: City of Roseburg

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$55,273

Total Cost: \$116,565

Application Description *(from application)*

The project area includes City-owned parks and parcels within the city limits of Roseburg . It includes riparian, upland and buffer areas along the South Umpqua River and segments of Newton, Deer and Sleepy Hollow Creeks. Roseburg is centrally located within Douglas County and the Lower South Umpqua River Watershed. Years of urban impacts have negatively affected water quality, fish and wildlife habitat. The Umpqua Basin Action Plan describes limiting factors within this project area. Stream buffers are thin, shade is low and water temperatures are high. Water quality for the South Umpqua River, within Roseburg, is considered "poor" by the DEQ. Recent high winter flows have further degraded streambanks. Riparian zones are narrower, erosion has increased, and shade has decreased. Armenian blackberry and English ivy dominate the shrub layer and are overtaking the native trees and shrubs. This project is aimed at reducing invasive weeds, currently displacing native plants. By protecting and planting more native trees and shrubs, erosion and sedimentation will be reduced, and shade will increase. These measures will ultimately improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and fish migration. This critical corridor is home to Western pond turtles, Coho salmon, spring and fall Chinook, winter steelhead, Pacific lamprey, beavers, ospreys, acorn woodpeckers, and many other native fish and wildlife species. Project partners include PUR, ODA, Douglas County, USFWS, ODFW, Umpqua Watersheds, NeighborWorks Umpqua, CCBUTI, and Phoenix School.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed project is highly visible in an urban setting, which offers an outreach opportunity.
- Riparian bank conditions are not functioning properly because of areas with heavy erosion and sediment inputs into the stream; proposed restoration activities could help address these issues.
- The City is contributing considerable cash and in-kind match to the project.

Concerns

- The planting design approach may not be enough to effectively stop stream bank erosion occurring at this site.
- There are locations within the project area in which only invasive plant removal is planned without replanting with native plants, it is unclear whether there will be enough plantings or natural plant propagation to fill these cleared areas.

- The number of project sites may be ambitious, and restoration may be more likely to succeed if project was phased into smaller stream sections at a time.
- The project site could present opportunities for oak woodland restoration, and therefore, increase ecological benefit of restoration efforts.
- Application would be strengthened by additional information on plans for irrigation and detail on stormwater facilities mentioned in the application.

Concluding Analysis

This project presents an opportunity for demonstrating riparian restoration in an urban setting. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to provide further detail on the bank erosion and planned treatment design of those areas, plans for areas not being replanted after invasive plant species are removed, plans for watering plantings, and explanation of the stormwater facilities.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2014-15577

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Tenmile Lakes Watershed Land Acquisition Technical Assistance

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$31,386

Total Cost: \$49,626

Application Description *(from application)*

The Tenmile Creek Watershed is situated in southwestern coastal Oregon. The watershed encompasses an area of approximately 98 square miles and is located in Coos County with a small portion of the upper watershed extending into Douglas County. The Tenmile Lakes subbasin consists of 10 highly productive Coho streams that flow east from headwaters in the Elliott State Forest through private agricultural lands into both North and South Tenmile Lakes. The City of Lakeside is located on South Lake near Tenmile Creek, the outlet which flows 4 miles to the Pacific. In many instances these tributaries that once meandered and contained wetland vegetation to filter out nutrient and sediment are now channelized. These channel modifications have increased the movement of Non-Point Source pollutants from the upper reaches of watersheds into the lakes and sediment loading has increased 10,000 x since Europeans settled in the region (Nutrient Study, Eliers 2002). This dramatically increased rate in eutrophication has resulted in impacted water quality and reduced salmonid habitat. Technical assistance will support the TLBP to collect habitat data and investigate the acquisition of two high priority agricultural properties and conduct outreach for near future land acquisition and wetland restoration projects to reduce the high sedimentation rates that are negatively impacting Tenmile Lakes native fish habitat and water quality. Project Partners include the Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership, ODFW, CTCLUSI, ODEQ, DSL, and the Tenmile Lake Association.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Applicant has built trust locally with landowners and stakeholders; and has the capacity to implement proposed activities.
- Acquisition projects have potential for meaningful water quality improvements and would help in meeting TMDL goals.
- The project has potential to result in big long-term benefits to habitats important to coho.
- Proposed locations build on previous OWEB funded restoration efforts, including plantings, fencing, and culvert replacement.

Concerns

- The application is unclear on the specific project goals and products.

- A land trust has not yet been identified for potential acquisitions; involving a land trust at the beginning of this technical assistance project will help ensure the work is focused on tasks necessary to implementing an acquisition project.
- This application is unclear on the site specific ecological benefits to understand why the specific project locations were chosen.
- It was unclear from the application whether the Big Creek landowner has been contacted about the project.

Concluding Analysis

Land acquisition can be a powerful tool for restoring important habitats, and this proposal presents opportunities for moving acquisition projects forward in habitats important for coho and other anadromous fish species. The application would be stronger with further details to support adequate project evaluation for likelihood of success; and engaging a land trust early in this project to help guide and shape the work to ensure critical needs are considered early in the acquisition process. Future applications could be strengthened by including: (1) more detail on site specifics, the reason these properties are important, and how they fit into the bigger picture for restoring the watershed; (2) incorporating use of existing information to present the need for proposed work, such as wetland layer mapping; (3) description of outreach needed, as well as how it will be approached, to help understand the likelihood of getting larger community support for the work; (4) letters of support from key partners and agencies, such as ODFW and DSL, to help determine level of support from these entities; (5) discussion on likely future maintenance of sites; and (6) explanation of whether the NRCS Wetland Reserve Enhancement program could be considered as a possible avenue since it is an easement program for working lands and may fit well here.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2015-15587

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Fork Coquille River/Dement Creek Project Development

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$39,688

Total Cost: \$68,711

Application Description *(from application)*

The project will occur on Dement Creek, a 9,700-acre tributary drainage to the South Fork Coquille River, ~1.0 mile south of Broadbent, OR (Coos County). Dement Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for coho, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey. Primary limiting factors for anadromous fish in the sub-watershed are lack of stream habitat complexity and water quality. Historically, Dement Creek was splash dammed for logging, subjected to stream cleaning, and currently lacks sufficient LWD. The sub-watershed has riparian corridors impacted by road construction, timber harvest, and agricultural practices. This TA grant will help facilitate the review of watershed habitat conditions in order to develop, prioritize, and design habitat enhancement projects in the sub-watershed. Assessments will include surveying fish passage impediments on County and private road crossings, conducting road network surveys using Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package methods, assessing in-stream habitat features using AQHI, evaluating riparian conditions, and monitoring water quality metrics (sediment and temperature). We expect assessments to yield ~5-7 potential projects with project ready designs for the top three projects as determined by the Coquille Watershed Association Project Committee. The TA grant will cover hydrologic designs, initial permitting, and request for bids for the top projects. We have conducted initial surveying and expect to develop designs for a minimum of three anadromous stream culvert replacements, placement of ~200 LWD components, installation of 200-400+ cross drain/road infrastructure improvements and riparian enhancement where needed. Current partners: private landowners, ODFW, BLM, and Lone Rock Timber Company.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This application is well written with detail that lays out the project need, plan for the work, benefits expected from future restoration work, and comprehensive budget.
- The project is leveraged by match from DEQ.
- The focus area of this technical assistance project is in need of restoration work; and there is a high potential for resulting restoration projects to have clear water quality benefits, as well as provide habitat improvements.
- The project location is in a water quality focus area for NRCS; and there are 4 CREP projects in the area.
- Restoration projects that result from this work will be based on a strong foundation of prioritization.
- Applicant has built strong partnerships with landowners in the sub-basin.

- The project area contains critical coho habitat.

Concerns

- Engineering cost seem low compared to similar projects; and it is unclear from the application whether the time proposed for this activity will be enough.
- The application would be strengthened by further information on how the meetings planned for engaging local landowners will effectively achieve their landowner outreach goals.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant provided a well-written application that describes project components, as well as including watershed limiting factors and developing a suite of potential solutions to those issues. Proposed project seems appropriately sized without “biting off more than the applicant can chew” with this proposal; and there is a likelihood for success in achieving the project goals.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$39,688

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$39,688

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2016-15601

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Evans Creek Fish Passage Evaluation

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$36,218

Total Cost: \$70,073

Application Description *(from application)*

The project proposes to update and identify fish passage barriers in high priority salmonid streams in the Seven Basins Watershed of the upper Rogue River in Jackson County. Streams to be evaluated include: Evans Creek of the Evans Creek Watershed and Birdseye, Foothills, Galls, Kane, Sardine, and Ward creeks of the Gold Hill-Rogue River Watershed. These tributaries of the Rogue River enter the river between Gold Hill and Rogue River. Limiting factors for the watersheds include fish passage barriers and flow modification, which limit salmonid access to stream reaches with significant spawning and rearing habitat. Current fish passage data is insufficient to effectively prioritize and improve fish passage at the more than 180 known barriers on fish bearing streams in the project area. This project will assess fish passage at these barriers using successfully implemented protocol developed by a Technical Team under two previous OWEB Grants: Applegate Fish Barrier Assessment: Humbug/Thompson/Slate Creek (213-2032) and the Rogue Basinwide Priority Barrier Removal Analysis (215-2034-11632). The Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC) staff and technical partners will conduct a data review and ground truth surveys to update the ODFW Oregon Fish Passage Barrier Dataset database. Data will be collected using a field app. that will capture data electronically and enter it into the Council's fish passage barrier geodatabase. This project will allow the APWC and project partners to gather current fish passage barrier data, identify and prioritize potential projects, and foster relationships with landowners that will lead to restoration project implementation. The resulting Action Plan will summarize data collected and outline a strategy for implementing fish passage improvement and habitat restoration projects within the watersheds. Project partners are BLM, ODFW, OWRD, Seven Basins WC, Rogue Basin Partnership, Lone Rock Resources, Trout Unlimited, and Lone Rock.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Rogue basin is a leader in prioritizing and addressing fish passage issues; and this project application presents the next logical assessment step in the Evans Creek watershed.
- Improving fish passage is key to restoring coho and other anadromous fish runs in the Rogue basin.
- Applicant will be using a protocol that was developed through an OWEB grant and has proven success in the Applegate watershed.
- Evans Creek clearly needs additional fish passage work following removal of the two priority dams last year.

- The project includes consideration of water rights, water quality, and irrigation efficiency.
- This application is well written in describing the project.

Concerns

- There is already considerable understanding of the fish passage issues in this basin; therefore, it is unclear whether further evaluation is needed. However, work similar to that proposed in this application was completed in the Applegate and was important to bringing restoration projects to fruition.
- The project application is unclear on who will take a lead role in implementing restoration projects that result from this technical assistance work.
- The application would be strengthened by some quantification of potential numbers of willing landowners or restoration projects likely to result from this project.
- Application is unclear on the level of relevant experience the surveyor implementing this technical assistance has. The applicant will be responsible for ensuring work results in a quality product with accurate field data that is critical to their success.

Concluding Analysis

Proposed project builds on efforts in the Rogue basin, as well as efforts within the Seven Basins watershed. This technical assistance work has a high likelihood of achieving the described goals; and includes consideration of water quantity issues. The applicant has a sound track record in implementing this type of technical assistance work and using it to develop restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$36,218

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$36,218

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2017-15604

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Rogue Estuary Enhancement
TA

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$25,719

Total Cost: \$35,576

Application Description *(from application)*

This project takes place in God Wants You Slough, which is fed by two freshwater creeks – Krambeal and Lynch Creeks. The slough is connected at the downstream end to the Rogue River Estuary, and is adjacent to the town of Gold Beach, in Curry County. This slough provides critical over-wintering habitat for coho salmon, and rearing habitat for steelhead, cutthroat, Pacific lamprey, and Chinook salmon. ODFW Biologists have identified these areas as having high intrinsic potential for coho salmon production. Due to the high intrinsic potential of the area for anadromous fish production and the need to improve stream complexity, the Rogue River Estuary Strategic Plan (LRWC, 2015) identifies the slough as high priority for instream restoration. In addition, riparian areas are mainly composed of small shrubs and hardwoods and lack large conifers needed for future contributions of large wood to the stream. The request for Technical Assistance will be to secure a design for large wood installments, create a planting plan for the surrounding riparian area, and to work with the USFS to secure a large wood donation. We will also work to align our project with a USFS large wood helicopter placement at the same time in order to reduce overall costs of implementation. Deliverables include a design for large wood placements in slough and surrounding floodplain, a riparian planting plan, an agreement with the USFS to donate wood, and a quote for implementation. Project partners include private landowners, ODFW, USFS, USFWS, Riley Creek Elementary School, and Oregon Stewardship.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Applicant addressed review team comments raised in the previous application review.
- The application demonstrates a high level of support for the project, including support from the larger landowners.
- The project presents meaningful restoration approaches in a tidally influenced area of the Rogue River. Furthermore, this project provides a rare restoration opportunity in this stream system because it includes a small estuary and tidally influenced zone.
- Resulting restoration will address key issues impacting the watershed.
- This project offers outreach potential with a local school actively involved in the riparian component.
- Large wood placement will be designed by an engineer; however, it is important for this engineer to have relevant experience with large wood placement in tidally influenced areas.
- Partners are looking at the project site as a whole and addressing issues important to the riparian habitat by including invasive weed control and developing a technically planting plan.

- The application is well written and applicant made good use of maps and photos.

Concerns

- This technical assistance project would be stronger if it included completion of the permitting process.
- It is unclear who developed the ecological priority map and what information this prioritization was based on.
- The basis for the engineering costs is not provided.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal resulted from a review team recommendation following the evaluation of a restoration project proposal submitted in the November 2016 cycle. The review team suggested the likelihood of success of the proposed restoration work would increase with technical design work before moving forward with a restoration project. The technical assistance work described in this proposal is sound and the approach has a high likelihood in resulting in a well-rounded restoration proposal. The review team recommends this project as "fund with conditions" with the following condition: the professional engineer (PE) selected by the applicant should have experience in large wood placement design in tidal conditions or applicant should establish a peer review process composed of restoration practitioners experienced in large wood placement design in tidal conditions to review the PE designs.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$25,719

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Fund with Conditions: The professional engineer (PE) selected by the applicant should have experience in large wood placement design in tidal conditions or applicant should establish a peer review process composed of restoration practitioners experienced in large wood placement design in tidal conditions to review the PE designs.

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$25,719

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2018-15641

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Coos Watershed Aquatic Inventory
Action Plan & Basin Wide Restoration Prioritization

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$49,354

Total Cost: \$89,394

Application Description *(from application)*

For more than a decade now the Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) has worked diligently to obtain a comprehensive baseline Aquatic Inventory dataset for the entire Coos basin. This technical assistance grant is a multi-faceted approach at obtaining 100% coverage within all anadromous fish habitats here in the Coos watershed (~384 miles). CoosWA crews will survey the final 26 miles (parts and pieces) throughout the watershed in an attempt to culminate this comprehensive inventory program. Once complete, the data will be input into a single ODFW database, followed by a rigorous QA/QC process addressing any data inconsistencies. CoosWA will run the data through ODFW's Habitat Limiting Factors Model (HLFM) and HabRate model to identify habitat limitations for the entire watershed. These outputs will be used to develop GIS shapefiles at the reach/unit level that are spatially referenced using dynamic segmentation. Finally, the data will be evaluated against ODFW's coastal coho reference reaches in order to assess how our data compares to those benchmarks and quartile distributions developed from 76 reference reaches identified in ODFW's Coastal coho ESU region. The results from this data compilation/analysis will be the framework for developing the basin wide restoration prioritization plan for the Coos watershed, and prove instrumental for obtaining a priority ranking for the Coos. This grant will allow CoosWA, in close partnership with ODFW, BLM, ODF, SSNERR, and Weyerhaeuser Timber Company to properly identify and evaluate restoration projects for the entire Coos Watershed, with the goal of long term on-the-ground restoration implementation to follow.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed technical assistance will finish the last of the habitat inventory for the watershed and provide a basin-wide foundation for prioritization efforts.
- This project builds on and compliments other successful planning efforts; therefore, the current proposal has a high likelihood of success.
- The applicant has a successful track record of turning similar technical assistance work into meaningful restoration projects.
- Applicant has the personnel, skill sets, and protocols to implement resulting restoration projects.
- Proposed project is well leveraged with match.
- This project creates a holistic approach to addressing issues within the Coos watershed; and compliments important tidegate prioritization work the applicant is currently undertaking.

Concerns

- Application is unclear on whether some of the project activities described are redundant to work being funded through the recently approved Coos Coho Business Plan project. Redundant activities should be removed from this application.
- A portion of landowners have not yet been contacted regarding this project; however, previous projects demonstrate that this applicant has approaches in place for contacting landowners in these kinds of efforts.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant has a successful track record of turning technical assistance and monitoring projects into tools that serve many audiences, inform other work and functions, and result in on-the-ground restoration projects. Finishing the remaining AHI survey work for the basin will allow project partners to complete planning and prioritization efforts for habitats accessible to anadromous species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,354

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff followed-up with the applicant and determined this project was developed as a stand alone project from the Coho Business Plan and there are no redundancies in funding between these two efforts. Information developed from this project should prove useful in helping inform other work, such as the Coho Business Plan.

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$49,354

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2019-15650

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Elk Creek River Mile 3.0 Side Channel Design and Permitting

Applicant: Rogue River WC

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$28,703

Total Cost: \$48,693

Application Description *(from application)*

This project will result in a 1,300-foot long, engineered side channel design (at the site of an avulsing channel) and the permits required to construct the side channel at river mile 3.0 of Elk Creek (a Rogue River tributary), near Trail, OR (Jackson County). The project location is directly adjacent to a high-volume pedestrian trail along the Creek on Army Corps of Engineers lands, very near a trail head. Elk Creek produces large numbers of Coho Salmon though the mainstem contains very little over-summering habitat (warm temperatures, few quality pools), overwintering habitat (few off-channel habitats like alcoves and side channels and low floodplain connectivity), and spawning habitat (bedrock dominated stream bed because of lack of complex habitat and low floodplain connectivity). This project will directly improve off-channel habitat availability, floodplain connectivity, and streamside vegetation density (leading to more shade along the stream). Rogue River Watershed Council (RRWC) and partners propose to design a side channel in an area along mainstem Elk Creek where a channel avulsion is forming and apply for the permits necessary to construct the design. RRWC will be working with Army Corps of Engineers (USACoE), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), US Forest Service (USFWS) on the design and permitting aspects of this project. Additionally, Chuck Huntington (formerly of Clearwater Biological Consulting) will assist with project development, field verification, and monitoring initiation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The restoration project to be designed is based on results from a Type II Technical Assistance project (OWEB #214-2006) and is a priority identified in that work.
- This project demonstrates good project match and support.
- Technical assistance will lead to a project that addresses a bottle neck to coho production in this stream; and increasing off-channel habitat benefits coho habitat.
- The project is supported by the landowners.
- The applicant and project partners have the capacity to complete this work and have proven they can handle large-scale complex projects.
- Resulting restoration work will provide water quality benefits by reducing potential sediment inputs, and help restore riparian health.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds on previous technical assessment efforts that identified potential restoration. This applicant has the capacity and experience to successfully complete the work, and there is a high likelihood that this investment will result in a high value restoration project that addresses limiting factors for coho in this stream.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$28,703

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$28,703

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2020-15673

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Coos Bay Tide Gate Inventory and Restoration Planning

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$36,229

Total Cost: \$66,278

Application Description *(from application)*

1) Coos Bay Estuary and Sub-Basins; Coos County Oregon; (lat 43° 21' N, long 124° 20' W) 2) Tide gates create a distinct boundary between freshwater streams and the estuary. This ecotone was naturally in dynamic flux based on interactions between seasonal weather patterns and tidal fluctuations. Tide gates and channelization have degraded the function of lowland areas for both anadromous fish and agriculture production. Conventional tide gate designs use top hinged gates that are by default closed and significantly restrict fish passage. Many and perhaps most of these structures are considerably beyond their design life and are now failing. Gated openings in dikes are also usually undersized for the upstream basins that drain through them. These constrictions create velocity barriers that further diminish fish passage windows; exacerbates erosion around tide gate structures; and inhibits drainage of the upstream basin. Off channel rearing habitat has been identified as the primary limiting factor for the Coos Basin coho population. Reconnecting lowland floodplains will release rearing benefits for fish and pasture quality for producers. 3) Comprehensive basin-wide tide gate inventory is critical for baseline evaluation and scope. Several models exist that rigorously assess, prioritize and optimize structures for replacement based on maximizing ecological and societal benefits with limited financial resources. Aggregating models will provide options and alternatives that reduce uncertainty for stakeholders and planners to make decisions with greater confidence. Aerial and in situ monitoring of targeted priority sites will provide high quality baseline data for project development, outreach, model calibration and effectiveness monitoring. 4) CoosWA, TNC, ODFW, CSWCD, SSNERR, USFS (PNRL), Coos County, City of Coos Bay, and Nehalem Marine.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Applicant has relevant experience as a leader in tidegates projects; and monitoring fish use and access in tidal and estuarine areas.
- Applicant has a strong record in taking a holistic approach; and turning assessment work into on-the-ground projects.
- The modeling project components are of high value to the work.
- Tidegates impact habitats critical for coho and other aquatic species; and projects like this are needed to prevent large-scale issues associated with failure of or improper fixes to tidegates.

Concerns

- The application is unclear on the groundtruthing project component, which made it difficult to determine whether the budget will adequately cover this cost.
- This application would be stronger by including potential water quality benefits that will result from future restoration projects in addition to addressing tidegate impacts to fish.
- The application is unclear on the connection of proposed technical assistance work and the plant community transitions discussed.
- The application is unclear on the status of landowner outreach completed to date and planned in the future as part of project implementation.
- Proposed project may be somewhat ambitious by combining assessment work along with the design component. An engineering approach that focuses on hydrology and not on the dikes or geotech exploration may not address risks associated with tidegate projects.

Concluding Analysis

Tidegates have become a significant concern throughout the Oregon Coast. Many tidegates are near the end of their service life and are subject to failing, which causes impacts to agricultural activities or the infrastructure located behind them. The opportunity to replace these structures with more state of the art, fish friendly structures has resulted in the need for tidegate inventories, analyses, and prioritization to support informed decisions on how best to address these structures. This project represents one such opportunity to provide products that inform future tidegate replacement efforts within the Coos estuary. Resulting restoration can benefits coho and water quality, as well as supporting the ability of landowners to more effectively manage their properties. Reviewers were concerned that the assessment and prioritization process needed to be accomplished before site specific designs could be undertaken; therefore reviewers recommended this project as "fund with conditions" with the following condition: site specific designs should not be funded at this time.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$36,229

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff clarified proposal deliverables with the applicant's project manager. Funds requested for technical assistance are not intended to develop site specific designs, instead grant project will undertake the modeling that will inform the design and costs of site specific projects when they are identified.

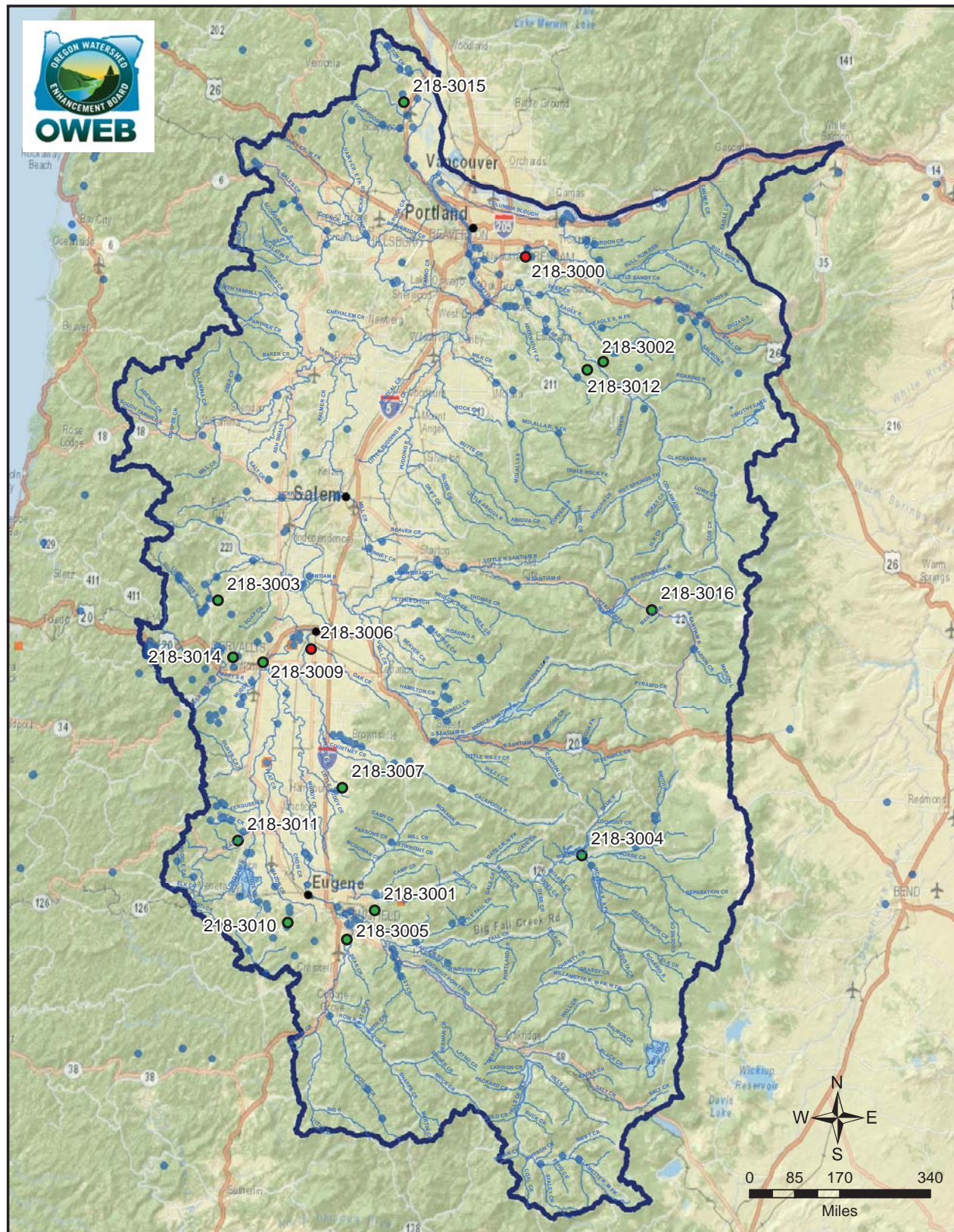
Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$36,229

Willamette Basin - Region 3 Spring 2017 Application Funding Status



Spring 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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Region 3 - Willamette Basin

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-3004	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Lower South Fork McKenzie River Floodplain Enhancement Project	The Lower South Fork McKenzie River Floodplain Enhancement Project is designed to restore stream processes that maintain a healthy, diverse, and resilient ecosystem for native fish species on the Endangered Species Act list.	324,458	Lane
218-3012	Clackamas River Basin Council	Clear Creek North Restoration Project	The proposed project restoration, located on Metro's Clear Creek North Natural Area 68-acre property on a tributary to the Clackamas River, will encourage natural river processes that create habitat for endangered fish species.	149,588	Clackamas
218-3007	Calapooia WC	Tub Run Riparian and Wetland Prairie Restoration	Proposed project, located south of Brownsville on Tub Run Creek, will restore wetland prairie and streamside habitats for native fish and wildlife. Wetland prairie is considered the most imperiled habitat in the Willamette Valley with less than 2% of its historic range remaining.	190,711	Linn
218-3009	Institute for Applied Ecology	Willamette Valley Native Plant Materials Partnership: High Quality Seed for Restoration and Recovery	Proposed project will provide locally sourced native seed for restoration work in the Willamette Valley. These restoration efforts implemented by collaborative partnerships among non-profit organizations, private landowners, and public agency reduce the decline of native plants, recover endangered species act listed plants and wildlife, and create an interconnected landscape of prairie and oak habitat.	239,392	Benton
218-3014	Greenbelt Land Trust	ButterFlyWay: Release the Oaks! Restore the Prairie! Connect the Habitats!	The ButterFlyWay project, located in Benton County between Philomath and Corvallis, will address the loss of prairie, savanna, and oak woodland habitats. This project will create a 2-mile corridor that connects Critical Habitat for two federally listed butterflies across 280 acres of conservation lands.	233,132	Benton
218-3002	Clackamas River Basin Council	North Fork Clackamas River Restoration Project – Phase II	The North Fork Clackamas River, northeast of Estacada, will restore river habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed salmon and steelhead fish in the Clackamas River Basin.	117,473	Clackamas
218-3011	Long Tom WC	Bear Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration at Bennett Vineyards	This project, located on a vineyard west of Cheshire in Lane County, will restore stream, wetland, floodplain, and upland habitats along Bear Creek, which drains into the Long Tom River. This will benefit native fish and wildlife, including nesting pond turtles.	93,580	Lane
218-3005	Coast Fork Willamette WC	My Brothers Farm Riparian Enhancement Phase II	This project located on a farm in Lane County, north of Creswell on the Coast Fork Willamette River, will improve habitat and water quality for native fish and wildlife by managing invasive plants and replacing them with native plants.	44,870	Lane

Region 3 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration and Technical Assistance - Spring 2017 Grant Offering

218-3010	Long Tom WC	Spencer Creek Oak Woodland Restoration, Old Gimpl Farm Oak Savanna Restoration, and Biochar Creation	This project, located on two properties in Lane County near Eugene, seeks to complement landowner management actions to restore 10 acres of high-quality oak savanna and prairie habitats important to multiple sensitive plant and wildlife species.	116,277	Lane
218-3003	Luckiamute WC	Building Resiliency and Connecting Corridors - Maxfield Creek Phase I	Proposed project on Maxfield Creek, a tributary of the Luckiamute River in Benton County, will work with five landowners to restore degraded streamside corridors. Controlling invasive plants and restoring native plant communities along the creek will improve water quality, and provide fish and wildlife habitat.	215,807	Benton
218-3001	Middle Fork Willamette WC	Thurston Hills Natural Area Oak Restoration and Enhancement - Phase 1	The 665-acre Thurston Hills Natural Area, located on the southeastern edge of the City of Springfield within Lane County, has rare but degraded Willamette Valley oak woodland and prairie habitats. Oregon white oaks within the project area that is threatened by conifer tree encroachment and an understory heavily invaded by non-native plants will be restored for native wildlife dependent on oak habitat.	102,683	Lane
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,827,971	

Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-3000	Johnson Creek WC	Mitchell Creek temperature and fish passage enhancement	Proposed project is located on a school district property in the unincorporated area of Multnomah County between Gresham and Portland. Stream restoration actions will improve water quality and fish habitat on Mitchell Creek, which is connected with Johnson Creek.	98,598	Multnomah
218-3006	Calapooia WC	Oak Creek Open Space - Phase 1 Restoration	Proposed project is located in Albany's Oak Creek Open Space natural area; and will restore streamside and wetlands plant communities that support native fish and wildlife.	121,386	Linn
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				2,047,955	

Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
218-3008	Scappoose Bay WC	Milton Creek at Hancock Stream Restoration	114,624	Columbia
218-3013	Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Willamette Basin Oak Habitat Restoration Project	250,000	Polk

Region 3 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration and Technical Assistance - Spring 2017 Grant Offering

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-3015	Scappoose Bay WC	Honeyman Creek Fish Passage	This technical assistance project, located on a tributary of Scappoose Bay in Columbia County between Scappoose and St. Helens, will complete project designs for the last two fish passage barriers in the area. Future restoration project to replace these barriers at road crossings will provide native fish access to upstream habitat needed by Endangered Species Act-listed salmon and steelhead.	36,386	Columbia
218-3016	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Upper North Santiam Side Channel Alternatives Analysis	The proposed technical assistance project is located 10 miles upstream of the Detroit Dam near the town of Idanha, and will result in designs for stream side-channel habitat restoration that will benefit native juvenile salmon.	39,632	Linn
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				76,018	

Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
NONE				
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT			76,018	

Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
218-3017	Cascade Pacific RC&D	North Santiam River Lower Bennett Dam Alternatives Analysis	44,354	Marion
218-3018	North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council	NCUWC 10-Year Restoration Action Plan	36,969	Clackamas

Region 3 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	1,903,989	22%
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Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	8,788,376	
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Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3000-15573

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mitchell Creek temperature and fish passage enhancement_Resubmit

Applicant: Johnson Creek WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: \$98,598

Total Cost: \$237,341

Application Description *(from application)*

A shallow inline pond on the property of the Centennial School District has been shown to raise the temperature of Mitchell Creek by as much as 14C on hot summer days. High stream temperature is one of the most significant factors limiting salmonid population on Johnson Creek, and is so documented in the Lower Willamette TMDL (ORDEQ, 2006). JCWC's 10-year Action Plan lists stream temperature reduction as a priority. Taking inline ponds offline is listed there as a key strategy, along with riparian planting, to reduce temperatures. This temperature reduction and fish passage improvement project is located on Mitchell Creek in the Johnson Creek Watershed, in unincorporated Multnomah County between Gresham and Portland. The pond is located on a 35-acre property, owned by the Centennial School District, a project partner. Other partners include Multnomah County, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (Portland will be annexing this and neighboring taxlots), and Metro (who funded the engineering design). The main components of this project include a) removing two culverts that have created the pond by restricting flow; b) adding large wood and beaver dam analogs for habitat and channel stability; c) adding a cobble/gravel mix at both ends of the pond for grade control; d) constructing a small offline, seasonal amphibian pond, e) revegetating the area to encourage off-channel wetlands and to restore native grass, herbs, and shrubs, OWEB funds will be used for construction, revegetation, project management, engineering, travel, and indirect costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Removing in-line ponds is expected to be one of the most effective restoration actions for addressing water temperature concerns in this watershed.
- The project design builds on beaver activity in the area and provides opportunity to learn about the effectiveness of beaver analogs in watershed restoration.
- This application is well-written and reflects a well thought out project.
- The applicant addressed recommendations from a previous review team evaluation, which has strengthened the project design.

Concerns

- The magnitude of project benefit to water temperature may be limited; it is unclear how much stream flows from Mitchell Creek influence stream temperatures to downstream Kelley Creek.

- The landowner does not appear to be an active, engaged project partner.

Concluding Analysis

Mitchel Creek is a small channel, therefore, the scale of the project impact to stream temperatures in Mitchell and Kelley Creeks is somewhat uncertain. As a result, the overall project cost benefit is uncertain. The proposed project offers an opportunity to pilot restoration of in-line ponds, which is a priority action for the Johnson Creek watershed. Therefore, the proposed project could provide lessons learned to apply to future efforts and potentially recruit additional in-line pond restoration projects that could collectively improve water quality.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$98,598

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3001-15580

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Thurston Hills Natural Area Oak
Restoration and Enhancement - Phase 1

Applicant: Middle Fork Willamette WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$102,683

Total Cost: \$256,348

Application Description *(from application)*

The 665-acre Thurston Hills Natural Area (THNA) is located on the southeastern edge of the City of Springfield within Lane County and the lower Middle Fork Willamette Watershed. THNA is comprised of rare but degraded Willamette Valley oak woodland and prairie habitats. Open-grown Oregon white oaks within the project area are threatened by conifer encroachment and overtopping while the understory has been heavily invaded by exotic woody vegetation and the prairie by non-native grasses. This loss of native habitat reduces biodiversity and negatively impacts important faunal species that rely on these open habitats such as acorn woodpecker, Lewis's woodpecker, western bluebird, chipping sparrow, slender-billed nuthatch, and western gray squirrel. To address these problems, we will release the oak stands through timber harvest and snag creation of the encroaching conifers and will do repeated understory and prairie Integrated Pest Management treatments to remove invasive plants before seeding with native forbs and grasses. Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council and Willamalane Park and Recreation District will jointly implement this project. US Fish and Wildlife Service will provide technical support for restoration prescriptions. We will coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management to align restoration efforts with their Fire-Dependent Ecosystems Restoration Project in which THNA is identified for hazardous fuel reduction work. We will also partner with local school districts as part of our outreach efforts. OWEB funds will be used for salary (project manager, community engagement and education coordinators), contracted services (forestry consultant, logger, weed removal/planting crews), travel, and materials (grasses and forbs).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This restoration effort will expand connectivity of upland oak habitat, a priority habitat for the Willamette Valley.
- The project designs utilize standard methods for oak habitat restoration.
- The project location is prioritized in the broader regional Rivers-to-Ridges strategy.
- The project team has proven experience with related restoration efforts; therefore, the project is likely to succeed.
- The project site is a large public area near an urban center, which will encourage community access and connection with restoration, therefore, providing an outreach opportunity on the value of habitat restoration.

Concerns

- This project would be strengthened by prioritizing treatments to protect large oaks.

Concluding Analysis

The project location is a priority for restoring oak habitat communities to preserve sensitive species relying on these habitats. The proposed project offers opportunity to expand connectivity of this habitat type, therefore, expanding the benefit of this restoration investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$102,683

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$102,683

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3002-15582

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Fork Clackamas River
Restoration Project – Phase II

Applicant: Clackamas River Basin Council

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$116,389

Total Cost: \$180,410

Application Description *(from application)*

The North Fork Clackamas River, a tributary to the Clackamas mainstem, in Clackamas County and northeast of Estacada is the location of this proposal for habitat restoration to address the limiting factor of lack of life cycle habitat for ESA listed Chinook, coho and steelhead in the Clackamas River Basin. Restoration to 0.8 miles of river will include flow to 3,975 feet of off-channel habitats to provide rearing habitat for juvenile coho, spring Chinook, and winter steelhead and spawning habitat for winter steelhead and coho salmon. Restoration on 1.25 acres will provide effective riparian forest canopy and floodplain vegetation where invasive plants currently out-compete native trees, sedges and rushes. Project partners include BLM, CRBC and their contractors.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed project addresses primary limiting factors for ESA-listed fish, including spring Chinook, steelhead and coho, and resulting habitat improvements will support the entire time range of spawning for these species.
- The project builds on previous restoration on this tributary, and proposed project design incorporates lessons learned from previous efforts by maximizing the benefit of large wood.
- The proposed budget is reasonable.
- This application is well-written and the project design is technically sound.
- The Watershed Council and BLM have a proven partnership history with previous success on similar projects.

Concerns

- The project design should consider incorporating conifers into planting elements and adding slash to large wood structures.

Concluding Analysis

Clackamas watershed is a high priority for fish habitat because it is one of only a couple watersheds that support life stages for coho in this region.

Since the proposed project builds on previous restoration and improves habitat for ESA-listed fish in a priority location at a reasonable cost, resulting investment has a high benefit to cost ratio.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$116,389

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Increase by \$1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount

\$117,473

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3003-15583

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Building Resiliency and Connecting Corridors - Maxfield Creek Phase I

Applicant: Luckiamute WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$215,807

Total Cost: \$290,766

Application Description *(from application)*

This restoration application seeks to address limiting factors of water quality and habitat condition in the upper Luckiamute Watershed. Conditions at Maxfield Creek, a tributary of the Luckiamute River in Benton County, include a lack of habitat complexity and fragmented riparian forests devoid of vegetative structural complexity and species diversity. These problems stem from current and historical land management practices that have replaced a native riparian corridor with a patchwork of hardwood forest and dense invasive plant cover. As a result, riparian areas in their current state in mid and lower Maxfield Creek are unlikely to produce the canopy cover and large conifers essential for high quality salmonid habitat. The low density, partial canopy cover is insufficient to shade the creek and keep water temperatures cool long-term, while the disconnected terrestrial habitat does not facilitate wildlife migration or native plant dispersal. This proposal will work with five landowners to restore degraded riparian corridors in 26.5 acres along 1.95 miles of Maxfield Creek to address these key limiting factors. Project elements will include control of invasive species, native plant installation, and plant establishment activities. Outreach activities will include landowner coordination, project tours, and active stewardship planning with landowners. Project partners include landowners, Benton SWCD, Greenbelt Land Trust, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and Meyer Memorial Trust.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project will restore future large wood recruitment and the water temperature profile in a Willamette Model Watershed location that is a priority for steelhead habitat.
- This restoration is a part of the Watershed Council's strategic plan, which is based on strong data collection and prioritization methodologies.
- The project builds on restoration efforts occurring upstream.
- The proposed project is well planned, and the design is technically sound, incorporating a balance of mechanical and chemical weed control until plantings are free-to-grow.
- The applicant has a proven track record with similar projects; therefore, the project is likely to succeed.
- The applicant addressed previous review team comments, and has improved the application by providing additional information on herbicide guidelines to be used and securing additional match.
- This project is leveraged with partnerships and supported by landowners, which is documented with letters of support.

- The project incorporates working with landowners to better understand watersheds, water quality, and important habitat characteristics; as a result, landowner engagement through restoration has potential to recruit restoration projects on adjacent properties.

Concerns

- Watershed benefits from proposed restoration could be greater with additional instream large wood structures incorporated into the project design and increased connectivity between project sites.

Concluding Analysis

Proposed restoration is timely due to the urgency for restoring any available habitat for upper Willamette winter steelhead, a population that is currently at historically low numbers. Any effort towards restoring fish habitat in their range is of value for recovery. This project also builds on work completed under the Willamette Model Watershed and will likely result in future restoration project recruitment that will expand habitat connectivity, therefore, providing significant benefit for this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

10 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$215,807

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$215,807

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3004-15586

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower South Fork McKenzie River
Floodplain Enhancement Project

Applicant: McKenzie Watershed Alliance

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$323,374

Total Cost: \$2,920,541

Application Description *(from application)*

The Lower South Fork McKenzie River Floodplain Enhancement Project is a multi-phased project designed to restore the physical, chemical, and biological processes that maintain a healthy, diverse, and resilient ecosystem within the lower 4.2 miles and 600 acres of the South Fork McKenzie River. The application is seeking support for Phase I of the Project, which will take place on public lands owned and managed by the US Forest Service within the lower 2 miles and 400 acres of floodplain on the South Fork McKenzie River, a tributary to the McKenzie River in Lane County near the town of Blue River. The lower South Fork McKenzie River has been significantly altered in the last century by the construction of Cougar Dam, placement of levees, riprap and fill within the floodplain, riparian tree harvest, and wood removal from river channels. These activities have altered physical, chemical and biological processes and degraded habitat for native species including ESA-Threatened spring Chinook salmon and bull trout. Limiting factors for native communities include; lack of spawning gravel, off-channel habitat, high flow refuge, pools, cover, fine sediment deposition on the floodplain, and shallow wetland habitat. The Project will address limiting factors through the removal of floodplain levees, riprap and fill, manual aggradation of incised channels, upgrade of culverts and/or elimination of road crossings, decommissioning of roads within the floodplain, and placement of over 2,700 pieces of large wood within channels and throughout the floodplain. The entire 4.2-mile South Fork Project area is part of a larger floodplain restoration and conservation effort focused on a 12-mile reach of the "Middle" McKenzie River from Quartz Creek upstream to Horse Creek. Partners include the Willamette National Forest, McKenzie Watershed Alliance, Eugene Water & Electric Board, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, McKenzie River Trust and US Army Corps of Engineers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration will significantly benefit ESA-listed fish in a critical area for the recovery of wild spring Chinook.
- The project design is a watershed process-based approach that is not over engineered and will reconnect floodplains and side channels with the main stream channel.
- A strong partnership with a proven track record and previous success on similar projects will implement this project.
- This application is well-written.

Concerns

- There is a limit to the ecological uplift that can occur below a dam due to its downstream impacts to the stream.
- While the Army Corps appears to support the project as a local landowner, their participation is limited as an active partner.
- The application budget has lump sums; application would be strengthened by additional budget detail.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project has more potential challenges to overcome rather than concerns because of the complexity and scale of proposed work and the unique, innovative design approach. Therefore, this project offers an opportunity to learn about the effectiveness of large scale, stream process-based restoration approaches. This project is also expected to result in a significant amount of high quality fish habitat. Furthermore, the proposed project is timely because of the momentum generated by the partners involved and similar restoration completed in this watershed. An OWEB investment has potential for leveraging with other funding sources to result in a large-scale, high impact project that has significant benefits to ESA-listed fish in a priority watershed for their recovery.

The Review Team recommends a "Fund with Conditions" with the following condition: applicant should adjust application metrics to reflect reduced scope of work resulting from the match fund sources not secured.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

1 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$323,374

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Fund Increased with Conditions: applicant should adjust application metrics to reflect reduced scope of work resulting from the match fund sources not secured. Increase by \$1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$324,458

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3005-15611

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: My Brothers Farm Riparian Enhancement Phase II

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$93,263

Total Cost: \$144,086

Application Description *(from application)*

The project is located in Lane County, north of Creswell on the lower mainstem of the Coast Fork Willamette River and Bear Creek. Historic and current land use practices within the Willamette Basin have degraded water resources. High summer water temperatures, erosion, and nutrient inputs are chronic issues throughout the Willamette basin, particularly in the Coast Fork Willamette River. Much of the riparian areas found along the Coast Fork Willamette River have been converted to non-riparian plant species, usually for agricultural crops and grazing livestock. The project site has been impacted through grazing livestock that removed much of the stream side vegetation, compacted and disturbed soils, and broke down banks, resulting in both channel incision and the widening of stream channels. Degradation of these systems has continued by the colonization of invasive plants, reducing the habitat suitability for wildlife. This 31.64 acre project will address habitat for native species, through management of invasive vegetation, planting native vegetation, and plant establishment over 5 years to ensure project success and sustainability. A diverse selection of native species will be planted to increase native plant diversity. Re-establishing a native riparian buffer and fencing off the waterways in this lower reach of the Coast Fork Willamette will benefit fish and wildlife habitat and improve water quality by shading the water, filtering out fine sediments and nutrients, resulting in a more resilient habitat in the face of climate change. Project partners include Farm Services Agency CREP, My Brother's Farm, and Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed restoration benefits fish and wildlife habitat within a Willamette River Anchor Habitat and a Conservation Opportunity Area.
- Plant maintenance utilizes a reasonable Integrated Pest Management approach until native plants are free-to-grow.
- Project support is documented in letters of support.
- This project leverages with a CREP investment to expand restoration benefits.
- Phase one of this project is underway and progress appears to be successful.
- The landowner is dedicated to conservation, which is demonstrated in their land management practices.

- The proposed project offers opportunity for demonstrating how ecological and economical land uses can successfully coexist.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional detailed information on herbicide application methods.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project expands on previous successful restoration efforts at a priority location in this watershed and provides opportunity for recruiting future voluntary restoration on private lands. Therefore, this project provides a strong benefit for the restoration investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$93,263

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff recommends funding this project with reduced funding. This project will also be funded through another grant offering; therefore, the full grant request is no longer necessary. The two grants together will fund the entire project.

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced

Staff Recommended Amount

\$44,870

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3006-15618

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Oak Creek Open Space - Phase 1
Restoration

Applicant: Calapooia WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$121,386

Total Cost: \$158,236

Application Description *(from application)*

1. Restoration actions (see Map 1) will take place within Albany's Oak Creek Open Space natural area. The site is located on the south side of Albany, in Linn County, and is partially bordered by the Calapooia on the west and Oak Creek, the Calapooia's largest tributary, on the east just upstream from their confluence. The site is less than four miles upstream of the mouth of the Calapooia where it enters the Willamette River. 2. Limiting factors to be addressed include loss of floodplain and riparian forests, off channel sloughs, and wetlands. The habitats are especially important in the lower watershed to provide refuge for juvenile native fish from high winter flows in the mainstem streams and rivers. This project will help connect and improve fragmented habitats important to grassland/wetland prairie dependent birds, and will control invasive plant species. 3. Restoration will occur in phases beyond the request of this proposal. This, phase 1, includes 5 acres of riparian plant establishment and 12.4 acres of wetland plant establishment. These actions were prioritized in the Oak Creek Open Space Management Plan because of the need for these habitat types, and the visibility of the planting locations within the residential area. A subsequent effort will engage the community in the restoration of the Open Space. 4. Our major partner is the City of Albany Parks and Recreation Department. They will contribute in-kind site maintenance and management, and participate in advisory discussions via the WSTAR meetings for this grant.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project has committed partners demonstrated by match contribution and letters of support, including the local homeowner association.
- Applicant incorporated previous review team comments and recommendations for adjusting the project design.
- An archeological investigation is included in the application, which is important in this area that has a significant number of cultural resources sites.
- The project provides an outreach opportunity on impacts of invasive plants to habitats in an urban setting.

Concerns

- Restoration gains and long-term success will be challenging to maintain with the constant reintroduction of invasive species that will likely occur at this site.

- The application would be strengthened by additional detail on herbicide use, methods, and timeline given the portion of project cost for herbicides.
- The application would be strengthened by information on why previous wetland work failed and how the current project design specifically addresses these issues to increase likelihood for success of the proposed project.

Concluding Analysis

Proposed restoration will address invasive plant species before it is too late to restore native vegetative communities at the project location. The site offers unique opportunity to maintain habitats in an urban setting as populations grow over time. This site also has potential for providing rearing habitat for ESA-listed fish once restored.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

13 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$121,386

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3007-15619

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Tub Run Riparian and Wetland
Prairie Restoration.

Applicant: Calapooia WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$189,566

Total Cost: \$325,212

Application Description *(from application)*

Tub Run Riparian & Wetland Prairie Restoration Project is located 8 miles south of Brownsville. Tub Run Creek is a tributary to the Little Muddy River. Tub Run Creek is outside of the Calapooia Watershed, although it is within the Calapooia Watershed Council's service area. Once an abundant ecosystem within the Willamette Valley, native wetland prairies have declined dramatically in extent since the mid-1800s due to a variety of factors including agricultural conversion, urbanization, drainage, and colonization by invasive and woody vegetation. Today, wetland prairie habitat is regarded as one of the most imperiled in the Willamette Valley ecoregion, with less than 2% of its historic range remaining (Johannessen et al. 1971, Towle 1982). Degraded water resources from past and current land-use practices, such as high summer water temperatures, erosion, and nutrient inputs, are chronic issues throughout the Muddy Creek basin. These types of problems have negatively affected populations of anadromous and resident salmonids and lamprey in the greater Willamette Basin. Restoration components to be implemented include: restoring 36 acres of farmland to wetland prairie, and restoring 37 acres of degraded riparian habitat. Project partners include a private land owner, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Linn Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Calapooia Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project will restore a mosaic of habitats that will support multiple fish and wildlife species in a location that connects with nearby restoration efforts, therefore, expanding benefits of proposed restoration work.
- Proposed scale of restoration is a reasonable size to achieve meaningful gains while remaining manageable during this initial phase of a long-term restoration strategy for the overall property.
- The project team includes experienced contractors and partners; therefore, the project is likely to succeed.
- Landowner commitment to restoration is demonstrated by match and a letter of support that expressed the landowner's primary purpose for purchasing the property was to contribute to habitat restoration.
- This project has potential for recruiting other landowners to complete similar types of restoration.

Concerns

- It is unclear how restoration investment will be protected in the long-term; however, landowner appears to be working on long-term protections.
- The Watershed Council does not have relevant restoration experience with this habitat type; however, the partners engaged in design and implementation have proven experience.

Concluding Analysis

Wet prairie habitat is a high priority in the Willamette Basin for restoration. The proposed project site offers opportunity to restore and preserve a significant number of riparian and prairie acres. This will build habitat connectivity with previous restoration efforts while offering opportunity as a demonstration site to recruit future restoration projects, therefore providing a high cost benefit for this restoration investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$189,566

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Increase by \$1,145 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$190,711

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3008-15640

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Milton Creek at Hancock Stream
Restoration

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$114,624

Total Cost: \$144,044

Application Description *(from application)*

This project is located at RM 11.2 on Milton Creek, a subwatershed in the Scappoose Bay 5th-field watershed. Milton Creek drains 21,561 acres into Scappoose Bay just upstream of its confluence with Multnomah Channel and the Columbia River, at the town of St. Helens in Columbia County. The project site is directly downstream of Anchor Site 3, identified in the 2012 Limiting Factor Analysis (LFA, SBWC), and 6.5 miles from St. Helens. This project addresses watershed concerns identified in the LFA – extremely low mainstem wood complexity and channel simplification. Functional summer pool habitat is the most limiting factor in fish production potential of the Milton Creek. ESA-listed Lower Columbia Spring Chinook, Coho, steelhead, cutthroat and lamprey are the species of concern in this subwatershed, which have declined due to poor habitat conditions. Portions of Milton Creek downstream of the project site have been identified as having elevated stream temperatures, making middle and upper reaches of the creek more critical. This project will install at least four large wood complexes along a 1400-ft reach of the mainstem of Milton Creek. The project will also remove invasive vegetation and plant approximately 2000 native plants along both sides of the riparian corridor. Partners include five landowners, ODFW, Lower Columbia Engineering, CSWCD, and the SBWC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project builds on previous restoration efforts in adjacent areas that appear to be functioning well.
- The project is located in an area with high potential for habitat supporting ESA-listed fish, including coho, spring Chinook and steelhead.
- Landowner support and commitment is demonstrated by match and letters of support; and there is opportunity to recruit additional restoration projects through landowner engagement resulting from this proposed project.

Concerns

- Project design includes use of boulders in a low gradient stream system, which would not occur naturally at this location. Without additional project design information in the application, it is unclear how and why boulders will be incorporated into the instream large wood structures to provide benefits to fish habitat and watershed process and function. As a result, the project design does not match the watershed context.

- Planting design has limited density coverage planned and it is unclear whether the proposed maintenance plan for plantings will be effective in restoring the native plant community to a free-to-grow state.
- The application overstates potential benefits to water temperature.

Concluding Analysis

Since this low gradient stream would not normally have boulders present, additional project design detail is needed to understand the design approach and how this design solution is likely to be successful in achieving expected watershed and fish habitat benefits. If the application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide the following information: (1) project designs and explanation on how incorporating boulders into large wood structures will restore watershed process and function at this location and provide fish habitat benefits; and (2) explanation for the chosen planting design and plant stewardship plan, and how it is likely to successfully restore the native plant community to a free-to-grow state.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3009-15655

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Willamette Valley Native Plant Materials Partnership: High Quality Seed for Restoration and Recovery

Applicant: Institute for Applied Ecology

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$239,392

Total Cost: \$893,435

Application Description *(from application)*

Many government agencies, non-profit organizations and private landowners in the Willamette Valley have been working collaboratively to reduce the decline of native species, recover listed species, and create an interconnected landscape of prairie and oak habitat by implementing restoration projects throughout the region. However, one stumbling block to the success of many of these restoration projects has been the limited availability of high quality, native plant materials appropriate for use in these projects. Until recently, availability of locally sourced native seed for restoration work in the Willamette Valley suffered from a lack of coordination. This lack of coordination potentially resulted in over-collection from wild native populations, introduction of inappropriate genetic material into existing populations, duplication of plant materials production efforts, scarcity of critical diversity species, instability for commercial native plant growers, and higher costs for restoration projects. The Willamette Valley Native Plant Materials Partnership was established in 2012 as an ecoregional approach to increasing the availability and diversity of native seed in the Willamette Valley for restoration projects. Current partners include Benton County, Benton SWCD, Cascade Pacific RC&D, City of Corvallis, City of Eugene, Columbia Land Trust, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Friends of Buford Park, Greenbelt Land Trust, Heritage Seedlings, IAE, Kenagy Family Farm, Long Tom Watershed Council, Marys River Watershed Council, McKenzie River Trust, Metro, NRCS, ODFW, ODOT, OPRD, Oregon Seed Certification, Oregon Wholesale Seed Co., Pacific Northwest Natives, Polk SWCD, TNC, Trillium Gardens, USACE, USFWS, Willamalane Park & Recreation District, Willamette Habitat Restoration, and Yamhill SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project builds on previous OWEB Technical Assistance grant investment, the design is well thought out with plans to make efforts self-sustaining by 2020, and the proposed work addresses a need for high quality native plants for Willamette restoration projects.
- Species identified for production are plants not currently produced by nurseries so that efforts will not be in competition with local nursery businesses.
- The project is supported by a diversity of partners and landowners, which is demonstrated by letters of support and match.
- The applicant has relevant experience; therefore, the project is likely to succeed.

Concerns

- Overall project cost is high; the application would be strengthened by additional budget explanation for some of the costs that seem higher compared to other applications (e.g. travel and staff time).

Concluding Analysis

This project is unique because proposed work will benefit restoration efforts completed by other groups. While the project has a high cost, it also provides broad reaching benefits to restoration practitioners for the large scale investment. Developing seed and plant materials from the local seed zone with diverse genetics will increase the quality of plant materials that can increase success and quality of restoration efforts utilizing this material.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$239,392

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$239,392

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3010-15659

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 Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$116,277

Total Cost: \$163,119

Application Description *(from application)*

Old Gimpl Farm lies 1.5 miles southwest of Eugene in Lane County; it supports 23 acres of wet and upland prairie and oak savanna habitat interspersed with seasonal streams and a camas-ash swale. The Spencer Creek site lies 3 miles southwest of Eugene; it supports 80 acres of oak savanna and woodland habitat, and 7 acres of prairie, pond, seasonal stream, dry conifer woodland, and ash swale habitats. Both sites are within a half mile of large public and private lands sites on which LTWC has partnered to restore oak habitat, and within numerous overlapping areas identified as oak habitat conservation priorities. Former and current land uses on both sites have enabled oak habitats to persist. However, the absence of fire and other disturbances has allowed Doug fir, blackberry, Scotch broom and other woody vegetation to establish and compete for resources. This project seeks to complement landowner management actions to restore 10 acres of high-quality oak savanna and prairie, including populations of Kincaid's lupine and shaggy horkelia, and a 2-acre camas-ash swale on Old Gimple Farm; and 45 acres of open oak woodland, and an acre of pond and ash swale habitat on Spencer Creek, where Willamette daisy and Western pond turtle have been observed. The project will incorporate biochar creation in an effort to avoid piling and burning restoration slash. Project partners include two private landowners, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Rivers to Ridges partners, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, two biochar consultants, and Oregon Department of Forestry.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project will restore a diversity of habitats at sites that will benefit Kincaid's lupine and Willamette daisy populations located on the project properties.
- The applicant addressed all recommendations from the previous review team evaluation, which has strengthened the project application by focusing on elements with highest ecological benefits.
- The monitoring project component is improved.
- The applicant has proven experience with similar restoration efforts; therefore, the project is likely to succeed.
- This project provides a landowner outreach opportunity as a demonstration site for integrating wildlife habitat restoration with a profitable working farm.
- Landowner support is demonstrated by letters of support.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

This application demonstrates strengths in proposal clarity, technical soundness, watershed context, applicant capacity, and cost effectiveness. The proposed project also offers opportunity to test a new biochar methodology that could provide lessons for other upland oak habitat restoration practitioners looking for solutions to challenges related to the slash disposal associated with these projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$116,277

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$116,277

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3011-15664

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bear Creek Stream and Floodplain
Restoration at Bennett Vineyards

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$92,344

Total Cost: \$138,640

Application Description *(from application)*

The project is located at Bennett Vineyards and Wine Company, which is just west of Cheshire in Lane County. We are proposing to restore stream, wetland, floodplain, and upland habitat along Bear Creek, which drains into the Long Tom River. Watershed issues to be addressed include simplified instream habitat due to decreased large woody debris abundance, elevated downstream water temperatures due to decreased stream shading, insufficient native turtle and amphibian habitat caused by wetland alterations, and decreased native prairie plant abundance caused by conversion of prairie to agricultural land uses. We will install log jams in Bear Creek to improve instream habitat complexity, plant native trees and shrubs along Bear Creek to restore riparian habitat, install basking logs in a pond to improve native turtle rearing habitat, create suitable native turtle nesting habitat in a one acre zone adjacent to the pond, excavate three shallow seasonal pools to provide nesting and rearing habitat for native amphibians, and install twelve 25'x25' plots of native forbs in the upland portions of the riparian area. Project partners include Bennett Vineyards and Wine Company, CREP (USDA FSA, NRCS, and OWEB), US Army Corps of Engineers, and two consulting biologists.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is comprehensive by restoring a mosaic of multiple habitat types that will benefit a diversity of fish and wildlife species.
- Restoration builds on previous efforts in a Willamette Model Watershed.
- Landowner support is demonstrated by match contribution.
- This project has a high benefit given the amount of restoration that will result from the investment.
- The project provides significant outreach potential because it is located on a winery property with a tasting room, therefore offering a unique touch point for people to learn about restoration efforts integrated with working lands. This also offers opportunity to recruit other wineries to complete similar voluntary restoration efforts.
- The applicant addressed all recommendations from the previous review team evaluation, which has strengthened the project application.
- Applicant has proven experience with similar restoration efforts, therefore the project is likely to succeed.

Concerns

- Long-term stewardship will be challenging given the diversity of habitat types to be maintained after restoration.

Concluding Analysis

This 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.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$92,344

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Increase by \$1,236 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount

\$93,580

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3012-15668

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Clear Creek North Restoration Project

Applicant: Clackamas River Basin Council

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$148,504

Total Cost: \$355,582

Application Description *(from application)*

The Clear Creek North Restoration Project is located on the Clear Creek North Natural Area, which was acquired by Metro in 2015. This 68-acre property includes approximately 3,000 feet of stream frontage on lower Clear Creek in Clackamas County. Headwatered on Goat Mountain (elevation 4,226 feet), Clear Creek is a free-flowing tributary to the Clackamas River, which enters the mainstem at river mile (RM) 8, near Carver, Oregon. Clear Creek is utilized by 11 different species of fish, including a number of federally listed species, including fall Chinook, winter steelhead, and the last significant run of late-run coho in the lower Columbia River Basin. Though Clear Creek exhibits arguably the highest quality habitat of any tributary in the Clackamas Basin, a number of anthropogenic factors limit habitat availability and geomorphic processes throughout the proposed project reach. Further, because of its relatively high existing habitat quality, it holds some of the greatest potential for significant habitat uplift through restoration actions. When compared to historical conditions, the main limiting factors identified in Clear Creek within this parcel include: lack of large wood pieces in the mainstem, lack of low-velocity refuge during flood flows, lack of cover in mainstem pools, limited river complexity, lack of small gravel accumulation in certain areas, minimal year-round off-channel cover and habitat, and disconnected floodplain regions. For the current effort on the Clear Creek North Natural Area property, efforts towards restoring the site to achieve historical baseline condition is the focus. This includes efforts to encourage natural river processes, increase instream wood counts to more closely match historical numbers, remove identified human-created features, and in those areas where river processes are deficient, create habitat that would likely have formed naturally. Project partners include Metro, ODFW and Clackamas River Basin Council

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed restoration will provide benefits to ESA-listed fish, including coho, steelhead and Chinook salmon, in a priority watershed for their recovery.
- The proposed project expands on previous restoration efforts in adjacent areas.
- The project location is in a priority area identified by Clackamas Capacity FIP partners and ODFW, and is a site Metro purchased because of its high habitat value.
- The Watershed Council and Metro have a proven partnership history with previous success on similar projects, which includes lessons learned from an upstream project on Clear Creek.

Concerns

- The project design has a high level of engineering that may not be necessary; however, it is understood the proposed level for technical design is required for Metro to invest in projects.

Concluding Analysis

Restoration in Clear Creek will reach the most number of ESA-listed fish species in a location that has a high response potential to habitat improvements. The high degree of engineering is balanced by the level of priority for this site to ESA-listed fish and potential benefit to the watershed resources that would not otherwise occur.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$148,504

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Increase by \$1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount

\$149,588

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3013-15669

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Willamette Basin Oak Habitat
Restoration Project

Applicant: Lomakatsi Restoration Project

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Polk

OWEB Request: \$250,000

Total Cost: \$390,948

Application Description *(from application)*

This project takes place at four Nature Conservancy sites in the Willamette Valley: the Willow Creek and Coburg Ridge Preserves near Eugene in Lane County, the Noble Oaks Preserve near Willamina in Polk County, and the Yamhill Oaks – Gopher Valley Preserve near Sheridan in Yamhill County. Approximately 90% of the pre-settlement oak savanna and woodland habitat in the Willamette Valley has been lost due to agricultural conversion, residential expansion, loss of historic fire regime, and encroachment of Douglas-fir trees. As a result, many plant and wildlife taxa are considered imperiled, and six have been listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. The conservation and restoration of oak habitats is a priority in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, the NWPCC Willamette Sub-basin Plan, and many local watershed plans. The proposed work at these sites, all of which have been identified as priority locations for oak conservation, will support restoration on 424 acres of oak habitat by addressing the limiting factors of: stand density, conifer encroachment, and presence of invasive weeds. The restoration components to be implemented include: treatment of invasive species, stand thinning with mechanical and hand treatments that target both conifer presence and oak density, habitat enhancement measures such as girdling or topping of conifer trees for wildlife benefit, removal of project biomass with chipping, hauling, or pile burning, and seeding of disturbed soil with appropriate native seed. The project partner is The Nature Conservancy - Oregon Chapter, who is the landowner or conservation easement owner at all proposed project sites.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed project sites are in priority locations for oak habitat and would provide corridors of habitat connectivity with nearby oak sites. Furthermore, restoration action is timely for these sites to restore and protect valuable oak habitat.
- The proposed restoration approach uses an accepted methodology to treat forest structure.
- The project team appears to be qualified for oak habitat restoration given previous restoration work.
- The project sites could potentially provide future public access and outreach opportunities.

Concerns

- The application lacks details needed to effectively evaluate the project and would be strengthened by additional design and context information, such as on-the-ground layout plans and adjacent NRCS

easements that combined with proposed restoration will expand habitat connectivity.

- The project budget has lump sums; the application would be strengthened by additional budget detail to determine whether project costs are reasonable.
- This project has limited partner support documented in the application.

Concluding Analysis

Restoration efforts in oak habitats are a priority for the Willamette Valley; however, the application lacks enough proposal clarity to evaluate the proposed project for technical soundness, watershed context, capacity of the applicant, and cost effectiveness. If the application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide additional project details including: (1) information on work completed to date at project sites, (2) context on why project sites are important (e.g. connection to adjacent conservation efforts, location within a Conservation Opportunity Area, etc.), (3) design information including on-the-ground layout, (4) information on current and future conditions including stocking densities, (5) location of plantings and native seed list expected to be used, and (6) partnerships supporting project implementation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3014-15675

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: ButterFlyWay: Release the Oaks!
Restore the Prairie! Connect the Habitats!

Applicant: Greenbelt Land Trust

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$233,132

Total Cost: \$573,028

Application Description *(from application)*

Greenbelt is proposing to create a 2-mile corridor that will connect Critical Habitat across 280 acres of permanently protected land. The ButterFlyWay will span Bald Hill Farm and Mulkey Ridge Forest, which is located in the Mary's River Watershed, Benton County, between the cities of Philomath and Corvallis. This project will address the loss, degradation, and fragmentation of prairie, savanna, and oak woodland habitat and will focus on two federally listed butterflies: Fender's blue and Taylor's checkerspot. Restoration activities will emphasize invasive plant control, oak release, and savanna and prairie establishment. The ButterFlyWay will create a nectar-trail, rich in native plants, and will open forested habitats to create a corridor to allow for the expansion of our two geographically isolated endangered butterflies. Restoring imperiled species requires regional collaboration. Greenbelt will therefore be working closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Center for Natural Lands Management, and the Wildlife Habitat Restoration Fund.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is a well thought out, ambitious strategy with a realistic projection of actions that can be accomplished in the near-term while incorporating long-term plans to connect together habitats across a broader landscape.
- Project location expands previous restoration efforts, and will benefit federally listed Fender's blue and Taylor's checkerspot.
- Project support is demonstrated by a diversity of partners documented through letters of support and match.
- The applicant has proven experienced with similar restoration efforts; therefore, the project is likely to succeed.
- Project location has a high potential for public outreach on the role of tree harvest in habitat restoration.

Concerns

- The false brome will be challenging to address because of the magnitude of its impact on the project site; however, the applicant provides a fair and reasonable approach for partitioning treatment across the site that will likely have meaningful gains in addressing this noxious weed.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is part of broader strategic plan that has key pieces falling into place that will provide connectivity of priority, high-quality oak habitat across a large landscape scale. This will result in significant ecological benefit at reasonable cost in a priority location for oak habitat restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$233,132

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$233,132

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3015-15600

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Honeyman Creek Fish Passage

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$36,386

Total Cost: \$46,106

Application Description *(from application)*

This project is located on Honeyman Creek, a tributary in the Scappoose subwatershed that drains into Scappoose Bay. Honeyman Creek is located in Columbia County, between Scappoose and St. Helens, approximately 25 miles north of Portland. Honeyman Creek is an important watershed for ESA-listed Lower Columbia River Chinook salmon, coho salmon, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout, and other species occupying similar habitats. Road and access construction for historical logging practices and rural residential development has blocked fish passage through the system. Portions of the creek also show significant signs of incision, floodplain disconnection, and loss of large wood. The SB Watershed Council has corrected five fish passages in the lower portions of the watershed. This project will complete 65% permit-ready engineering designs for the remaining two fish barriers, assess the stream corridor above previously-corrected fish passages, develop enhancement alternatives, and complete a final design for stream function improvements, including a native vegetation plan. Partners include multiple landowners, ODFW, Lower Columbia Engineering, and the SBWC Native Plant Nursery volunteers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project design is technically sound and straight forward in addressing the two remaining fish passage barriers in Honeyman Creek.
- The resulting restoration project will open six miles of upstream spawning habitat that will benefit ESA-listed fish, including coho, Chinook salmon and steelhead.
- This application is well written and clear.

Concerns

- Upstream riparian and instream habitat condition may have limited quality.
- It is unclear from the application how the applicant plans to use proposed survey work; however, it appears from the application that ODFW will provide technical assistance to help the applicant create a restoration plan with this information.

Concluding Analysis

Proposed technical assistance will provide designs to replace the final fish passage barriers in the Honeyman Creek drainage, which will expand ESA-listed fish access to spawning habitat. While the quality of upstream habitat is unclear; proposed technical assistance builds in opportunity to develop future restoration opportunities to improve habitat conditions after fish passage is addressed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$36,386

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$36,386

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3016-15636

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper North Santiam Side Channel
Alternatives Analysis

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$39,632

Total Cost: \$49,658

Application Description *(from application)*

The project is located 10 miles upstream of the Detroit Dam near the town of Idanha. This site has an old 750 foot long historical side-channel that used to connect with the Upper North Santiam River at River Mile 59. The property is currently owned by the Oregon Department of State Lands and is on the south side of the river in Linn County. Past stream cleaning and logging activities have removed riparian conifers and key pieces of large wood in the channel and floodplains. Side-channel development has been limited by the lack of in-stream large wood to re-direct flows off the mainstem and channel hardening and straightening activities from revetment installation. The project implemented from this technical assistance grant will primarily benefit juvenile spring chinook and cutthroat trout by increasing the availability and complexity of off-channel rearing habitat. River Design Group will be contracted to provide the following deliverables: 1) LiDAR datasets, historical air photos & hydrologic data 2) topographic survey with bathymetric data; 3) Hydrologic and hydraulic analysis for 1D HEC-RAS modeling 4) 30/60/90% design plans with cost estimate. Project partners include: ODFW, USFS, USGS, DSL, USACE, The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and two adjacent private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This application is well-prepared and provides a strong presentation of restoration priorities and ecological needs to demonstrate why the proposed restoration action at the project location is important.
- Resulting restoration will benefit watershed process and function and provide habitat for ESA-listed Spring Chinook.
- This project is located two miles downstream from the salmon release site above Detroit Dam; therefore, it will likely be used for fish habitat.
- The project budget has reasonable costs for the proposed tasks.
- Landowner and partner project support is documented by letters of support.

Concerns

- Ecological benefit of restoration efforts is limited until fish passage at the Army Corps dams is fully addressed.

- The mainstem North Santiam River has an incised stream channel; therefore, project design needs to consider how changes in the main channel affect the side-channel. It is unclear from the application how the side-channel design will address challenges associated with maintaining side-channel reconnection in the long term.
- The application would be strengthened by including an alternatives analysis for considering other restoration actions that would benefit watershed process and function and Chinook salmon habitat besides reconnecting the side-channel.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is located two miles downstream from the site ODFW releases Chinook salmon and is in close proximity to stream restoration work completed by USFS; therefore, restored fish habitat has a high likelihood for fish use. Since the side-channel proposed for reconnection is the only side-channel above Detroit Reservoir with an inlet protected by bedrock, it is a reasonable candidate for reconnection. Resulting restoration will provide needed habitat for young ESA-listed fish.

The Review Team recommends a "Fund with Conditions" with the following condition: Resulting design report shall include an alternatives and design analysis that addresses change in bed level in the main stream channel and the impacts of this change to the side-channel, including: (1) what stream elements need to be addressed in a side-channel reconnection restoration project and how the project design addresses them; and (2) spawning/rearing habitat needs in the main channel and side-channel.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$39,632

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Fund with Conditions: Resulting design report shall include an alternatives and design analysis that addresses change in bed level in the main stream channel and the impacts of this change to the side-channel, including: (1) what stream elements need to be addressed in a side-channel reconnection restoration project and how project design addresses them; and (2) spawning/rearing habitat needs in the main channel and side-channel.

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$39,632

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3017-15660

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: North Santiam River Lower Bennett Dam Alternatives Analysis

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Marion

OWEB Request: \$44,354

Total Cost: \$55,504

Application Description *(from application)*

The Technical Assistance grant will be used to complete an alternatives analysis and 30% design for improving fish passage and diversion dam function at the Lower Bennett Dam, located at RM 29 on the North Santiam River near Stayton, Oregon. Lower Bennett Dam is a critical component of the Bennett Dam complex, a surface water diversion network responsible for water delivery to the City of Salem, City of Stayton, and Santiam Water Control District (SWCD) water users. Lower Bennett Dam is approaching the end of its serviceable life and project partners are eager to evaluate alternative options for retrofitting or replacing the dam which is also a partial fish passage barrier, causes sediment deposition that affects diversions, and requires annual maintenance to ensure structural stability. A secondary dam, the Spillway Dam, will also be evaluated for fish passage improvement options. Fish ladders at both dams do not meet current fish passage criteria and may cause passage delays. River Design Group, Inc. is assisting the North Santiam Watershed Council (NSWC) and SWCD with the Project, and will oversee all project phases and be responsible for coordinating with project stakeholders. Project partners include the SWCD, City of Salem, City of Stayton and a team of regional technical experts. OWEB funds will be used for contracted services and for project administration. The proposed project parallels a similar effort the City of Salem is undertaking on Upper Bennett Dam, the upstream dam in the complex. The parallel projects will benefit from information sharing.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application describes project's tie to relevant plans, demonstrating how the project is a high priority need located within an area with active restoration and conservation efforts.
- This design proposal will result in a long-term fix to infrastructure impacting watershed process and function.
- The resulting technical assistance product could build collaborative partnerships and support from other funding sources to implement a future restoration project.
- Watershed benefits likely to result from the proposed project include improved fish passage for ESA-listed fish and improved water quality resulting from a design solution that will eliminate the need for regular channel dredging used to maintain infrastructure.

Concerns

- The application is unclear as to what the technical assistance product will be and how it will result in a restoration project, the number of restoration alternatives that could be considered, how the proposed technical assistance project for Lower Bennett Dam is tied to current work on the Upper Bennett Dam, and the status of the hydropower project connected to this site.
- Contractor cost seems high for the described technical assistance product.
- A diversity of partners will benefit from any planning and implementation efforts at this site; however, the application is unclear on how actively engaged these partners are in supporting restoration efforts that address key watershed limiting factors.

Concluding Analysis

Proposed technical assistance is an important first step for this location that is extremely complex due to the many factors at play, including drinking water and irrigation infrastructure, stream dynamics, and ESA-listed fish species. If the application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide: (1) additional information describing contractor costs; (2) clear project objectives for expected technical assistance outcomes; (3) detailed description of technical assistance product and how it will result in a restoration project; and (4) documentation of active and engaged partner contribution and support for a product that addresses watershed limiting factors.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3018-15661

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: NCUWC 10-Year Restoration Action Plan

Applicant: North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$36,969

Total Cost: \$47,643

Application Description *(from application)*

The North Clackamas Urban Watersheds Council (NCUWC) proposes to hire an environmental consulting firm to assist in the development and adoption of a ten-year restoration action plan, developed in cooperation with regional partners and the public. The restoration action plan will build off of past assessment and monitoring efforts to identify restoration and project priorities for the Council's highly developed yet ecologically significant watersheds. The plan will not only focus on habitat and fish recovery on NCUWC's most prominent watershed, Kellogg/Mt. Scott, but will also provide a framework for NCUWC to identify priorities across the four tributaries in our service area which all drain directly into the Lower Willamette River, and identify projects and opportunities for the main stem of the Willamette River downstream of the Clackamas River and upstream of Johnson Creek. NCUWC's service area is known to provide crucial rearing habitat for migrating juvenile fish including this often-overlooked reach of the Lower Willamette River. However, the Council currently does not have a framework allowing for prioritization of projects along the creeks or at their confluences with the Willamette. Confirmed and pending partners for this project include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oak Lodge Water Services District, Clackamas County Water Environment Services, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, the City of Milwaukie, the City of Gladstone, and the City of Happy Valley. OWEB funds will be used for consulting services, staff salaries, printing, and grant administration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed technical assistance engages a diversity of appropriate partners.
- Future restoration actions will benefit ESA-listed fish.

Concerns

- Overall project cost is high compared to similar technical assistance projects given the smaller watershed size and scale. Application would be strengthened by more information explaining the consultant costs and how those rates were determined.

- The application lacks detail and is unclear on the following: (1) what relevant plans will be addressed; (2) how technical assistance will prioritize restoration opportunities to move the highest impact restoration projects forward over opportunistic projects; (3) what the data management tool is and how it will be used as part of the proposed project; and (4) what capacity the applicant has for implementing restoration recommendations from the technical assistance.

Concluding Analysis

Proposed technical assistance provides opportunity for the applicant to build on previous outreach efforts toward developing restoration projects. The application lacks enough proposal clarity to evaluate the proposed project for technical soundness, watershed context, capacity of the applicant, and cost effectiveness.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

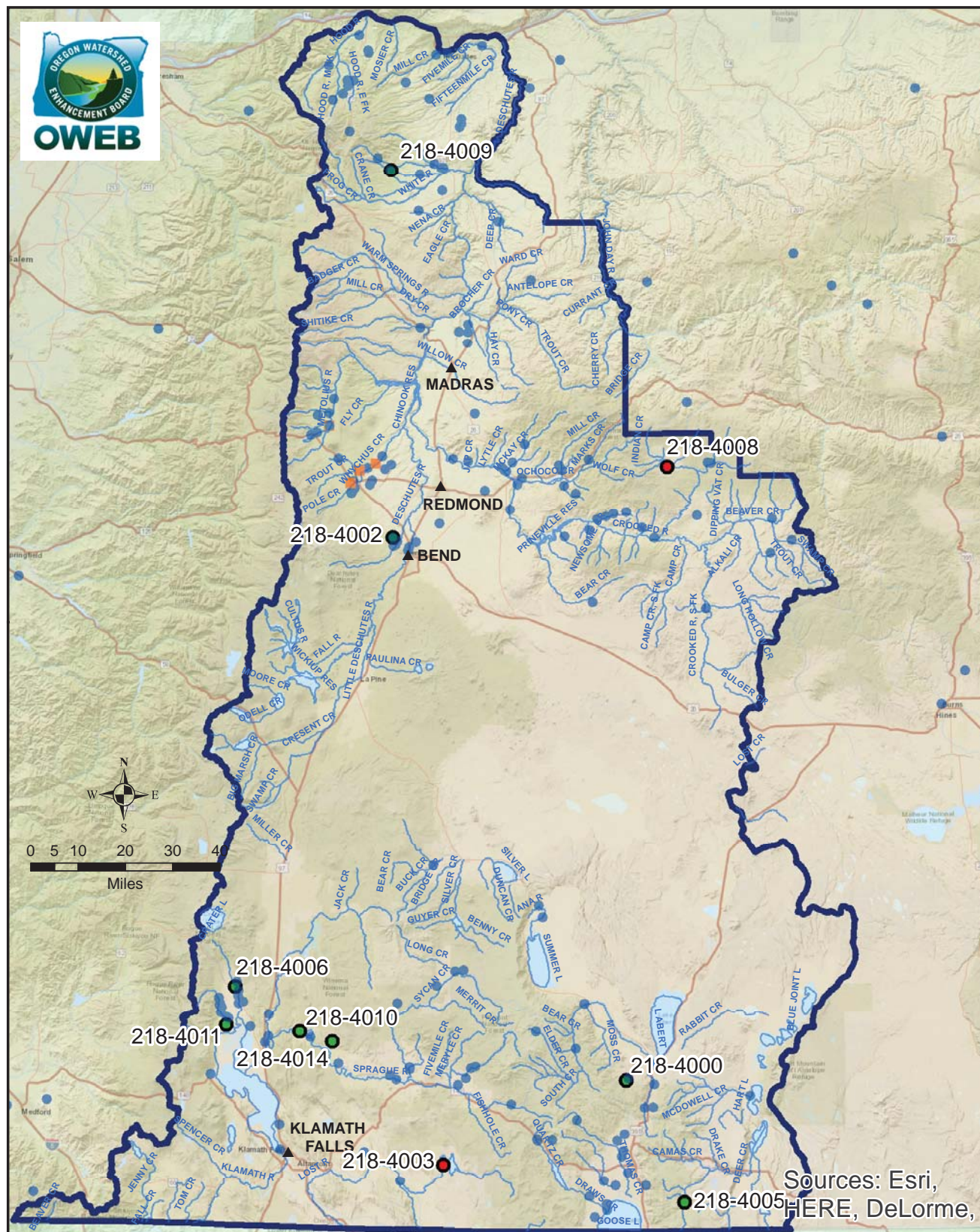
Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Central Oregon - Region 4 May 2017 Application Funding Status



Sources: Esri,
HERE, DeLorme,

Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2017SpringCycle\Projects\Region4_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2017Spring.mxd

ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Int WKID: 2952 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wills Sept. 2017

Spring 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- ~ Streams
- ~ Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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(503) 986-0178
<http://oregon.gov/OWEB/>

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Region 4 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration and Technical Assistance - Spring 2017 Grant Offering

Region 4 - Central Oregon					
Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-4005	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Upper Deep Creek Fish Passage Project	This project will restore fish passage at two barriers along Upper Deep Creek which will provide access to 20 miles of habitat upstream. Deep Creek is located in the Warner Mountains and drains into Crump Lake.	360,071	Lake
218-4000	Lakeview SWCD	Willow Creek Wetland Habitat Enhancement	This project will restore one mile of Willow Creek for improved fish and wildlife habitat. Willow Creek is a tributary to the Lower Chewaucan River near Lake Abert.	364,529	Lake
218-4006	Trout Unlimited Inc	Annie Creek Fish Passage and Screening Design and Implementation	This project will provide fish passage and screening at four diversions on Lower Annie Creek, a tributary to the Upper Wood River.	209,538	Klamath
218-4009	Wasco SWCD	Threemile Joint Fish Screen	This project will compile two existing points of diversion into one, provide fish passage and screening, and permanently protect 1 cfs of streamflow to Threemile Creek, a tributary to the White River.	243,319	Wasco
218-4002	Tumalo Irrigation District	Tumalo Feed Canal Phase V	This project will pipe 5,500ft. of open ditch canal that will allow the District to permanently protect 1.83 cfs in Tumalo Creek and 494 acre feet to Crescent Creek, both of which are senior water rights.	400,000	Deschutes
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,577,457	

Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-4008	Crooked River WC	Big Summit Prairie Restoration Phase 1	This project proposes passive and active restoration of fish and wildlife habitat at Big Summit Prairie, which will include the installation of native plants, roughened riffles, new diversion and fish screen, and livestock fencing.	488,613	Crook
218-4003	Klamath SWCD	Gerber Watershed Enhancement Project	This project will conduct Western juniper removal and Ponderosa pine thinning on 3,264 acres of private land in the Gerber Reservoir watershed to promote wildlife habitat and reduce wildfire threats.	328,965	Klamath
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				2,395,035	

Region 4 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration and Technical Assistance - Spring 2017 Grant Offering

Restoration Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
218-4001	Trout Unlimited Inc	Upper Loosley Fish Screen	103,073	Klamath
218-4004	Crooked River WC	Cold Springs Ranch Instream Restoration Project Phase 1	351,787	Crook
218-4007	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	KV Bar Ranch Fish Screen and Upper Floodplain Restoration	220,059	Lake

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-4011	Trout Unlimited Inc	Agency Lake Wetland Complex - Restoration Planning	This planning grant will account for looking at 14,000 acres of private and public land at Agency Lake with the focus of improving wetland and floodplain access and function.	50,000	Klamath
218-4014	Trout Unlimited Inc	Upper Klamath Basin Fish Passage Inventory and Prioritization	This project will develop an inventory, assessment, and prioritization of fish barriers in the entire Upper Klamath Basin for all native fish species.	28,049	Klamath
218-4010	Klamath Watershed Partnership	East Hills/Lobert Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project	This planning grant will support outreach, workshops, and forest management plan development to ultimately implement forest thinning and restoration treatments to over 19,000 acres to reduce wildfire severity and improve wildlife habitat.	33,058	Klamath
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				111,107	

Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
NONE				
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT			111,107	

Region 4 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration and Technical Assistance - Spring 2017 Grant Offering

Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
218-4012	Crooked River WC	Crooked River Water Quality Evaluation & Report	22,098	Crook
218-4013	Trout Unlimited Inc	Lower Threemile and Crane Creek Reconnection and Restoration Design	50,000	Klamath

Region 4 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	1,688,564	19%
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Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	8,788,376	
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Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4000-15595

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Willow Creek Wetland Habitat Enhancement

Applicant: Lakeview SWCD

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$363,485

Total Cost: \$670,052

Application Description *(from application)*

The project area on Willow Creek is located approximately 8 miles west of Valley Falls, OR a community in Lake County. Willow Creek is a tributary of the Chewaucan River. The project area is a wet meadow complex within Sage Grouse Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH or Core). Wet meadows are critical for the brood rearing stage of the Sage Grouse life cycle, as well as numerous other wildlife and water bird species. The meadows within the project area have been incised, which has stopped the creek from accessing the historic flood plain. Stream incision also lowers the groundwater table of the meadows, leading to loss of wet meadow habitat. Incision of these meadows has reduced the meadow's capacity to hold water and provide a moderating influence on late season and drought flows. This project intends to return the stream to an elevation which will allow it to access the historic floodplain thereby returning the system to resilient process based ecosystem. This will be achieved using the pond and plug restoration method, this method fills (plug) the existing incised channel with material from the meadow (pond). In 2016 the U.S.F.W.S. in conjunction with Lakeview SWCD hired the firm Stream Wise to conduct a survey and design alternatives for the project site. The full report is uploaded as "Willow Creek 4 Sites Wetland Enhancement". Full design, alternatives, photos etc... are included in the document. Our budget has been built using the construction budgets from this document, with additional project costs added. Project partners include two landowners, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Lakeview SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project designs are complete and construction ready.
- Reconnecting Willow Creek to its historic floodplain will have numerous positive ecological effects for water quality, late season surface flow, and fish and wildlife habitat.
- The project as designed should increase habitat availability for sage-grouse, particularly brood rearing habitat.
- Floodplain reconnection along this stretch of Willow Creek is likely to result in increased wetland function.
- Landowners are committed, actively engaged in land management, and able to respond to issues if they arise.
- Reviewers appreciated the scale and dimension details that were depicted on the site photos in the attached restoration plan.

Concerns

- As depicted on submitted maps, the borrow area for pond and plug method is potentially located in a wetland. It would have been helpful if the application addressed any negative impacts and mitigation involved with material excavation.
- Landowner match was low given scale and anticipated benefits, no cash match.
- Project budget had several large lump sums making it challenging for reviewers to discern cost appropriateness.
- Reviewers noted the potential challenges associated with permitting, given the complexities of removal and fill near potential wetlands. The application lacked discussion on permit acquisition approach and current status.
- There was no grazing plan included in the application, it would have been helpful to understand what grazing practices will be employed post project to ensure the ecological outcomes stated in the goals and objectives for the project will be met long term.

Concluding Analysis

The project will reconnect roughly one mile of Willow Creek to a historic channel allowing for floodplain reconnection and inundation in this low gradient wet meadow complex environment. The project approach is a pond and plug method, filling in the current incised channel and creating a series of ponds which will be activated during spring runoff and maintain storage. The project is located within a priority area of conservation (PAC) for sage-grouse, providing critical brood rearing habitat adjacent to shrub steppe breeding habitats. The design team also leads the construction (design – build approach), and has completed a number of pond and plug projects in similar landscapes. The reviewers did note the lack of detail describing the permitting needs and approaches with regulatory agencies. In addition, there were concerns about potential wetland loss from excavation. These complexities may require a wetland delineation, which can add unanticipated costs and time for the project. However, given the anticipated benefits of wet meadow storage and sage-grouse habitat enhancement, the review team recommends this project for funding with the condition that the grantee submit a grazing plan, including a description of how riparian areas will be managed and how grazing will affect sage-grouse habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

2 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$363,485

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Fund with conditions. Submit a grazing plan, including a description of how riparian areas will be managed and how grazing will affect sage grouse habitat prior to first payment.

Increase by \$1,044 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$364,529

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4001-15598

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Loosley Fish Screen

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$103,073

Total Cost: \$190,633

Application Description *(from application)*

1) The Wood River originates from springs north of Fort Klamath, Klamath County and is a primary tributary of Agency Lake in the upper Klamath basin (UKB). 2) The Wood River has been heavily impacted by a century of agricultural land use. Numerous irrigation diversions were constructed along the Wood River channel to provide water to an extensive network of irrigation canals. Although Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) installed fish screens on a portion of the diversions, some diversions remain unscreened; therefore, native fishes are at risk of becoming entrained in the irrigation infrastructure. 3) The project proposes to install a fish screen on a 14 cfs diversion on the Wood River to eliminate entrainment of native fishes, including Endangered Species Act-listed Bull Trout and ODFW Sensitive Species-listed Redband Trout. 4) Project partners include ODFW, USFWS, USFS, TU, and the landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project location is critical habitat for ESA Threatened Bull trout.
- Canal screening at this point of diversion is a high priority for ODFW.
- US Fish and Wildlife service match funding is secured (listed as pending at time of application).
- The project area is suitable habitat for potential salmonid reintroduction, should downstream dam removal on the Klamath River proceed.
- The landowner is committed to the goals of the project.
- The project appears cost effective.
- The purchase of spare parts in advance is forward thinking.

Concerns

- The application did not include project designs.
- Without project designs, the reviewers felt it was challenging to understand the appropriateness of the proposed project costs.
- There is a lack of understanding of current fish use in the canal system. This information is needed to evaluate the project.
- While the landowner who owns the land at the point of diversion is supportive, there was no indication whether the water users are supportive. This information would be helpful to know.

Concluding Analysis

This project would screen a 14 cfs point of diversion on the Upper Wood River to eliminate the potential of native fish entrainment in associated canal ditches. The location of the diversion is a top priority for fisheries managers, and aids the recovery of listed Bull trout. A variety of habitat restoration actions and fish screening has taken place in adjacent Sun and Annie Creeks, nearby tributaries of the Upper Wood River. This project would complement those actions. The project has strong partners and match. Nevertheless, the lack of any designs was troubling for the reviewers. It is challenging to review and evaluate a project that has no design or technical detail regarding the proposed solution to the problem. The reviewers see the merit and ecological value in screening this point of diversion. The applicant is encouraged to either apply for technical assistance funding, or resubmit a restoration proposal with design details.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4002-15615

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Tumalo Feed Canal Phase V

Applicant: Tumalo Irrigation District

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$750,000

Total Cost: \$3,407,213

Application Description *(from application)*

Tumalo Creek and the Deschutes River originate in the Cascade mountains in Central Oregon. Both suffer from low summer streamflows that have been identified as a major factor limiting fish habitat and water quality in the Deschutes River and tributaries. In addition to low flows, Tumalo Irrigation District (TID) experiences major loss of water due to basalt canals. TID has made a significant commitment to the health of the watershed and water conservation through the Tumalo Feed Canal Conservation Project. This phase of the project will eliminate 5,500 length-feet of the open Tumalo Feed Canal into leak-free piping; eliminating seepage losses and creating new senior instream water rights in Tumalo Creek and the Deschutes River during the summer and Crescent Creek, the Little Deschutes River and the Upper Deschutes River during the winter. OWEB funds will be used to match Federal and District funds to purchase materials and support the implementation of the conserved water transfer. This project is the fifth phase of a multi-phase effort to pipe the entire Tumalo Feed Canal. Ultimately, this project will permanently protect 1.83 cfs of summer stream flow to Tumalo Creek and approximately 494.77 AF of storage releases to Crescent Creek, the Little Deschutes and Deschutes River placing 100 percent of the publicly funded water instream. The fully piped Tumalo Feed Canal with all phases in place will return 11.80 cfs to Tumalo Creek and the Deschutes River and 2,732 AF of storage releases to Crescent Creek.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant addressed previous review team comments by outlining ecological outcomes and anticipated conserved water savings in a clear manner.
- The anticipated conserved water savings will have benefits to the ESA threatened spotted frog.
- The applicant has proven its ability and commitment to conserving water instream.
- The project builds on prior investment, which cumulatively will improve flow and temperature regimes instream.

Concerns

- High cost for project deliverables.
- Bid solicitation information in project timeline was confusing to understand.

Concluding Analysis

This project is a resubmittal by the applicant. This current phase includes 5,500 ft. of open ditch canal piping which will permanently protect 1.83 cfs to Tumalo Creek, and approximately 494 acre feet to Crescent Creek, both of which are senior water rights. The funding request was solely for pipe materials and construction; the reviewers noted and appreciated that. The applicant has a proven track record of filing and receiving conserved water allocation certificates of water savings through the Oregon Water Resources Department. The cumulative impact of previous phases has made a significant impact on stream flow in Tumalo Creek and the Upper Deschutes Basin. As with previous phases, the financial request to OWEB was high. That said, the reviewers recognized the significant amount of match contributed to the project along with the high cost the District is tasked with in purchasing and installing 84" HDPE pipe. The review team felt that the project did not have a favorable cost/benefit ratio at its full request of \$750,000; however, reviewers acknowledged the significant ecological benefits of this project, and recommends funding at a reduced amount of \$400,000.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced

Review Team Priority

5 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$400,000

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Fund with conditions. Reduce budget to \$400,000

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced

Staff Recommended Amount

\$400,000

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4003-15617

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Gerber Watershed Enhancement Project

Applicant: Klamath SWCD

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$328,965

Total Cost: \$1,432,764

Application Description *(from application)*

The Gerber Watershed Enhancement Project area encompasses the Gerber Watershed and additional portions of the Upper Lost River Watershed (HUC 10-1801020404, -05,-06) east of Klamath Falls in Klamath County, Oregon. Over the past 100 years, fire suppression and livestock management have resulted in overstocked forests and juniper encroaching into areas historically dominated by grasses and shrubs. Throughout the Upper Lost River Watershed these changes have impacted watershed health through altered nutrient and water cycling and availability, diminished ecosystem diversity, and increased vulnerability to disease, insects, wildfire, and competition. Woody biomass removal in overstocked/encroachment areas restores species diversity, improves stand resiliency, decreases wildfire potential, improves wildlife and range forage quality and quantity, and increases water yield. The Gerber Watershed Enhancement Project will leverage more than two years of outreach and planning by the NRCS and ODF to reduce overstocked forests and western juniper density on 3,264 acres of private lands. This private lands work will complement more than 60,000 acres of juniper clearing and other forest thinning on public land by the BLM and USFS in the region during the last 20 years (see Map 1). By increasing the connectivity of treated areas, management is more sustainable and effective. Corridors spanning ownership boundaries will enhance habitat available to sagebrush-steppe species, including the Interstate population of mule deer that can use this area year-round. This project is the result of collaborative efforts among Klamath SWCD, private landowners, Conservation Groups (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Mule Deer Foundation), USDA, NRCS, the Klamath Watershed Partnership, BLM, USFWS Partners Program, Oregon Department of Forestry, and other state and federal agencies working toward a common vision of improved watershed health.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has a strong set of partners and match contributions that are secured.
- Proposed forest management on private lands will complement previously completed forest management activities on public lands.
- The project area is a high priority for conservation of mule deer winter range.
- The approach is at a landscape and watershed scale, working across boundaries.
- There are fish species of concern in adjacent water bodies, with improved upland conditions; streams are likely to receive ancillary benefits.

Concerns

- There was no detail, description, or value provided for \$1,500 effectiveness monitoring request.
- Invasive annual grasses were present, dense in some areas.
- There was no weed management plan provided. Past review team comments for this project specifically noted the importance of how invasive species would be addressed and desired a plan for weed management during and after project completion. The prior evaluation also requested a grazing plan, which was not included in this application.
- Landowner hourly rate used for match seemed high.
- It was unclear how priority areas for treatment were selected.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a resubmittal. Since the last submission, the project scope and partners have grown significantly and represents a landscape and watershed scale approach. In total, 3,264 acres on private lands are proposed for treatment, which will complement previous work done by BLM, USFS, and other private landowners. Momentum for this scale of forest restoration in Klamath County is growing, and will likely be the continuing trend. While the cost per acre for treatment seems high, the terrain and accessibility drive the higher costs. It was also noted that forest management objectives for mule deer are different than those for sage-grouse; the application was unclear on specific removal densities for the treatment units. Post-project grazing was discussed, and the landowner will work with the NRCS to visit the site annually post-treatment to determine the appropriate time frame for allowing livestock grazing. The proposal lacked a weed management plan, which would have been helpful given the presence of invasive annual grasses. Specifically, the reviewers are interested to know how invasive annual grasses will be managed during and post-treatment to ensure uplift in native perennial bunch grasses, forbs, and shrubs. This component is an essential key to a successful application.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

7 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$328,965

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Do not fund, falls below funding line.

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4004-15622

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Cold Springs Ranch Instream
Restoration Project Phase 1

Applicant: Crooked River WC

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$351,787

Total Cost: \$502,997

Application Description *(from application)*

The proposed project is located at river mile 21 on the South Fork of the Crooked River, the primary tributary to the mainstem Crooked River and one of the largest spring fed river systems in the Crooked River watershed. The project is in Crook County approximately 65 miles southeast of Prineville, Oregon. The project is focused on instream restoration for redband trout addressing the limiting factors of habitat fragmentation and connectivity of aquatic habitats due to impaired fish passage. The project will implement fish passage, fish screens, and irrigation system improvements at one point of diversion. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) funds will be used to implement the fish passage and screening activities, including screening ~12 cfs of diverted flow and fish passage at a 4' high flashboard irrigation diversion structure that blocks all fish passage. This is Phase 1 of implementation, with 2 points of diversion planned in Phase 2 and 3 in Phase 3. Completion of Phases 1-3 will provide access to ~23 miles of habitat upstream and ~20 miles downstream in the South Fork of the Crooked River and screen ~18 cfs of water rights. This project builds upon the successful completion of a Technical Assistance grant from to complete the design and engineering for all 6 irrigation diversions in the reach. This project will be implemented with match funding and support from the Oregon Water Resources Department and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Addressing fish passage and screening at this project site will be beneficial for native redband trout, a species of concern for ODFW.
- The proposed phased approach of addressing all six barriers is appropriate and appreciated by the reviewers.
- Improved water delivery should result in improved benefits from late season flow.
- The project site is adjacent to priority areas for conservation (PAC) for sage-grouse; this project's flow benefit should increase habitat availability.
- The project is the result of a previous completed technical assistance grant that looked at all six diversions. The current diversion for treatment in this proposal included 30% designs.
- The design team is experienced and has a good track record of success.
- Reviewers appreciated the well-described project budget.

Concerns

- The calculated water savings from irrigation piping are not being conserved instream through any leasing program or certificate process. This section of stream has a history of going dry; protecting water instream would be ecologically beneficial.
- According to site photos, the leaky canal adjacent to the stream is leaking directly back into the stream. Given this hydrologic condition, the reviewers saw little ecological value in irrigation piping.
- No landowner match was provided.
- Project cost for passage and screening for one diversion seemed high, compared to other projects of similar scope and scale.
- Designs included were only 30%, with a \$30,000 lump sum budget for design completion; details are needed to describe how these funds will be spent.
- There is a lack of project partners.
- A letter from the ODFW stream shop documenting their support would have been beneficial, particularly given the site's location in a non-anadromous salmonid stream.

Concluding Analysis

This restoration project is a result of previous technical assistance funding to address fish passage and screening at six diversions on one ranch along the Upper South Fork of the Crooked River. The one diversion proposed for fixing includes 30% designs; this proposal would finish engineering and construct fish passage and screening. Irrigation piping was included as match through an Oregon Water Resource Department grant that was pending at the time of review. The irrigation piping would conserve roughly 2 cfs, however there was no commitment to conserve this water instream through any leasing or certificate process. Reviewers noted that there is little ecological value in the proposed irrigation piping given the site photos showing water from the adjacent leaky canal going back into the stream. The Upper South Fork of Crooked River is a redband trout stream and a priority for ODFW. The reviewers noted other natural resource improvements the landowner is participating in and appreciated these efforts. The project's impact to local fisheries is strong and was highlighted by the reviewers; however, the irrigation piping component doesn't demonstrate an ecological benefit. Therefore, the project was not recommended for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount \$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4005-15628

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Deep Creek Fish Passage Project

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$359,007

Total Cost: \$506,007

Application Description *(from application)*

The Upper Deep Creek Fish Passage project is located in between Lakeview and Adel in Lake County, OR. The project area is located in Big Valley, a 5500 acre high elevation meadow privately owned ranch. Deep Creek and six tributaries headwater on the Fremont-Winema National Forest (USFS) and flow through Big Valley. These streams, which provide approximately 50 miles of high quality habitat for Warner Redband trout, a state listed sensitive species, were modified for agricultural purposes as early as the late 1800s. Diversion weirs prevent fish passage to the public headwater reaches that contain high quality spawning and rearing habitat. In 2014, the Lake County Umbrella Watershed (LCUWC) used OWEB funding to conduct a stream reconnaissance and fish passage assessment of the Upper Deep Creek watershed. The reconnaissance report provided an overview of the assessed streams, characterized limiting factors, and prioritized fish passage projects. This project proposal will address the two highest priority fish passage barriers in Big Valley, the Big Valley Diversion and the Upper Deep Creek Diversion. Both barriers are complete upstream fish passage barriers. Proposed fish passage designs will address the barrier heights and hydraulic conditions the diversions create. Future passage will be undertaken by USFS land to address culvert barriers on upper Deep Creek and tributary streams. Project partners include LCUWC, Robinson Ranch, USFS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. BLM, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Western Native Trout Initiative, and Resource Advisory Committee.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project is a result of previous planning and prioritization for the Upper Deep Creek subbasin.
- Passage addressed at these two sites will open up approximately 20 miles of quality habitat upstream.
- This project will be complemented by planned work by the USFS to address fish barriers upstream, allowing for the 20 miles of habitat connectivity.
- Project match is secured.
- There are strong letters of support for the project.
- The project has clearly defined goals and objectives.
- The landowner is an active steward and is committed to improving the natural resource values on the ranch.

Concerns

- The project only addresses passage; no screens on either diversion are proposed. The application and overall project would have been stronger if screening was proposed.
- The Upper Deep Creek stream channel through the meadow is channelized and straightened; reviewers questioned the quality of habitat and the longevity of its channelized form.

Concluding Analysis

This restoration project will address two irrigation diversions by providing fish passage at both to access approximately 20 miles of habitat upstream in the Upper Deep Creek subbasin of the Warner Mountains. One diversion has a 65% design, the other a 10% design. This proposal will allow for completing the engineering and constructing passage at both locations. This work will be complemented by planned USFS culvert replacements upstream on the forest. The strong match and letters of support express the need and value of providing passage at both locations. The reviewers appreciated the landowner's commitment to stewarding for natural resources on the ranch. The applicant has a strong track record of completing similar projects as proposed. The channelized reach of Upper Deep Creek through the ranch concerned reviewers given the lack of habitat complexity; however, this reach acts more like a migration corridor to high quality habitat upstream. Additionally, the channelized nature of the creek is artificial and the longevity of its current course is uncertain; future flood events could have negative impacts on the bypass fish channel. Reviewers expressed concern over the fact that no screening will be associated with providing passage, and suggest the applicant plan for screening in the future.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$359,007

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Increase by \$1,064 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount

\$360,071

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4006-15630

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Annie Creek Fish Passage and Screening Design and Implementation

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$208,394

Total Cost: \$445,405

Application Description *(from application)*

Annie Creek is located at the northern end of the Wood River Valley, in Klamath County near the town of Ft. Klamath. It originates from springs and snowmelt in Crater Lake National Park and is a tributary to the Wood River. Although the upstream portion of Annie Creek is in pristine condition, the downstream reach is on private property and has been degraded by decades of agricultural land use. There are eight irrigation diversion structures along the length of this reach that are barriers to upstream fish passage and pose a significant entrainment threat. Native bull trout (federally listed as threatened) have been expatriated from Annie Creek since the 1980s, however there is a recovering bull trout population in neighboring Sun Creek and Annie Creek is the top priority for bull trout reintroduction efforts. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Klamath Recovery Unit Implementation Plan for Bull Trout (Recovery Plan), identifies "Connectivity Impairment" as one of the primary threats to bull trout recovery in Annie Creek. The Recovery Plan identifies passage improvement and screening to address "Connectivity Impairment" on Annie Creek as critical bull trout recovery actions. To implement this recovery action Trout Unlimited along with partners from the USFWS, ODFW, the USFS and Crater Lake National Park (CLNP) are working to implement passage and screening restoration projects throughout the Annie Creek watershed. In this application TU is requesting funding to design and implement fish passage and screening improvement projects at the four lowest diversion structures in the Annie Creek system. These projects will reduce entrainment at four irrigation diversions totaling 25 cfs and will provide year round access to 3.1 miles of additional habitat that is currently blocked by the 4 passage barriers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Addressing four barriers will be important for habitat connectivity of ESA threatened bull trout and redband trout.
- The project location is adjacent to previous completed restoration on Annie Creek, Sun Creek, and Upper Wood River.
- The landowner is committed to the project and is one of the water users for the diversions.
- Addressing these four barriers will demonstrate use and value for landowner consideration on the remaining four barriers upstream that are not part of this proposal.
- Upper Annie Creek has been shown to be a good candidate for steelhead habitat, should anadromous species have future access to the Upper Klamath Basin.

Concerns

- The proposal lacks design details on all four diversions.
- Given the lack of designs, the reviewers had a hard time discerning the funding request appropriateness, particularly with regard to the budget.
- The proposal lacked a letter of support and match from the landowner.
- There was no mention of operation and maintenance for the proposed new diversions; reviewers would have appreciated how this would be addressed once installed.

Concluding Analysis

This restoration project will address the lower four diversions on Annie Creek by providing fish passage and screening. The project will complement previous restoration completed along Annie Creek, Sun Creek and the Upper Wood River. Annie Creek has potential as a bull trout refuge; providing fish passage and screening will aid in their recovery in the Upper Klamath Lake basin. The correction of these four lower barriers could stand as successful demonstration for the landowners upstream where four barriers still remain that are not part of this project. While the lack of designs made it challenging to justify the costs of restoration, the design is currently underway, and the applicant is working with a well-qualified consultant with a proven track record. The applicant's budget is based on previous fish passage solutions in similar landscapes and stream size. The partners list is diverse and match contributions are both secured and pending. The lack of designs at the time of application did present a challenge to review team members; however, given the commitment and track record from the applicant and the landowner working with a qualified consultant the project is recommended for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$208,394

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Increase by \$1,144 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount

\$209,538

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4007-15638

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: KV Bar Ranch Fish Screen and Upper Floodplain Restoration

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$220,059

Total Cost: \$301,803

Application Description *(from application)*

The KV Bar Ranch is located in southern Lake County, Oregon just west of Lakeview. The project area addresses the fishery and floodplain of Muddy Creek where it passes through the ranch. Muddy Creek, flows into Goose Lake in the wetter years. However, in dry years the creek does not make it to the lake, and Junipers Reservoir on KV Bar Ranch serves as the fishery nursery. The requested funds will be utilized to install a fish screen on the reservoir outlet to prevent fish from migrating down and out of the reservoir where they would be isolated from the perennial nursery. Matching funds are being utilized to restore the flood-irrigation infrastructure and Muddy Creek channel, ultimately restoring floodplain hydrology that has been altered since the building of the reservoir. This will be valuable for the wetter years when the fish are able to pass down from the reservoir over the spillway and utilize lower Muddy Creek and reach Goose Lake. This is critical for maintaining genetic diversity in the Goose Lake Basin redband trout population, among other native species of interest. The Shine Brother Ranches, Ducks Unlimited, Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife are partnering on this phase of the greater KV Bar Ranch restoration effort.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal included photos and letters of support, addressing previous review team comments.
- Given the poor conditions in Muddy Creek downstream of the reservoir, the proposed solution of screening to keep fish in the reservoir seems appropriate.
- This project would complement past restoration actions in the headwaters of the Muddy Creek basin.
- The project would provide improved water management that could potentially benefit both wildlife and agriculture.

Concerns

- There is low ecological value and return for a high cost project.
- Even though the screening approach is valid for this project, the overall fisheries value is low.

- The wildlife benefit was challenging to understand; the proposal could have benefited from a clearer description of how this would occur in the context of the project.
- No landowner match is provided.
- The application discusses the desire to allow fish to spill over into Muddy Creek, but also discusses the degraded habitat conditions of the Muddy Creek channel. The proposal could have benefited from a better description of how the operation of the spillway is beneficial to the fisheries.

Concluding Analysis

This project is a resubmittal, and is also a result of a previously funded technical assistance grant. The application seeks funding to install a fish screen at the outlet of the reservoir, in addition to replacing a dilapidated water control structure used for irrigation diversion. The fisheries value is challenging to understand, given the Muddy Creek channel below the reservoir is inhospitable to aquatic life most of the time. The proposal also encourages spillway operations that promote fish movement, which seems to contradict statements made regarding poor habitat quality and stream flow below the reservoir. Further elaboration on the fisheries benefit of this operation would be valuable to understand. The application states that 54 acres of improved flood irrigation delivery will improve wildlife productivity, but fails to provide detail on the importance of this acreage to wildlife. There is no landowner contribution; however, the landowner will benefit greatly from improved operations and water delivery. The overall project provides little ecological value as planned, and because of this, could not be recommended for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4008-15662

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Big Summit Prairie Restoration
Phase 1

Applicant: Crooked River WC

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$488,613

Total Cost: \$767,403

Application Description *(from application)*

This project is the first phase of restoration property owned by Waibel Ranches on Big Summit Prairie (BSP) in Crook County approximately 40 miles east of Prineville. BSP is a low gradient, wide valley, which acts as a catchment for many of the short, steep streams which drain off the surrounding higher topography of the Ochoco Mountains: in total, there are 17 named streams which flow onto BSP, 6 of which flow onto BSP on the Waibel Ranch. The North Fork Crooked River (NFCR) enters the prairie from the south, joining many of these streams and increasing exponentially in size, before flowing east from the prairie back onto Ochoco National Forest land. Past management activities have resulted in an incised channel that is disconnected from its floodplain. In addition, the current irrigation diversion on the North Fork Crooked River does not provide fish passage or screening or the ability to actively control water intake through the use of water control structures. Lastly, the ranch has several riparian pastures (with plans in progress to create more), but the riparian pastures cannot be managed as such because there are no off-stream sources of water. Proposed activities will improve fish passage and screening, instream habitat, and floodplain connectivity on the North Fork of the Crooked River. Additionally, water developments and fencing will improve the grazing management within the project area, allowing for better opportunities for passive restoration. OWEB and Waibel Ranch funds will be used for all aspects of the project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The phased approach is strategic, appropriate, and well thought out.
- The grazing plan is detailed and is carefully thought out. The reviewers appreciated the inclusion of grass bank areas for utilization while other areas are on rest.
- The landowner is committed and has contributed a great deal of match.
- Improved hydrology and function of this portion of Big Summit Prairie will provide great benefit to the Crooked River system downstream.
- Restoring meadow hydrology and late season surface flow would improve habitat conditions.

Concerns

- Reviewers question whether the installed riffles would encourage beaver presence and activity; there

was little information on how this would occur.

- The project lacks partners.
- The project provides planting details, but no map to show where the plantings will be installed on the landscape, and how they complement other proposed treatments. There was also concern regarding the lack of plant stewardship, particularly given the large amount of fencing with livestock and elk use in the area.
- There was some question as to whether the installation of instream riffles would provide the stated restored hydrological function and habitat transformation to a wet meadow.
- Costs associated with well developments (\$10k each) seemed high given that the landowner has a rig and equipment. More detail regarding all aspects of well drilling costs would have been helpful.

Concluding Analysis

This project is a resubmittal, and is a result of a previous technical assistance proposal that produced a restoration plan for Big Summit Prairie. This application is phase one in a three phase project to promote passive restoration through improved livestock management and fencing, restored floodplain connectivity and wet meadow hydrology, and improved fish passage and habitat throughout the project area. The reviewers appreciate the detailed grazing plan; however, it was unclear how long riparian pastures would be rested after use to achieve the desired ecological outcome stated. The application proposes the use of 28 instream roughened riffles that will promote floodplain inundation during runoff. Reviewers questioned the applicability of all 28 instream riffles, whether they would function as described, and whether they would be used as crossings to move livestock around during pasture rotation. There was no operation and maintenance plan associated with the riffles; reviewers had concerns the stream would scour around the roughened structures. It would be great to see other partners involved in the restoration of Big Summit Prairie. There is a lot of watershed restoration potential at Big Summit Prairie, and while the proposed approaches have questionable ecological return, the review team recommends the project for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$488,613

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Do not fund, falls below the funding line.

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4009-15670

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Threemile Joint Fish Screen

Applicant: Wasco SWCD

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Wasco

OWEB Request: \$242,285

Total Cost: \$1,477,248

Application Description *(from application)*

The primary water need that this project seeks to address is the over allocation of Threemile Creek, a tributary to the White River in Wasco County near the town of Wamic. While over allocation is a common resource concern in Eastern Oregon, Threemile Creek is one of the relatively few streams that are perennial in nature, but are seasonally dewatered by two Irrigation districts. This stream is 18.7 miles long, but it only flows 7.2 miles where it is dewatered four to six months during the irrigation season. This leaves the lower 11.5 miles dry. Of the water that is diverted, half goes to Round Prairie Irrigation District, and the other half goes to Rock Creek District Improvement Company. The Senior Water Rights are Dated 1870 (Rock Creek Cert 50935) and 1874 (Round Prairie Cert 5764). The Current Diversions are roughly 1200 feet apart from each other. This project will combine these two diversions, eliminating two unscreened fish passage barriers, install a new fish friendly diversion, with an FCA horizontal flat plate screen. 9,800 feet of pipe will be installed, replacing open ditch, saving 2 cfs of water, half of which will be converted to a senior in-stream water right in a currently dewatered perennial stream. Project partners include; Rock Creek District Improvement Company, Round Prairie Irrigation District, USDA NRCS, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and FCA (Formerly Farmers Conservation Alliance).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project would remove two fish barriers and open up seven miles of available habitat upstream that would provide habitat connectivity.
- Combining two existing points of diversion into one is a great practice for working land.
- The proposed monitoring includes stream flow and temperature, which will be valuable information, particularly the flow component and the impact of conserved water downstream of the new diversion.
- The application states that 1 cfs of conserved water will be permanently protected through Oregon Water Resource Departments (OWRD) Allocation of Conserved Water Program.
- The project partnership is good, two irrigation districts are working with the Soil and Water Conservation District for the benefit of improved stream flow.

Concerns

- This project will result in total water savings of 2 cfs; the commitment from the irrigation districts is to permanently protect 1 cfs. Protecting the full savings of 2 cfs would be preferred.

- The overall value of protecting only 1 cfs is uncertain given that the stream may go sub-surface at some point downstream of the diversion.
- The fisheries and biological value of 1 cfs to pass through the new diversion is relatively low.
- There was no agreement or discussion of mitigation requirements for the work to occur at ODFW's White River Wildlife Area.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal builds on an existing OWEB funded restoration proposal #213-4011. The original intent of project #213-4011 was to work with only one irrigation district to address passage and screening. After some misunderstandings of property ownership, the District went back to the drawing board to engage both irrigation districts to work together and agree to a mutual point of diversion for both districts. Under the current funded proposal, the grant is supporting final design and passage construction costs. This current proposal for review includes screening and match funding for piping that will result in 2cfs water savings. The irrigation districts will both permanently protect .5 cfs each resulting in 1 cfs total permanently protected under OWRD's Allocation of Conserved Water Program. The project will provide seven miles of passage upstream and allow for 1 cfs passing through the diversion into what was always a dry stream channel (during irrigation season) on Threemile Creek because the reach was over allocated. There were some concerns from reviewers that 1 cfs would have marginal fish and aquatic health benefit. In addition, reviewers questioned how far 1 cfs would travel before subbing out into the stream gravels sub-surface. The application does include monitoring post-project that will include stream flow and temperature, which should be valuable to understand the project's effectiveness on the lower portion of Threemile Creek below the new diversion. There is no agreement in place with ODFW; however, during the site visit with District staff, irrigation districts, and ODFW the agreement was discussed and all parties seem confident on an agreement being in place and amenable by all involved. The review team recommended funding with the condition that funding for piping is secured.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

4 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$242,285

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Fund with conditions. Funding is contingent upon securing funding for piping prior to first payment. Increase by \$1,034 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation Fund

Increased with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$243,319

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4010-15575

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: East Hills/Lobert Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project

Applicant: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$33,058

Total Cost: \$131,058

Application Description *(from application)*

The East Hills/Lobert Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project (EHLMOFHP) encompasses 19,058 acres of private, non-industrial forestland in Klamath and Lake Counties associated with the Fremont-Winema National Forest's (FWNF) East Hills and Lobert Integrated Landscape Restoration Projects. Through a century of fire suppression, the forests of this region have increased in density, lost diversity, and altered the structure and hydrologic function of watersheds. This departure from historic conditions has increased the scale and risk of fire severity, and reduced forest resiliency to drought/insects/disease. High priority resources and habitat such as waterways and associated T&E species, homes and structures, ranch land, and private/industrial timberland are currently in jeopardy. The EHLMOFHP initiates a landscape-level forest management effort aimed at providing fire safe communities by reversing the trend and increasing ecosystem resiliency. Based on similar efforts in Lake County, EHLMOFHP uses a model founded on personal connections with informed and engaged private landowners. A matrix of characteristics has been used to prioritize private forested land in the Sprague and Williamson watersheds of the Upper Klamath Basin near Klamath Falls. A comprehensive outreach, mapping, and inventory effort will inform and facilitate cross-boundary planning and implementation of forest health practices. Technical Assistance will be used to conduct targeted outreach to 2,091 private landowners, including phone calls, brochures/mailings, site visits, and three public meetings. Landowner education efforts will include two OSU Extension workshops for forest ecology/management and fire science. Project partners include the FWNF, Oregon State University Extension, USDA NRCS, Oregon Department of Forestry, The Nature Conservancy, and other members of the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has strong and diverse partnerships, match is secured.
- The proposal will complement on-going efforts and help continue the needed planning.
- The approach is at a landscape scale, working across boundaries.
- The method chosen has proven to be a successful model.
- The resultant work to come out of the planning is much needed.
- Forest health and landscape resiliency to wildlife is an action documented in multiple plans.

Concerns

- The number of landowners targeted for this project is high; there were some concerns about capacity to reach them all, and about project planning and implementation being challenging with spotty landowner involvement.
- Two workshops may not be enough to inform and educate the large number of landowners targeted for this effort.
- It would have been helpful to understand how project prescriptions will account for wildlife habitat and what considerations will apply for the proposed forest health prescriptions.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance effort will fund a planning effort to develop forest health prescriptions across 19,058 acres reaching out to 2,091 private landowners. The project is located on both the east and west sides of the community of Chiloquin, Or. The results of the planning effort will produce landscape scale, cross boundary forest health treatments. The dry-type Ponderosa pine forests have become overstocked and pose significant risk to wildlife and heightened potential for catastrophic wildlife. The planning effort is hinged upon successfully reaching out and gaining access to private lands to develop site-specific plans. However, it was noted that windshield surveys and cross-boundary surveys can take place if all private lands cannot be accessed. Given the landscape and topography, some areas will be better set-up for cross-boundary surveys and/or windshield surveys from the road than others. The reviewers commend the applicant and its partners on the landscape scale approach for the much needed forest health treatments that will occur as a result of the planning effort. Outreach efforts and remote sensing is already underway as momentum continues to contact and gain access to the many private landowners targeted. The reviewers were concerned with the sheer number of landowners involved, and questioned the level of success in gaining access to all lands. In addition, there were concerns about whether spotted landowner involvement would change site prescriptions and how prescriptions would be implemented if permission is checkered on the landscape. Planning efforts should incorporate wildlife habitat needs and discuss how considerations for wildlife will be applied in forest health treatment plans. The applicant and partners are aware of the concerns and working to address these. A previous model implemented in Lake County has proven to be successful; the team has confidence this effort will also be successful.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$33,058

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$33,058

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4011-15593

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Agency Lake Wetland Complex -
Restoration Planning

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$50,000

Total Cost: \$114,299

Application Description *(from application)*

The project is in Klamath County, 3 miles south of Fort Klamath. The project site encompasses approximately 14,000 acres of federal and privately owned drained wetlands at the north end of Agency / Upper Klamath Lake, bordering the Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge (UKNWR) and including the lower reaches of the Sevenmile and Fourmile Creek systems. The Klamath Basin was once dominated by 185,000 acres of freshwater marshes. Today less than 25% of these historic wetlands remain, limiting critical habitat for fish and wildlife, degrading water quality, and reducing water storage capacity in Upper Klamath Lake. Historically, the full gradient of lake-fringe wetlands spanned across the UKNWR plus almost 5,000 acres of private lands in three privately held parcels. Existing dikes cannot be breached without flooding the three private properties, but the USFWS has secured options to purchase flooding and restoration easements across two of the properties, and NRCS holds a wetland easement on the third property, which is owned by The Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy and Trout Unlimited will work closely with USFWS, NRCS, private landowners, and other stakeholders to develop a large-scale restoration plan for the wetland complex and stream systems, paving the way for the restoration of over 14,000 acres of wetlands as well as Sevenmile and Fourmile Creeks.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The scope and scale of the planning effort will result in restoring a variety of beneficial ecological outcomes for fish, wildlife, and water quality.
- This is the right place and scale to have meaningful wetland habitat and water quality improvements.
- Project partners have previous experience working on large scale wetland improvement projects.
- The planning effort will incorporate the appropriate agency involvement.
- Habitat improvements for migratory waterfowl and Oregon spotted frog are high priorities in the area.

Concerns

- State funds were being requested to fund plans on federal lands.
- It was unclear whether the applicant is the right leader for this effort and whether they will incorporate all stakeholders necessary to be poised for success in subsequent restoration.
- The timeline for meetings and review by all stakeholders was ambitious.

Concluding Analysis

This planning effort will account for looking at 14,000 acres of federal and privately owned land at the north end of Agency Lake near the Upper Klamath Lake. The plan's focus is wetland improvements and floodplain reconnection at a very large scale. Successful restoration of a plan of this magnitude would have huge impacts to wetland restoration, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat. It was unclear whether the USFWS will be a stakeholder, or simply a funding partner. It was noted that the NRCS owns an easement on the TNC-owned land, and that the NRCS has to be a part of the stakeholder meetings and development of the plan. The review team also wants the applicant to ensure that the private landowners are committed and included in the stakeholder group helping to frame the plan, as they play a key role in the overall success. In addition, reviewers also encouraged the applicant to consider all potential parcels and landowners, particularly the property west of the private lands parcel denoted on the attached map to the application. The opportunity for restoration and ecological uplift in a high priority area such as Agency Lake is significant; the review team recommends funding this proposal as its highest priority.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$50,000

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$50,000

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4012-15610

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Crooked River Water Quality
Evaluation & Report

Applicant: Crooked River WC

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$22,098

Total Cost: \$30,260

Application Description *(from application)*

(1) Project is located in Crooked River watershed. Multiple sites comprise the projects extent as defined by locations that were used for water quality (WQ) data collection between 2010 and 2014. This five-year data set includes 32 fixed locations across the 2.9 million acres watershed, all draining into the Crooked River. (2) The problem centers on water quality as the resource topic that needs to be fully informed. Evaluation of existing information and the development of actionable priorities that will direct future work of the council and its partners will address the issue over a longer period. (3) Technical assistance will support a college-level intern's work to evaluate the WQ dataset applying rigorous statistical analyses under academic standards and generate a peer-reviewed report available to the public. (4) Portland State University, Portland General Electric, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Crook County SWCD, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and Ochoco Irrigation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will analyze five years of water quality data into meaningful information that will be made available to interested entities.
- The analysis can be informative for future project development.
- The need to develop an understanding of the data is strong among many partners.
- The partnership with a university for a student intern is creative and provides real world practical experience.

Concerns

- The nine water quality parameters were not identified in the grant proposal.
- A nice basin wide map was included as an attachment to the application, but failed to identify the locations where the data was collected.
- The application only focused on data collected by the Council; reviewers questioned whether data collected by other watershed partners should be included in the analysis.
- Project management time seemed high given that the project would be completed by the student and his/her professor. Justification on the need for that many project management hours would have been helpful.
- Peer review is scheduled to be completed in two months, which seems too brief.

- It was unclear whether there was enough data collected over a long enough period of time to develop rigorous statistical analysis.

Concluding Analysis

This project would compile and analyze five years (2010 – 2014) of water quality data collected on nine parameters across 32 individual sites throughout the watershed. A college intern would apply rigorous statistical analysis to generate a peer reviewed report. The data is currently available in its raw format; however, without further analysis no story can be generated from it. The review team would really like to see this data analyzed and made into a meaningful format to inform interested entities. The main concern expressed by reviewers is that other water quality data collected by other entities exists, and if included would add more value to this exercise. The reviewers would have liked the rationale for why these data are not included in the proposed analysis. They felt the applicant missed an opportunity to consider relevant water quality data collected in the Crooked River basin by the USFS, OWRD, ODEQ, PGE, and Warm Springs Tribe. The review team strongly encourages the applicant to consider adding these data, or, if that is not possible, elaborate on the reasons why. This project was not recommended for funding; however, the applicant is encouraged to resubmit a monitoring proposal.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4013-15631

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Threemile and Crane Creek
Reconnection and Restoration Design

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$50,000

Total Cost: \$125,815

Application Description *(from application)*

Threemile Creek is a tributary to Crane Creek. Both creeks originate on the eastern slope of the Cascades and flow south to Fourmile Creek and ultimately Upper Klamath Lake. Both creeks are located in Klamath County near the town of Ft. Klamath. Threemile Creek is home to the only population of federally listed bull trout in the Cascade tributaries to Upper Klamath Lake. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Upper Klamath Recovery Unit Implementation Plan for Bull Trout, identifies poor habitat quality in the lower section of both creeks as an impact that is limiting population recovery. The Recovery Plan identifies 1) restoring habitat in lower Threemile and Crane Creeks and 2) reconnecting them to nearby unoccupied habitat and Upper Klamath Lake as priority recovery actions. The restoration/reconnection project potentially involves multiple landowners and agencies, irrigation infrastructure, two federally listed species, and construction of a new channel and/or restoration of abandoned channels. Trout Unlimited and partners have been working with funds from OWEB and other sources to complete comprehensive planning and restoration alternatives analysis designed to identify project constraints, develop potential restoration solutions, engage stakeholders and landowners, and ultimately move forward with this complex project. Trout Unlimited and its project partners have made considerable progress on this work and feel that all stakeholders will be ready to move forward with the design phase of this project once the alternatives analysis is complete and a preferred alternative is selected in late summer of 2017. In order to capitalize on the momentum generated by the planning/alternative analysis phase, we are submitting this application to help fund full design analysis and development of final project designs beginning in fall/winter of 2017. Project partners include the USFWS, ODFW, USBOR, and USFS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project would result in improved habitat conditions and connectivity for bull trout, an ESA listed threatened species and a high priority for resource managers in the Upper Klamath Lake basin.
- This project in the lower portion of Threemile and Crane Creeks and would complement other work in the area, particularly a USFS-led floodplain restoration project on Upper Threemile Creek.
- The potential to better understand and improve conditions for the Oregon spotted frog, an ESA listed threatened species is exciting.
- The project has strong agency and partner support.

Concerns

- An existing planning grant is still in process; at the time of application multiple alternatives were still on the table. It is unknown which alternative will be chosen to use the proposed grant funds to complete final designs.
- This application is premature.
- The NRCS owns an easement on the private land proposed for restoration, yet they have not reviewed the various alternatives.
- There were no letter of support from the landowner.

Concluding Analysis

This proposed technical assistance project would build on an existing technical assistance planning grant to complete final designs for a chosen alternative to restore lower Threemile Creek and Crane Creek to improve habitat conditions and connectivity for bull trout. The existing planning grant has allowed the applicant to bring the various stakeholders to the table to develop baseline understanding and existing conditions for the two creek systems. Building on this, the stakeholders have come up with a few different alternatives to meet their project goals and objectives. However, at time of application the applicant had yet to complete the planning and choose a final alternative. Given the complexities of this project with various landowners, the review team had concerns about recommending the project for funding when the final alternative had yet to be chosen. Therefore, this application was not recommended for funding. The review team encourages the applicant to resubmit once the planning has been complete and the stakeholders have all agreed upon a final design alternative.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4014-15635

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Klamath Basin Fish Passage
Inventory and Prioritization

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$28,049

Total Cost: \$48,049

Application Description *(from application)*

1) The project encompasses the UKB and will include all tributaries to Upper Klamath Lake in Klamath and Lake counties, Oregon. 2) Restoration of artificially obstructed sections of rivers can provide considerable ecological benefits. However, in order to implement effective restoration of these sections of river, the passage status of any potential artificial barriers needs to be assessed and these structures need to be prioritized for repair/removal. While the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) updates a state-wide priority list every five years, these data used in this prioritization effort are variable in their completeness. Additionally, these data are much more complete for anadromous fish species and less so for other native migratory species, such as suckers, Bull Trout, and Redband Trout, that are present in the UKB. Given these data gaps, a comprehensive sampling effort to evaluate passability at potential barriers in the UKB is necessary. This effort will allow for more accurate prioritization of barrier removal. Additionally, past prioritization models for barriers within Oregon rank barriers independently potentially leading to an inefficient set of barriers being selected for mitigation. We will use an optimization model, which considers the spatial relationships amongst barriers, to provide an objective framework for decision-making. 3) Comprehensive list of potential barriers in the UKB, an assessment of their passage potential, and a priority list. 4) ODFW; USFS; USFWS; The Klamath Tribes; TU; private landowners. 5) OWEB funds will be used for salary, travel, and contracted services.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project would significantly improve upon an existing fish passage data set.
- An advisory board with other agencies would help guide the effort, ensuring it to be an inclusive effort with broad support.
- Passage data would incorporate sucker species into the effort.
- This data set will play a key role for the upcoming Watershed Action Plan.
- The project had many letters of support.
- This effort could lead to future partnerships with private landowners that would be beneficial for species recovery.
- Data would be shared with partners and will include annual updates.
- The data would be extremely helpful if anadromous salmonid species once again have access to the Upper Klamath Basin.

Concerns

- It was unclear who would do and/or fund annual updates to the data set.
- Completing a priority list of barriers is good information, but does not ensure that the highest prioritized barriers will be addressed.
- The proposed data dictionary is very extensive and includes a lot of valuable information; however, the review team was concerned with the amount of time needed to complete this for every barrier. Additionally, some of the attributes to be collected required a lot more information and specific expertise for the data to be meaningful (e.g cost estimate for barrier removal). The review team questioned whether all the data proposed to be collected is necessary for this exercise.
- It was unclear what the output from the model was going to be. More information about evaluating a variety of tools and specific outcomes would have been helpful.
- Many barriers exist on private lands; securing access and permission could be challenging.

Concluding Analysis

This Upper Klamath Basin fish passage barrier inventory effort would use existing outdated passage information to develop a much more exhaustive and detailed inventory and prioritization of fish passage barriers for all native fish, including sucker species. This effort has broad support and would be driven by a collective of fisheries managers in the Upper Klamath Basin. This effort would be incredibly valuable if the lower Klamath River dams are removed and anadromous salmonids have access to this area. The data collection attributes listed in the proposal are extensive and would be very valuable, yet would also take a considerable amount of time and specific expertise to collect at each barrier location. The review team questioned whether all the attributes in the data dictionary were essential to this effort, and encourages the applicant and advisory board to evaluate each attribute's priority for this exercise. It was unclear what the exact output of the suggested optimization model would look like. Furthermore, the reviewers questioned whether this was the best model and whether or not the applicant and partners considered other models. The results of this effort will be of great value to be used across the spectrum of entities engaged in fish recovery for the Upper Klamath Lake basin; the review team recommends this project for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$28,049

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$28,049

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4015-15671

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Fishhole Creek Channel
Reconstruction Design

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: \$50,000

Total Cost: \$65,000

Application Description *(from application)*

Fishhole Creek is a tributary to the South Fork Sprague River, in Klamath County near the town of Bly OR. The watershed area is 102 square miles in area with 62 square miles of land under USFS management and hosts 52 miles of perennial streams. The streams and aquatic habitat in the watershed have been degraded by current and past land use activities, including grazing, logging, stream channel manipulation, diking, and damming. To address these impacts, TU is partnering with the USFWS and private landowners to develop and implement aquatic and riparian restoration projects throughout the watershed. As part of this effort, TU has engaged a private landowner and begun development of a restoration plan for their property. Historic agricultural development on this property removed Fishhole Creek from its historic channel and placed it in an irrigation canal along the margins of the historic floodplain. These canals limit floodplain connectivity, fish passage and provide poor instream and riparian habitat for migrating and resident redband trout. This Technical Assistance project will develop restoration designs with the intent to guide implementation of a restoration project that will improve riparian habitat, instream habitat, floodplain connectivity and support future agricultural use. Specific design actions may include removing the creek from its current ditched channel, constructing a new channel that is connected with its floodplain, installing riparian fencing, riparian planting and improving fish passage. We also hope that this design effort will help engage other landowners in the watershed with similar land use impacts.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- N/A

Concerns

- N/A

Concluding Analysis

N/A

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Withdrawn

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

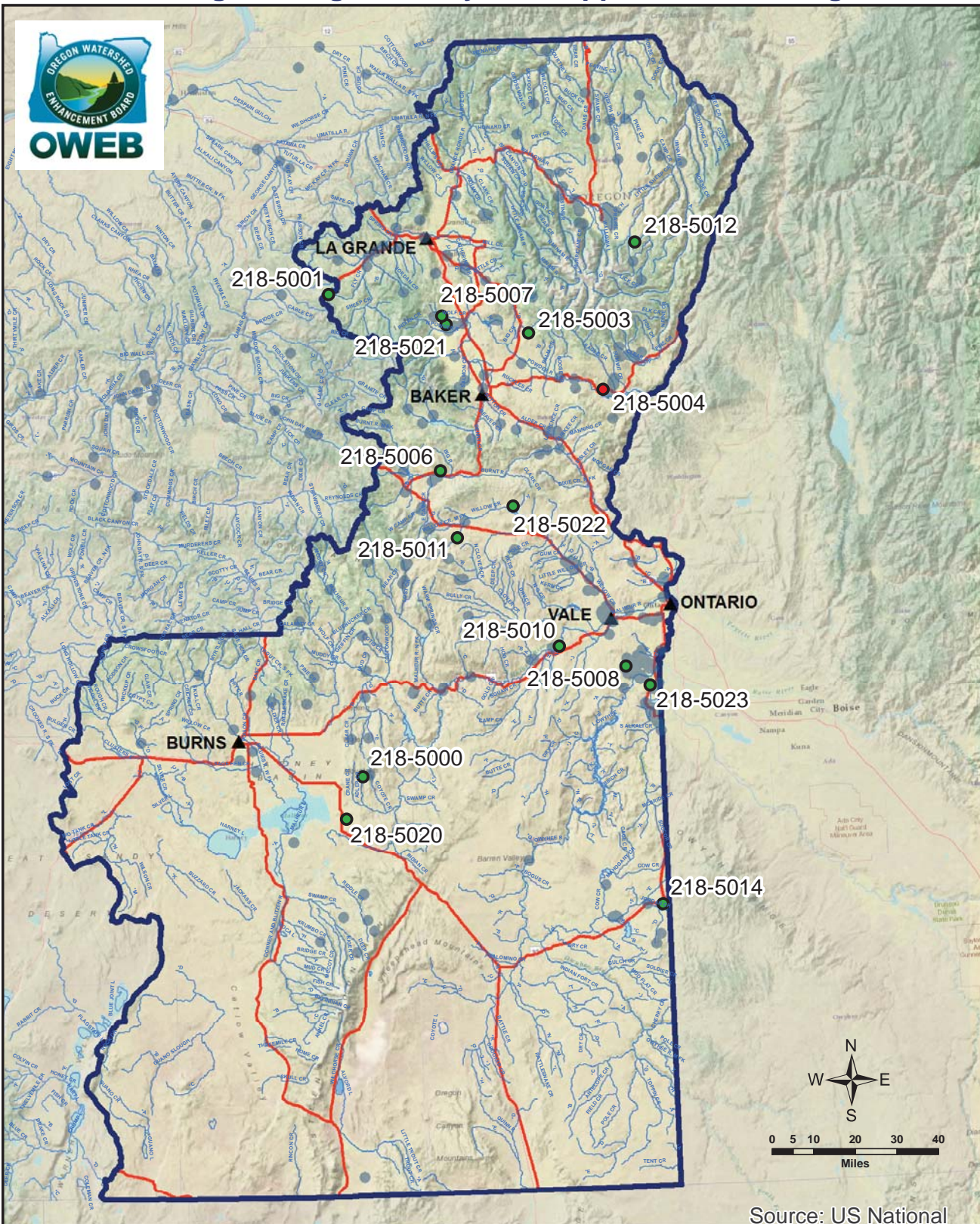
Staff Recommendation

Withdrawn

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Eastern Oregon - Region 5 May 2017 Application Funding Status



Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Map\Review Team Meetings\2017SpringCycle\Projects\Region5_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2017Spring.mxd
 ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Int WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wits Sept. 2017

Spring 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Acquisitions

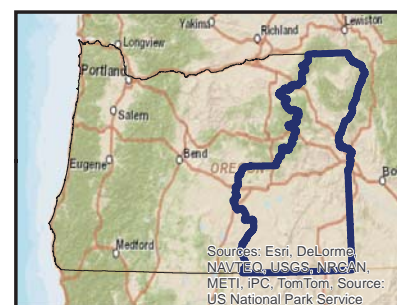
Streams

Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer St, NE Suite 360
 Salem, OR 97301-1290
 (503) 986-0178
<http://oregon.gov/OWEB/>

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Region 5 - Eastern Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-5011	Malheur SWCD	Banks of Green: Let's git 'er dun	A 50-acre wet meadow complex in the headwaters of the Malheur River that was desiccated from channelization decades ago will be restored. Located near Ironside, this project benefits at-risk aquatic, terrestrial and avian species.	117,643	Malheur
218-5000	Malheur WC	Alder Creek Phase III: How Many Juniper Will Die?	Located near Crane in the upper Malheur River watershed, this project will remove juniper encroaching in mountain-mahogany and aspen stands that are critical habitat for many species. A fire break will remove additional juniper and help protect sage-grouse habitat.	124,900	Harney
218-5012	Wallowa SWCD	Wallowa Front Forest Health Improvement Partnership - The Divide	A multi-agency, multi-landowner partnership will reduce fuel loads by thinning overstocked conifer stands near Joseph. Implementation reduces the threat of catastrophic wildfire spreading to nearby USFS land.	106,200	Wallowa
218-5010	Malheur WC	Let's Get Piping in Harper!	Located west of Vale in Little Valley, a 5,140-foot earthen ditch will be piped to improve irrigation water delivery to 590 acres. The project helps farmers improve irrigation and reduces the amount of soil deposited to the Malheur River.	109,715	Malheur
218-5020	Harney SWCD	Beaver Tables Medusahead	Located near Crane, several partners are collaborating to treat 16,550 acres of medusahead which spread after landscape-level fires affected the area. Proposed actions will help keep medusahead from sage-grouse habitat.	231,109	Harney
218-5006	Burnt River SWCD	Hereford Stockwater	Developing water sources on 716 acres of dry uplands near Hereford will improve vegetation and habitat for sage-grouse while providing water for wildlife and livestock.	37,051	Baker
218-5007	Powder Valley Water Control District	Powder Valley Connector	A 6,980-foot pipeline will replace an earthen ditch to improve irrigation water delivery for farmers in the North Powder area. Implementation will result in less water diverted from the Wolf Creek Reservoir and improves how farmers irrigate.	147,965	Union
218-5008	Owyhee WC	Chalk Butte Water Quality Improvement	This project improves the irrigation system on 72 acres near Adrian. Implementation will help reduce erosion that flows from the fields into nearby Owyhee and Snake Rivers.	58,619	Malheur
218-5014	Owyhee WC	War on Weeds in the Owyhees 2	Jordan Valley CWMA (Coordinated Weed Management Area) will continue its efforts to target noxious weeds adversely impacting riparian and upland habitat in remote areas of southeast Oregon. Approximately 4,600 acres will be chemically treated to help improve sage-grouse habitat and upland vegetation.	135,090	Malheur
218-5001	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation	Fly Creek - Smith Riparian Fencing Project	An aging riparian fence in Fly Creek, critical habitat for steelhead in the headwaters of the Grande Ronde near Ukiah, will be replaced. A recent easement with ODFW will help protect riparian habitat for the next 20 years.	40,388	Umatilla

Region 5 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration and Technical Assistance - Spring 2017 Grant Offering

218-5003	Keating SWCD	Big Creek Stockwater	This project provides fencing, cisterns and troughs to enhance upland vegetation on 125 acres and provides water for wildlife and livestock. Important sage-grouse and mule deer habitat will be improved near Medical Springs.	37,992	Baker
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,146,672	

Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-5004	Eagle Valley SWCD	Dance Hall Stockwater	An upland water system including piping, cisterns and troughs will provide water for livestock and wildlife on 157 acres near Richland. This project will keep livestock away from streams that enter the Powder River.	39,024	Baker
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				1,185,696	

Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
218-5002	Wallowa SWCD	Hurricane Pipeline Again	232,184	Wallowa
218-5005	Burnt River SWCD	Manning Creek Restoration	21,734	Baker
218-5009	Malheur WC	Mockingbird Complete Conversion to Sprinklers	190,680	Malheur
218-5013	Malheur SWCD	Overstreet Water Quality Implementation Project	575,480	Malheur
218-5015	Malheur SWCD	In For The Long Haul	48,775	Malheur
218-5016	Malheur SWCD	Lime-Aid	30,011	Baker
218-5017	Powder Basin WC	Lower Clear Creek Restoration (Phase 1)	146,246	Baker
218-5018	Malheur SWCD	Circling the Hyline	59,761	Malheur
218-5019	Malheur SWCD	Freddie the Fish Detour	121,452	Malheur

Region 5 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration and Technical Assistance - Spring 2017 Grant Offering

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-5022	Malheur WC	Northern Malheur Basin: Riparian, wet meadow assessment, planning and landowner recruitment.	This technical assistance will provide recommendations for restoration projects that improve riparian habitat in the Bully Creek and Willow Creek watersheds in the upper Malheur Basin. Future projects will restore habitat for red-band trout, Columbia spotted frog and wet-meadow complexes.	47,575	Malheur
218-5021	Baker Valley SWCD	Ellis Road T/A	A pipeline on the Coughanour Ditch that diverts water from Wolf Creek near North Powder will be designed to improve irrigation water delivery. The current earthen ditch experiences severe erosion and water loss.	9,350	Union
218-5023	Owyhee WC	OWC Project Round Up	A database will store details for over 200 projects. The ability to quickly access data will assist OWC when applying for future grants; help diversify their funding portfolio; and implement additional restoration efforts.	37,730	Malheur
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				94,655	

Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
NONE					
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				94,655	

Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Requested	County	
218-5024	Powder Basin WC	Lower Clear Creek Diversion Designs	41,414	Baker	
218-5025	Powder Basin WC	Powder Basin SWAT Analysis	11,016	Baker	
218-5026	The Nature Conservancy	Harney Basin Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems	49,035	Harney	

Region 5 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	1,241,327	14%
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Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	8,788,376	
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Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5000-15540

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Alder Creek Phase III: How Many Juniper Will Die?

Applicant: Malheur WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: \$124,900

Total Cost: \$295,674

Application Description *(from application)*

1) Project location: in the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem, Columbia Plateau, of Eastern Oregon's high desert. The project is located on BLM managed land between 5000' and 5500' elevation in the Stinkingwater Mountains of Harney County. It is approximately 7 air miles from the nearest town of Crane, Oregon; and 30 air miles from the city of Burns, Oregon. 2) Watershed issues: include juniper invasion into aspen, and mountain mahogany stands, and dense juniper stands resulting in heavy fuel loads, which creates the potential for catastrophic wildfire. Alder Creek Phases I and II addressed wet meadow restoration and stream protection. 3) Restoration components: We will use a chainsaw to remove invading juniper from 31 acres of aspen and 37 acres of mountain mahogany. We will create 4.2 miles (300 acres) of fuel break working in conjunction with the adjacent private landowner. Slash treatment will be machine/hand pile and burn. In the more sensitive places like the mountain mahogany stands we will ensure burn piles are well away. 4) Project partners: BLM (Fish, Wildlife, Range and Fire), Tree Top Ranches, Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Change Fund, and the Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is in a unique area in the headwaters of the South Fork Malheur within the Stinkingwater Mountains. It is in the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem of the high desert.
- The application focuses on complex, spatially limited plant communities including aspen, mountain-mahogany, and a large wet-meadow complex which is habitat for the Columbia spotted frog.
- The proposed work complements previously implemented and planned work funded by BLM and OWEB. Previous restoration efforts will be protected and enhanced. There was a clear delineation of project phases. Previous projects will increase floodplain connectivity, provide habitat features, and add channel complexity in Alder Creek.
- The project will have benefits to redband trout.
- The ridgeline fire break could help to better manage or prevent large landscape-scale fires.
- The project treats juniper, which is expanding into aspen and mountain-mahogany stands.

Concerns

- There are many stressors beside juniper that are adversely affecting this site; it was unclear how effective the project will be without addressing other stressors.

- The location of the fire break does not provide for road access to fight fires.

Concluding Analysis

The project is part of a phased approach undertaken by the BLM addressing a headcut in a wet-meadow complex on Alder Creek. This section of Alder Creek has intact mountain-mahogany stands, bitterbrush and aspen that are being invaded by juniper. The area is critical winter range habitat for mule deer. BLM in Burns suggested the fuel break location as it would also provide fire fighters with a safety zone and burn-out point and help contain the size of a wildfire. The juniper removal will tie into nearby efforts with the adjacent ranch to create an effective fuel break to reduce the threat of a landscape fire in an area that has critical habitat for red-band trout, sage-grouse and the Columbia spotted frog. Removing juniper from aspen stands is essential to their survival. Aspen are an intolerant species whose range is declining from invading conifers as well as other stressors. The project is an important upland project that can aid in reducing the threat or expansion of a landscape-level fire. Implementation will also improve essential habitat for at-risk species. There is high ecological merit to the project and it is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$124,900

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$124,900

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5001-15541

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Fly Creek - Smith Riparian Fencing Project

Applicant: Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$40,388

Total Cost: \$69,697

Application Description *(from application)*

The Fly Creek-Smith Riparian Fencing Project is located at River Mile (RM) 13 of Fly Creek, a tributary to the Grande Ronde River, in Umatilla County, Oregon. In 1987, ODFW fenced 14.8 riparian acres along 1.2 stream miles of Fly Creek. In 2016, 3,000 feet of new fence, protecting an additional 15 acres of wetland and riparian habitat, was installed. Nearly three decades of weather and stress has weakened and rotted many wood structures supporting the original fence. Footer and rock tie down wires have also rusted out. In order for the fence to function properly, multiple structures need to be replaced. The limiting factors for ESA listed spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead in Fly Creek include high summer temperatures, excess fine sediment, and impaired riparian conditions. Primary causes include livestock grazing, roads, and historic timber harvest. These limiting factors affect all life stages of spring Chinook salmon and juvenile rearing and spawning of summer steelhead. The area fenced in 1987 has had impressive restoration of riparian vegetation with passive restoration and livestock exclusion. We are requesting funding to replace structures and fence line installed in 1987 to continue protecting 30 acres of riparian area from livestock grazing. This will protect and improve riparian conditions, thereby reducing sediment input to Fly Creek and improve water quality and habitat diversity. The landowner has signed a 25 year easement with ODFW to maintain the project and protect habitat.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in the upper headwaters of the Grande Ronde which provides riparian habitat for salmonids.
- The landowner previously had a 15-year easement with ODFW along Fly Creek. When that easement was completed, a 25-year easement was then signed with ODFW. The landowner is committed to good stewardship and protecting the habitat values of Fly Creek.
- Pastures are lightly grazed and upland vegetation is vigorous and appears healthy. Grazing in the meadows is well-managed. There is no riparian grazing by livestock. The stocking rate is low usage, low-pressure grazing. The grazing manager is on-site frequently. Livestock are in the pasture from early June through the summer.
- ODFW has done a very good job on fence maintenance and inspects the site every 10 to 14 days to perform any needed repair.
- The before-and-after photos indicate significant improved vegetative conditions as a result of the previous fencing project.

Concerns

- The application did not provide a grazing plan.
- Fencing cost seems excessive. From the site visit it was evident that some fence posts are still functional and are not in need of replacement.
- The fence would not be moved further back from the riparian area; therefore, the benefit to the riparian area will not increase.
- The cost-share is minimal.
- Since this is not a new fence, but a replacement, the team questioned whether this maintenance was appropriate for OWEB funds.
- It was suggested to use steel fence pipes. While the cost is more initially, they can withstand a future fire.
- The overall per-foot fencing costs were high at \$5.06 which also included the gates and water gap.
- While the before-and-after photos indicate positive recovery, the overgrazing in the riparian was most likely from elk and deer.
- Other landowners were not contacted.

Concluding Analysis

The initial project and easement funded by BPA and managed through ODFW has shown significant improvement and positive vegetative response. The pressure on the existing fence is from deer and elk. Individual willow copses are protected by small fences and show positive response to removal of grazing pressure. ODFW will then move those fences to other locations once the woody vegetation is above the browse line. Willow damage is from elk. Fly Creek is a steelhead stream with heavy use downstream and this site is important to protect. While no grazing plan was provided, from the site visit it appeared that pastures and the riparian area are healthy and not over-utilized. It was suggested that the applicant consider using as much salvageable fencing materials as possible and incorporate those materials into a new fence. However, they did not stipulate a reduction in the initial grant amount if awarded. Overall, the team agreed there is significant ecological merit and the project will help maintain the recovery of Fly Creek at this site. The project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

10 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$40,388

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$40,388

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017 Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5002-15563

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Hurricane Pipeline Again

Applicant: Wallowa SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$232,184

Total Cost: \$1,322,980

Application Description *(from application)*

This Wallowa County project is on Alder Slope located west of Joseph and Enterprise, Oregon. The lower sloped area of the Slope consists of rural homes, cropland, hay land and grazing lands. Irrigators on Alder Slope were the first in the county to install pipelines and sprinklers and many of those steel conveyance lines are over 55 years old. These lines are worn out and leaking significant amounts of water throughout the system and there is very inconsistent pressure throughout the system resulting from the leaks and the slope of the overall pipeline. Irrigation withdrawals, especially in the late season, significantly reduce in-stream flows in Hurricane Creek, which is detrimental to native red-band and bull trout. This project is to install 40,000 feet of new pipe, one diversion structure with gauge, 4 pressure reducing stations to improve the irrigation efficiency on 1500 acres under 27 ownerships. Designs were completed by NRCS, inspections will be done by NRCS and they will be cost-sharing this project with funds from RCPP and EQIP. The SWCD is working with landowners' to obtain other funding, estimate the cost to each landowner, agreements and bid solicitations. The landowners are working with a lawyer to get easements and agreements in place. The water master has verified the water rights and will offer technical help when the gauge on the diversion structure is installed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is part of the Alder Slope Cooperative Partnership with NRCS and ODF that treats both irrigated agriculture and overstocked private forest lands.
- There were several letters of support from landowners who are highly interested in this project.
- The overall effort and coordination with the landowners is evident.

Concerns

- The pipeline installation cost seemed high. Typically OWEB funds are just targeted for materials.
- Much of the proposed pipe installation is for replacing antiquated pipelines. The team questioned replacing a system that landowners should have had reserve funding or a sinking fund account.
- The ecological merit was not explained. The water quality benefits were not articulated well in the application.
- There is not an immediate return on investment. It did not appear that water quality improvements would be evident when the project is completed.

- Leaving water in-stream below the diversion would help provide an ecological benefit, but it was unclear whether additional water in-stream would be used by others.

Concluding Analysis

The project was previously submitted and not recommended for funding. Most of the pipeline installation is for replacing existing old pipe. The team felt that this project was more of a “deferred” maintenance effort rather than a project with high ecological benefits. If water is able to be left instream to benefit salmonids, then the project would have merit. However, that is not proposed. Also, there are benefits in educating landowners with better irrigation practices which would result in less water applied to fields and therefore less water diverted from Hurricane Creek. 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 treats both forest fuels and irrigation inefficiency, there is not a clearly articulated watershed benefit. It is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5003-15565

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Big Creek Stockwater

Applicant: Keating SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$37,992

Total Cost: \$49,492

Application Description *(from application)*

The lack of a reliable year round watering source on the landscape makes it infeasible to establish a rotational grazing plan, thus affecting livestock distribution across the rangeland. This project is located thirteen miles from Keating, Oregon and consists of upland sagebrush steppe and natural riparian areas. The project site consists of 125 acres split into four individual pastures. Currently, the only water available for livestock use is one spring-fed trough in a 36 acre pasture, a small pond in a 21 acre pasture (only containing water from March through June), and a perennial stream that is a tributary to Big Creek and then the Powder River. The project site is also located within ODFW's designated mule deer and core sage grouse habitat, located only three miles from the nearest lek. The landowner recognizes the current issues, as well as the importance of maintaining a healthy ecostate on the project site; that is why they contacted the Keating SWCD seeking assistance in developing a solar pumping station from a spring that would distribute livestock water evenly across the landscape.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project addresses inadequate water on 125 acres in the Keating/Medical Springs area that is partitioned into four separate pastures.
- The site visit indicated that the riparian area and woody vegetation are vigorous.
- The application provided good detail and clear, concise maps that were easy to comprehend and follow.
- The rotational grazing system had good detail. Benefits to the pastures and upland vegetation were articulated well.
- Water quality benefits are apparent as well as benefits to the riparian areas.
- Budget line items had good detail. The budget was easy to follow for reviewers unfamiliar with upland restoration work.
- The project is in core sage-grouse habitat and also is located in critical mule deer habitat.
- The cost-benefit ratio is positive.

Concerns

- It would have been helpful to include an overlay of sage-grouse habitat to see the range of core habitat and general habitat.

- While the team had positive comments regarding the proposed water system, one of the cisterns and associated piping could be eliminated since the system only serves 30 head of cattle. It was suggested that pasture #4 does not require piping. Removing that pipe and trough will make the cost-acre more positive.

Concluding Analysis

The project was one of four upland watering projects submitted by the Baker County SWCDs. The review team was impressed by the quality of the maps and detail provided by the applicant. The project addresses inadequate water supply for four pastures in the Keating area. The solar-powered pumping station will ensure consistent flow to troughs in the four pastures. However, the team did note that some of the piping may be excessive. It was suggested that the applicant consider remove the piping and cistern into pasture four since there should be adequate water given the smaller size of the pastures. The applicant should discuss this possibility with NRCS to see if that recommendation is feasible prior to beginning the project. That will reduce the overall cost of the project while still meeting the ecological benefits. Overall, the team expressed that project will have positive benefits to sage-grouse and critical mule deer habitat and improve upland vegetation. It is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

11 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$37,992

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$37,992

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5004-15566

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Dance Hall Stockwater

Applicant: Eagle Valley SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$43,645

Total Cost: \$56,203

Application Description *(from application)*

Currently there is no available water to livestock except for perennial streams and irrigation ditches that drain directly into the Powder River. By developing an offsite watering system, livestock will be encouraged to utilize the upland slopes of the pastures and spend less time grazing near perennial streams and irrigation ditches. The landowner is actively searching for restoration improvements on his property; he recognizes that he is within NRCS's designated mule deer habitat and has previously designated 12 acres of riparian area that excludes livestock grazing and provides a wildlife refuge. The next step towards restoration is to provide off stream watering locations in all pastures to encourage livestock grazing on the upland portions of his pastures. This project is located five miles outside of Richland, Oregon within the Powder River Basin. The landscape of this project consists of upland sagebrush steppe, irrigated pasture ground and a series of small streams and ditches that flow through riparian areas directly into the Powder River. The landowner is seeking assistance in the development of a solar pumping station from an unused existing domestic well producing 12 gallons per minute. This will provide water to two 5,000 gallon storage cisterns that will gravity feed three troughs, evenly distributed throughout four pastures on 157 acres of his property, serving roughly 60 head.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project addresses the need to provide off-stream water for livestock that utilize riparian areas of perennial streams that flow into the Powder River. Implementation will protect and improve riparian vegetation and condition.
- Due to a lack of water, uneven grazing is leading to an increase of invasive annual grasses which this project will address.
- The project provides the landowner the ability to implement a rotational grazing system to improve upland vegetation and decrease pressure on the riparian area.
- The landowner has previously fenced 12 acres for riparian habitat.
- The application was well-written with good descriptions, complete maps and detailed descriptions.

Concerns

- Some of the piping may be excessive. It was suggested to remove approximately 1,500 feet of piping from the budget. That reduction will save on material and installation cost.

- Since the project is close to an electrical power source, it was suggested to investigate using nearby electrical power as an alternative to the solar-powered system.

Concluding Analysis

The project includes upland water development and a grazing plan that implements rest-rotation which will have a positive impact on upland vegetation and riparian vegetation. During the site visit, reviewers felt that the proposed twin piping system was excessive. Project implementation will have a positive impact on upland vegetation. By eliminating the need for livestock to access the perennial streams that flow directly into the Powder River, streambank stability and riparian vegetation will improve. Water quality will also improve since bacterial inputs will be eliminated. The section of the Powder River below this property may benefit from improved water quality. There is sufficient ecological merit to warrant funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

12 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$43,645

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff contacted the applicant who worked with the landowner. The excessive piping was removed from the application.

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5005-15568

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Manning Creek Restoration

Applicant: Burnt River SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$21,734

Total Cost: \$34,814

Application Description *(from application)*

Proper distribution and grazing management practices are the basic fundamentals in preserving Eastern Oregon's rangeland for wildlife habitat. The entire project site is located within ODFW's core sage grouse area with the nearest lek only seven miles away. The project site is also completely within ODFW's designated mule deer habitat zone. Early flight surveys show that this past winter took a major toll on mule deer populations in Baker County. Mule deer were spotted migrating to lower elevations than what they normally would; for forage and water. According to ODFW, "this year, 11 fawns per 100 adults on average were counted across the county, with some units being as low as 8 fawns per 100 adults." The landowners recognize the hardships placed on wildlife, as well as the importance of maintaining a healthy ecostate on the project site; that is why they approached the Burnt River SWCD seeking assistance to improve the rangeland for wildlife habitat. The project is located 24 miles south of Baker City near Durkee Oregon. The landscape of this project consists of one 4,051 acre upland sagebrush steppe pasture that is grazed for 45 days (April through May) by 140 yearlings; and one 180 acre irrigated alfalfa field under pivot. Two individual landowners are seeking assistance in developing a solar pumping station from an existing well to provide water to two troughs. The first trough will be located adjacent to the irrigated alfalfa field in the northwest corner of the 4,051 acre pasture; this trough will primarily be used for livestock. The second trough will be located in the corner of the pivot field with the primary purpose of providing water for wildlife use. The landowner would also like to develop a small wildlife habitat area in the pivot corner; the habitat area will be fenced and exclusive to wildlife, having no livestock access. It will be seeded with native perennial bunch grasses and include tree plantings along a natural intermittent stream.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- No project strengths were identified.

Concerns

- The applicant proposed to plant conifers in a small draw. However, without supplemental water, survival rates of those conifers are marginal at best. Also, the conifers will act as perches in the future for raptors to prey upon fledging sage-grouse. Since this is core sage-grouse habitat, those conifers will have a negative impact on sage-grouse survival.

- The 14 acres planted in bluegrass is detrimental to sage-grouse habitat.
- Since the pivot irrigates approximately six months, the need for additional water was unclear.
- The fencing locations were inappropriate.
- The grazing scheme on the 4,000 acres was unclear.
- Conceptually the project was hard to follow and the site visit did not provide clarity.

Concluding Analysis

Overall, the team was confused by the application. Some of the proposed components would not be beneficial to sage-grouse. The project is located in core sage-grouse habitat but some of the proposed actions would be detrimental to sage-grouse. It appeared from the site visit that additional cross fencing would be beneficial. The conifer planting in the draw would most likely not be successful and would provide future perches for raptors. Overall, the team could not ascertain the ecological merit and agreed that the project does not warrant recommendation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5006-15570

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Hereford Stockwater

Applicant: Burnt River SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$37,051

Total Cost: \$80,426

Application Description *(from application)*

Currently, there are limited watering sources and no cross fencing to separate the large pasture on this property; this has resulted in a three mile stretch between watering sources for livestock, with no means of implementing grazing management practices. Annual grasses and juniper have begun to dominate the site, threatening native vegetation and essential sage grouse habitat. This project is located near Hereford, Oregon within the Burnt River SWCD boundary. The site consists of one 716 acre pasture with three existing watering sources; two located at the northern end of the property, and one located at the southern end. The property is located within ODFW's designated low density sage grouse habitat, with two leks within four miles and five leks within ten miles of the project site. The landowner approached the Burnt River SWCD seeking assistance in developing a watering system that will distribute water evenly throughout the pasture. Cross fencing would be installed to allow for the development of a deferred rest rotational grazing management strategy, which is attached as part of the application (map 3).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Will improve rangeland health by implementing rotational grazing practices that include the addition of reliable water sources for livestock and cross fencing.
- An upland watering system will be installed to improve livestock distribution and perennial bunchgrass conditions. A portion of the project site has bulbous bluegrass, cheatgrass and medusahead. Other areas have healthy native perennials.
- The application was previously submitted and was greatly improved from the last submission.
- The landowner has done a lot of pro-active work treating juniper, which eliminated predator perches in general sage-grouse habitat.
- The project approach is comprehensive and will improve upland vegetation and perennial bunchgrasses.
- The project will help keep wildlife on the north end of the property and away from the agricultural land which is frequently damaged.

Concerns

- Concern was expressed on a section of the lower pasture where there is currently high-intensity use. However, from the site visit the area in question is quite small and it is being trampled since it is the sole water source on that end of the property. Once the other troughs and fencing are installed, the grazing can be more evenly spread throughout the property and that area of concern should respond

Once the other troughs and fencing are installed, the grazing can be more evenly spread throughout the property and that area of concern should respond well.

Concluding Analysis

This application was the strongest proposal submitted by the Baker SWCD office and provided useful maps, a concise budget and clear descriptions of the proposed work. An application for this project was previously submitted but not recommended for funding. Suggestions made by the review team were followed and the applicant submitted an improved application. The site visit indicated the amount of work that the landowner has accomplished. The on-going juniper removal by the landowner at his own expense indicates his commitment to improve sage-grouse habitat. The project will treat 716 acres of general sage-grouse habitat in an area where two leks are within four miles. The potential to improve upland vegetation is very high. The proposed sites for the troughs are strategically located and cross-fencing will facilitate rotational grazing. The grazing plan will benefit wildlife habitat, improve watershed health, and provide for more efficient use of the pasture. Overall, the team was impressed by the quality of the application. The implemented project will have positive benefits to upland vegetation and general sage-grouse habitat. The project has high ecological merit and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$37,051

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$37,051

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5007-15579

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Powder Valley Connector

Applicant: Powder Valley Water Control District

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: \$147,965

Total Cost: \$1,453,615

Application Description *(from application)*

1. The PVWCD is an irrigation district located within the Powder Basin Watershed in the community of North Powder, Union County, Oregon. The PVWCD delivers water to irrigators in Baker and Union Counties. Water from Wolf Creek enters Wolf Creek Reservoir and exits the system in the MaHarry-Blevins Ditch, eventually flowing into the North Powder River. 2. This ditch piping project addresses several issues identified in the Powder River-Powder Valley Watershed Assessment. This project works to address water quality (temperature and bacteria), water quantity (flow and timing), and habitat improvement for fish and wildlife species. The MaHarry-Blevins Ditch experiences water loss through degrading banks, infiltration, soil absorption, and evaporation. A 2013 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)-funded study, estimates water loss of up to 22 percent. If this water were conserved, additional late season water would be available in the Wolf Creek Reservoir, which would be beneficial to migratory birds, upland ungulates, and aquatic species including bull trout (a federally listed species). 3. The PVWCD proposes to replace the open ditch with approximately 6,980 feet of enclosed pipeline with flowmeters to track water use and automated control valves. The pipeline will result in the water conservation, reduction of water quality concerns, habitat improvements for fish and wildlife species, and enhanced recreation opportunities. 4. Project partners include all members of the PVWCD, who will provide matching funds to ensure this project is completed. The Farmer's Conservation Alliance (FCA) and Baker Valley Soil & Water Conservation District will provide technical support.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Replacing the open earthen ditch with a pressurized pipe will conserve up to 1,350 acre-feet of water in the Wolf Creek reservoir. The system will include an automated headgate system which will improve efficiency and the potential to save water.
- Implementation will lead to improving water quality by piping the earthen ditch and eliminating sediment transport. In addition, weed transport down the ditch will be eliminated which is important to the organic farmers.
- Powder Valley Water Control District's (PVWCD) management has a positive track record working with the local irrigators.
- PVWCD has obtained two previous technical assistance grants to help develop Systems Optimization Study which serves as a framework for improving the overall irrigation system to improve efficiencies and reduce water use. The project is technically sound and provided full design and significant detail. The attachments were helpful.

- PVCWD is working with Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) who has a good track record of implementing water conservation projects.
- By piping the ditch and providing a pressurized pipe, irrigators will be able to convert from flood to sprinkler irrigation and improve on-farm irrigation efficiency.
- There is a strong match and leverage. The cost-share ratio is impressive.

Concerns

- It was unclear how PVWCD quantifies saving 25 jobs.
- The in-stream benefits below Wolf Creek Reservoir were unclear and remain under negotiation with ODFW.

Concluding Analysis

The application was previously submitted but not recommended for funding. The site visit indicated the need for the project since the current system is inefficient. When landowners “call” for water, excess water needs to be delivered in order to satisfy the water right. The application provided excellent detail and high leverage. Implementation will leave up to 1,350 acre-feet in Wolf Creek which benefits bull trout as well as migratory waterfowl. In addition, with less water withdrawn from Wolf Creek reservoir, more water can remain in Wolf Creek later in the season which will benefit the Powder River. Converting from earthen ditches to a pressurized pipe will enable on-farm irrigation improvements. In addition, filling the ditches benefits migrating terrestrial wildlife, especially deer and elk, that are injured trying to cross the ditch and frequently cannot escape. Overall, the team expressed that this project has high ecological merit as well as strong economic benefits to local irrigators. It is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$147,965

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$147,965

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5008-15584

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Chalk Butte Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$58,619

Total Cost: \$189,335

Application Description *(from application)*

The Chalk Butte WQ Improvement project is located about 6 miles NW of Adrian in the Twilight Water Quality Improvement Priority Area. The Twilight Water Quality Improvement area was established in cooperation with Malheur SWCD, NRCS, Owyhee Irrigation District and Owyhee Watershed Council to improve water quality in the Old Owyhee Canal, and the Lower Owyhee and Snake Rivers. This project compliments these efforts by converting 72 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation and reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria from flowing through irrigation drainages into the Old Owyhee Canal and Lower Owyhee River. Project partners include NRCS and Owyhee Irrigation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will connect to a recent OWEB-funded lateral in the Adrian area which provides pressurized irrigation and enables landowners to convert from flood irrigation to sprinklers.
- Implementation will benefit multiple landowners.
- The project will improve water quality by eliminating soil loss caused as a result of furrow irrigation which can be as high as 20 to 60 tons per-acre, depending on slope.
- The application provided clear, concise maps that were easy to follow and understand.

Concerns

- The cost of pumps is in the OWEB budget, but could potentially be covered by future rebates on electrical pumps provided by Idaho Power.
- It was unclear whether using a larger half pivot could replace the two full pivots, eliminating some of the corners. It would also have been beneficial to note the slope of the fields.

Concluding Analysis

The application was well-written. Project implementation will connect to the previously funded lateral in NRCS's priority area, the Twilight Water Quality Improvement Zone. The OWEB-requested cost per-acre was reasonable. The project continues the ongoing effort by the Owyhee Watershed Council, Owyhee Irrigation District, and NRCS to improve water quality and implement beneficial on-farm improvements by

providing pressurized conveyance systems. The collaborative effort of this group has led to the implementation of many OWEB-funded projects in these priority areas.

The ongoing agricultural drain monitoring of the Brewer Drain by Malheur SWCD will provide relevant baseline data. Once more irrigators convert from furrow-flood to sprinkler, the effectiveness of conversion on water quality can be determined. The Chalk Butte project will continue that effort and help to reduce nutrient and sediment transport to nearby Owyhee and Snake Rivers. In addition to the ecological benefits realized, economic benefits to growers should increase by improved crop production through optimal application of irrigation water, annual energy savings and reducing the overall carbon footprint. The review team agrees there is positive ecological merit and the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$58,619

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$58,619

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5009-15585

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mockingbird Complete Conversion to Sprinklers

Applicant: Malheur WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$190,680

Total Cost: \$509,254

Application Description *(from application)*

1) The project is located in Harper, Oregon, 22 miles west of Vale along US Hwy 20 in Malheur County. The Malheur River cuts through 214 acres of flood irrigated farm ground. 2) The acreage is currently used as irrigated pasture throughout the growing season. All of the irrigation waste water flows directly into the river. Our main water quality issues are irrigation waste water flowing back into the river contaminated with massive amounts of e-coli bacteria. Flood irrigation is a very inefficient method. Up to 50% of the water applied can runoff the fields as waste water. 3) Convert the inefficient flood irrigation system to a sprinkler system by installing six pivots which will irrigate 171.7 acres, three wheel lines which will irrigate 21.5 acres and two solid set systems which will irrigate 7.3 acres totaling 200.5 acres. This project fits the Council priorities, which follow: Proximity to stream or river: Steep slopes connect to existing piped lateral within a priority area. 4) Partners: Landowner and Malheur WSC

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in the Harper area where few water quality projects were previously implemented. Expanding projects here is a positive step in the process of improving water quality in that area of the Malheur River watershed.
- There is significant match provided by the landowner. Since the Harper area is not part of an EQIP priority area, all the match will be provided by the landowner. The proposed match is over \$318,000 or 167% of the requested funds, which is substantial.

Concerns

- Converting land that has been dry pasture into an irrigated field may not have positive water quality benefits.
- While the landowner contribution is substantial, currently it is pending. Installing six pivots in one project seems excessive and challenging. This may be too large of a project for the landowner to undertake all at once.
- The water quality benefit was unclear since the river and groundwater may be connected.
- Including baseline data from nearby monitoring would have been beneficial to the application.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 172 acres from furrow irrigation to sprinkler irrigation will have water quality benefits to the Malheur River. The project is located in the Harper area and will have positive landowner outreach to other irrigators who may be considering converting their irrigation systems. The OWEB-requested cost per-acre was reasonable. Current flood irrigation practices contribute direct runoff into the Malheur River, especially during the first irrigation cycle when the irrigated acres are used as winter-feeding areas.

While the team expressed that there is high potential merit for implementation, the overall cost of the project is quite high. Also, installing that many pivots at once may be problematic for the landowner. The cost-share is pending. The team recommends that the applicant work with the landowner to determine which pivots have the highest ecological merit and consider submitting a smaller, phased approach. The team questioned whether the landowner has the financial and technical capacity to complete this project as presented. A future application needs to be more strategic and pivots need to be prioritized. The application is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5010-15589

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Let's Get Piping in Harper! VOID
Lateral 111-20

Applicant: Malheur WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$109,715

Total Cost: \$176,278

Application Description *(from application)*

1) Location: The project area is lateral canal #111-20 in the Little Valley area, 6 air miles from Harper and 14 air miles from Vale. The Little Valley Canal provides water to 590 acres of farm fields adjacent to the Malheur River. Our proposed pipeline provides us the opportunity to begin working in the Harper/Little Valley area. The Council and Irrigation District have focused on the Willow Creek area since 1999, while there is still work to be done there, it is time to expand to new areas. Landowners from this area frequently request assistance. 2) Watershed Issues: a) Excessive sediment, nutrients, and bacteria being delivered to the Malheur River caused by irrigation induced erosion. The canal itself is a source of sediment to the river because of the steep slope (65 feet of fall) from the supply canal and to the end of the lateral. The Malheur River has the second worst water quality in the state. b) Lack of water for winter fish habitat. VOID maintains a minimum pool for federally listed bull trout winter habitat in Beulah Reservoir. 3) Restoration to be implemented: We are proposing to pipe the canal, which will entail laying 1,800 feet of 18" pipe, 1,800 feet of 12" pipe, 1,340 feet of 10" pipe and 200 feet of 8" pipe, installing a headwall and a debris screen in the water supply canal. This will provide gravity pressure to help producers convert to sprinkler irrigation, which will eliminate irrigation induced erosion and erosion from the canal itself. This will help improve water quality of the Malheur River. Piping the canal will prevent water losses from seepage and evaporation. Our experience indicates that this will be about 360 acre feet per year (2 acre feet per day for 6-months of irrigation season). This will help the Irrigation District maintain a minimum pool for winter habitat for the federally listed bull trout that reside in Beulah Reservoir. 4) Partners: Vale Oregon Irrigation District

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal was clear with excellent cost-share and a reasonable budget.
- Once the pipeline is installed, the Harper area could become a priority focus area for NRCS to implement on-farm EQIP projects. Implementation will also lead to additional projects in the Harper area where landowners are beginning to implement on-farm conservation efforts.
- Vale Oregon Irrigation District (VOID) has installed over 100 miles of laterals in the last 10 years and has streamlined the process. They are efficient with their installation process.
- This is an excellent project for the cost. The lateral serves 590 acres and has 65 feet of fall which will enable landowners to have pressurized water.

- By piping the ditch, bank erosion will be eliminated. Livestock will not have access to the ditch once the pipeline is installed.
- This is a strong opportunity to result in water savings and the resulting on-farm improvements will provide additional water quality benefits.

Concerns

- Providing data from the nearby water quality monitoring would have been helpful.

Concluding Analysis

Implementation will improve water quality by reducing sediment transport into the nearby Malheur River from both the lateral and the 590 acres it serves once on-farm projects are completed. By piping the lateral, irrigators will be able to connect to a pressurized pipeline and convert from flood to sprinkler irrigation. Converting to the pressurized pipeline will encourage NRCS to make the Harper area a "priority" or focus area for future EQIP funding. There are good partners with a strong work ethic and successful track record with previous projects. The project is straightforward and continues the effort to improve water quality in the Malheur basin. It has excellent ecological merit and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$109,715

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$109,715

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5011-15590

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Banks of Green: Let's git 'er dun

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$116,559

Total Cost: \$148,430

Application Description *(from application)*

1) Project Location: The South Fork of Willow Creek, which drains to the main Willow Creek, drains to the Malheur River. The nearest town is Ironside which is 3.82 air miles from the site. The entire site is in Malheur County. 2) Watershed problems: Poor wet meadow conditions: A drop in the water table resulted because of streambed downcutting. The channel was straightened in the past and was heavily grazed until the current owners bought the property. Poor fish passage: An old culvert at the top of the project and culverts under a ranch road at the bottom of the project impede fish especially at low flows. 3) Restoration Components- Result of design funded by OWEB TA grant: Wet Meadow: -- Install a "control riffle" to distribute water to the meadow, but maintain flow in the existing channel. The water split will vary depending on the flow in the main channel but at no time will it exceed 50% of the total. -- Construct 2,077 feet of channel immediately after the "control riffle"-- Install 8,430 feet of berms to help control and distribute the water in the meadow. We envision the water cascading through the berms much like a ball in a pinball machine. To raise the streambed and thus the water table and provide aquatic habitat:-- Install 10 riffles, 27 Vertical Post Structures (VPS), plant more than 1,000 willow whips with the VPS, and 34 whole trees in strategic places to stabilize the existing channel, control bank erosion, gradually raise the water table, and provide aquatic habitat. Fish passage: Remove the existing culvert at the top of the project site. Replace it with a 14'x4'8x24' bottomless arch culvert. Install a riffle to control the grade to be 2.7% or less. Remove the culvert at the bottom of the project site.-- Replace it with a 17'x7'2"x24' bottomless arch culvert.-- Install a riffle to keep the grade at 2%. 4) Partners: Lance Greenbank --owner Gabe Williams -- Engineer RSIGary Faw -- Malheur SWCDKen Diebel -- Malheur WSC

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner is actively engaged in improving habitat and restoring watershed function. He is addressing historic grazing issues that occurred prior to his owning the property.
- The project will greatly improve the riparian area of the South Fork of Willow Creek and provide strong water quality benefits. The project location has high potential for demonstration in an area where similar efforts are needed.
- Implementation will address two barriers on the South Fork of Willow Creek.
- Using willows in the stream will be effective without creating a barrier. The soft engineering approach will have little risk and has high potential for improved sediment, temperature, and bacterial levels in the creek.

- The project will restore a 50-acre wet meadow complex that was desiccated from channelization decades ago. This action will benefit aquatic, terrestrial, and avian species especially those at-risk. There is high potential for improved water storage and water table increases with small investment.
- The team was impressed with the engineer and the design plan.
- Project cost for the length of stream treated (. 8 miles) and resulting planned restoration was very reasonable.

Concerns

- The budget component on berms lacked detail.

Concluding Analysis

The team was impressed by this project as it will restore a wet-meadow complex in the headwaters of the Malheur River. Technical design resulted from a previously funded OWEB technical assistance grant in the fall of 2015. Team members familiar with the project engineer have favorable comments on his straightforward and low-cost approach to riparian restoration, which would be relatively easy for other landowners to emulate.

The South Fork of Willow Creek is near Ironside. Approximately 4,500 feet of the stream channel was straightened 50 to 60 years ago, causing the surrounding 50-acre wet meadow to dry up and lose its watershed function. Legacy grazing, channel straightening and previous high-flow events altered historic conditions. Water storage, safe release of cooler water, nutrient filtration and habitat are all compromised. The channel is down-cut 8 to 10 feet causing disconnection from the floodplain. By reconnecting the channel to wet meadows, essential habitat for many species can be restored. This project will reconnect the floodplain and provide cooler water later in the season. The project has significant ecological merit and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$116,559

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Increase budget by \$1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased

Staff Recommended

Amount

\$117,643

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5012-15597

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Wallowa Front Forest Health Improvement Partnership-The Divide

Applicant: Wallowa SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: \$106,200

Total Cost: \$6,246,637

Application Description *(from application)*

The Wallowa Front Priority Area project is a multi-agency, multi-landowner effort to reduce fuel loads and improve the overall forest health of the Wallowa Front. Alder Slope, Divide, Lostine, and Bear Creek focus areas located on the north face of the Wallowa Mountains encompass the Wallowa Front. The Divide phase of the project is located near the towns of Joseph and Imnaha and is located in the headwaters of the Wallowa River and Little Sheep Creek and Big Sheep Creek in Wallowa County. In its current state, the Divide is at high risk for catastrophic fires, insect and disease infestations, and continued deteriorating health due to overstocked stands and high treatment costs. This project includes landowners and five partnering agencies: NRCS, US Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, OWEB, and SWCD; concentrating funding and implementing on-the-ground projects over the next five years to improve the health of these stands. As more EQIP projects are completed it continues to be evident that due to the steep slopes and heavy fuels, higher rates per acre are needed to complete additional contracts. Greater landowner incentives are needed to help pay these increased rates. OWEB funds in this application will be used to provide additional cost share to complete forest thinning and slash treatments on 1000 acres in the Divide project area, as part of the greater Wallowa Front Priority Area.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This ties into existing efforts with USFS, ODF and NRCS that address overstocked stands.
- The project will also address a safety concern for wildfire and help to reduce fuel loads.
- The applicant has successfully implemented previous thinning projects on Alder Slope.
- There is positive watershed context. The planned approach looking at the whole area to have a greater overall impact.
- Assistance with the cost-share will help landowners improve forest management.
- The attached before-and-after photos of Weaver Creek which was previously funded by OWEB provided a good depiction of stand density improvement.

Concerns

- A map showing the location of the completed work on Alder Slope would have aided understanding

previous accomplishments and helped to measure success.

- It would be helpful to know how many acres were treated using OWEB funds and also the total treated acres funded by ODF and NRCS.
- Landowner match is unclear.
- The overall cost per-acre seemed high.
- It was suggested that low-level fire could be incorporated within the treatments.

Concluding Analysis

This project is part of a multi-agency, multi-landowner effort to reduce fuel loads and improve forest health along Alder Slope, the Divide, Lostine and Bear Creek drainages. Project partners are USFS, ODF and NRCS. NRCS funding is insufficient in certain locations to adequately provide cost-share due to topographic constraints, stand density, piling costs and mastication costs. Stand densities justify the higher cost per-acre. Reducing stand density to a more historic level will improve forest health and vigor. Lower stand density also reduces the threat of insect and disease outbreak. Improved spacing reduces the threat of a ground fire crowning. It will also improve hydrologic conditions by increasing snow accumulation which will improve groundwater recharge and reduce evaporation. If wildfire occurs on the steep, overstocked stands, high amounts of sediment would reach Sheep Creek and the Imnaha River. Impaired water quality will adversely affect habitat for ESA-listed steelhead and spring Chinook salmon. The team agreed that the project has high ecological merit and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$106,200

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$106,200

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5013-15607

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Overstreet Water Quality Implementation Project

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$575,480

Total Cost: \$3,750,910

Application Description *(from application)*

1. The Overstreet Water Quality Implementation Project (formerly known as the Newell Pipeline Project) project is located 1.5 miles northwest of Adrian at the bottom of the lateral and the top starts 5 miles at the north canal, and drains into the Owyhee River and the Snake River. 2. Water Quality – Surface Water The Malheur County local work group has identified irrigation induced erosion as a high priority that has been identified in the Malheur County Long Range Strategy. They include surface and groundwater degradation, furrow irrigation erosion, sediment deposition, and inadequate irrigation systems. 3. Approximately 30,320' of pipe will replace an earthen lateral on Phase III pipeline to pressurize 1239 acres. A automated cleaning screen will be at the canal to keep out debris and moss. Every take out will have a flow meter at point of delivery for on-farm usage. A pre-proposal RCPP application was turned in on April 21st for on- farm conversion from flood to sprinkler and best management practices along with Irrigation Water Management for 3150 acres that will incorporate Phase II and Phase III along with the first pressurized pipeline installed by OWEB, Owyhee Irrigation District and the Owyhee Watershed. A BOR Watersmart application will be submitted in the fall for 1/2 of pipeline cost. 4. Partners include landowners and producers, the Owyhee Watershed Council, Owyhee Irrigation District, NRCS, Idaho Power, and the Bureau of Reclamation. OWEB funds will be used for materials, project management, fiscal management, administration and post-implementation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project complements a previously funded OWEB project to replace earthen irrigation lateral 1.5 miles from Adrian. The Overstreet lateral is adjacent to the recently completed Newell pipeline.
- Once the Overstreet lateral is installed, it will facilitate on-farm upgrades and the conversion from flood irrigation to sprinklers. The Overstreet lateral supplies water to 11 landowners on 1,239 acres.
- Project implementation will result in improved water quality by eliminating sediment runoff from flood irrigation and also animal inputs and on-farm chemicals. Eliminating flood irrigation will significantly reduce soil erosion runoff that annually contributes tons of sediment and other pollutants to the Owyhee and Snake Rivers. There is a high potential for water quality benefits to temperature, sediment, nutrients, bacteria and weed transport.
- Converting from an earthen lateral to pressurized piping eliminates water lost through seepage and evaporation.

- Implementation can possibly conserve 2,565 acre-feet annually that can remain in the Owyhee reservoir for a cool release later in the season which will benefit the lower Owyhee. There is a strong potential for increased in-stream flow.

Concerns

- Not all landowners on this lateral are committed to the project.
- The point-of-diversion changed after application submittal to the Kingman ditch. Also, the application was difficult to read and lacked clarity. Many essential details were missing and the budget lacked needed clarity.
- Due to the high cost, the applicant should consider a phased approach and separate future applications into smaller pipe sections to reduce cost while maintaining functionality.
- The RCPP is not secured. If RCPP funding is not obtained, overall funding will be inadequate to install the project.
- Including data from the on-going ag drain monitoring from Malheur SWCD would be beneficial and provide good baseline data to compare future monitoring data.
- The Idaho Power cost-share should not be included in the budget as cash match.
- It was unclear if Owyhee Irrigation District (OID) can do the installation in a timely manner since the Vista View pipeline needs to be installed over the winter and the siphon needs significant repairs work implemented this year.

Concluding Analysis

Malheur SWCD, Owyhee and Malheur Watershed Councils together with the irrigations districts have successfully implemented several lateral implementation projects. While this project complements previous efforts, it is premature. The project is very large and complicated. It is not clear if OID can install the project in a timely manner given other project obligations that need completion during the irrigation off-season. The budget will need further refinement since the point-of-diversion is different than what was submitted with the application. It would be helpful if the status of the RCPP project is known. The applicant may want to consider a phased approach and provide more detail on each separate phase. A future application will need more clearly articulated project components and maps. While implementation has the potential for high water quality benefits, the project is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount \$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5014-15609

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: War on Weeds in the Owyhees 2

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$135,090

Total Cost: \$491,502

Application Description *(from application)*

The Jordan Valley CWMA covers 4 million acres in southern Malheur County consisting of sparsely populated rangeland. The area includes the Owyhee River drainage in the Jordan Valley, Rome, Arock, Quinn and Rockville areas. Invasive species are a serious threat to the Owyhee Watershed and diminishes the watershed's ability to function properly. They dominate plant communities to the extent that plant diversity and ecosystem integrity is threatened. Weeds are encroaching on some of the most pristine high desert habitat remaining in the region. ODFW identifies the Owyhee Watershed as critical sage grouse habitat. The conversion of sage and native plant communities to invasive species reduces food and cover for wildlife. Invasive species affects the health of the watershed ecosystem. They impact plant and animal communities within the area. Infestations of noxious weeds can affect soil and erosion rates. Invasive annual grasses such as cheatgrass and medusahead rye can change the normal fire pattern. Large fires have long term impacts such as encroachment of noxious weeds, soil erosion, water quality, habitat loss, loss of forage, as well as the economic health to the community. Decreasing the spread of noxious and invasive species through weed treatments and education of the public will improve watershed health. Program partners include: private landowners, Jordan Valley CWMA, The Nature Conservancy, BLM, Malheur County Weed Control, Owyhee and Malheur County Sage Grouse Working Groups, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of State Lands, ODFW and the Owyhee Watershed Council. OWEB funds will be used to partially fund and support a weed coordinator position to implement the integrated weed management Program.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Jordan Valley CWMA has been doing positive work in an isolated area of southeast Oregon for several years. This is important work in a very large, remote area with few sources for funding.
- Many organizations including BLM, DSL, ODOT, ODA and Malheur County Weed Department are working together for a common goal. There is high potential for water quality and habitat benefits.
- There is strong landowner and agency support.
- This is a needed program doing positive, beneficial work and is a real connector to the community.
- There were several letters of support provided.

Concerns

- While the team was complimentary of this program based on comments from other agencies, information regarding past efforts and outcomes as well as evidence of prior success was lacking in the application, such as including the acres previously treated chemically and with bio-controls.
- It was unclear if previously treated areas are on an upward restoration trend to a better functioning perennial bunchgrass community.
- It was unclear whether other funding sources were available or whether funding was being coordinated with ODA; continuing to fund programmatic needs with grants is not sustainable.
- The team questioned whether they were addressing whitetop and if so the rate of success.

Concluding Analysis

This effort from the Jordan Valley CWMA has been funded by OWEB for over eight years. The CWMA has been treating noxious weeds in the upper Owyhee watershed with several basin partners. While the CWMA did not clearly articulate their success rate, review team members familiar with their work noted their work has been very successful. While not articulated in the application, whitetop in the town site of Jordan Valley has been treated over the last several years and is showing success.

There is only one person responsible for completing all the various tasks. Funds are pooled from other sources to treat targeted weeds at a landscape-level. This is a programmatic effort. Jordan Valley CWMA covers an extensive, sparsely populated area in southeast Oregon, making coordination problematic with landowners and agencies. There are very few agency offices in the entire region. The area has a frequent fire-return interval with cheatgrass and medusahead rye increasing fire size. Due to the large amount of annual grasses in this area, several high intensity fires occurred over the last five years. Those fires resulted in degraded habitat and loss of sage-brush for sagebrush-obligate species such as greater sage-grouse. Being able to treat new satellite infestations is an important objective of the CWMA. By treating smaller satellite populations, the rate of noxious weed spread can be greatly reduced. The team felt that based on past performance, future success should continue. The project has significant ecological merit to warrant funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$135,090

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$135,090

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5015-15613

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: In For The Long Haul

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$48,775

Total Cost: \$98,780

Application Description *(from application)*

1) Approximately 10 miles south of Ontario, above the Shoestring Canal, In For The Long Haul runoff drains into the Shoestring. 2) This project is located 10 miles SW of Ontario and sits on the edge of the bench ground. The 24-acre property is currently irrigated with broken concrete ditches on steep 5 to 12% slopes. The major cause of erosion and low irrigation efficiency is the irrigation of relatively steep furrow runs and steep slopes. Much of the irrigated acreage in the watershed has slopes exceeding 1.5%. Installation of pressurized pipeline along with on-farm irrigation system improvements will effectively treat low irrigation efficiency. 3) Install a pivot to treat 21 acres and three irropods pull lines for two corners and pasture in the pie shape of the pivot to irrigate the other 3 acres. 4) Partner will include landowner

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- No strengths were identified with this application.

Concerns

- The project has a high cost-acre of \$1,951 for the OWEB-requested amount.
- The amount requested for electrical is 33 percent of the OWEB request amount which was quite high.
- The PISR amount requested was high given the short distance from Ontario.
- The application seemed rushed and lacked critical detail and also had errors.

Concluding Analysis

The application was not well-thought-out and seemed rushed. The project seemed to be more opportunistic rather than strategically planned. The relative need, importance and urgency for the project were not described. The overall acreage is small resulting in a high cost per-acre. The requested electrical cost was also high. However, there was good match provided by the landowner in an area that is not a NRCS priority area. Irrigation-induced erosion is occurring on steep slopes and therefore converting to sprinkler irrigation may have benefit. It was unclear where runoff would go and how far it was until sediment reaches the Shoestring Canal. The map did not provide needed clear detail. Overall, the project lacked essential detail to warrant funding consideration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff

Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5016-15616

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lime-Aid

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$30,011

Total Cost: \$37,550

Application Description *(from application)*

The Lime-Aid project is based out of Lime, Oregon, along the Burnt River. This project is located in Baker County just 3 miles South of Dixie Oregon. The Lime Hill Fire of 2015 removed the majority of vegetation, and fencing within the Western pasture. Within the Eastern pastures, over utilization by the previous owner has left the meadows along the burnt river in poor condition. The lack of watering locations and fencing has slowed rehabilitation of the property. Proper distribution of cattle is difficult to achieve in its current state, and is compounded by the ruggedness of the terrain. The goals of this project is to provide additional fencing and watering locations to redistribute cattle away from over utilized areas and aid the rehabilitation efforts of the Owner and partner agencies. This will be accomplished by installing 3 fences and 2 troughs to pull cattle from the Burnt river and allow over utilized areas to be rested. It will also benefit on going rehabilitation efforts by the BLM and NRCS who have seeded and sprayed within the Burned areas. By installing fencing, it will allow the owner to rotate cattle within this new seeding. Two sections of fence will receive low pressure from cattle and will be four strand barb wire. The last section, of fence will receive high pressure from cattle near the river and will be a five-strand barb wire fence. Two gravity feed troughs will be placed at hardened sites near springs above the high pressure fence.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The new landowner has a strong commitment to improve upland conditions on a heavily overgrazed property along I-84.
- The proposed fencing will help to restore a dry meadow and enable future restoration projects.

Concerns

- The budget lacks clarity and detail. Project components need to be concise and split into understandable elements.
- Many of the of the equipment supply attachments were superfluous and not needed.
- It was unclear whether livestock will have access to the Burnt River riparian area. A more concise grazing plan or scheme needs to be provided.
- Project maps needed additional clarity with a better legend, labeling and detail.

- It is unlikely that the proposed rock will be sufficient to keep livestock out of the spring development; the applicant should consult with NRCS on the design.
- The cost of fencing (\$2.15/ft.) appears low.

Concluding Analysis

The project location is highly visible from Interstate 84 near Lime. Both sides of this section of the Interstate were adversely affected by a rangeland fire in 2015. The previous landowners severely overgrazed the range. Remaining vegetation is sparse, creating conditions for invasive grasses and high potential for erosion. The property slopes directly into the Burnt River. The new landowner has participated in other OWEB projects in Willow Creek and has a strong desire to improve existing conditions including the upland vegetation and overall watershed health.

The application was not clearly written and would have benefited from additional detail. After the application was submitted, it was determined that some sections of fencing were recently improved by BLM staff in the spring. Some rock jacks were rebuilt. The applicant then lowered the total OWEB request. However, the team expressed that the overall cost per-foot for fencing seemed too low, especially given the steep nature of this property. While the team expressed that the project has high potential ecological merit, some proposed practices were unclear. A detailed budget with distinct project components is needed. Also, it was not clear if the livestock will be grazing in the riparian area of Burnt River. A grazing scheme or plan needs to be clearly articulated. Better maps of the project site with additional clarity are needed. The spring development design should be consistent with NRCS guidelines. The project is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5017-15645

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Clear Creek Restoration
(Phase 1)

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$146,246

Total Cost: \$186,246

Application Description *(from application)*

This project is the first phase of a restoration project spanning six properties and 2 miles of critical bull trout habitat on Clear Creek. The first phase will include restoration on two properties along 0.6 miles of Clear Creek. It is located just above the confluence with Pine Creek, which flows into Brownlee Reservoir on the Snake River. It is in eastern Baker County, several miles southeast of the City of Halfway. The region has recently experienced several large floods which caused infrastructure damage, bank failure and loss of pasture. Residents are motivated to improve conditions on Clear Creek to prevent damage during future floods as well aid in bull trout recovery. The designs for this project address high stream temperature, bank instability, sedimentation, fish habitat simplification and livestock access. The restoration elements which will be implemented to address these issues are: revegetation of bare banks, fencing to protect new and existing riparian vegetation, installation of slash to support failing banks, installation of flow deflectors to reduce pressure on failing banks, installation of habitat structures for fish and establishing livestock driveways to limit the impact of livestock. Partners include landowners, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Oregon Wildlife Foundation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- From the site visit, the riparian vegetation on the Matile property appears healthy.
- Using an elk fence on the Gulick property is appropriate due to the considerable damage caused by elk.
- Clear Creek is critical bull trout habitat.
- The review team agreed that installation of a riparian fence that protects current and potential vegetation will have the highest benefit.

Concerns

- The feed bunks on Gulick Road are located too close to Clear Creek. There is the potential for direct runoff into the stream.
- The project appears to be over-designed. Planting larger-sized potted trees and shrubs in a gravel bar has a low chance of success.
- Livestock should be removed from the pasture grass.

- One of the properties has a considerable amount of debris that needs to be cleared.
- The log structures seem underdeveloped and may need additional pieces of wood. Also, some of the habitat structures appear to be over engineered.
- The proposed planting density of 6,000 stems per-acre seems excessive. The overall vegetation strategy is questionable.
- The design should consider past occurrences on Clear Creek; fencing placed in the curves of Clear Creek will likely fail during a high-flow event.
- The proposed water gap is in an inappropriate location and is too steep.
- The consulting firm was unfamiliar to team members.
- The wet meadow should be fenced.

Concluding Analysis

Clear Creek is an important bull trout stream and will benefit from restoration efforts. Having willing landowners ready to participate is also positive. The application was a resubmittal; however, some recommendations suggested by the review team were not followed. The application still lacked essential detail and was not clear. The project seemed to be over designed. From the site visit, it was clear that installing a riparian fence will provide the highest environmental benefit. Riparian vegetation is well established in many areas and just needs protection from livestock and ungulates. The proposed elk fence is appropriate on the designated section of Clear Creek. The amount of planting proposed was excessive. It seemed to the reviewers that providing riparian fencing and off-stream water for livestock would be a positive start for this project. While future implementation has potential for ecological merit, the application is not ready to be recommended this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5018-15648

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Circling the Hyline

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$59,761

Total Cost: \$179,750

Application Description *(from application)*

(1) The landowner currently furrow irrigates about 75 acres 10 miles north of Ontario in the NRCS CIS Area which is entirely in Malheur County. With the current irrigation system of furrow irrigation, the drainage water goes into the Hy-line Canal (Owyhee Irrigation District) and subsequently into Sheperd Gulch and then into the Snake River. (2) Most irrigation district infrastructure was designed 75 to 100 years ago for furrow irrigation and depends on the reuse of irrigation water to supply patrons. These return flows contain fertilizers that contribute to algae blooms (chlorophyll a), bacteria from animal waste, and sediment from eroding fields and irrigation systems. The Snake River is listed on the Idaho and Oregon 303 (d) lists for bacteria, dissolved oxygen, mercury, nutrients, pH, sediment and temperature. The Snake River-Hells Canyon TMDL requires an 80% reduction in phosphorus. (3) The landowner will install about 3360 feet of pipe (replacing surface ditches) and two center pivots to convert to a zero runoff type of irrigation. This will reduce the loads of nutrients, bacteria and sediments that currently may end up in the Snake River. (4) Partners in this project are the landowner, the Malheur SWCD and possibly the NRCS when funding becomes available.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in NRCS' Hyline Bench Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) priority area and will leverage NRCS funds for the pivots.
- Site has fairly steep slopes and will benefit from a conversion to sprinkler irrigation, reducing erosion to improve water quality.
- The project had excellent match at 200% of the OWEB-requested amount.

Concerns

- The application needed clearer, more concise maps indicating where runoff from the field flows and the distance to reach the Snake River. The application was difficult to read and lacked clarity. Many critical details were missing. The relative need, urgency, and importance of this project were not clearly described.
- OWEB has been funding the agricultural drain monitoring in this area for several years. Including monitoring data with the application would have provided baseline information and provided context for the application.
- More information regarding the water quality benefits would have been useful.

- The cost of the bubbler seemed high.

Concluding Analysis

The project is located in the Hyline Bench CIS priority area. Runoff from this area eventually flows into Shepard's Gulch and onto the Snake River nearby. The project is located on the Oregon Slope east of I-84. This area is now a focus area for NRCS where other OWEB projects were recently implemented. The priority area was determined as a result of the ongoing ag drain monitoring by Malheur SWCD funded by OWEB and DEQ. However, including some of that data with the application would have been beneficial

The project site has fairly steep slopes and it appeared from the site visit that runoff can be significant. A better map showing where the runoff reaches Shepard's Gulch and ultimately the Snake River is needed. Information describing the take-out was not clear. It seemed that the project management and PISR requested amounts were high given the nature of this project and its close proximity to Ontario. The proposed actions potentially have merit; however, the application lacks essential detail and clarity to warrant funding. A future application should have improved maps, inclusion of data from ag drain monitoring on Shepard's Gulch, a concise budget, and additional detail describing the need for the project. The project is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5019-15652

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Freddie the Fish Detour

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$121,452

Total Cost: \$152,628

Application Description *(from application)*

This project occurs along the mainstem of Willow Creek approximately 2.5 miles north and east of Ironside, Oregon. The Willowcreek dumps into Malheur Reservoir and then into the Malheur River near Vale, Oregon in Malheur County. The Fish Detour screen project will address improving fish passage and screening. Willow Creek has been recently (2014) determined by ODFW to possibly contain redband trout. Because of a diversion improvement for the Wilks Ranch, ODFW has required Wilks Ranch to install a fish screen on their irrigation water diversion on Willow Creek. There is currently no fish screens on Willow Creek. The irrigation diversion for the Wilks Ranch is located on a neighbor's property and the water is conveyed via pipeline to the Wilks irrigation system. It has been determined by the landowner and ODFW that the best site alternative would be location of the screen and fish return on the Wilks Ranch property by breaking the pipeline just inside the property boundary and inserting the screen there. Since the water travels by gravity, the screen should have little or no effect on the flows or levels. OWEB funds will be used along with cash and in-kind funding from project partners (landowner and ODFW) to implement project activities and monitor post-project responses. Project activities include screen design (ODFW), fish passage and screening installation, bank stabilization (around fish bypass pipe) treatments for fish return to Willowcreek, and monitoring post-project reporting will be done by the landowner and the SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This rancher is a proactive landowner and implemented many projects on this property since purchasing it. He has cut juniper, installed 2.3 miles of riparian fencing and consolidated diversions.
- When water is present, redband trout will use this area for migration.
- The ecological merit of the fish screen is clear.
- The project can be a positive outreach effort and aid in having additional fish screens installed in the upper Malheur watershed.

Concerns

- While fish would benefit from the fish screen, it was unclear if there actually are fish in this section of Willow Creek. It was expressed that there should be verification that fish are actually present prior to installing a fish screen.

- Flow in this section of Willow Creek is intermittent later in the year.
- The application was difficult to read and lacked clarity. The relative need, importance and urgency for this project were not clearly described. The resource benefit from this project seems small relative to the cost.
- The landowner was proactive in consolidating the diversion points; however, the point-of-diversion change triggered the need for the fish screen from OWRD.
- The proposed fish bypass pipe is 450 feet long. There was concern that sediment will clog that length of pipe making the fish screen non-functional and potentially detrimental to fisheries.
- The proposed design appears to be based on landowner needs rather than resource concerns.
- There is no construction engineering oversight.

Concluding Analysis

Currently there are no fish screens in this section of Willow Creek, which is above the Malheur Reservoir. The previous landowner began an OWEB-funded channel modification project on this property. The current landowner completed that effort. As a result of that channel re-design, a new consolidated point-of-diversion was installed which necessitates the need for a fish screen. Using OWEB funds for fish screens is permissible on non-anadromous streams; however, there were concerns with the proposed design. The team had concerns regarding the length of the bypass ditch and the potential for sediment to clog the ditch, which will make the fish screen non-functional. There needs to be engineering oversight during construction. While there is potential merit, additional analysis is required and it is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5020-15658

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Beaver Tables

Medusahead

Applicant: Harney SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: \$231,109

Total Cost: \$515,509

Application Description *(from application)*

Abstract: 1. Located near Crane, in Harney County and South to highway 78, in the Beaver Tables area, in sage-grouse general habitat. Project is South and West of two core habitat areas with leks to the East & North. 2. Medusahead is adversely affecting sage-grouse habitat. The perennial bunchgrass and sagebrush community is being displaced. Medusahead is expanding onto private land due to recent landscape-level fires and the inability of the BLM until recently to use appropriate herbicides including Plateau. 3. The primary objective is to restore critical sagebrush-steppe heavily impacted by medusahead rye by aerial application of herbicide and upland seeding. Planned restoration includes aerially spraying Plateau on 1,700 acres of Medusahead on 8 landowners; seeding 1,200 acres of the 1,700 treated acres with crested or Siberian wheatgrass, where needed; DSL will aerially spray 350 acres; BLM will treat 5,000 acres and NRCS will aerially treat 3,125 acres twice over a two-year period. 4. Partners including Burns BLM, DSL, NRCS, Harney SWCD, Harney CWMA and landowners are providing 116% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- There is strong partnership including Burns BLM, DSL, NRCS, Harney SWCD, Harney CWMA and landowners are participating with this project and providing significant cost-share.
- This is a landscape-scale restoration project that will treat non-monoculture sites scattered throughout the Beaver Tables area. This area is lightly infested and recovery has a higher likelihood of success.
- The applicant is following a three-prong approach-- vector control, focus on recoverable areas that are not monocultures and multiple-year treatments. By prioritizing the remaining areas into smaller units, treatments should have a higher success rate.
- Some of the partners' work has already started. The cost-share is very strong.
- One of the project's objectives is to protect sage-grouse habitat by keeping the medusahead out of core habitat. The Harney County CWMA and project partners are trying to keep the medusahead from spreading to the sage-grouse leks to the north in the Otis PAC (priority area of concern) and east towards Crowley.

Concerns

- The amount of seed requested seemed high as well as the number of acres to seed, especially since the application stated that the treated sites were not monocultures.

- Grazing plans were not included in the application. The site visit indicated that there is a one-year rest plan.
- Team members were interested in knowing the post-treatment plan.

Concluding Analysis

The site visit indicated the importance of this effort and the amount of coordination occurring between the various agencies. The agencies coordinating this effort have been working with these landowners and are confident in their grazing practices. The project has strong partnership. The BLM and DSL are actively treating medusahead on nearby public lands. It is a well-coordinated effort. Medusahead has expanded due to the Buzzard complex fire a few years ago. The main objective of the project is to keep medusahead from spreading into core sage-grouse habitat, especially the Otis-Moffet PAC (priority area of concern) to the north and southeast into other core habitat. The primary objective is to restore critical sagebrush-steppe heavily impacted by medusahead rye by aerial application of herbicide and upland seeding. The three-prong approach of vector control, treating non-monoculture sites, and multiple-year treatments is advocated by scientists at the EOARC (Eastern Oregon Ag Research Center). Extensive research recommends various practices to effectively manage medusahead over time. This project will be implementing some of those practices. Overall the team felt there is significant ecological merit to sage-grouse habitat to warrant funding this grant cycle. However, the team also recommends determining if the amount of seed proposed is excessive.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

5 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$245,206

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff contacted the applicant. It was determined that the amount of acres needing seed should be reduced from 1,200 to 900 acres. The budget was modified accordingly.

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced

Staff Recommended Amount

\$231,109

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5021-15564

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Ellis Road T/A

Applicant: Baker Valley SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: \$9,350

Total Cost: \$11,987

Application Description *(from application)*

Two landowners are seeking assistance to develop a 100% construction ready design to pipe their open irrigation ditch that is attributing to severe erosion and down cutting to their irrigation system. This process is not only causing water loss, but is adding excess debris and sediment downstream, traveling only a little over 8 miles before emptying into the North Powder River. The landscape of this project consists of upland sagebrush steppe and 504 affected acres of irrigated farm ground, located in the Powder River Drainage near North Powder. Under the Powder Valley Water Control District the Coughanour ditch, beginning in Pilcher Creek Reservoir and emptying into Wolf Creek Reservoir, supplies irrigation water to the landowners through a measuring weir off of the Coughanour and into their open irrigation ditch; this ditch provides water to operate five wheel lines, one hand line, and one pivot on the property. From the irrigation weir, water travels through 2.18 miles of open ditch to two mainline intakes; the excess water is then diverted past the second intake and down a bypass ditch, returning unused water to the North Powder River.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The maps provided show the complicated system and were helpful to the team to understand the problems.
- Water right information was also provided.
- The team was confident that designs for the future restoration project will be beneficial to the North Powder watershed.
- The review team previously recommended that the applicant apply for a technical assistance grant when the original restoration application was submitted in 2016.
- Installation of the pipeline in a future implementation project will eliminate evaporation and seepage loss.

Concerns

- The team questioned the likelihood that the estimated 2.5 cfs will remain in the Coughanour Ditch to return to Wolf Creek.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated that their recommendation for a technical assistance application was followed. The previous restoration application lacked essential technical designs to warrant funding. This technical assistance application provided clear maps, good details, and water right information. The site visit in the fall verified the need for restoration of the actively down-cutting ditch. The current irrigation system requires excess water to be conveyed through a by-pass ditch which results in excessive erosion. The team agreed that this project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$9,350

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$9,350

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5022-15588

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Northern Malheur Basin: Riparian, wet meadow assessment, planning and landowner recruitment.

Applicant: Malheur WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$47,575

Total Cost: \$68,575

Application Description *(from application)*

1) We are proposing to work in the Willow and Bully Creek watersheds in northern Malheur County. Our priorities will be to study the HUC 12 sub-watersheds that contain habitat for red band trout, and the Columbia spotted frog. Our priority HUCs are in the Willow Creek system and are as follows: Alder Creek/ Willow South WillowJohnson Boulder Creek/ WillowJeff Davis Creek/ Willow Basin Creek/ Willow Our secondary priority HUCs are:Headwaters Bully CreekSF Indian CreekNF Bully Creek. 2) Watershed Issues: There is a need to conduct a systemic assessment of the habitat conditions of Willow and Bully Creek. It is vital for the Council and its partners to strategically address landowners concerns about the creek running through their properties, water quality, habitat conditions and wet meadows for redband trout and spotted frogs. Developing a scientific plan of action will allow those partners working on Willow and Bully Creek to better understand the system we are working in. We will know its weaknesses and resiliencies, and develop appropriate restoration actions. 3) Deliverables: Project area selection will emphasis state and private land that provides habitat for redband trout, and spotted frogs or is adjacent to known populations and has the capacity to extend the range for these species. Our selected contractor will deliver the following in the final report. 1) Compile and review existing information, 2) Geomorphic analysis, 3) Hydrologic/hydraulic analysis, 4) Aquatic habitat assessment/limiting factor analysis, 5) Restoration recommendation, 6) Produce and present stakeholders assessment report, 7) Stakeholder ranking of restoration priorities, and 8) Development of projects. Our goal is to assess 43 miles of streams, inspect 10 barriers, and 520 acres of habitat. 4) Partners: ODFW, NRCS, SWCD, Trout Unlimited, BLM, DEQ, and private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The final product will result in identifying areas to prioritize actions.
- The objectives of the project are sound and will likely lead to the proposed outcomes of restoring wet meadows and riparian habitat.
- The partnership is a diverse mix of stakeholders.
- The High Desert Drought Resilient RCPP is supportive of this effort.
- Project objectives are ecosystem-driven. The project will identify habitat needs and will also coordinate future restoration efforts with landowners.

- The requested budget was reasonable.

Concerns

- No concerns were noted.

Concluding Analysis

The team was impressed with this application and expressed that this technical assistance should result in future restoration projects. Potential projects will restore riparian function and reconnect the floodplain. The applicant proposes to work in the Bully Creek and Willow Creek watersheds within HUC 12 sub-watersheds that contain habitat for red-band, Columbia spotted frog and wet-meadow complexes. Technical assistance will include geomorphic analysis, hydrologic and hydraulic designs and development and ranking of various restoration projects. The review team agreed the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$47,575

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$47,575

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5023-15625

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: OWC Project Round Up

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: \$37,730

Total Cost: \$47,170

Application Description *(from application)*

The OWC Project Round-up will allow the Owyhee Watershed Council to efficiently manage 16 years of completed restoration project information, through an in-house database system. Creation of a database will be a key component for future restoration project identification, and collaborative priority area planning.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting database will provide useful context of previous projects, including information on the effectiveness of proposed projects, for the Owyhee Watershed Council.
- Information will assist the council when new staff are hired and aid in the transition. It will also aid staff when applying for various grants and project funding.
- A similar database has proven useful in the Grande Ronde watershed.

Concerns

- Current staff may not have the appropriate skills to build and maintain the data-base; continual tech support will be needed.
- The resulting database needs to be user-friendly to facilitate training of new staff.
- The amount of in-kind match (472 hours) provided by board members seemed excessive.

Concluding Analysis

The Owyhee Watershed Council (OWC) was formed in 2001. In 16 years they have successfully implemented over 200 large and small grants with various partners. Information from these completed projects are kept in various computer and paper files and not readily accessible. The ability to quickly access data from past accomplishments will assist OWC when applying for future grants from, or providing information to, other organizations. Designed properly, the database will contain information on the effectiveness of previous projects. This will help obtain funding from other organizations such as NRCS and BOR and enable OWC to diversify their portfolio and implement more restoration projects.

While it is unclear whether staff have the skills to create and maintain this database, the team has confidence in the ability of the coordinator to accomplish this task. The team agreed that the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$37,730

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$37,730

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5024-15646

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Clear Creek Diversion Designs

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$41,414

Total Cost: \$51,914

Application Description *(from application)*

The three diversions within the project area are located on Clear Creek several miles southeast of the town of Halfway in eastern Baker County. Clear Creek is designated as critical bull trout habitat and is a tributary to Pine Creek, which flows into the Brownlee Reservoir on the Snake River. Based on a survey of agricultural diversions, Clear Creek, including all tributaries, currently has 6 barriers to fish passage caused by diversions. With the removal of two of them in this project only four will remain on 24 miles of critical bull trout habitat. This grant is intended to address the issue of fish passage barrier from two diversions, the in-stream disturbance caused by regular maintenance of all three current structures and the inability to control the amount of flow diverted by one diversion. Funds from this grant will pay for an engineering firm to upgrade current designs from 30% to 60%, which can then be reviewed by the ODFW fish passage office. Partners include landowners and ditch users.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Clear Creek is a high-risk creek and experienced significant flooding in 2007 and 2010.
- Replacing the proposed diversions is positive and has strong potential for water quality benefits for temperature, bacteria and nutrient reductions from the removal of push-up dam structures.
- Clear Creek is critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout. Improving riparian conditions, bank stability and fish passage will be beneficial. Clear Creek is a major tributary to Pine Creek.
- This section of Clear Creek is in great need of improvement. The long-term goal of removing all passage barriers in Clear Creek is noteworthy.
- Powder Watershed Council's initial contact with the landowners was a positive start.

Concerns

- Multiple technical assistance applications may be needed to obtain full designs for this project; a piecemeal approach to obtaining full designs seems expensive, time-consuming and repetitive.
- Requested funding will bring the designs up to 60%, which may still be insufficient to obtain approval from ODFW.
- The council should consider reaching out to other agencies, particularly ODFW, to obtain input and technical suggestions.
- Obtaining designs for three diversions will not be cost-effective.

- Only one of the three diversions included a fish screen.

Concluding Analysis

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 proposed to advance the conceptual design for three diversion upgrades to the 60% design level so designs can be evaluated by ODFW. However, it was stated that 60% designs are often inadequate for permit evaluation. 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 stretch of Clear Creek.

The team visited one of the proposed sites prior to the review team meeting. The application was previously submitted but not recommended. The team agreed that the resubmitted application did not provide needed modifications to warrant funding. The overall design concept is not well-conceived. It was suggested that the applicant start a fresh approach by seeking additional technical input. While this section of Clear Creek will greatly benefit from future restoration work, the team agreed that this application did not provide the detail necessary to recommend funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5025-15647

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Powder Basin SWAT Analysis

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: \$11,016

Total Cost: \$13,936

Application Description *(from application)*

The Powder Basin includes three subbasins, all of which drain into the Snake River: the Powder Subbasin, the Burnt River subbasin and the Brownlee subbasin. These subbasins are drained by the Powder, North Powder and Burnt Rivers and Pine Cr., Wolf Cr., Eagle Cr., Antone Cr. and others and includes the towns of Baker City, Haines, Halfway, Unity, Sumpter and North Powder. Elevations range from 9,000 ft. in the Elkhorn and Wallowa Mtns. to about 1,700 at the Snake River. The region is semi-arid and precipitation is dominated by winter snowfall with some spring and summer rainfall. Climate change predictions for the region include a 2-5 degree fahrenheit increase in temperatures by the year 2100, a decrease in summer precipitation, a shift from snowfall to rain during spring and an increase in erosion from more frequent fires. Many communities do not have the tools to adequately prepare for these changes. The Soil Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) is a widely-used process-driven computer simulation model developed to compare different management scenarios in terms of potential impacts to watershed hydrology and erosion. By including climate change scenarios along with fire scenarios we can look at the interaction between the two. This can help the public understand the severity of the potential impact, the areas of highest impact and build a framework for preparing to help mitigate impacts. Faculty from Oregon State University have agreed to partner with us on this effort and help produce a report that will be accessible to natural resource professionals and the general public.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The requested OWEB amount is nominal.

Concerns

- The ecological benefits from this project are unclear.
- The end product is unclear.
- Climate models may provide useful long-term predictions about factors influencing habitat conditions, but are not likely to provide clear guidance to direct and prioritize habitat restoration in the near-term.

Concluding Analysis

The climate model will have little benefit especially to bull trout and other threatened species. The model is based on assumptions and looks too far into the future to provide specific restoration guidance. The resulting end product will have little merit for planning restoration projects in the near future. The project does not warrant funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5026-15663

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Harney Basin Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: \$49,035

Total Cost: \$61,550

Application Description *(from application)*

This project will take place in the Harney Basin, located principally in Harney County, which includes the towns of Hines, Burns, and Frenchglen. This watershed is a closed basin and drains the Silvies River, Donner und Blitzen River, and Silver Creek. Increased pumping over the last few decades has resulted in groundwater declines, potentially causing harm to senior water users and rivers, wetlands, and springs. Oregon Water Resources Department has initiated two projects to address these declines and develop solutions for sustainable water management: a USGS-OWRD collaborative groundwater study, and a place-based planning grant to the community. An important component of these two projects is to quantify how these declines have affected freshwater ecosystems and species, and determine which actions can be taken to protect them. This technical assistance grant would fund analyses to identify which ecosystems and species are dependent on groundwater discharge, how their groundwater supply has changed over the two decades of increased groundwater pumping, and what actions can be taken by private landowners to protect these ecosystems and species. Final deliverables will include maps of groundwater-dependent ecosystems and analyses of their change over time, plus a report describing actions that can be taken by landowners to protect these systems. Key project partners include the Harney County Watershed Council, Harney County Court, High Desert Partnership, U.S. Geological Survey, and Oregon Water Resources Department.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project seems very interesting and innovative.
- Drones will help to provide information about the confluence of surface water and ground water.
- The project will assist Oregon Water Resources Department's (OWRD) Place-based Planning effort which is currently on-going in Harney County.
- Collected data will help inform potential recharge projects
- There is support from the Harney County Commissioners, including representation on the groundwater availability study board.

Concerns

- It was unclear how this effort would be coordinated with OWRD's groundwater study.

- The project seems premature; it was unclear whether the project should proceed after completion of the OWRD groundwater study.
- The application provided no indication of ownership in the project or support from landowners.
- More outreach for this project is needed.
- ODFW was not approached on this project from a wildlife perspective.

Concluding Analysis

The project can potentially provide data that benefits several on-going groundwater studies with OWRD, USGS, Harney County Watershed Council, Harney Council and landowners. However, it was unclear how the collected data benefits those efforts. It is also unclear how these studies are interconnected and how they tie into OWRD's Placed-Based Planning effort. The team expressed that more outreach needs to occur. Using drones over private property needs prior outreach to landowners before beginning such an effort. The team agreed that there may be merit to this project. However, more coordination and outreach is needed prior to recommending this project. It is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

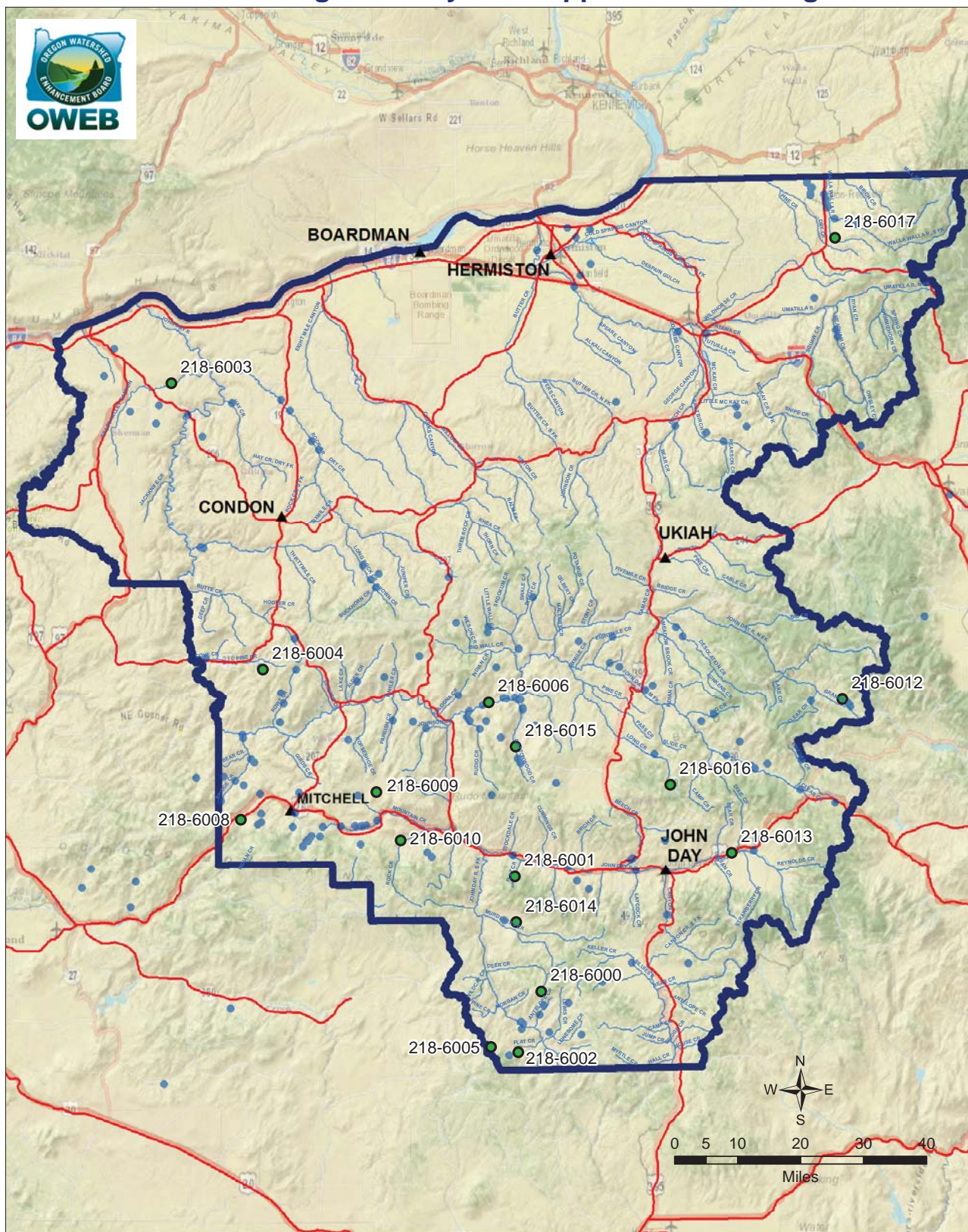
Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Mid-Columbia - Region 6 May 2017 Application Funding Status



Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\MapReview Team Meetings\2017SpringCycle\Projects\Region6_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2017Spring.mxd
 Software: ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1 NAD 83 Oregon Statewide Lambert Foot Intl OWEB- PK Willis Sept. 2017

Spring 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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<http://oregon.gov/OWEB/>

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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
218-6008	Wheeler SWCD	Circle Bar Ranch Restoration Project	This ridgetop-to-ridgetop project on a tributary of the John Day River will help keep streams clear, flowing and shaded by removing juniper where it doesn't belong, planting and fencing along streambanks, providing water troughs up in the hills, and fencing aspen groves.	65,359	Wheeler
218-6009	Wheeler SWCD	Juniper Butte Systematic Restoration	This project increases cool, clean water by removing juniper, increasing and protecting plants along streams that ultimately flow into the John Day River, providing places for both wildlife and livestock to get water along dry ridges, and protecting important wildlife habitat in aspen groves.	57,811	Wheeler
218-6004	Bridge Creek WC	Pine Creek Upland Improvement 2	This project, building on previous restoration done on this ranch, improves both wildlife habitat and livestock management on property bordering Pine Creek, an important native fish tributary of the John Day River. Removing juniper where it shouldn't be growing, developing water sources in dry areas and installing cross fences to improve livestock rotation and grass management are all components of this large scale project.	58,977	Wheeler
218-6013	Grant SWCD	Upper John Day River Fish Passage Improvement Project	As a first phase, this project will improve just under two miles of fish passage and water quality by eliminating the need for two irrigation push-up dams on the John Day River by installing two fish-friendly headgate structures.	244,072	Grant
218-6006	Monument SWCD	Smith POD Transfer and Riparian Restoration	This project, located along 1.2 miles of the North Fork John Day River, will improve habitat and water quality by eliminating a push-up dam used for irrigation, and replacing it with a downstream pumping station that efficiently measures water use and protects fish.	35,207	Grant
218-6012	North Fork John Day WC	Boundary Creek Fish Passage Enhancement	Five miles of high-elevation habitat for native fish will be opened up by replacing three culverts on streams flowing into the North Fork John Day River near Ukiah.	234,328	Grant
218-6005	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Snow Mtn. Ranch Restoration	At the headwaters of the South Fork John Day River, this project will improve wildlife habitat and sensitive ecosystems by thinning juniper and conifers, restore wetlands, enhance and protect aspen stands, and increase diversity and resiliency to both old growth ponderosa pine and bitterbrush communities.	29,425	Grant
218-6002	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Izee Allotment Improvements - 2018	This project, located in Malheur National Forest, protects streams and sensitive plants, improves water quality and encourages livestock away from springs while providing water for both wildlife and livestock on dry ridges.	45,814	Grant

Region 6 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration and Technical Assistance - Spring 2017 Grant Offering

218-6001	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Flat Creek Juniper Removal	This project, located in the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area along a tributary of the John Day River, will restore historic bitterbrush and native grassland habitat and improve fish and wildlife habitat by removing junipers growing in areas they shouldn't and complementing previous work done to improve this watershed.	60,429	Grant
218-6000	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Rosebud Allotment Enhancements	This project will protect and enhance four spring sites located in the uplands of tributaries flowing into the South Fork John Day River, improving both water quality and wildlife habitat.	15,470	Grant
218-6010	Wheeler SWCD	Lower Pine Hollow Bridge and Diversion	This project will open up a mile and a quarter of native fish habitat on a tributary of the John Day River by replacing two culverts perched high above the stream bed with a bridge; and one irrigation push-up dam with a fish-friendly headgate that will help track water use and prevent fish from being stranded in irrigation ditches.	104,300	Wheeler
218-6003	Sherman County Area WC	Lower Grass Valley Canyon Upland Restoration	Located in the uplands of a tributary of the lower John Day River, this project reduces the amount of soil washing out of fields during storm events, improves wildlife habitat with native grass seeding, and provides water for both wildlife and livestock in arid, upland ridges.	113,402	Sherman
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,064,594	

Restoration Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
NONE				
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT			1,064,594	

Restoration Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
218-6007	Umatilla County Weed Control	UCWD Russian Olive 2017	45,032	Umatilla

Region 6 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration and Technical Assistance - Spring 2017 Grant Offering

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-6016	North Fork John Day WC	BRAT in the John Day River Basin TA	This project will do an in-depth analysis of the entire John Day Basin identifying best locations for restoration mimicking instream beaver dams.	45,909	Grant
218-6015	Monument SWCD	Cottonwood Creek Sediment Control	This project will produce designs used to catch soil and water during storm events and help improve water quality and fish habitat on a tributary of the North Fork John Day River.	49,982	Grant
218-6017	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Couse Creek Watershed Assessment	This assessment will provide critical information for future restoration project planning on a tributary of the Walla Walla River, an important stream for native fish.	49,415	Umatilla
218-6014	Cascade Pacific RC&D	South Fork John Day Aspen & Spring Inventory	This project inventories aspen groves and springs in the lower South Fork John Day River Basin resulting in projects that improve wildlife habitat.	18,524	Grant
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				163,830	

Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount Recommended	County
NONE					
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				163,830	

Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount	County
NONE					

Region 6 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	1,228,424	14%
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Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	8,788,376	
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Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6000-15548

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Rosebud Allotment Enhancements

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$15,470

Total Cost: \$35,285

Application Description *(from application)*

The Rosebud Grazing allotment is located in the southwest corner of the Blue Mountain Ranger District, in Grant County, near the town of Izee. Tributaries of this allotment drain into the Upper South Fork John Day River. The allotment is at the southern boundary of the Murderer's Creek Wild Horse Territory, and Murderers Creek Mule Deer Initiative Focus Area. Along with summer grazing by permitted livestock, the allotment has the presence of an unknown number of wild horses and wildlife. Currently there is no active management of wild horses in this allotment. The combined use of these animals has been having an adverse effect on some spring sources within the allotment. These effects include soil compaction in soft hydric soils, and excessive grazing of riparian vegetation. Both lead to sedimentation and decrease in water quality. Where necessary, development of the sites can provide access to water that has been removed for protection efforts. We are proposing to protect 3 spring sites by strategically falling and placing present trees, or constructing protective fencing; either buck and pole, or wildlife friendly wire fencing. We are also proposing to develop and protect one of these spring sites. Project partners include the Malheur National Forest, the Permittee, and the South Fork John Day Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Applicant answered all questions noted on the previous evaluation.
- Proposed project is technically straight-forward.
- Match increased from the last application submission, which reduced the OWEB request.
- The game camera photos provided clearly show springs are degraded by multiple wildlife, feral horses, and cattle.
- Grazing management information is included in the application.
- The project is a low cost for the expected ecological benefits.

Concerns

- The application map does not clearly show which spring site is being developed.
- The application is unclear on the number and location of other water sources in this allotment.

- It is unclear whether there could be negative impacts on other water sources in the area by protecting these three sites.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmitted project that was recommended in a previous cycle but ranked below the funding line. The applicant addressed all concerns noted in the prior evaluation, as well as reducing the OWEB request. The game camera showed a variety of animals visiting one of the sites, including feral horses. Water quality will be improved, an aspen clone protected, and a spring developed for both domestic livestock and wildlife for a relatively low cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

10 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$15,470

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$15,470

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6001-15549

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Flat Creek Juniper
Removal

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$60,429

Total Cost: \$85,329

Application Description *(from application)*

The Flat Creek Sub watershed is a listed critical steelhead habitat tributary of the Upper Mainstem John Day River, 5 miles east of Dayville, Oregon. The proposed project area lies within ODFW's Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area; which is a popular area for recreation, with the Aldrich Ponds located at its headwaters. Historically, habitat types consisted primarily of large stands of bitterbrush and native bunchgrasses that provided excellent forage for wintering deer. These key habitats have undergone landscape changes resulting from western juniper encroachment and invasion of annual grasses. The South Fork John Day Watershed Council and the ODFW Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area are partnering to perform a watershed scale restoration effort for the Flat Creek Watershed. We are requesting support from OWEB to perform 330 acres of Juniper removal.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes both a grazing management tool and long term juniper maintenance plan.
- Specifications for juniper removal sites are included and the application provides clear detail.
- Flat Creek is an ODFW identified steelhead stream.
- This project builds on multiple restoration sites, both completed and planned for the future, which will improve terrestrial and aquatic habitats.
- The applicant addressed all concerns noted in the prior submission evaluation.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by information on how sites were prioritized.
- Characterization of the sites would have helped the review. Some of the photos included in the application show areas with invasive annual grass encroachment.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmitted project that was recommended in a previous cycle and ranked below the funding line. 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.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$60,429

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$60,429

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6002-15550

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Izee Allotment Improvements - 2018

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$45,814

Total Cost: \$70,984

Application Description *(from application)*

The Izee Allotment is located approximately 33 miles northwest of Burns, Oregon, and includes Grant and Harney Counties, and within the South Fork John Day Watershed. The allotment is 18,444 acres of National Forest lands administered by the Emigrant Creek Ranger District (ECRD) of the Malheur National Forest. There are five pastures within the allotment: Corral Creek, Utley, Flat Creek, Whiskey Flat, and Caribou. The Forest Service interdisciplinary team (IDT) defined desired conditions for riparian conditions and streambanks in the project area, and it was determined that there is a need to improve riparian and aquatic resources through change in livestock management. These changes include: improve livestock dispersal by minimizing access and concentration within stream channels, discourage livestock access or use and protect sensitive plant habitats, encourage livestock use away from springs while continuing to provide water for wildlife and livestock use, and allow for ease of livestock movement to promote grazing distribution. OWEB funds are being requested to compensate for contracted services in order to install a head box, pipeline and trough as well as fencing of the spring source (1/8 acre) at Alder Spring. Construct approximately 2 miles of wildlife friendly fence on the ridge above Latigo Creek (Utley pasture). Construction of the fence will prevent Izee livestock from accessing Latigo Creek. Construct wildlife friendly enclosure fence around a large meadow complex on the western section of Latigo Creek in Flat Creek. Construct a wildlife friendly fence exclosure around Whiskey Spring (Utley Pasture) (.08 mile)

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Restoration design is appropriate for site locations.
- The explanation as to “why” project is needed and how site locations were chosen is good with sound reasoning.
- Lay-down fence is a technically sound choice for this site because of heavy snow loads.
- The application provides grazing information.
- Proposed restoration will protect riparian areas and improve the water quality of this perennial stream by reducing sediment, bacteria, and water temperature; and benefit redband trout.
- Project is a priority identified in the Izee Allotment Management Plan Environmental Analysis.
- Permittee is committed to completing all actions noted in the USFS action plan; and has funded and implemented a lot of the project work.
- This application is a resubmitted project and applicant addressed all previous evaluation comments.

Concerns

- The project does not provide benefit to steelhead because of a waterfall on the South Fork John Day River that creates a natural barrier to upstream fish passage. However, Latigo Creek does support a community of redband trout.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmitted project that was recommended in a previous cycle but ranked below the funding line. All previous concerns noted on the evaluation were addressed in this application. There is a sense of urgency for implementing this project because match funds timing is limited; and the environmental analysis covering this project, along with many other actions, expires in 2020. The permittee has shown commitment by funding implementation of many of the plan's identified restoration actions and this project builds on those actions. Protecting riparian zones and spring sites will significantly improve water quality and habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$45,814

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$45,814

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6003-15567

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Grass Valley Canyon Upland Restoration

Applicant: Sherman County Area WC

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Sherman

OWEB Request: \$113,402

Total Cost: \$173,450

Application Description *(from application)*

Location: Sherman County near Moro & specifically located in the 12th field HUC: Lower Grass Valley Canyon. Lower Grass Valley Creek runs right through the middle of this HUC & drains into the John Day River. Issue: Cropland can be vulnerable to sheet and rill erosion during the production of small grains on wheat fallow rotations. The upper portions of crop fields termed "headlands" where the sheet and rill erosion occur, drains into lower elevations where runoff gathers into natural draws or swales creating concentrated flow erosion. These conditions are deemed limiting factors in this watershed. In addition, the absence of perennial grasses increases the chance of erosion and for invasion by weedy annuals such as medusa head rye and other noxious weeds. Recovery of rangeland/upland habitat is hampered by the uneven distribution of domestic livestock and wildlife due to lack of available water/forage causing congregation of animals in undesirable areas. Solution: 1 Grass Waterway, 32 Water and sediment control basin reshapes and 32,202 ft of terrace reshapes will be implemented on unprotected cropland to reduce soil erosion to "T", the soil loss tolerance that can be sustainably maintained on that particular soil type on all project sites. 6 Wildlife watering facilities/Water Developments will also be placed in areas that wildlife/livestock exist. By installing clean watering facilities it will increase the habitat in those areas as well as create even distribution of animals. 540ac of Upland/Range seeding can help restore a healthy rangeland by increasing soil stability and hydrologic function. Native/Introduced Pasture & Wildlife grass mixes will be seeded into areas that are lacking proper vegetation. By introducing grasses back into these areas it would prevent weed infestation, erosion, runoff, possible stream contamination, increase water infiltration, increase palatable forage and wildlife habitat. Partners: OWEB, Sherman SWCD, Sherman WC, Landowners

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Applicant is doing a good job with landowner outreach in this watershed that is resulting in high participation in this landscape-scale upland proposal.
- This project is supported by secured landowner match.
- Project location is in the Sherman SWCD ODA Focus Area where the District is focused on implementing work in the riparian zone; and this proposed project builds on these ridgetop-to-ridgetop efforts.
- Project components will address overland sediment movement and benefit wildlife.

- Sites for range seeding are appropriate for using range drills for more successful implementation.
- The farm-over terrace design on no-till fields causes less impacts to the watershed than taking terraces out completely.

Concerns

- The project has a low ecological benefit compared to the investment.
- Grass Valley Creek is not listed steelhead habitat and is intermittent on most reaches.
- The application would be stronger if it included a map identifying wetted reaches of Grass Valley Creek and a valuation of the cost per acre of reducing soil loss.
- Sheep fescue is an introduced aggressive perennial grass that provides no to low forage value to wildlife. Applicant is encouraged to replace this with more beneficial native grass species.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal shows good landowner outreach and participation, which will result in landscape-scale treatments of several identified resource concerns. Many of the farmers in this drainage have already converted to no-till or direct seeding farm practices. There is a concern that many farmers will simply remove the outdated, existing terraces because of difficulties associated with the larger no-till equipment. This alternative cost-share to redesign these terraces as "farm-over", construct strategically placed water and sediment control basins, seed upland fields to native grasses, and develop off-channel water sources all will help reduce the amount of sediment coming off the fields during extreme weather events. Review team recommended "fund with the conditions" as follows: remove sheep fescue from seed mix, and the applicant shall consult with NRCS on replacement native seed species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

12 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$113,402

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Fund with Conditions: Remove sheep fescue from seed mix, and applicant shall consult with NRCS on replacement native seed species.

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$113,402

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6004-15591

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Pine Creek Upland Improvement 2

Applicant: Bridge Creek WC

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$58,977

Total Cost: \$76,459

Application Description *(from application)*

1. This project is located in the Pine Creek watershed in northwestern Wheeler County. The watershed drains to the John Day River near Clarno. 2. The area has been inundated with western juniper and is facing threats from annual grasses as well. Limiting factors in the watershed include water quantity and quality. The project complements several previous projects on this and neighboring properties, including the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation's Pine Creek Conservation Area. 3. The project will cut 167 acres of juniper on north facing slopes, develop four springs to provide off channel water sources for wildlife and livestock, treat 28 acres of annual grass infestation, reseed 28 acres, and install 5280 feet of cross fencing to help the landowner to better manage grazing impacts on the property, specifically the treatment and reseeding areas. 4. Project partners include the landowner, NRCS, Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Motivated landowner has successfully completed previous restoration projects; as well as invested funds to expand the ecological impacts of restoration work.
- This well-designed project builds on previous restoration completed on the ranch, and includes appropriate sites selected to maximize ecological results and investment.
- Diverse and abundant native plant species were noted on the project review site visit, which indicates a high likelihood of success on the selected treatment sites.
- The application includes information on the timeframe for deferring grazing to support range planting success.
- The project site visit included completed spring developments, juniper removal, and range seeding that demonstrate strong examples of effective design and implementation.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by details on next steps for the project or whether this current grant application will complete restoration plans on this ranch.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmitted project that was recommended in a previous cycle but ranked below the funding line. This is the second phase of restoration on this ranch and the ranch manager has a proven track-record of successful projects, many of which were funded by the landowner. Pine Creek, which flows on the north side of the ranch, is an important steelhead spawning and rearing stream. Investments to wildlife habitat enhancements and connectivity on this ranch will be multiplied by the proximity of the neighboring Pine Creek Conservation Area, protecting lands all the way to the confluence with the John Day River.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$58,977

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$58,977

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6005-15602

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Snow Mtn. Ranch Restoration

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$29,425

Total Cost: \$46,903

Application Description *(from application)*

Snow Mountain Ranch, owned and managed by the Kee family, is a 680-acre property at the headwaters of the South Fork John Day River about 30 miles south of Dayville, Oregon in Grant County. The property contains the headwaters of Flat Creek and feeds large volumes of cold water into the trout-bearing system. Due to fire suppression, juniper and conifers are encroaching into uplands and wetlands on the property and depleting water resources, biodiversity, and ecological resilience. The South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC) and Kee family are proposing to thin one hundred forty-nine acres of juniper and conifer encroachment to restore water flow to the wetlands, productivity to the aspen stands, diversity to the bitterbrush communities and resiliency to the maturing Ponderosa Pine stand. Restoration of these headwater resources is critical to ongoing water retention and ecological restoration efforts in the watershed. Project partners include Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation and the Kee family, with funding pending from the National Wild Turkey Federation and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. OSU Extension foresters will be contacted to consult on forest management decisions. OWEB funds are requested to cut and pile encroaching trees from 35 acres of wetland, 15 acres of upland aspen, and 7 acres of non-wetland riparian area and to conduct a juniper salvage trial on 20 acres of bitterbrush shrubland. This totals 77 acres of the 149-acre project. Funds will also be used to establish photo monitoring points within project units and at untreated control sites that will be monitored for at least 2 years following treatment.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project site includes wet meadow, wetland, and old growth ponderosa pine habitats; and includes multiple aspen clones with some of the largest trees in the region.
- This is a unique location adjacent to a USFS roadless area and BLM land.
- The property is used only for recreation and wildlife habitat, and includes a large resident elk population.
- This project will provide good habitat benefit for the investment.

Concerns

- The application would be stronger with additional site characterization detail on the upland juniper component. It is unclear how the 20-acre upland site was identified as a high priority for treatment.

- It is unclear whether the use of brush fence will effectively protect the aspen.
- The application does not include a long-term juniper management plan as requested by the prior evaluation; however, the applicant provided one after the site visit.
- Application would be strengthened by additional detail and justification relating to the value of the economic study.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmitted project from the prior two cycles that ranked below the funding line. The high-elevation project location provides unique and varied ecosystems utilized by wildlife, avian, and wetland species. The application did not provide enough information to indicate how the 20-acre upland site was determined to be a priority for treatment. The Review Team recommends this project as "fund reduced with condition" as follows: remove the 20-acre upland juniper and test plot component.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Review Team Priority

7 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$25,865

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff contacted applicant for information to determine how the upland 20-acre site was prioritized, what portion of the grant application budget was for costs to treat this 20 acres, and whether reducing the project amount would reduce overall ecological benefits realized from this investment. Staff received a comprehensive explanation from grantee demonstrating this 20-acre site was selected because it will achieve the highest ecological benefit at a reasonable cost. This site provides big game forage, could result in an enhanced shrub-land habitat, and soon will be at a tipping point at which this site will transition to phase 3 juniper if it is not treated, which will eliminate important habitat benefit. Given this information on the potential opportunity lost, staff determined that as \$3,560 of the project budget, this 20-acre portion of the project is cost-effective while providing significant ecological gains for the investment.

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$29,425

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6006-15620

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Smith POD Transfer and Riparian Restoration

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$35,207

Total Cost: \$48,102

Application Description *(from application)*

This proposed restoration project is located in Grant County between the towns of Kimberly and Monument on property that has 1.2 miles of frontage along the North Fork John Day River (NFJDR). This reach of the NFJDR provides critical migrating habitat for spring Chinook as well as ESA listed bull trout and Mid-Columbia River steelhead. Since 2005, a transient gravel bar within the river has cut off access to the landowners' existing irrigation point of diversion (POD) creating the need for heavy equipment to be used within the riparian zone and stream channel in order to maintain a push-up dam to divert water. These annual in-stream activities have impaired riparian vegetation and channel from, while increasing local sediment inputs. This project will transfer the existing POD downstream to a permanent scour pool through an official Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) transfer application. It will install a new pumping station, fish screen, and flow meter; bring power to the new pump site; and link the existing irrigation infrastructure to the new pumping system. Eliminating the annual riparian disturbance will allow desirable vegetation to reoccupy the site and reduce the potential for weeds to spread. This will complement a separate, multi-year project being conducted along the lower NFJDR through an ODA- Oregon State Weed Board grant to control leafy spurge. Partners for this proposed Restoration project include the landowners, OWEB, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), and Monument SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This application is a resubmitted project and the applicant addressed all concerns from the previous evaluation.
- Removing this push-up dam and the resulting disturbance will provide strong water quality benefits and improved riparian vegetation.
- Proposed project is technically straight-forward and has strong landowner interest, which is demonstrated by increased landowner match that reduced the OWEB request from the prior submission.

Concerns

- There are no significant concerns.

Concluding Analysis

This project will result in improved water quality and riparian vegetation establishment along this reach of the North Fork John Day River, which is an important migratory corridor for steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$35,207

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$35,207

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6007-15621

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: UCWD Russian Olive 2017

Applicant: Umatilla County Weed Control

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$45,032

Total Cost: \$56,586

Application Description *(from application)*

The project is located in Umatilla County south west of Hermiston about 8 miles. The approximate center coordinates for the project are W119 25' 12.9" N45 46' 19.8" along county road 1334 Col Jordan. The closest major water system would be the Columbia River. The wet land neither drains nor fills from a major water system. Seasonal drainage fills the the pond and remains throughout the year. The current wetland is being impacted and drying up due to the volume of russian olive trees. This is impacting the native vegetation and wildlife that utilize this area for cover, feed, and nesting habitat. Partners include 3 land owners, Umatilla County Weed Depart, Soil Water and Conservation District, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and CTIUR Tribal Nursery. The project is approximately 350 gross acres with 250 upland, 125 riparian acres, and 25 wetland acres.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is leveraged by secured landowner match, and supported by partners.
- Russian olive is an invasive species that encroaches on and out-competes native wetland and riparian plants, so controlling its population is needed.
- Since Russian olive is a significant resource concern in this area, successful results from the proposed project techniques could be replicated to other locations.
- Treatment results will be shared at the local Farm Show and county fair.

Concerns

- The application would be stronger with some sense of prioritization explaining "why here, why now", more detailed maps, and a budget reflecting the whole project.
- Follow-up treatment to control re-establishment of Russian olive could require up to ten years to be effective. If resubmitted, the application should explain how Russian olive emergence will be dealt with in the future.

Concluding Analysis

This applicant is new to the OWEB Open Solicitation Grant process and is more familiar with the State Weed grant applications where only one year of funding is allowed per an application. As a result, this application was submitted with a one-year budget and a project narrative and metrics for a three-year project. Overall, this project was deemed worthy but not ready to fund at this time because of this conflicting information. If the application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to (1) represent the entire project with a complete budget; (2) provide detailed maps; (3) include an overview of Russian olive infestation in the basin; and (4) provide additional information about the wetland site, including wildlife species using this habitat and the source of water flow that creates the wetland.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6008-15623

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Circle Bar Ranch Restoration Project

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$65,359

Total Cost: \$237,240

Application Description *(from application)*

1. This project is located southwest of Mitchell in the Bridge Creek Watershed in southern Wheeler County. West Branch Bridge Creek runs through the property and drains into Bridge Creek. Bridge Creek drains into the John Day River. 2. The area has been heavily encroached by Western Juniper. This has had a negative effect on water quality, quantity, and upland and riparian habitat. Of the seven limiting factors in the Bridge Creek Watershed, this project proposes to address flow, sediment load, and temperature, and key habitat quantity. 3. The project has elements from stream to ridgetop. Elements include riparian planting, riparian exclusion fence, brush management (juniper removal), spring developments, aspen protections and restoration. 4. Project partners include FSA, NRCS, CTWS, Wheeler SWCD, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project application is well written with good maps and useful information provided as attachments.
- West Branch Bridge Creek provides habitat for steelhead.
- This applicant has a successful track record with large-scale projects.
- The project is a ridgetop-to-stream-to-ridgetop approach that will provide multiple ecological benefits.
- Highly motivated landowner provided both a long-term juniper maintenance plan and comprehensive grazing management strategy with the application.
- Concerns mentioned in the past evaluation were addressed.
- As seen on the site visit, this ranch is well managed and the landowner is committed to improving the ecological health of the landscape.
- This branch of Bridge Creek has not had restoration implemented in a very long time; proposed project could result in additional work on neighboring properties.
- The project is highly leveraged by funds from diverse partners.

Concerns

- The budget includes a line item for aerial application of bacteria as a tool to control medusahead. ODA has not approved releasing these bacteria as a biocontrol agent at this time; however, it may occur during the life of this project.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmitted project that was recommended in a previous cycle but ranked below the funding line. The applicant put together a comprehensive, landscape-scale restoration package on a ranch that has a strong history of commitment to restoration on their land. Ecological benefits resulting from this application stretch from upland ridgetops down to important steelhead streams.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$65,359

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$65,359

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6009-15626

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Juniper Butte Systematic Restoration

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$57,811

Total Cost: \$176,937

Application Description *(from application)*

1. This project is located east of Mitchell in the Mountain Creek Watershed in southern Wheeler County in the area known locally as Waterman Flat. Willow Creek runs through the property and drains into Mountain Creek. Mountain Creek drains into Rock Creek and Rock Creek into the John Day River. 2. The area has been heavily encroached by Western Juniper. This has had a negative effect on water quality, quantity, and upland and riparian habitat. Of the seven limiting factors in the Mountain Creek Watershed, this project proposes to address flow, sediment load, and temperature, and key habitat quantity. 3. The project has elements from stream to ridgetop. Elements include riparian planting, riparian exclusion fence, brush management (juniper removal), spring developments, aspen protections and restoration, and prescribed burning. 4. Project partners include FSA, NRCS, CTWS, Wheeler SWCD, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The CREP project component adds to existing protected stream reaches.
- This applicant has a successful track record implementing complex, landscape scale projects; and provided a strong, well-written application with good maps and site characterization.
- The prescribed burn component is well designed and site appropriate; and the landowner has successful commercial experience in managing fire as a tool.
- This project will be a great example for encouraging other landowners to consider whole landscape-scale restoration.
- Willow Creek is a steelhead stream that is a tributary of Rock Creek, which ultimately flows into the John Day River.
- The project is well leveraged with match from the landowner, partnering agencies and organizations.

Concerns

- The application would be stronger with additional detail on how juniper removal and spring development sites were prioritized.

Concluding Analysis

This comprehensive project of ridgetop-to-stream restoration is a cost-effective investment for the high level of ecological benefit. The project builds on prior successful restoration actions on the ranch, and improves multiple riparian and terrestrial habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$57,811

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$57,811

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6010-15634

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Pine Hollow Bridge and Diversion

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: \$103,216

Total Cost: \$182,070

Application Description *(from application)*

1) This project is located on Pine Hollow, a tributary to Rock Creek (which flows into the John Day River at Picture Gorge) located approximately 18 miles E-SE of Mitchell and 15 miles due west of Dayville on a property known as the Antone Ranch. The lower 3.4 miles of Pine Hollow is identified by ODFW as spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead. 2) This project will correct two closely spaced passage barriers near the lower end of Pine Hollow. One is an unscreened diversion that requires annual maintenance and construction of a push up dam to extract the water right. The other barrier is a road crossing with a multi thread channel and two perched culverts. 3) The diversion will be corrected through the installation of a stream simulation diversion with a concrete headwall. A fish screen will be installed to prevent entrainment. The existing culverts will be replaced with a pre-fabricated steel bridge. Large woody debris will be added to the project area along with 100 riparian plantings. The area around the diversion and fish screen will be fenced to prevent livestock access. 4) The project partners are ODFW, the landowner, and US Fish.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will improve steelhead passage to upstream quality spawning habitat on a tributary of Rock Creek.
- Engineer has successfully implemented similar projects in the past.
- Proposed project builds on previous OWEB Technical Assistance grant and restoration planned upstream.

Concerns

- The connectivity of Pine Hollow with Rock Creek, and whether flows are sufficient during critical fish movement, is unclear in the application.
- This application would be strengthened by a design package with more detail that includes hydrology/peak flows for this drainage and how the bridge will handle those flows. Bridge designs are not provided, nor was it explained why these designs were not included.
- The application would be stronger if the water right was quantified by timing of use, priority date and cfs, the POU acreage noted on the map, and whether a flow measuring device will be included as a project component.

- The project would be stronger with more detail about future upstream habitat improvements.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmitted project from a previous cycle where it ranked a do not fund because of a lack of project designs. This submission includes designs for the diversion but lacks bridge designs. The engineer contracted for this project is known for successful restoration implementation on similar project types, but the application would be stronger with completed designs on all components. However, correcting this major fish passage barrier will result in strong ecological benefits, and serve as a gateway project for habitat enhancements planned directly upstream.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

11 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$103,216

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

The engineer working for the applicant on this project provided OWEB staff information and photos of Pine Hollow Creek's connectivity with Rock Creek; confirmed that a flow measuring device will be a part of the fish screen construction; and confirmed the bridge designs will come from the bridge vendor based on project engineer specifications.

Increase by \$1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs)

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount

\$104,300

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6011-15654

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Desolation Creek Wet Meadow
Restoration- Phase III

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$81,673

Total Cost: \$180,887

Application Description *(from application)*

This project is located on the Desolation Creek, LLC (DCLLC) property in Northern Grant County, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Dale, Oregon. The DCLLC property takes in the lower 10 miles of Desolation Creek before flowing in to the North Fork John Day River. DCLLC occupies a high number of sensitive wet meadow ecosystems. Livestock have severely degraded many of the wet meadows across the DCLLC property. This is a result of their favorability to these sensitive systems, and decades of intensive use. Several wet meadows have been trampled and are "hummocked" to the extent that water is pooling in hoof-prints rather than flowing freely across the meadows. Water contained in hoof-prints that is unable to permeate the soil due to the level of compaction will be subsequently lost to evaporation. What doesn't evaporate, is warmed significantly before re-entering ground water flow. Additionally, springs and gullies have been removed of soil holding vegetation, causing down-cutting, channel incision, and riparian degradation. Grazing in riparian meadows has been shown to considerably reduce soil pore space, and as a result soil water storage, impacting ecosystem productivity, biogeochemistry, stream temperature, and flows (Hammersmark 2008). The "Moderate" and "High" OWEB Limiting Factors that this project will address are: Altered Species Composition, Habitat Connectivity, Loss of Shade/Cover, Altered Habitat Structure, Altered Thermal Regime and Altered Sediment Regime. This project will hire a contractor to install 4.11 miles of NRCS guided livestock exclusion fence on 4 priority wet meadows. Additionally, at the 4 meadow locations, watershed council youth crews will place small branches and woody debris in gullies to help arrest further erosional forces. Materials will be gathered from previous logging debris remaining on the property. The partners for this project include Eco Trust Forest Management, OWRD and NFJDWC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- N/A

Concerns

- N/A

Concluding Analysis

N/A

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Withdrawn

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Withdrawn

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6012-15656

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Boundary Creek Fish Passage Enhancement

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$234,328

Total Cost: \$439,058

Application Description *(from application)*

Located in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, east of the rural town of Granite in NE Grant County, Boundary and Corral Creeks are tributaries to Bull Run Creek, which joins Granite Creek before flowing into the North Fork of the John Day River in Grant County. Three undersized culverts currently impede fish passage to potential spawning and rearing habitat. Two of these culverts are located on Boundary Creek, and one is on Corral Creek. Identified as priorities in the 2012 Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Bull Run Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan (WRAP), these culverts will be replaced will be replaced with open-bottom arch culverts that incorporate natural streambed configuration. In addition, sections of the road near the culvert replacements will be improved to reduce sediment input to the streams. This work builds upon previous restoration work prioritized within the 2012 WRAP. Combined, 5 miles of high-elevation steelhead, bull rout, redband trout, and Chinook salmon habitat will be opened up by this project. The NFJDWC is partnering with the Wallowa Whitman National Forest, who is providing secured matching funds for this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This application is a technically sound and straight-forward project.
- Applicant provided additional information addressing concerns noted in the previous evaluation.
- Proposed project will address velocity barriers blocking fish passage at all three culverts.
- The application includes comprehensive designs and good maps.
- This project leverages secured funds from USFS.
- Project is timely for implementation now because the availability of match dollars is limited.
- These culverts are some of the last priority projects identified in the Bull Run Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan (WRAP.)

Concerns

- Application would be stronger with an explanation on whether overflow dips were considered as a design component; and if not, why they are not site appropriate.
- Application would be strengthened by detail on the budget line item for 15 cross drain culverts and how they relate to the project scope and success.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmitted project that was recommended as a do not fund; and the applicant clearly addressed all concerns from this prior evaluation. The project builds on completed restoration work identified by a USFS watershed restoration action plan; the three culverts to be replaced are some of the last of those priority projects. This upper reach of the North Fork John Day River contains high-elevation steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout habitat, which is especially valuable given predicted changes in climate and precipitation cycles. The project designs were complete and provided good detail.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$234,328

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$234,328

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6013-15657

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper John Day River Fish Passage Improvement Project

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$242,939

Total Cost: \$304,858

Application Description *(from application)*

This project is located in the Upper John Day Basin between John Day and Prairie City. Two annually constructed gravel push-up dams are installed each year: the Hall Ditch is used to divert 5.4 cfs of water from the John Day River to serve 210 acres of irrigated lands with a priority date of 1867; the John Day River Ditch irrigates 288 acres of 1863 ground with 7.2 cfs of water. These diversions can impede fish passage for some life stages of salmonids under low flow conditions. The proposed project will replace them with low head structures consisting of engineered rock riffles and submerged inlet boxes creating natural fish passage for all life stages year round. Large wood features will be incorporated to provide fish habitat. Project partners include the landowner, BOR and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation John Day Basin Office.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project location provides important juvenile habitat for steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout with extensive Cottonwood galleries along the river.
- Removing push-up dams and eliminating the need for repeated instream disturbance will improve water quality and riparian vegetation.
- Project design is site appropriate and moves in the direction towards more natural diversion structures in the channel.
- These two diversions are the first phase of correcting a total of six push-up dams on this lower reach of the Upper John Day River; successfully correcting these diversions will foster future projects on the remaining four dams on the lower reach and ultimately the diversions on the upper reach as well.

Concerns

- The application would be stronger with more complete designs relating to the roughen riffle on each site; however, this applicant has a successful track record for designing and implementing complex instream projects like the proposed restoration work.
- The water right changes could be difficult and impede the permitting process.

Concluding Analysis

This project is the first step in improving passage and habitat for several important fish species on a significant reach of the upper main stem John Day River, including steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout. The landowner has shown interest in eventually improving fish passage and riparian health at all ten push-up diversion structures on his property. This first phase will address two points of diversions that were prioritized as the best locations to begin addressing these structures. The applicant not only has a successful track-record for implementing complex restoration, but has also established trust in the community as a good partner.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$242,939

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Increase by \$1,133 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees (\$985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount

\$244,072

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6014-15569

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Fork John Day Aspen & Spring Inventory

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$18,524

Total Cost: \$37,724

Application Description *(from application)*

The South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC) is proposing to perform Phase II of an aspen stand inventory and stand prioritization analysis for all accessible aspen groves in the South Fork John Day River Watershed, located in Grant County, Oregon. The Council has completed Phase I of the Aspen Inventory in the upper South Fork watershed. Inventory data includes stand location, stand size, stand vigor, conifer encroachment severity, existing structural protections, and photo documentation. *Populus tremuloides*, or Quaking Aspen, is one of the most widely spread tree in North America, and they are disappearing from the western United States. They are estimated to have declined by 60% in eastern Idaho, and 90% in Arizona (Eddingsaas, 2014). Aspen are considered a keystone species, which have a disproportionately large effect on the communities in which they occur. Distribution of livestock and other wildlife away from riparian areas and other sensitive habitats is identified in the Upper South Fork John Day River Watershed Assessment as a critical factor in achieving habitat improvement objectives. Upland water developments assists in livestock distribution away from these sensitive areas. The SFJDWC has had numerous requests for updating existing spring developments on the Malheur National Forest Grazing Allotments. Many of these spring sources are in direct relation to Aspen stand locations. We are proposing to use the Blue Mountain Ranger District's ArcGIS shapefile of spring development locations, and have SFJDWC staff in partnership with Forest Service staff, ground truth these spring development locations, and create a similar digital map for spring developments, that we create for Aspen. This inventory will follow Forest Service spring development inventory protocols, documenting location, development type (pond or spring), existing structures, and needed improvements.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This straight-forward habitat inventory will result in a helpful tool to prioritize restoration.
- The project budget is reasonable for the proposed deliverables.
- Appropriate partners are engaged in the project.
- Resulting data set will be accessible and user-friendly to a broad audience.
- Proposed project incorporates multiple agency data, builds on existing relationships, and aligns with ongoing basin projects.
- Photo points will be taken to track changes over time and linked with a GIS layer.

- Project likelihood of success is high as evidenced by a successfully completed phase one of this inventory.
- Feral horse use of springs will be documented, which may aid in future herd management to protect resources.

Concerns

- Attachments are lengthy and difficult to understand, and did not add relevance to the application.
- The application would be stronger with an explanation of what data will be collected, and perhaps presented in an easy-to-read spreadsheet.

Concluding Analysis

This is the second phase of a well-designed inventory process documenting aspen stands in the South Fork John Day River watershed. The first phase, completed on lands above the falls on the South Fork, provided detailed information, photos, and GIS layers. This work has been well received by both public and private stakeholders interested in using this information as they prioritize aspen restoration on their lands. For a small amount of OWEB investment, this second phase will provide useful information on the lower section of the South Fork that will help to prioritize aspen restoration and spring developments.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$18,524

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$18,524

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6015-15633

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Cottonwood Creek Sediment Control

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$49,982

Total Cost: \$76,205

Application Description *(from application)*

This project aims to develop 100% engineering designs, technical specifications, and cost estimates for a pilot project aimed at reducing sediment loads within the lower Cottonwood Creek watershed.

Cottonwood/Fox Creek drains into the North Fork John Day River near Monument, Oregon within Grant County. Cottonwood Creek's productivity is limited by sediment loading and high temperatures, effecting ESA listed adult spawning and juvenile rearing steelhead habitat. The Monument SWCD is seeking funds for technical assistance to design Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOB's) and to identify key sites within dry draws and gullies throughout the Cottonwood Creek basin for their installation.

WASCOB's are used extensively in agricultural settings to limit erosion and capture runoff. This project will see to a Feasibility Report and 100% Final Design including drawings, technical specifications, and cost estimates to implement a pilot project. Project partners include the Monument SWCD, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, OWRD District 4 Watermaster's office, US Bureau of Reclamation, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Capturing runoff and sediment will provide high ecological benefit to Cottonwood Creek, which flows through a heavy sediment source area.
- The applicant has already hosted several meetings with partners and state/federal agencies in preparation for this application; for example, to address potential permitting ramifications.
- This is a good pilot project that could be replicated in other parts of the region.
- Applicant's history of detailed reporting indicates that technical assistance will result in a quality product with useful information.

Concerns

- The application would be stronger if it included detail on the final product, such as whether it will include maps, metadata, and potentially identify sites to test the methodology.
- If a restoration project results from this technical assistance, any restoration grant applications should include site specific information on maintenance required to keep WASCBs functioning and a basic monitoring plan to determine success.

- Data collected for each site should include land use, percentage of juniper cover in affected drainage, road density, soil types, and grazing management.

Concluding Analysis

Cottonwood Creek is an appropriate location for assessing feasibility and design for sediment reduction structures because it provides important spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-listed steelhead. The Cottonwood watershed is also a Monument SWCD ODA Focus Watershed, as well as the site of many instream fish passage and juniper removal projects. The applicant hosted pre-application meetings with partners and regulatory agencies to prepare for the OWEB application submittal, and has a record for successful project implementation. With this information, these designs and information could be replicated to other appropriate and sediment-challenged sites.

The review team recommended funding "fund with conditions" as follows: Final report will include narrative on current condition and limiting factors of the watershed impacting sediment delivery. Relevant to identified restoration sites, data will be collected on percentage of juniper cover, road density, soil types, current land use, maintenance plans, and pre-restoration photo points.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,982

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Fund with Conditions: Final report will include narrative on current condition and limiting factors of the watershed impacting sediment delivery. Relevant to identified restoration sites, data will be collected on percentage of juniper cover, road density, soil types, current land use, maintenance plans, and pre-restoration photo points.

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$49,982

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6016-15653

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: BRAT in the John Day River Basin
TA

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: \$45,909

Total Cost: \$75,985

Application Description *(from application)*

The John Day River Basin covers an area of 8,100 square miles, reaching from the Columbia River 284 miles upstream to the headwaters. The project will take place in Grant, Umatilla, Union, Crook, Deschutes, Wheeler, Gilliam, Sherman, Wasco, and Harney Counties. There is a critical need to locate likely beaver restoration locations by providing information on potential and limited beaver restoration areas in the John Day River Basin. The Beaver Restoration Assessment Tool (BRAT) is used to identify stream reaches that are of high value to beaver based on multiple criteria, including: water source, riparian vegetation, vegetation within 100m of the stream, likelihood that dams could be built during low flows, likelihood that dams will survive high flows, suitable stream gradient, and appropriately sized river. These factors will be assessed throughout the John Day River Basin via GIS analysis and ground-truth. Currently there is a preliminary BRAT analysis in place, but it has not been calibrated or validated. This project seeks to complete this important step of the analysis. Resulting deliverables for this project include, ground-verified, calibrated and confirmed GIS data files of: existing and historic beaver dam capacity, potential for human-beaver conflict, preliminary beaver management and conservation predictions, and a census of current beaver dam locations. All data will be widely and publicly available via an easy to use website as well as through the office of any of the participating watershed councils. Partners involved in this assessment include, but are not limited to: North Fork John Day Watershed Council, South Fork John Day Watershed Council, Mid John Day and Bridge Creek Watershed Council, Gilliam East Watershed Council, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Malheur National Forest, Wallowa Whitman National Forest, Umatilla National Forest, and the Ochoco National Forest.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- BRAT is a proven assessment tool that results in useful information for both private and public use.
- Using the BRAT tool to determine where beaver restoration sites are appropriate will likely result in more successful stream and floodplain restoration.
- The project is supported by appropriate partners across a large landscape.
- Utah State analysis examples in the application provide clarity in understanding the protocols.
- Proposed project has already sparked statewide interest in using BRAT.

Concerns

- On private lands, it is important that landowners are made fully aware of potential impacts of structures and beaver colonization.
- The application would be stronger with more detail on the level of ground-truthing that will occur and partners' involvement in that process.
- The application would be stronger if it included information on protocols and timing for future data collection.

Concluding Analysis

With the increasing number of Beaver Dam Analog projects and beaver habitat restoration in the John Day Basin, this tool will benefit stakeholders as they consider alternative restoration techniques and locations.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$45,909

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$45,909

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6017-15667

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Couse Creek Watershed Assessment

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: \$49,415

Total Cost: \$81,651

Application Description *(from application)*

Couse Creek enters the Walla Walla River just upstream of the City of Milton-Freewater. Watershed issues in Couse Creek include limited flow (including months where the creek is dry in the lower reaches), high water temperatures, channel incision, turbidity, fish passage obstructions and inadequate riparian function. Couse Creek has been identified as an important area for steelhead production within the Walla Walla subbasin, and degradation of this system would have a particularly harmful impact on the Walla Walla population (Walla Walla Subbasin Plan). The proposed watershed assessment would conduct geology surveys (using existing well logs and other info), assess potential for floodplain connectivity enhancements, conduct stream and habitat surveys, map sections of Couse Creek and develop an action plan for the watershed. The proposed watershed assessment would build upon an existing project which is working to address fish passage limitations at the mouth of Couse Creek. Project partners include the private landowners within the watershed. In addition, ODFW, CTUIR, DEQ, ODA and other basin stakeholders will be included in the action plan development and review.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed project will assess a watershed to identify and preserve areas with intact habitat; and prioritize restoration opportunities.
- Applicant has established community partnerships, strong landowner outreach, and the capacity to successfully complete the project.
- The application is well written and detailed.
- Compiling water use information on this stream will be useful for effectively planning future restoration.

Concerns

- Not all the landowners have been contacted at time of application; however, the technical assistance project will incorporate this action in the process.

Concluding Analysis

Couse Creek provides important steelhead habitat and currently does not have a comprehensive watershed assessment. This inventory and assessment process will provide critical information that will help guide prioritization of future restoration and protection opportunities. The applicant has a good track record of engaging landowners in restoration; and this tool will aid them in their efforts along these rural residential and agricultural lands.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,415

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$49,415



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F –Request for Winter Lake Restoration Project Award Adjustment
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Background

The China Camp Creek/Winter Lake Restoration Project aims to replace failing tide gate infrastructure and restore 400 acres of tidal wetlands. Approximately 10 different funding sources are supporting this first-of-its size restoration project, including funding from two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Coastal Wetlands grants and two OWEB grants. A combination of project delays due to permitting, weather, site conditions, and procession to the final design, combined with increasing materials costs, resulted in an increase to the overall project cost. To accommodate the cost increase, fund transfers were approved by the board in April and by USFWS in June. These transfers allowed for completion of the first phase of the project this fall, which includes the tide gate and associated infrastructure.

II. Current Situation

To allow for completion of the second phase of the project, including channel construction, planting, and other restoration activities, OWEB and project partners, including Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), The Nature Conservancy, the Coquille Watershed Association, and the Beaver Slough Drainage District, sought funding from a variety of sources. One source was a 2018 National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant. Another source was a partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to use a portion of the site as mitigation for a nearby highway improvement project. While the Coastal Wetlands Grant was successful, in September 2017, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) informed project partners that they would no longer be pursuing the mitigation project that was to contribute \$550,000 toward Winter Lake's restoration activities. To complete the channel construction and planting necessary to restore the tidal wetland, an additional \$550,000 of funding must be secured. At this time, the partnership has exhausted all other funding opportunities.

III. Request

Successful implementation of the Winter Lake Restoration Project is important to the State of Oregon to demonstrate that large scale tidal wetlands restoration can occur along with tide gate infrastructure improvements in a working lands setting. In order to proceed, an additional \$550,000 is needed to complete the phase 2 restoration portion of the project, including channel construction, planting, and other activities necessary to achieve the habitat and ecological project benefits. Because of the significant investment of OWEB funding and staff resources to date, staff request that the board contribute half of the funding shortfall (\$225,000), with the remaining funds to be provided by ODFW.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award \$225,000 from the Open Solicitation: Restoration spending plan line item and authorize the Executive Director to enter into agreements with The Nature Conservancy, the Coquille Watershed Association, and the Beaver Slough Drainage District to complete the restoration phase of the Winter Lake Restoration project, with an effective date of April 28, 2015.

Attachment

A. Funding Summary

WINTER LAKE FUNDING SUMMARY

Source	Description	Date	Amount
Private	Partner & Donor Contributions (TNC, Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, Beaver Slough Drainage District)	2017	\$353,000
NOAA	Restoration Grant & Resiliency Grant	2016, 2017	\$1,960,000
PCSRF	Coquille Tribe & Ducks Unlimited Contributions	2016, 2017	\$670,914
USFWS	Coastal Wetland Grants (through OWEB) Matching funds	2011, 2015	\$2,015,000
ODFW	Pittman-Robertson and Waterfowl Stamp & Fish Passage funds	2014-2017	\$1,765,192
OWEB	Open Solicitation Grants	2011, 2014	\$1,234,750
ODOT	Mitigation Project	withdrawn	\$550,000
USFWS	Coastal Wetland Grant (through OWEB)	pending	\$1,168,000
TOTAL			\$9,716,856



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Strategic Plan
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

OWEB's staff will provide the latest versions of the "Who We Are" and "Strategic Priorities for Impact" documents, as well as providing the board an update on the process for developing strategies to be presented at the January 2018 meeting.

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. Strategic Plan Process Steps to Date

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 and Staff Process Team member (see below) interviewed at least one stakeholder.

Staff Process Team: 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.

Full Staff Involvement: In addition to the staff process team, all agency staff met in January with the board and in August at a staff meeting to provide input to the process.

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, agency partners, and others.

Stakeholder Surveys: In April, surveys were sent broadly stakeholders and partners to identify what is working well in their interactions with OWEB, as well as areas for improvement. That information was finalized for board review at their June strategic plan meeting.

External Advisory Group: In May and June, the board’s established External Advisory Group met to synthesize and expand on information from interviews, listening sessions, and stakeholder surveys. In October, the group will provide their input to the strategy development. The External Advisory Group membership is found in Attachment A.

Board Strategic Plan Discussions: In January, April, June and July, the board met to vet the ideas proposed through the many processes identified above, which has resulted in the drafts of “Who We Are” (attachment B) and “Strategic Priorities for Impact” (attachment C).

Strategy Development: Throughout the fall, staff are meeting with key opinion leaders with expertise across the eight strategic priorities to receive input and ideas for strategies the board may want to consider in its plan. Once strategies are captured, staff and the External Advisory Group will each complete a prioritizing process to assist the board in considering strategy options.

In January 2018, staff will bring a prioritized suite of strategies to the board to consider for inclusion in the strategic plan. It is assumed the plan will not be approved until either the April or June 2018 board meeting. See Attachment D for a full strategic plan timeline.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only. Staff will outline next steps at the meeting.

Attachments

- A. External Advisory Group Member List
- B. Most recent version of “Who We Are” (tracked changes)
- C. Most recent version of “Strategic Priorities for Impact” (tracked changes)
- D. Timeline

OWEB Strategic Plan External Advisory Group

Jason Kesling	Natural Resource Director, Burns Paiute Tribe
Bruce Taylor	Pacific Birds / Intermountain West Joint Venture
Mark Trenholm	Wild Salmon Center
Cathy McDonald	The Nature Conservancy
Doug Krahmer	Landowner and Former Board Member
Todd Reeve	Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Kelly Timchak	Lower Rogue Watershed Council
Shilah Olson	Wasco Soil and Water Conservation District
Brad Chalfant	Deschutes Land Trust
Jeff Oveson	Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Doug Decker	PSU Executive Seminar Program and Dept. of Forestry Director
Karl Morgenstern	Eugene Water and Electric Board
Eric Quaempts	Former Board member and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

OWEB

— Who We Are

Draft 6/27/20178/24/17

Preamble

Everyone in the world lives in a watershed. Everyone. Watersheds encompass every square inch of land on the planet, starting at the very top of the highest ridge. They include every place from which water flows as it enters creeks, then streams, then rivers, then the ocean. A watershed is as much about the land across and through which water flows as it is about the water itself. Urban, rural, desert, rainforest – every part of the landscape is in a watershed, and every part of the landscape matters when we talk about watershed health.

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's job is to care about and invest state funding in the health of the land in Oregon's watersheds and the water that flows through it. A healthy watershed provides enough food, water, and shelter for the people, plants, fish and wildlife that inhabit it – not just for Oregonians now, but for future generations as well.

Healthy watersheds work hard. They move sediment from the mountains to the beaches and bays, sorting it along the way to create diverse landscapes and habitats. They cycle nutrients and convert them into forms that living organisms can use. They purify and store water, and then meter its release into streams to reduce flooding and damaging erosion in the winter and to sustain flows and cool temperatures during the dry season. Watersheds even improve air quality by absorbing pollutants and greenhouse gases (2014 Marin County Department of Public Works).

Beyond the environment, healthy watersheds matter for our state's economy and communities. How? Well, a watershed that is healthy can grow big trees. When managed with care, those trees support a sustainable timber harvest. At the same time, they provide homes for owls and support habitat for salmon in the streams. A healthy watershed grows sagebrush where birds nurture and protect their young, and allows ranchers to raise cattle that thrive. Water that runs through lands that are cared for and managed is cleaner, requiring less treatment for a family's drinking water. And clean water and healthy forests and deserts create spaces for those families to swim, camp, hike, fish, and hunt.

We care about watersheds. Those lands and that water sustain us. They provide our food and fiber, our shelter and enjoyment. Not just for us. Watersheds do the same thing for our native fish and wildlife as well.

When the watershed and its water are vibrant and healthy, we are too.

A. How we show up

We are committed to exemplifying the values we hold to be important in this work. These are the ways we are dedicated to showing up. These ideas are about our conscience, our convictions, and the commitments about our ethos and ethic.

In all things, we will...

Be bold

We believe in pursuing the greatest potential, not the easiest path. To be bold means to go be unafraid to listen to and explore new ideas even if they run counter to established processes. It means that we will focus on opportunities and strive to overcome the barriers we face. Practicing boldness pushes us to think in new ways and try new and innovative strategies. We will encourage each other and stakeholders as we go through the growing pains of improvement.

Be open and transparent

Being open and transparent means being committed to active, two-way communication internally and externally as a means for developing and maintaining strong partnerships. We will ensure that all decisions are transparently made and their reasoning is clearly communicated. We will consistently check in with partners to make sure they understand what we've communicated.-

Consider future Oregonians

Everything we do now will impact the Oregonians of the future. We will be thoughtful about helping stakeholders develop sustainable watersheds. We will be informed by Oregon's legacy of watershed restoration and cooperative conservation while developing a vision for cooperative conservation in the future that is equitable and inclusive.-

Be curious

Being curious means not just accepting the status quo but asking "why," "how," and "what if?" We will approach all situations with curiosity, encouraging staff and stakeholders to ask questions as they think about our watersheds and our practices. When we are curious, we are more apt to be responsive and flexible, adapting to the opportunities and challenges around us. We will seek to listen, learn, and think about watershed health and cooperative conservation in new ways and through fresh perspectives.-

A.B. What we believe in

We hold fast to a set of ideas that provide a fundamental and underlying rationale for our work. These are our foundational perspectives. They keep us oriented. These are the core ideas that guide us.

Dedicated to the idea that...

Healthy watersheds sustain healthy communities now and in the future.

The Oregon's watersheds are intertwined with its people – the land is a part of our culture, our food and water, our work and our recreation. As a result, the well-being of all Oregonians depends on the health of our watersheds. Communities are nourished and supported by the watershed in which they live, work, and play. The ability to recreate, meditate in quiet next to the water, drink clean water, and swimCurrent and fish in those same waters is essential to a vibrant community. We believe Oregonians derive economic, social,future generations need access to whole and spiritual benefit from our healthy watersheds. People and communities are an integral part of their watershed, just like fish and wildlife. A community's economic and social health comes from the health of the lands that surround them and the ability to draw enjoyment from clean water, open spaces, and natural habitats.

Every Oregonian plays a role in the health of our watersheds.

We are committed to being profoundly inclusive because we believe every person of every background—whether urban or rural, rich or poor; regardless of age, ethnicity, education, beliefs, or politics – has something valuable to contribute to a healthy watershed. When people connect with their watershed, they will care for their watershed. The roles in each watershed are many and overlapping: planner, funder, doer, enjoyer, and communicator, among others. We encourage every citizen, staff, and stakeholder to find their niche and to help others find theirs.

It takes broad partnership to support resilient watersheds.

The Oregon way is unique. In Oregon, no individual landowner or community needs to grapple with watershed challenges alone. Cooperative conservation is built from broad, diverse partnerships that collaborate to develop and implement enduring watershed solutions. It is the Oregon way to invest in the restoring and sustaining healthy, resilient watershedwatersheds. Public investment in watersheds is a value and commitment of Oregonians.-

Future generations need whole and healthy watersheds. The work to improve our watersheds requires we take the long view.-

To tackle watershed restoration projects without adopting long-term sustainable practices is short-sighted. We believe that future Oregonians have the right to enjoy the benefits of healthy watersheds without having to start from scratch. Watershed scale change, especially change that addresses the root causes of watershed problems, takes time and crosses generational boundaries.

Healthy watersheds require the stewardship of generations. With permanent

funding, we have the opportunity to test approaches that get to root causes. The challenges we must address came from generations of impacts, and will require we and our partners take the long view in determining the best approaches to address them. We are engaging in work we might not see the end of; it requires patience, persistence, discipline, and a vision for the future that embraces the long view.

B.C. The impact we want to achieve

Our ideas of intended impact are the areas of the change we would like to see in Oregon as a result of our work. These ideas describe how Oregon will be different as a result of all that we and our partners accomplish. Everything we do is designed to achieve results in the following areas of impact.

Our work is in service to...

1. Healthy, resilient watersheds (Ecological)-

What we mean: A healthy, resilient watershed provides clean water and a vibrant place to live for people, fish and wildlife, now and in the future. OWEB's investments will result in measurable improvements that lead to healthier streams and upland habitat, while ensuring that the work of our grantees is resilient to long-term impacts to the environment.

- Plentiful, clean water for all
- Enhancing, protecting, and restoring watershed process and functions
- Healthy watersheds that sustain the health of people, their culture and their communities
- Protection and restoration of healthy watersheds and natural habitats
- Biological – Fish, wildlife, and native plant recovery; biodiversity
- Strengthened natural ecosystems
- Greater sustainability of water resources and improved water quality throughout Oregon
- Measurable improvement toward ecological outcomes
- Monitoring, evaluation, and learning embedded in watershed work throughout Oregon

2. Broad care and stewardship of watersheds by Oregonians (Social)

What we mean: Broad care and stewardship of Oregon's natural places can come about only by greater understanding, awareness, and appreciation by each Oregonian of the impact of their everyday actions on the health of their watersheds. Working with partners, OWEB will make special effort to meaningfully engage each Oregonian, based on their unique connection with the land – whether cultural, spiritual, economic or recreational.-

- Greater understanding and awareness of, and appreciation for watersheds

- People are meaningfully connected to their watersheds-
- Engagement of underserved and under-represented populations ~~around the state~~
- Tribal involvement, contribution, and leadership for watershed health
- People believe in the abundance possible through watershed stewardship
- Oregonians consider the impact of their everyday actions on watersheds
- Awareness of watershed issues to become more mainstream
- Involvement of the next generation in the conservation effort

•

3. Adaptive capacity of communities to support ~~resilient~~their watersheds (Community)

What we mean: OWEB seeks to ensure all communities ~~are empowered to engage~~empower diverse stakeholders to design, implement, and evaluate collaborative conservation actions. Engaged community members are better able to adapt to new ideas, address new challenges and design new approaches to improve their watershed. When landowners, land managers and local citizens are actively involved in shared learning and leadership within local organizations, the capacity of communities to improve the health of their watersheds is expanded.-

- Empowered communities through partnership and shared knowledge
- ~~Monitoring, evaluation, and learning embedded in watershed work throughout Oregon~~
- ~~Engaged~~Diverse members of communities engaged in in conservation ~~efforts~~
- ~~Engaged landowners and land managers~~
 - Greater empowerment of local residents to action
 - ~~Farmers~~Landowners and ~~ranchers~~land managers are better able to achieve conservation goals
 - Local leaders who endeavor to improve the health of their watershed and communities
 - Building social capital in communities around the state (i.e., building blocks for participatory engagement around a shared community

vision)

~~• Empowered communities through partnership and shared knowledge~~

4. Strengthened economies ~~emerge~~emerging from healthy watersheds (Economic)

What we mean: Oregon's natural resource industries – agriculture, forestry, fishing, recreation – are dependent on healthy watersheds to be sustainable. The work of restoring natural areas creates jobs in communities, and the impact of a healthy watershed extends to all segments of Oregon's economy and is essential for the economic vitality of the State. When communities understand the link between healthy watersheds and a strong economy, they are more likely to invest in improving both.-

OWEB will support the capacity of local organizations to engage their community in cooperative conservation while benefiting Oregon's diverse economies.

- Enhanced benefits for a sustainable economy built on natural resources, restoration, ecosystems, and the broader economies throughout Oregon
- Healthier, more sustainable opportunities to live off the land
- People see that watershed health and economies are in alignment
- Fostering and growing economic opportunities in voluntary restoration
- Engage communities in a restoration economy
- Organizational capacity to advance conservation missions
- Direct benefit to citizens from municipal watersheds that supply drinking water

5. Strong and diverse partnerships that promote and sustain healthy watersheds (Sectoral)

What we mean: Strong and diverse partnerships include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations, public and private investors, government partners and experts from across Oregon. By understanding the needs of the watershed and community, OWEB is uniquely positioned to help to connect resources with communities. Collaboration allows the opportunity for cross-pollination of ideas, cross-boundary work, adaptive learning, and heightened fidelity to science. OWEB will encourage partners to develop a common vision and objectives to

improve their watershed.

- United conservation efforts throughout Oregon
- Common vision and objectives shared by stakeholders
- Cross-sector action to improve watersheds
- Interconnectivity among watershed enhancement agencies
- Integrated, interagency efforts
- Cross-boundary work to maximize the benefits of conservation investments
- More collaboration and cross-pollination of ideas among natural resource agencies
- Advancement of watershed science and practice-
- Progress and learning around watershed management practices
- Evidence/science-based practices utilized
- Promotion and education of best practices in watershed management
- Increased knowledge in the field
- Heightened fidelity to science throughout those interacting with watersheds

C.D. The approach we take

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

Our work is characterized by...

Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership

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

•

Using best available science supported by local knowledge-

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

•

Investing with long-term outcomes in mind-

- Maintaining progress into the future
- Stewarding for the long term
- Taking the long view on projects and interventions

•

Demonstrating impact through meaningful measurement-monitoring and evaluation

- Providing evidence of watershed change-
- Measuring and communicating community impact

- Increasing appropriate accountability
- Incorporating flexibility, adaptive management - when we see something that's not working we do something about it

Reaching and involving ~~underserved~~underrepresented populations-

- Seeking to include the voice and perspectives that are not typically at the table
- ~~Involving the underrepresented-~~
 - Specific, targeted engagement
 - ~~Doing what we can to make~~Ensure information available ~~to everyone~~and accessible to diverse audiences

OWEB - Strategic Priorities for Impact

July-October Comparison

1. Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

What we mean

OWEB will develop greater capacity throughout the system of watershed stakeholders to monitor progress, learn from projects, track effectiveness, gather data, respond to data, and advance the cause of healthy, resilient watersheds through the practice of monitoring and evaluation. OWEB will work with partners to ensure frameworks for information receiving and sharing exist that take advantage of the best scientific thinking and latest methods and technology in and outside the restoration community. OWEB and partners will develop monitoring 'networks' to which organizations in all parts of the state can contribute.

Characteristics of the future

- Seamless interaction of data and learning among broader audiences and agencies
- Information and learning is current, meaningful, accessible, and available
- Loops of learning become habitual throughout the sector
- Understanding of science and science-based practice continues and is elevated
- Insights derived from data and results drive decision making at all levels
- Evaluation of impact, not just effort, is practiced broadly
- Impact on multiple factors—including ecological, economic and social—are considered
- Information learned is broadly communicated

2. Strategic partnerships to achieve healthy watersheds

What we mean

OWEB will be a statewide champion for partnerships in watershed health. OWEB will help develop the environment and provide guidance that will allow strong and effective partnerships of all sizes and at all levels to grow and flourish.

Partnerships that are more inclusive, equitable, effective, consistent, reliable, purposeful, and innovative will amplify the impact of watershed work and develop resilience and capacity in the organizations seeking to improve and sustain healthy watersheds.-

Characteristics of the future

- Consistency in the practice of partnership formation and governance, while recognizing that every partnership should be a reflection of its community

- Resource sharing among and between partners for a common goal
- Leveraging of resources in regions for the benefit of all organizations
- Increase of effective and strategic partnerships throughout the State
- ~~Diversity, equity and inclusion in partnerships~~
- Coordination among partners to achieve measurable outcomes

~~Increase citizen~~

3. **Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds**

What we mean

OWEB ~~will catalyze the influence of~~ serve as an information source and catalyst for partners ~~as they~~ carry messages to their stakeholders about the importance of watersheds to the health and vitality of all Oregonians. This will include the development of story-telling and community engagement as an intervention with dual goals. First, to help Oregonians ~~recognize their~~ take an active role in the health of their watershed and second, to increase awareness of the role watersheds play in improving the well-being of the people who reside in them ~~and contributing to economic activities within them.~~ This will result in a growing care and stewardship of local watersheds and a deeper commitment to watershed work throughout the State.

Characteristics of the future

- Populations not typically involved in the care of watersheds become interested and active
- ~~Increase in appreciation throughout the State for~~ Oregonians appreciate the importance of watersheds ~~to all Oregonians results, resulting~~ in shared care and concern ~~among Oregonians for their~~ those watersheds
- Broad-based understanding of the plight of watersheds
- Recognition that the current investment Oregonians make in the health of their watersheds pays dividends in their community and local economy
- Awareness of OWEB as the steward of measure 76 fund investments in their watersheds

4. **Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds**

What we mean

OWEB will catalyze, support and encourage the design and implementation of watershed restoration health innovations by grant applicants. These innovations can reach beyond project implementation to touch all areas of OWEB's granting that support restoration healthy watersheds – from capacity and partnership development to technical assistance, implementation and monitoring. OWEB will continually weigh the agency's investment risk to encourage design and experimentation in watershed work while ensuring public benefits from our investments.-

Characteristics of the future

- Risk of innovation is shared among diverse partners

- OWEB has ~~an~~-established processapproaches for gauging the risk and weighing it against the potential gain of proposed innovative restorationwatershed work.
- OWEB has ~~an~~-established processapproaches for evaluating the benefit of implemented innovative practices so as to inform decisions about future proposed innovations
- OWEB has increased nimbleness and adaptability as grantees propose and do adaptive restoration work

5. The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

What we mean

OWEB will develop strategies to engage broader participation among those who own and manage working lands. This will include working broadly with partners ~~in-~~ both agriculturewho own or manage working lands and conservation communities to develop intentional approaches that fully embrace the value of well-managed working lands to habitat, water quality, and local economies.

Characteristics of the future

- Farmers, ranchers and forestland owners are fully engaged in decisions about the health of their watersheds
- Tribes are fully engaged in decisions around working lands and healthy watersheds
- Owners and managers of working lands understand the value of conservation; communities understand the value of working lands
- Working landowners continue to build a culture of conservation-
- Landowner involvement includes and extends beyond the agriculture and forestry communities to rural and other landowners
- Oregon has a diverse cohort of engaged working lands opinion-leaders and proven methods to reduce mixed use conflicts
- Funders offer more meaningful incentives to involve broader, more diverse landowner participation

6. Community capacity ~~is enhanced to support~~supports resilience in watersheds

What we mean

OWEB will work with partners at all levels to design resources and deploy tools to enhance the capacity of communities to participate in cooperative conservation. ~~As a result of this partnership effort, conservation leaders at all levels will design and implement strategies for broad citizen engagement in watershed health.~~ Local partnerships will have the support they need to develop and implement strategic, science-based approaches to improve watershed health. OWEB will support watershed organizations and associated watershed work at all levels in pursuit of a statewide restoration network that is resilient and sustainable, and capable of achieving ecological outcomes.

Characteristics of the future

- Greater investment in high-performing ~~partnerships of organizations~~ at all types levels
- Shared learning and resources exist for ~~partnerships organizations~~ to assess and improve their effectiveness
- Strong local organizations are better resourced to accomplish their mission
- Funding Organizational funding and other technical support is available for planning and implementation of watershed health strategies
- Effective networks exist among local conservation organizations and between those organizations and other community groups for information sharing and awareness
- Communities Community organizations have the skills needed to adapt and respond to the challenges of a changing environment

7. Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

What we mean

OWEB will ~~seek to develop strong and diverse partnerships work~~ with traditional (agency/foundation) and non-traditional ~~funding sources. These partnerships will funders to support the work that~~ watershed organizations ~~at all levels accomplish~~ in pursuit of a ~~statewide restoration network that is resilient, sustainable, and achieves ecological outcomes communities.~~ At the same time, OWEB and partners will work ~~to empower grantees with these same organizations to~~ strengthen their ~~capacity ability~~ to seek and secure more diverse funding sources ~~for watershed work.~~ This two-pronged approach will provide communities the resources to ~~create more durable conservation and restoration organizations at all levels, allowing them to act more boldly and move forward strategically. and boldly in addressing watershed restoration needs.~~

Characteristics of the future

- Locally supported organizations will have access to more diverse funding sources
- Stable, resilient funding for restoration through OWEB, and other funders ~~and local watershed practitioners~~
- ~~Strong local organizations are better resourced to accomplish their mission~~

8. Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregon all Oregonians

What we mean

OWEB's board and staff will engage with partners and grantees to develop models and approaches that actively involve all Oregonians in improving the health of our watersheds. In its own practice, OWEB will ~~actively~~ seek out and develop leaders that reflect the diversity of Oregon to engage them in the rewarding work of watershed restoration. OWEB will ~~strive to serve Oregon's diverse population by~~

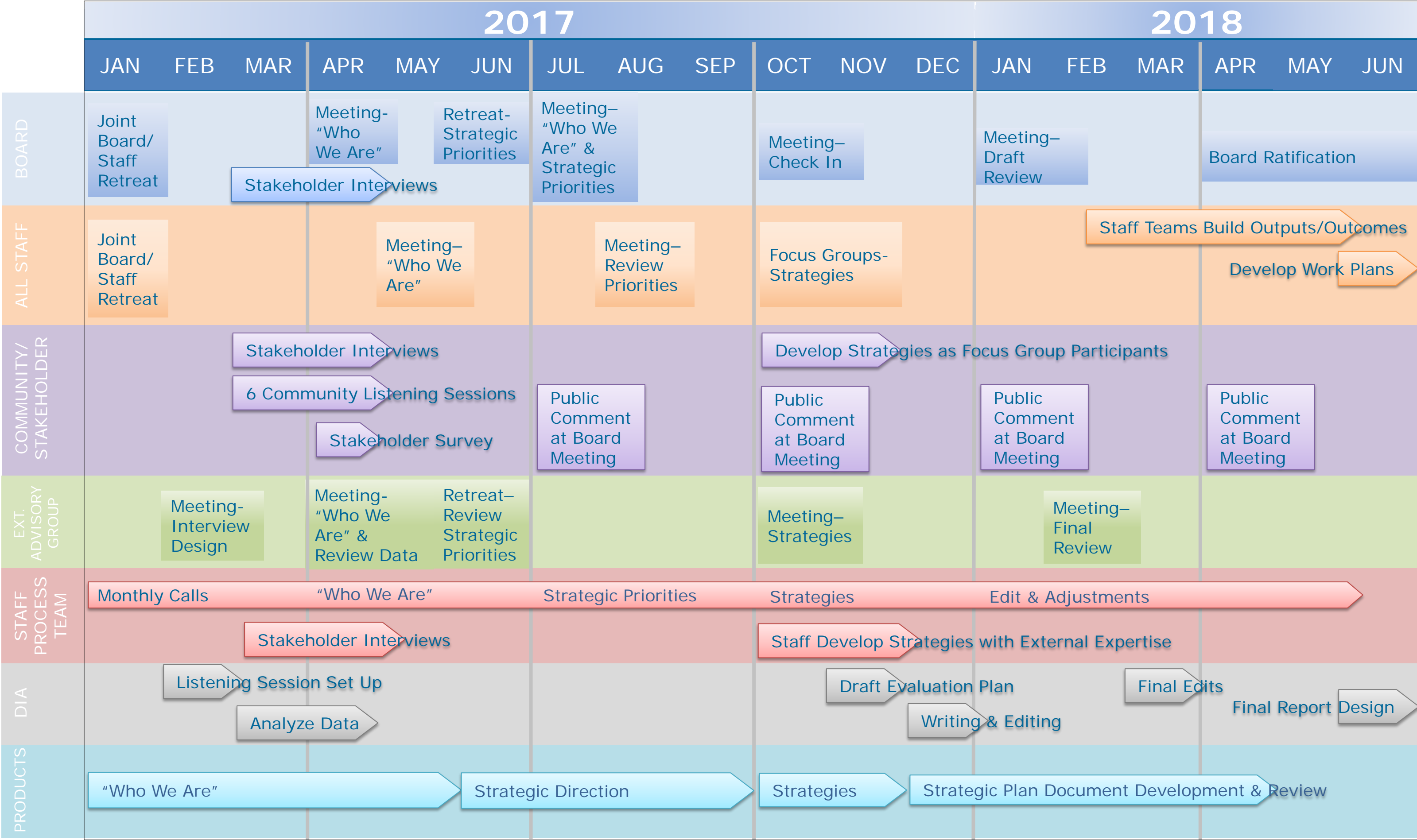
~~adopting~~adopt practices that support diversity in our own work and encourage equity in our grant-making ~~in partnership with our stakeholders~~through training, peer-to-peer learning, and other awareness-increasing approaches. This will shape the culture of the watershed work over time, developing a restoration system that is diverse and inclusive.-

Characteristics of the future

- Healthy watersheds are supported by partnerships that reflect the diversity of their communities
- Greater diversity of involvement in all aspects of watershed work
- New, diverse individuals and partnerships elicit more out-of-box thinking
- ~~Increased opportunities exist for all Oregonian's to engage with and contribute to watershed work~~ Better insight for watershed strategy resulting from diverse perspectives representing all aspects of Oregon population and culture

OWEB Strategic Planning Timeline 2017-2018

ATTACHMENT D



October 24-25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update H-1: OWEB's Online Grant Application System

This report provides the board an update about the agency's online grant application system that was launched in July 2016.

Background

The need for an online grant application system was one business-practice improvement identified during development of OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy in 2013. The intent of an online system was to improve effectiveness and efficiency of the agency's grant-making processes for applicants, reviewers, and OWEB staff.

Components of the Online System

In advance of the online application system, grant applications were streamlined to focus on gathering the key information needed to support the review/evaluation process and to meet federal reporting requirements. Scoping of the online system components involved applicants, reviewers, and staff to ensure the system met the multiple and diverse needs of these different user groups. The online application system is directly connected to OWEB's Grant Management System (OGMS), the agency's enterprise database.

At present, the online system contains multiple components:

- 1) online applications for OWEB's primary four application types: restoration, technical assistance, monitoring and stakeholder engagement;
- 2) an interface to create and manage various grant offerings;
- 3) a reviewer module through which staff and review team members can search for and review grant applications;
- 4) an interface used by staff to record review results and develop evaluations, which are ultimately provided to the board to inform its funding deliberations; and
- 5) an interface for creating grant agreements.

At the October meeting, board members will hear feedback about the online system from an applicant, and staff from OWEB's Technical Services Program (TSP) and Grant Program will provide the board a demonstration of the system's components.

Next Steps

Users are invited to provide feedback about the system on a continuing basis. This input is used to identify and implement necessary refinements to the online application system.

OWEB TSP currently are developing an 'application builder tool' that will provide staff with the ability to create new grant application types within the online system. Early in 2018, a cross-section team of OWEB staff will initiate scoping for improvements to the agency's reporting processes, leveraging existing technology while streamlining processes to benefit both grantees and staff.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203.

October 24-25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update H-2: Lower Columbia River Watershed Council Update

This report provides the board an update on the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council's progress towards meeting OWEB's funding requirements associated with the 2017-2019 Council Capacity grant award.

Background

At the July 2017 OWEB Board meeting, the board discussed and awarded Council Capacity grants for the 2017-2019 biennium. After deliberation, the board elected to fund the Council at a reduced level (\$47,347.50) for a period of one year. A second year of funding is contingent upon the Council demonstrating that it has met the necessary merit criteria, as demonstrated through progress reports, council meetings, and an interview and review process with OWEB.

Grant Agreement Special Conditions

The Council's grant agreement includes a list of special conditions that the Council must fulfill during the grant period. Progress reports are required on a quarterly basis documenting the Council's work on each of these five criteria: effective governance, effective management, progress in planning, progress in on-the-ground restoration, and progress in community engagement. The first progress report is due on October 13, 2017 and will be provided to the board at the meeting.

Evaluation Process

The Council's progress toward meeting the merit criteria over the next year will be evaluated through:

- 1) Review of the quarterly progress reports;
- 2) Attendance at Council meeting;
- 3) Meetings with Council staff and board members; and
- 4) Council staff and board member participation in an interview and review process.

OWEB staff will present the results of the evaluation process and the board will make a decision on the second year for capacity funding at the June 2018 board meeting.

Progress to date

OWEB's North Coast Representative Katie Duzik and Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff met with the council coordinator in Salem on September 7, 2017. Katie Duzik and Courtney Shaff also attended the Council's September 12, 2017 meeting. At both meetings the conditions of the grant agreement were discussed, as well as opportunities and challenges the Council will face moving forward.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov or 503-986-0045.



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – Capacity Building FIP Grant Awards
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2017 Capacity Building Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant offering, and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards. Staff request the board consider additional funding for financial plans for Capacity Building FIPs and also consider a future grant offering.

II. Background

At the July 2017 meeting, the board adopted its 2017-2019 spending plan and allocated \$1.0 million for Capacity Building FIP grants. The funding is intended to support existing partnerships in their pursuit of building their capacity to partner at a high-performing level, and/or to generate a new strategic action plan (SAP), enhance an existing SAP, or build partnership capacity for an OWEB Focused Investment Priority.

III. Solicitation Process

In January 2017, staff solicited for Capacity Building FIP applications. Prior to submitting a proposal, applicants were required to consult with FIP staff and the Capacity Programs Coordinator. Thirteen consultations with potential applicants were held between March and April. During the consultations, staff discussed the purpose of the program, allowable activities, evaluation criteria, and timing.

IV. Review

Seven applications were received by the June 12, 2017 deadline. Applications were evaluated on 1) readiness of the partnership, 2) capacity of the partnership to implement the proposal, 3) leadership within the partnership, and 4) clarity of proposal. Reviewers provided a “Fund” or “Do Not Fund” recommendation, and ranked applications.

V. Current Grant Cycle Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend funding four of the five projects recommended by the review team. Recommendations are based on the evaluation process with consideration for the overall goal of the program. There are generally two reasons projects were not recommended for funding.

The first reason was the partnership's current and future capacity and commitment to partner. Lessons learned from both the Partnership Learning Project and working with the current Capacity Building FIPs emphasized the need for partnerships to commit to working together for the long-term prior to the development of the SAP. Partnerships without that commitment may have difficulties achieving their shared goals.

The second reason relates to the partnership's plan for stakeholder engagement. Stakeholder engagement is a required component of the application. Both OWEB staff and the reviewers believe, since projects must ultimately be implemented with and through local stakeholders, it is a necessary component for successful SAP development and future project implementation. All three applications not recommended for funding were missing some critical component of stakeholder engagement.

VI. Financial Plan Development

Through OWEB's Partnership Learning Project, it became clear that, in addition to the development of a Strategic Action Plan, partners needed a clear strategy for how to fund the plan. At the July 2017 meeting, the board approved funding for the 2015-2017 Capacity Building FIPs to support development of financial plans. Because the 2017-2019 grant process had already begun, staff were unable to incorporate the financial plan questions into the application and believe it is important to offer this same opportunity to the projects recommended for funding for this cycle. Staff recommend the board approve funding to develop financial plans for Capacity Building FIPs awarded at the October meeting. All future applications will incorporate financial plan questions.

VII. Future Capacity Building FIP Grant Cycle

As approximately \$590,000 remains in the 2017-2019 spending plan for Capacity Building FIP, OWEB staff request to offer another round of Capacity Building FIP grants in 2018. Staff would conduct outreach related to the program through the winter, focusing on partnerships that participated in the consultation process and did not apply, applications recommended for do not fund from this cycle, and other emerging partnerships that have approached OWEB since the application deadline has passed.

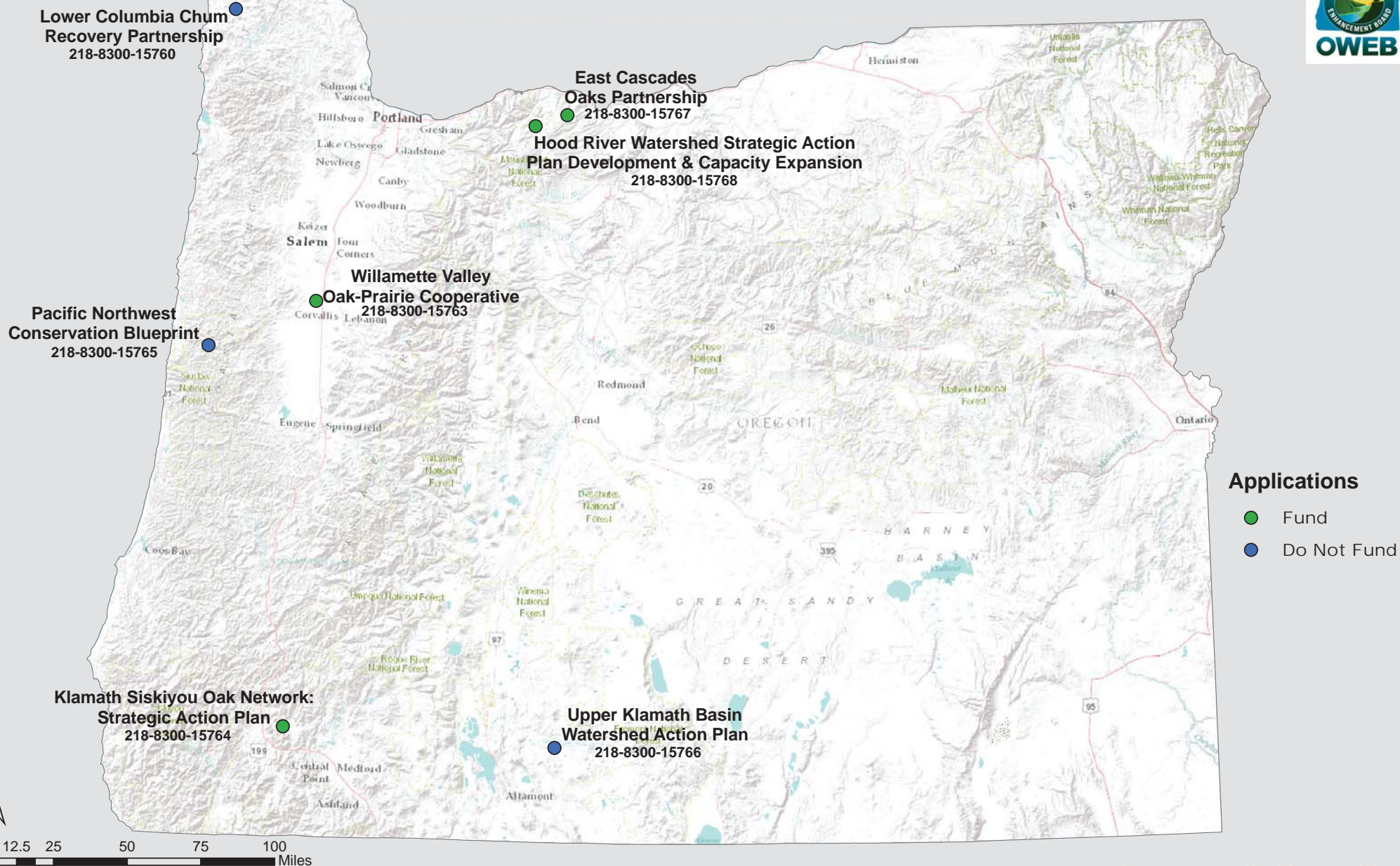
VIII. Recommendations

- Staff recommend the board award Capacity Building FIP grants as described in Attachment B.
- Staff recommend the board delegate to the Director up to \$60,000 to be allocated from the Capacity Building FIP spending plan item to be used for developing financial plans for the recommended applications described in Attachment B.
- Staff recommend the Board approve an additional Capacity Building FIP grant offering in 2018.

Attachments

- A. Map
- B. Staff Funding Recommendations
- C. Evaluations

2017 Capacity Building FIP Applications



Staff Funding Recommendation 2017 Capacity Building FIP Applications

Project Number	Applicant	Project Title	OWEB Request	Amount Recommended	Brief Description
218-8300-15767	Columbia Land Trust	East Cascades Oak Partnership	\$102,286	\$102,286	The goal is to develop an adaptive, strategic, collaborative, multi-scale approach to conservation. With Capacity-Building funding we will produce a guidance document, developing thoughtfully and intentionally into a formal partnership. We will also produce a comprehensive strategic action plan in which any person can see accessible, powerful roles he or she can play in the conservation of Oregon white oak.
218-8300-15763	Greenbelt Land Trust	Willamette Valley Oak Prairie Cooperative	\$82,920	\$82,920	The partnership is working to develop a Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and formalize an organizational partnership structure to achieve goals, objectives, and tasks identified in the SAP. With Capacity Building funding the partnership will develop a SAP and strengthen the Cooperative's operational structure. The overarching ecological outcomes are protection, restoration, and maintenance of a functional, resilient network of oak and prairie habitats in the Willamette Valley.
218-8300-15764	Klamath Bird Observatory	Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network	\$100,185	\$100,185	The Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network partners seek to develop a strategic action plan (SAP) using Open Standards for Conservation. This will strengthen our ability to achieve ecological outcomes significant to the state, outcomes which are critical to reverse declining trends of oak-associated plants and wildlife. The SAP will serve as a road map for oak habitat restoration actions and will establish short-, medium-, and long-term goals to achieve our ecological outcomes over the entire southern Oregon landscape.
218-8300-15768	Hood River Working Group	Hood River Watershed Strategic Action Plan	\$105,381	\$95,006	The Partnership proposes to develop a strategic action plan (SAP) and elevate the Partnership's current level of performance. Capacity building funds will be used to support partner staff and hire several outside contractors, including a strategic planning facilitator and a science consultant. The goal of developing the SAP will ultimately support restoration of priority streams in the Hood River Watershed.
218-8300-15760	North Coast Watershed Association	Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership	\$107,995	\$0	The partnership seeks capacity-building funds to create a strategic action plan, attract new partners to our partnership, and engage with landowners through public meetings. Increased capacity will allow our partnership to prioritize and pursue restoration actions toward the goal of reaching delisting criteria for Chum Salmon in the Coastal Stratum.
218-8300-15765	Ecotrust	Pacific Northwest Conservation Blueprint	\$150,000	\$0	The consortium of organizations seeks to refine the governance structure of the consortium, fill any remaining gaps in our strategic plan, and take steps to spatially map Oregon-specific conservation priorities, emphasizing aquatic and terrestrial connectivity.
218-8300-15766	The Nature Conservancy	Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan	\$147,232	\$0	The Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan Team intends to enhance and publish the Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan, develop an outreach strategy to facilitate broader Klamath Basin regulatory and restoration community buy-in to the Action Plan, and develop an MOU for the partnership.
Total Capacity Building FIP Request			\$795,999		
Total Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				\$380,397	

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8300-15767

OWEB Region: 4

Partnership Name: East Cascades Oak Partnership

Requested Amount: \$102,286

Board Priority Addressed: Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Produce a strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:

The East Cascade Oaks Partnership's goal is to develop an adaptive, strategic, collaborative, multi-scale approach to conservation that will improve the pace, scale, and effectiveness of oak conservation efforts in the East Cascades Ecoregion. As a result of our efforts, structurally-diverse, functional and intact Oregon white oak habitats across the East Cascades ecoregion will continue to support impressive biodiversity, demonstrate climate resilience, and persist despite population growth, conversion, active management, and rapid ecological change. With Capacity-Building funding we will produce a guidance document, developing thoughtfully and intentionally into a formal partnership. We will also produce a comprehensive strategic action plan in which any person can see accessible, powerful roles he or she can play in the conservation of Oregon white oak. The partnership's steering committee includes USFS, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Yakama Nation, ODFW, WDFW, WA DNR, Wasco SWCD, Underwood Conservation District, National Wild Turkey Federation, Pacific Birds, Deschutes Land Trust and Columbia Land Trust. Other partners include Oregon State Parks, Columbia River Gorge Commission, Oregon Department of Forestry, Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts, The Nature Conservancy, Friends of the Gorge, the Native Plant Society, and a number of private landowners, stakeholders, and oak enthusiasts.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- Clearly identified project leader.
- Good data sets and GIS capabilities.
- Partnership group is diverse and working early to engage stakeholders and create buy-in.
- Strong organization leading this effort with the technical capabilities to lead the process.
- Partner roles and responsibilities are clearly described in the application.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- No final decision on desired future conditions, this may cause process to take longer than proposed.
- Compressed timeline.

Concluding Analysis: The application demonstrates a strong, committed partnership that has the capacity to complete the SAP and engage stakeholders throughout the process. Considering the size of partnership and scope of work, the project will likely take longer than proposed.

Review Team Ranking: 1 of 5

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$102,286

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8300-15763

OWEB Region: 2

Partnership Name: Willamette Valley Oak Prairie Cooperative

Requested Amount: \$82,920

Board Priority Addressed: Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:

The Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative (Cooperative) is working to develop a Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Strategic Action Plan and formalize an organizational partnership structure to achieve goals, objectives, and tasks identified in the Strategic Action Plan. The Cooperative is applying for funds from OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership Capacity-Building Program to assist in the development of the Strategic Action Plan and strengthen the Cooperative's operational structure. The overarching ecological outcomes proposed by the Cooperative are protection, restoration and maintenance of a functional, resilient network of oak and prairie habitats in the Willamette Valley through a coordinated and strategic approach that leverages resources, focuses on priority project areas and species, and produces substantial ecological returns. The Cooperative has representatives from the middle and upper sub-regions of the Willamette Valley. The key partners in the Cooperative have extensive experience in planning and implementing on-the-ground work to protect, restore and maintain native oak and prairie habitats in the Willamette Valley. The Cooperative's Steering Committee (Core Partners) is comprised of a subset of the key partners and includes City of Eugene - Parks and Open Space Division, Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, the Institute for Applied Ecology, Willamette Partnership, and Greenbelt Land Trust.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership is already engaging with landowners.
- A partnership declaration of cooperation has been developed.
- Partnership plans to communicate with other Oak Networks operating around the state.
- The partnership includes the right technical experience.
- Partners have the capacity to accomplish the work.
- The timeline is clear and realistic.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- No mention of OSU Extension, how will they be engaged in the project?
- Unclear how the partnership will reach out to and engage with tribes.

Concluding Analysis: There is significant partnership commitment to this project and they have developed a realistic timeline and well thought out SAP development process. Outreach will be key to the long-term success of the partnership and implementation of the SAP. The partners have already begun to engage landowners. The partners should engage with both OSU Extension and local tribal governments early in outreach and SAP development.

Review Team Priority Ranking: 2 of 5

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$82,920

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8300-15764

OWEB Region: 2, 4

Partnership Name: Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network

Requested Amount: \$100,185

Board Priority Addressed: Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Produce a strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:

The Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network has a history of implementing multi-million dollar investments with a programmatic approach to oak woodland conservation. With this demonstrated capacity, we are in need of greater strategic focus for future restoration efforts. The partners seek to develop a Strategic Action Plan using Open Standards for Conservation - this will strengthen our ability to achieve ecological outcomes significant to the state, outcomes which are critical to reverse declining trends of oak associated plants and wildlife. The Strategic Action Plan will serve as a road map for oak habitat restoration actions and will establish short, medium, and long term goals to achieve our ecological outcomes over the entire southern Oregon landscape.

The partnership consists of the following core partners: BLM, Klamath Bird Observatory, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, NRCS, The Nature Conservancy, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, and USFS. Through the partnership, these agencies and organizations have formed a high-performing partnership with a proven track record of partnership building, landowner engagement, on-the-ground restoration, monitoring, and adaptive management focused exclusively on oak conservation and restoration.

Ecological outcomes identified include improved function, resiliency, connectivity, and habitat value of oak habitats in southern Oregon. These ecological outcomes align directly with the OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership seems ready to move forward with both an MOU and Charter in place.
- The partnership includes partners with the right technical experience to develop a SAP.
- Partners have the capacity to accomplish the work and have committed a lot of time via match to the project.
- Clear roles and responsibilities of partners.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- Timeline seems condensed.
- The geographic scope is large, the partnership will have to be conscious of coordinating across this geography during the project.

Concluding Analysis: This project builds off other efforts in the region and demonstrates a strong commitment and leadership among partners. The proposed outreach approach seems to rely heavily on one partner, NRCS, the final outreach plan should engage all partners and be implemented throughout SAP development.

Review Team Ranking: 3 of 5

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$100,185

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8300-15768

OWEB Region: 4

Partnership Name: Hood River Watershed Partnership

Requested Amount: \$105,381

Board Priority Addressed: Inland Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:

The Hood River Watershed Partnership (Partnership) consists of nine core partners-The Hood River Watershed Group, Hood River SWCD, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Farmers Irrigation District, Middle Fork Irrigation District, East Fork Irrigation District, USFS, ODFW, and NRCS. All of these organizations have been working together in the Basin for 20 years and possess ample experience to implement programmatic conservation work into the future. Ecological outcomes that have been identified by core partners include improved streamflows and instream habitat to support the recovery of threatened populations of Lower Columbia River steelhead, spring Chinook, and coho. The Partnership will develop a strategic action plan (SAP) and elevate the Partnership's current level of performance. Capacity building funds will be used to support HRWG and SWCD staff and hire several outside contractors, including a strategic planning facilitator, science consultant, and website developer. The goal of developing the SAP will ultimately support restoration of priority streams in the Hood River Watershed.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- Good mix of partners that are bringing match to the partnership.
- Nice proposed engagement with the Latino community.
- Partnership group is diverse and demonstrates commitment great landowner connections.
- Strong organization leading this effort with the technical capabilities to lead the process.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- Schedule seems compacted.
- The purpose and structure of the website was unclear.
- No partnership operating principles or MOU was submitted.

Concluding Analysis: The partnership consists of a diverse group of stakeholders working broadly in the basin. The application demonstrates partnership commitment; however they are lacking any formal agreements, which will be developed as a part of this process. There is great landowner engagement in the basin and this effort will build on the current level of engagement. The partnership needs to clearly define itself through the process and how implementation of the SAP will build on other partnership efforts occurring within the basin.

Review Team Ranking: 4 of 5

Review Team Recommendation: Fund reduced, remove funding for website development and hosting.

Staff Recommendation: Fund reduced, remove funding for website development and hosting.

Amount: \$95,006

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8300-15760

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership

Requested Amount: \$107,995

Board Priority Addressed: Coastal Estuaries

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:

The Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership includes the North Coast Watershed Association, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, The Columbia SWCD, and ODFW.

Our partnership seeks capacity-building funds to (1) create a Strategic Action Plan detailing locations and projects required to address Chum Salmon limiting factors related to spawning habitat and estuary rearing habitat, (2) attract new partners to our partnership, and (3) engage with landowners through public meetings to educate the public regarding chum salmon recovery and garner support (and potentially identify additional projects) for restoration and recovery efforts. Columbia River Chum Salmon are a federally-listed species and their recovery is a top priority of the state. Increased capacity will allow our partnership to prioritize and pursue restoration actions toward the goal of reaching delisting criteria for Chum Salmon in the Coastal Stratum.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The Strategic Action Plan process is well described.
- There is leadership in the form of a project manager at the watershed council.
- The partnership includes partners with the right technical experience to be successful.
- There is significant data available to incorporate into the plan.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- Not enough time built into timeline for landowner engagement.
- Outreach is focused at the end of the project; it also needs to be incorporated into the beginning of the SAP development.
- Not enough emphasis on partnership development.
- Unclear how drainage districts will be engaged during the SAP development process, which will be critical for future project implementation.
- Partnership proposes to only meet once a year after SAP development, this approach did demonstrate the application would result in a high-functioning partnership.

- Partnership development pieces need more detail; a strong partnership will be needed for overall success.
- Timeline seems condensed.

Concluding Analysis: The proposed SAP has a very narrow, single species focus, but the partnership has the right technical expertise for the proposed project. However, the partnership does not propose adequate partnership development or community engagement to balance the technical aspects of the proposal. With future implementation focused on private land, there is concern that the approach proposed will not lead to community buy-in and any SAP developed without targeted and purposeful community engagement will not be successful.

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Review Team Ranking: 5 of 5

Staff Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Amount: \$0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8300-15765

OWEB Region: 1, 2, 3

Partnership Name: Pacific Northwest Conservation Blueprint

Requested Amount: \$150,000

Board Priority Addressed: Coastal Estuaries, Inland Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species, Oregon Coastal Coho Habitat and Populations

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:

The consortium of organizations seeks to achieve a network of healthy, connected ecosystems and working landscapes, along the coast of Oregon and in the Lower Columbia River, capable of providing a full suite of ecosystem services that can absorb, respond, and adapt to climate change and other key stressors through collaborative, science-based strategies and spatially explicit products that identify priority conservation areas and actions necessary to achieve conservation goals and targets.

This effort will a) identify valued resources and ecosystem services, consider the impacts of individual and cumulative stressors, and align shared landscape-scale goals and objectives b) understand how local/regional management decisions made by entities fit into a larger landscape-scale context of conservation goals c) assess the impacts of landscape-scale or systems-level factors and stressors on management-relevant issues at smaller spatial scales and under future scenarios.

We will refine the governance structure of the consortium, fill any remaining gaps in our strategic plan, and take steps to spatially map Oregon-specific conservation priorities, emphasizing aquatic and terrestrial connectivity. Production of a spatial tool will inform OWEB's and the region's protection, restoration and enhancement strategies in coastal estuaries, inland aquatic habitats, and Oregon coastal coho habitats.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- Innovative approach.
- Partners have the right technical background to be successful.
- Could provide a great learning opportunity.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- Scale is very big, unclear how the partnership will truly partner at the proposed scale.

- Application does not demonstrate they have engaged with local implementers prior to application submittal and no community engagement is proposed to be implemented with these funds.
- Proposed geographic scope is primarily private lands, but the application does not describe how the partnership will engage private landowners.

Concluding Analysis: The application proposes an integrated approach to planning across a large geography and at a high evaluation. The final SAP will significantly involve work on private lands; however the proposal does not include any landowner engagement. Outreach seems to be at a much higher level, to coordinating, not implementing agencies. Though interesting, and likely of value to the proposed geographic area, the application does propose to develop a SAP and partnership collaboration as intended through the FIP Capacity Building grant program.

Review Team Ranking: N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Amount: \$0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8300-15766

OWEB Region: 4

Partnership Name: Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan Team

Requested Amount: \$147,232

Board Priority Addressed: Inland Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:

This partnership of Klamath Basin entities, called the Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan Team (the Project Team), includes The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, The Klamath Tribes, Klamath Watershed Partnership, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. New to the Project Team, from the California side of the Klamath Basin, is The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Ecological outcomes include: 1) water quality improvements in Upper Klamath Lake, its tributaries, the Lost River, and the mainstem Klamath River; 2) habitat improvements for Lost River and Shortnose Suckers; and 3) habitat improvements for Redband Trout, Bull Trout, and anadromous salmonids anticipated to return after removal of 4 mainstem Klamath River dams. We will meet these outcomes by restoring key processes and watershed function, increasing coordination or restoration actions, and leveraging resources for increased implementation. The partnership intends to enhance and publish the Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan, develop an outreach strategy to facilitate broader Klamath Basin regulatory and restoration community buy-in to the Action Plan, and develop an MOU for the partnership.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- Partnership has a strong scientific perspective and the right skills for future SAP implementation.
- The restoration components seem strong and would develop a platform for future restoration.
- They have an existing strategic action plan.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- Landowners are not mentioned as stakeholders in the planning.
- Approach does not seem like it will lead to buy-in for the final SAP.
- The application did not demonstrate the project would result in a high performing partnership. The partnership proposed to contract for minimal partnership development activities in the application. Most contracted activities would focus on communication and not on developing and sustaining a high functioning partnership.

- The process and timing for engaging stakeholders was minimally described in the application and did not demonstrate how outreach would be used to help the partnership achieve future ecological outcomes. Specifically the application proposes to begin outreach at the completion of the SAP development process with the initiation of implementation. In addition the application does not identify the role of the partnership in outreach and which stakeholder groups will be engaged and how that engagement will occur.
- There is very little information provided on the proposed publication strategy.

Concluding Analysis: The partnership has an existing strategic plan which they propose to update through this application. The partnership has the right partners to complete the technical work proposed. However, the partners do not provide adequate information on how they will engage with the diverse stakeholders in the basin to get buy-in on the plan and move forward toward implementation.

Review Team Ranking: N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Requested Amount: \$0



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – FIP Gathering
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides information on a gathering of the Implementation and Capacity Building Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) and requests the board award funding for the gathering to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF).

II. Background

In 2016, the board awarded FIP grants to 14 partnerships. Eight partnerships received two-year Capacity Building FIP grants, and six partnerships received Implementation FIP grants for up to six years to support landscape-level restoration. After the grant awards, OWEB staff convened the Implementation FIPs for an in-person kick-off meeting and the Capacity Building FIPs via conference call. The Capacity Building FIPs have continued to meet quarterly via conference call and have expressed appreciation for these interactions. The partnerships have also requested additional opportunities to network and learn from each other and from other partnerships.

OWEB staff have been meeting regularly with BEF staff since 2016 to discuss both Effectiveness Monitoring of Implementation FIPs (Agenda item O) and opportunities to learn from OWEB's initial FIP investments, including the Partnership Learning Project. The idea of the gathering was generated through these conversations and the desire to provide additional learning opportunities to the partnerships.

III. FIP Gathering

BEF proposes to host a gathering of all Capacity Building and Implementation FIPs at Menucha Retreat and Conference Center, March 13-14, 2018. The objectives for the gathering include sharing lessons learned, training, and networking. Additional

details will be worked out over the next several months and staff will provide an update to the board at the January 2018 meeting.

IV. Recommendation

OWEB staff recommend the board award up to \$11,500 from the Capacity Building FIPs spending plan line item to grant number 216-8390-12951 for the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to implement a FIP Gathering in March 2018.



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, OWEB Executive Director
Lisa Hanson, Oregon Department of Agriculture Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – Coordinated Streamside Management
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will provide an informational briefing about the State of Oregon's work on Coordinated Streamside Management, led by both the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and OWEB. The presentation will include a description of the program, lessons learned through piloting of strategic implementation areas, use of OWEB's \$1 million technical assistance investment, and next steps.

II. Background

The State of Oregon, working with federal and local partners, has developed a coordinated approach to streamside management that will ensure that riparian vegetation will provide for water quality protection. The approach will initially focus on agriculturally influenced areas.

Details about the program are provided in Attachment A to the staff report, including specific information about the program's three distinct, but overlapping components. First, watershed-level **monitoring** will be deployed at all selected areas to track water quality improvements and to learn and share the most effective approaches. Next, the State will work with local soil and water conservation districts (SWCD), watershed councils and others to increase voluntary and **incentive-based conservation** in riparian areas on all lands in the identified areas. This will help partners attain the goals identified in their area plans. Finally, for those lands that are subject to the requirements of the state's Agricultural Water Quality Management Act, ODA will ensure **compliance with the area rules**. This cooperative strategy will ensure a clear 'firewall' between those assisting landowners with incentive-based approaches while providing a regulatory backstop.

To initiate this program, **Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA)** will be selected based on need (e.g., water quality, habitat, etc.), and the capacity and willingness of local organizations to deliver on-the-ground assistance (including potential OWEB funding). It

is expected that all areas of the state will eventually have a SIA over time, but initial success will be based on selecting areas that combine the above three characteristics. Details about this process are provided in Attachment A .

III. Use of OWEB SIA Technical Assistance Funds

To support this work through the Coordinated Streamside Management Program, once a SIA has been selected, the state agency partners will work with the local SWCD and other local partners to develop an implementation strategy for the selected area as a companion to the agricultural water quality management area plan. Implementation strategies will identify voluntary and incentive-based approaches to improving streamside management across all lands in the identified area, whether agriculturally influenced or not. Additional landowner information will also be used to complete strategy implementation.

Once the implementation strategy has been developed, the SWCD or other identified partner may apply to OWEB for a technical assistance grant for SIA implementation. Funding can be used for landowner outreach, monitoring, and project design. Implementation funding is accessible through a variety of funding sources, including both OWEB restoration and small grants.

IV. Next Steps

Across the state, SIAs will be selected each year to participate in the program. OWEB and partner agencies will continue to coordinate and identify improvements for the program's monitoring, incentive, and compliance components of the program.

V. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachments

- A. Coordinated Streamside Management Overview and Components
- B. Related article in Capital Press dated September 29, 2017

Coordinated Streamside Management on Rural Lands in Oregon

Summary

The State of Oregon, working with federal and local partners, will implement a coordinated approach to streamside management. The State believes this coordinated approach will improve water quality and make available more habitat for fish and streamside-dependent plants and animals. The approach will initially focus on agriculture-influenced areas.

Initially, six areas will be selected per year to enter into a four year process (with monitoring for five-ten years) that begins with the identification of a targeted area in which to focus monitoring, incentive-based implementation regulatory measures. The State will purposefully select target areas in different geographic areas to maximize the potential for this investment to be a “learning opportunity” for local organizations that can then implement their own coordinated streamside management work beyond the state-selected areas.

This approach combines the benefits of three distinct, but overlapping, components. First, watershed-level **monitoring** will be deployed at all selected areas to track water quality improvements and to learn and share the most effective approaches. Second, the State will work with local soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), watershed councils, and others to increase **incentive-based conservation** in riparian areas on all lands in the identified areas. This will help local areas attain the goals identified in their area plans. Third, for those lands that are subject to the requirements of the state’s Agricultural Water Quality Management Act, the Oregon Department of Agriculture will ensure **compliance** with the area rules where necessary. This cooperative strategy will ensure a clear “firewall” between those assisting landowners with incentive-based approaches while providing a regulatory backstop.

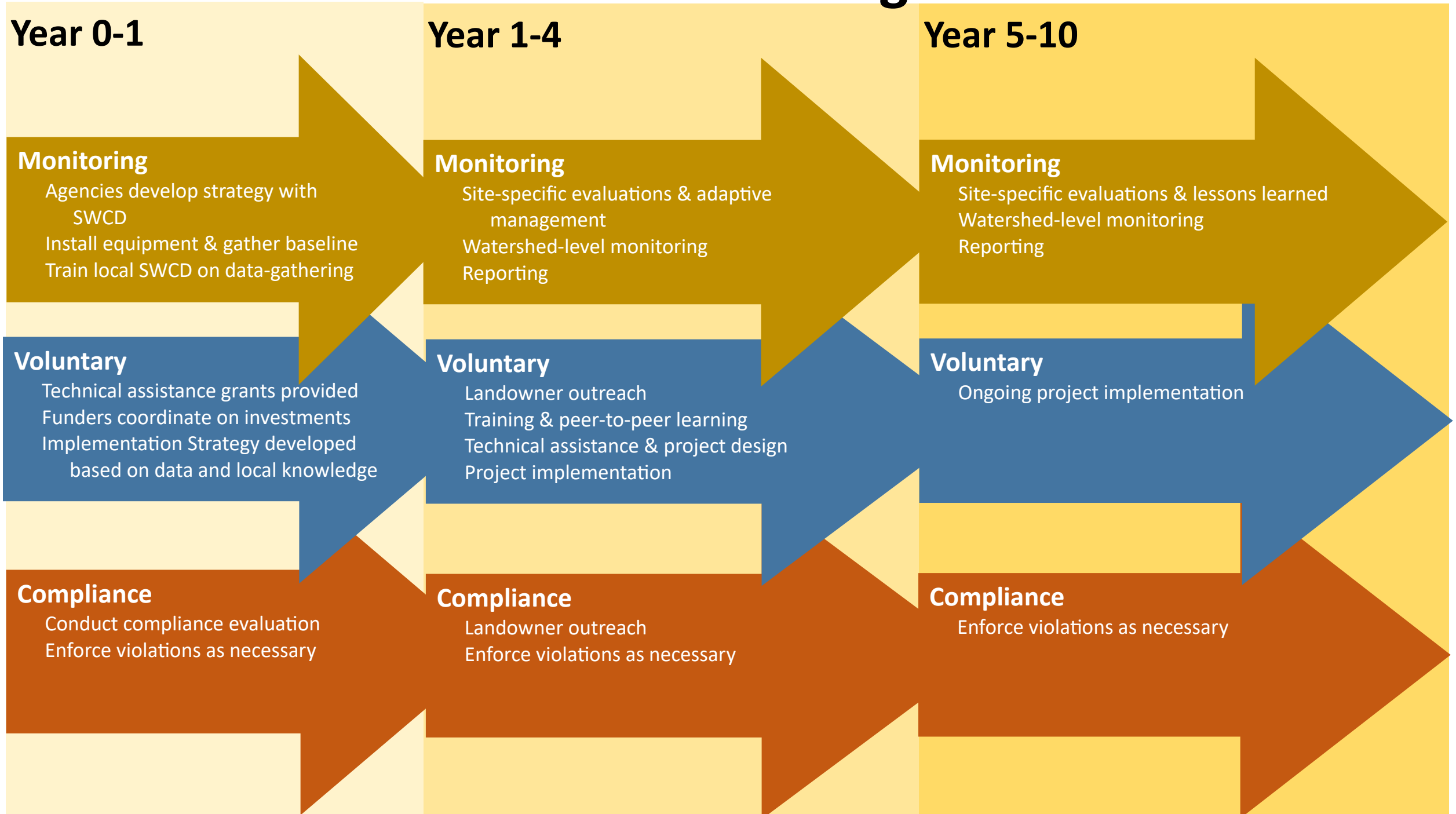
To initiate this program, **Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA)** will be selected based on need (water quality, habitat), and the capacity and willingness of local organizations to deliver on-the-ground assistance (including potential OWEB funding). It is expected that all areas of the state will eventually have an SIA over time, but initial success will be based on selecting areas that combine the above three characteristics.

Once an SIA is selected and before the program is initiated, state agencies will help the local SWCD or other lead partner to identify key areas to work with landowners. This will include information from the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s compliance evaluation, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s general habitat assessment including limiting factors, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality’s analysis of shade along streamside areas.

The goal of this strategic implementation approach is to develop a framework that can be used across Oregon counties that combines both voluntary and regulatory measures in a way that provides the greatest uplift to water quality. This approach is intended to support and encourage innovation and local solutions while ensuring landowners comply with the state’s agriculture water quality program requirements.

Over time, it is anticipated that this approach can be used as a basis to develop other tools that ensure both effective implementation and monitoring of non-point source water quality improvements and increased regulatory certainty for landowners.

Coordinated Streamside Management Timeline



Coordinated Streamside Management on Rural Lands in Oregon

Voluntary, Incentive-Based Conservation Overview

As designed under Oregon's SB 1010 (Agricultural Water Quality Management Act), Oregon's agricultural water quality program is built around voluntary, incentive-based conservation with a compliance and enforcement backstop. Part of SB 1010 includes Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans in 38 areas across the state which identify both water quality problems and opportunities for improvement. Local Advisory Committees (LAC) made up of farmers, ranchers, community leaders, and other stakeholders establish goals based on identification of local agricultural water quality problems and opportunities for improvement.

To support this work through the Coordinated Streamside Management Program, once a Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) has been selected, the state agency partners will work with the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the LAC, and other local partners to develop a specific implementation strategy for the selected area as a companion to the agricultural water quality management area plan. Implementation strategies will identify voluntary and incentive-based approaches to improving streamside management across all lands in the identified area, whether agriculturally influenced or not. Additional landowner information will also be used to complete strategy implementation.

Incentive-Based Conservation Components in Year 0-1

- 1) **Technical Assistance Funding** - The SWCD or other identified partner will apply to OWEB for a technical assistance grant for SIA implementation. Funding can be used for landowner outreach, monitoring, and project design. Implementation funding is accessible through a variety of funding sources, including OWEB restoration grants, small grants, and NRCS EQIP and other funding.
- 2) **Funding Coordination** - All potential funding partners (typically NRCS and OWEB, but may include others) will be made aware of the strategy to ensure it is built into local strategic processes already in place (local work group and conservation implementation strategy through NRCS, as an example).

Incentive-Based Conservation Components in Year 1-4

- 1) **Landowner Outreach** - Extensive outreach will occur to make landowners aware of the identification of their area for coordinated streamside management. Outreach will ensure landowners are aware of the program and their opportunity to work with local conservation organizations to improve their streamside management. Landowners will have the opportunity to implement voluntary conservation measures.
- 2) **Training and Peer-to-Peer Learning** – OWEB, ODA, NRCS and the Farm Service Agency will coordinate to provide opportunities for training and peer-to-peer learning about effective streamside management, innovative approaches, program funding opportunities, and technical design for all local practitioners, including those with SIAs.
- 3) **Technical Assistance and Project Design** – The SWCD and other local partners work with landowners to design projects that improve habitat and water quality based on the landowner's goals and funding priorities. Funding is provided through the OWEB SIA technical assistance grant.
- 4) **Project Implementation** – Landowners and local partners work together to implement streamside improvement practices with landowners in agriculture-influenced areas throughout the process, either at their own cost or in partnership with funding from OWEB, NRCS, or other sources.

Coordinated Streamside Management on Rural Lands in Oregon

Monitoring Overview

Monitoring is an essential component of coordinated streamside management. Watershed-scale monitoring can tell the story of whether and how the actions landowners take result in the intended improvements to water quality. Depending on the stream, parameters targeted for improvement may include stream temperature, sediment, nutrients, and/or bacteria. In addition to watershed-scale monitoring, evaluation of specific actions helps local groups learn and share information about the most effective implementation strategies and approaches. ODA and OWEB will engage DEQ and ODFW to develop scientifically and technically robust monitoring strategies, working with local partners to identify the parameter(s) of interest, and providing the necessary training for local partners to collect data and report results. Implementation of the monitoring strategy will document uplift to water quality through time, and provide information to support adaptive management.

Monitoring Components in Year 0-1

- 1) **Monitoring Strategy** – ODA and OWEB will coordinate with DEQ and ODFW—the agencies with extensive expertise and experience with water quality and biological monitoring, respectively—to develop a monitoring strategy. This approach will ensure that accurate baseline information about stream temperature, sediment, bacteria, and/or nutrient levels are available and can be used to show post-implementation progress. The plan will address two scales of monitoring:
 - a. Watershed-level monitoring to identify trends in water quality, and
 - b. Site-specific evaluation to learn and share information about how to implement the identified conservation practices in a way that has the best chances to achieve the intended impact.

The strategy will be coordinated with the local SWCD and/or other local partners prior to implementation. Local partners will be trained in data collection and can charge those costs to a technical assistance grant to be provided by OWEB. DEQ will complete placement of monitoring equipment and baseline data gathering.

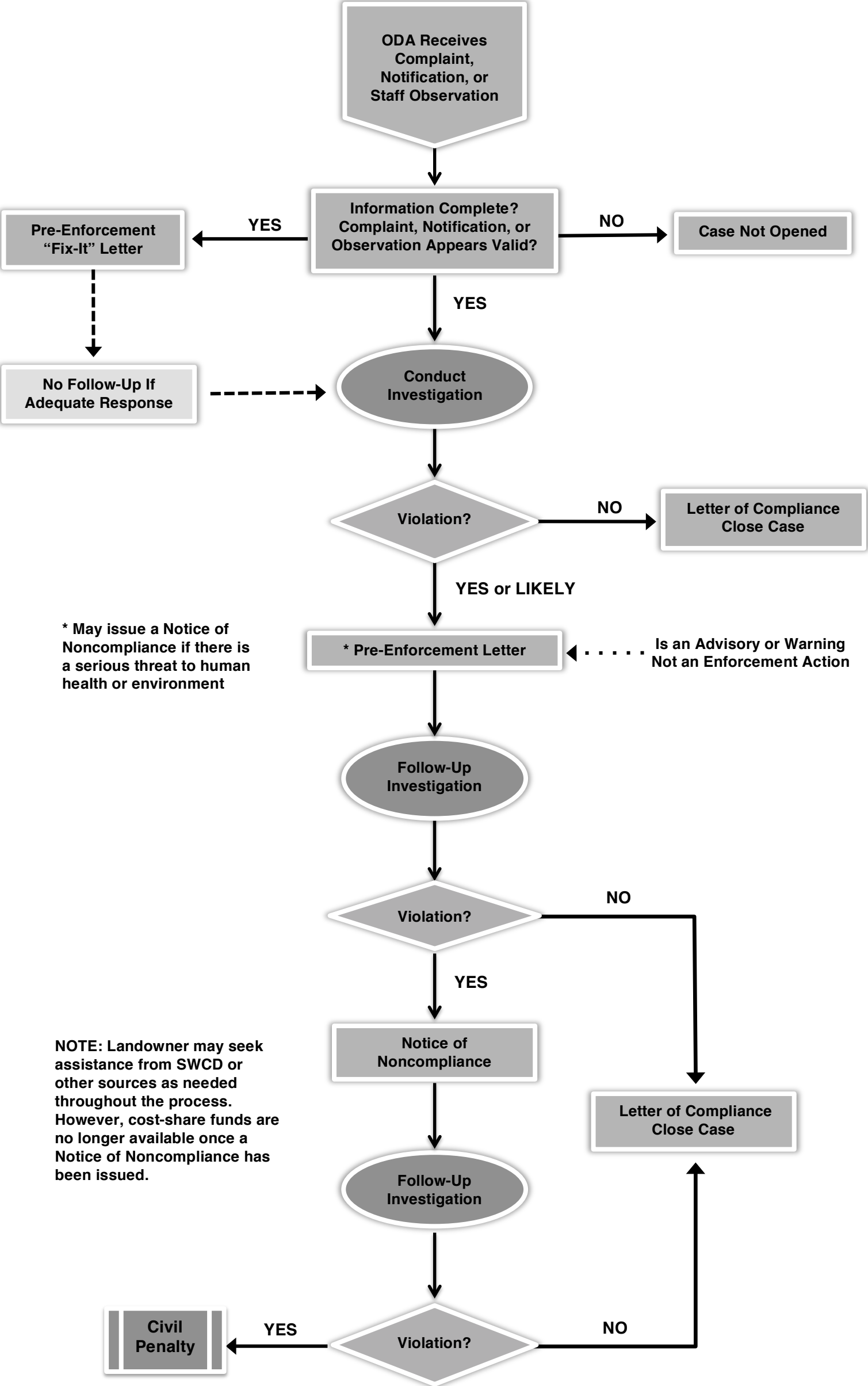
Monitoring Components in Years 1-4

- 1) **Implementation of Site-Specific and Watershed Monitoring** - Monitoring will continue throughout the implementation process.
- 2) **Reporting** – Information about actions completed by local partners will be paired with monitoring data to determine if improvements have been made as a result of implementation. Note: In-stream signals of water-quality effects may not be seen until a few years after implementation is complete.
- 3) **Adaptive Management** - Adaptive management will be a priority for partners, using information from landowners about the effectiveness of the approach, along with data from the ecological monitoring implemented at the beginning of the program.

Monitoring Components in Years 5-10

- 1) **Implementation of Site-Specific and Watershed Monitoring** - Monitoring will continue for 2-5 years after the completion of coordinated work in the identified area.
- 2) **Reporting** – Information about actions completed by local partners will be paired with monitoring data to determine if improvements have been made as a result of implementation.
- 3) **Adaptive Management** - Adaptive management will be a priority for partners, using information from landowners about the effectiveness of the approach, along with data from the ecological monitoring implemented at the beginning of the program.

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Water Quality Program Compliance Process



Changes planned for Oregon ag water quality oversight

Regulators are implementing a new approach to ensure Oregon farmers comply with agricultural water quality standards.

Mateusz Perkowski • Capital Press
Published on September 29, 2017 1:27PM

Oregon's farm regulators aim to increase the impact of their agricultural water quality program by shifting how grant money is allocated, among other changes.

Ensuring that farmers comply with water quality standards is within the purview of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, which traditionally focused its attention on waterways subject to complaints.

In recent years, ODA has moved beyond the complaint-driven process to determine for itself which streams and rivers should be scrutinized for water quality problems.

Based on aerial photos and other data, the agency each year selects several "strategic implementation areas," or SIAs, where waterways are examined more closely.

During the 2015-2017 biennium, roughly \$1 million from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board was spent on compliance projects in the SIAs, such as planting vegetation near denuded streams or moving manure piles away from waterways.

Under the agency's new "coordinated streamside management partnership," this funding will be dedicated to planning rather than on-the-ground work.

In the 2017-2019 biennium, another \$1.2 million in OWEB money will be available, but now the funds will be directed toward technical assistance for local soil and water conservation districts and watershed councils.

The change is expected to help smaller districts and councils — some of which only have a single employee — with tasks such as grant-writing and paying for engineering plans, said John Byers, manager of ODA's agricultural water quality program.

Aside from rectifying specific problems so landowners comply with water quality standards, the program will also identify additional measures to “uplift” water quality, Byers said.

Paying for the projects themselves will require separate OWEB grants, he said. “We feel they’re going to be as competitive or more competitive because of that uplift.”

Once it annually chooses six “strategic implementation areas,” ODA will consult with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife about the best methods for improving water quality.

“Let’s make sure we’re looking at this from a coordinated perspective,” said Byers.

Historically, efforts to improve agricultural water quality were akin to “random acts of conservation,” said Lisa Hanson, ODA's deputy director.

Now, ODA will provide local groups with information from DEQ and ODFW up front, helping them to understand where projects will be most effective for fish and environmental health, Hanson said.

“If we work with these 10 landowners, we can have a big impact,” said Meta Loftsgaarden, OWEB's executive director.

The agency will also be monitoring aspects of water quality, such as sedimentation and temperature, to see whether its efforts are proving effective.

Monitoring has already occurred in some Oregon waterways, but systematically analyzing SIAs will provide state agencies will a more expansive perspective, said Loftsgaarden.

“We’re able to get a very different story for agriculture than we’ve had in the past,” she said. “It tells a broader, more statewide story.”

Rather than focus on individual landowners, the monitoring component will encompass the larger waterway.

“The monitoring is going to be at the watershed scale and it’s going to be in-stream,” she said.

While ODA ultimately has the authority to issue civil penalties to landowners, so far it hasn’t been necessary under the SIA approach, Byers said.

Landowners have been responsive to warning letters informing them that water quality problems need to be fixed, he said.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M –Focused Investment Partnership Rulemaking Update
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report will update the board on the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) rulemaking process.

II. Background

FIP grants are currently authorized under the Division 5, OWEB Grant Program administrative rules, which is a broad rule division that encompasses all of OWEB grants. With FIP entering the second biennium of the program's existence, there are lessons learned that will inform administrative rules developed specifically for the program.

At the July 2017 meeting, the board authorized FIP rulemaking. The rulemaking process involves the establishment of a rules advisory committee (RAC) to vet ideas and provide feedback in the development of rules. RAC members are either involved in a current FIP or have a good understanding of the program. The membership of the FIP Rulemaking RAC is found in Attachment A.

Following the RAC process, draft rule language will be provided to the board Focused Investments subcommittee for feedback. In December, a revised draft of the rules will then be posted online for public comment. Staff will address public comment received, and a final draft of the rules will be provided to the board to consider for adoption at the January 2018 meeting.

III. Rulemaking Update

The initial RAC meeting occurred on September 27th. At the meeting, the RAC discussed ideas and concepts to potentially incorporate into rule language. As of the writing of this staff report, a first draft of the rules is anticipated to be provided to the RAC for feedback on October 12th. Staff will incorporate this feedback into a revised draft of the rules which will be provided to the board Focused Investments subcommittee on October 18th.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachments

A. RAC Members

FIP Rules Advisory Committee Members

Dan Bell, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Portland

Amy Charette, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Warm Springs

Liesel Coleman, Curry SWCD, Gold Beach

Justin Cullumbine, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, Ashland

Andrew Dutterer, OWEB Partnerships Coordinator, Salem

Bernadette Graham-Hudson, ODFW, Clackamas

Mark Grenbemer, OWEB-Southwest Oregon, Medford

Eric Hartstein, OWEB Senior Policy Coordinator, Salem

Ryan Houston, Upper Deschutes WSC, Bend

Denise Lofman, Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, Astoria

Brad Nye, Deschutes Land Trust, Bend

Michael Pope, Greenbelt Land Trust, Corvallis

Courtney Shaff, OWEB Capacity Coordinator, Salem

Brenda Smith, High Desert Partnership, Burns

Jesse Steel, Grande Ronde Model Watershed, La Grande

Marty Suter-Goold, Harney SWCD, Hines

Mark Trenholm, Wild Salmon Center, Portland

Eric Williams, OWEB Grant Program Manager, Salem



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden Executive Director
Nellie McAdams, OAHP Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Update
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will update the board on final approval of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) and outline next steps for program implementation. Staff will request board approval for rule-making and establishment of a rules advisory committee.

II. OAHP Background

Oregon's rich agricultural heritage and diverse farm and ranch lands have drawn people to the state for more than 150 years. These "working lands" are the cornerstone of the state's rural communities and provide myriad benefits to the natural environment. More than one quarter of Oregon's 63 million acres are private working lands that create agricultural production valued at \$5.4 billion—the state's second-largest economic driver.

For over 40 years, Oregon's unique land use system has helped protect the working landscape. Even with a strong economic position and state protections, farms and ranches are increasingly challenged by rising production costs, loss of processing facilities, fragmentation through new land uses, complex regulations, and planning for generational transfers.

In 2016, Governor Brown's office convened a work group of landowners, tribal governments, agencies and interested organizations to identify voluntary tools to help landowners support both agricultural values and values that maintain or enhance fish, wildlife or other natural resources on working lands. Called the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Work Group (Attachment A), this group developed proposals for a legislative concept presented during the 2017 Legislative Session as HB 3249 (Attachment B).

The bill passed the 2017 legislative session with bipartisan support and funding was provided to develop rules and finalize program design.

III. OAHP Implementation

In September, OWEB brought on board Nellie McAdams to manage program implementation for OAHP. At the October board meeting, staff will provide detailed information about the next implementation steps for the program. These include:

1. Establishment of the Commission: The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission is established as a part of HB 3249. This commission is made up of members appointed by various boards and commissions. Once established, and when funding becomes available, the commission will make recommendations to OWEB for project funding. Staff will update the board on the process for establishing commission membership, including the OWEB Board's involvement in that process.
2. Rules Advisory Committee and Rule-Making: Staff will request the board initiate the rule-making process at the October board meeting and will provide details on the attached outline of steps for the program (Attachment C).

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board initiate rule-making for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

Attachments

- A. Work Group Membership
- B. HB 3249
- C. Commission process timeline

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Workgroup Members

Meta Loftsgaarden, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Eric Williams, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Nellie McAdams, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Doug Krahmer, Oregon Farmer

John O’Keeffe, Oregon Rancher

Kelley Beamer, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

Jerome Rosa, Oregon Cattlemen’s Association

Mary Anne Cooper, Oregon Farm Bureau

Derek Johnson, The Nature Conservancy

Mike Gerel, Sustainable Northwest

Dylan Kruse, Sustainable Northwest

Jay Udelhoven, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Enrolled House Bill 3249

Sponsored by Representatives CLEM, WITT, BUEHLER; Representatives FAHEY, GOMBERG, HELM, HUFFMAN, JOHNSON, KENNEMER, LININGER, LIVELY, MARSH, MCLAIN, NEARMAN, NOBLE, POWER, SMITH DB, SMITH G, SOLLMAN, WHISNANT, Senators BEYER, FREDERICK, HANSELL, ROBLAN, THOMSEN

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to land conservation; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas Oregon's rich agricultural heritage and diverse farm and ranch lands are the cornerstone of Oregon's rural communities and support a variety of natural resource functions; and

Whereas the economy of Oregon developed through a long tradition of land stewardship that supports both agricultural and natural systems; and

Whereas over one-fourth of Oregon's 63 million acres are private working lands creating agricultural production that is valued at \$5.4 billion and is the second largest economic driver in Oregon; and

Whereas well managed agricultural land supports valuable fish and wildlife habitat and enhances other natural resources; and

Whereas, despite Oregon's unique land use protections, Oregon farms and ranches and the social, economic and ecological values supported by those farms and ranches are increasingly challenged by fragmentation through new land uses, conversion to nonfarm use and the complexity of regulations and planning for generational transfers; and

Whereas the protection of Oregon agricultural lands and their associated natural resource values can be enhanced by flexible voluntary tools tailored to the needs of individual farmers or ranchers; and

Whereas the use of voluntary tools can leverage federal moneys to protect and enhance working lands while maintaining or enhancing valuable fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. As used in sections 1 to 10 of this 2017 Act:

(1) "Agricultural owner or operator" means a landowner, operator, manager or other person having responsibility for exercising control over the day-to-day operation of a farm or ranch.

(2) "Working land" means land that is actively used by an agricultural owner or operator for an agricultural operation that includes, but need not be limited to, active engagement in farming or ranching.

(3) "Working land conservation covenant" means a nonpossessory interest in working land for a fixed term that imposes limitations or affirmative obligations for the purposes that support the use of the land for agricultural production and for the maintenance or en-

hancement of fish and wildlife habitat, improvement of water quality or support of other natural resource values.

(4) "Working land conservation easement" means a permanent nonpossessory interest in working land that imposes limitations or affirmative obligations for purposes that support the use of the land for agricultural production and for the maintenance or enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, improvement of water quality or support of other natural resource values.

SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for the purpose of carrying out sections 1 to 10 of this 2017 Act.

(2) The board may accept contributions to the fund from any public or private source and may agree to any conditions for the expenditure of those contributions that are consistent with the purposes of the fund.

SECTION 3. (1) The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board may expend moneys from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund to:

- (a) Carry out the programs described in section 6 of this 2017 Act;
- (b) Pay reimbursements and staff support expenses associated with the activities of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission established under section 7 of this 2017 Act;
- (c) Provide succession planning programs with funding recommended by the commission under section 10 of this 2017 Act; and
- (d) Pay the administrative expenses of the board for carrying out sections 1 to 10 of this 2017 Act.

(2) The amount paid from the fund during a biennium for reimbursements and expenses described in subsection (1)(b) and (d) of this section may not exceed 12 percent of the moneys credited to the fund during that biennium.

SECTION 4. (1) An agricultural owner or operator may enter into a conservation management plan with an organization for working land to be managed in a manner that supports one or more natural resource values. The conservation management plan may be composed of multiple components addressing different natural resource values as identified in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) A conservation management plan must be for the purpose of developing and implementing conservation measures or other protections for maintaining or enhancing fish or wildlife habitat, improving water quality or supporting other natural resource values in a manner consistent with the social and economic interests and abilities of the agricultural owner or operator. The plan may include provisions for addressing particular priorities related to natural resource values, including but not limited to soil, water, plants, animals, energy and human need considerations.

(3) A conservation management plan must:

- (a) Meet the standards established by Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board rules;
- (b) State the duration or terminating event for the plan;
- (c) Be specific to the land, and account for the needs of, the agricultural owner or operator;
- (d) Provide for the parties to review the plan on a regular basis;
- (e) Provide for flexibility and allow for mutual modification as necessary to reflect changes in practices or circumstances;
- (f) Provide for regular monitoring by the organization to ensure that the agricultural owner or operator is adhering to the plan;
- (g) Make any receipt by the agricultural owner or operator of annual payments for carrying out the plan contingent on adherence to the plan; and

(h) Limit any annual payments for carrying out the plan to a term of not less than 20 years or more than 50 years.

(4) An organization that enters into, or proposes to enter into, a conservation management plan may apply to the board for a grant to fund the purchasing, implementing, carrying out or monitoring of the plan if the organization is:

(a) A holder, as defined in ORS 271.715, other than a state agency;

(b) A watershed council; or

(c) Tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

SECTION 5. (1) An owner of working land may enter into a working land conservation covenant with or grant a working land conservation easement to an organization that is a holder, as defined in ORS 271.715, other than a state agency. The covenant or easement must be for the purpose of ensuring the continued use of the land for agricultural purposes while maintaining or enhancing fish or wildlife habitat, improving water quality or supporting other natural resource values on the land. A working land conservation covenant must be for a term of years that is established as permissible in Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission rules.

(2) In addition to the purposes required under subsection (1) of this section, a working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement may provide for carrying out any purposes of a conservation easement, as defined in ORS 271.715. The covenant or easement must provide for carrying out those additional purposes in a manner consistent with ORS 271.715 to 271.795.

(3) A working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement must:

(a) Provide for regular monitoring by the organization accepting the covenant or easement to ensure that the owner of the working land is adhering to the covenant or easement provisions; and

(b) If identical in duration to a conservation management plan for the working land, refer to the conservation management plan in the text of the covenant or easement.

(4) An organization that enters into, or proposes to enter into, a working land conservation covenant or accept a working land conservation easement may apply to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for a grant to fund the purchasing, implementing, carrying out or monitoring of the covenant or easement.

(5) An application under subsection (4) of this section may be combined with an application under section 4 of this 2017 Act for a grant to fund a conservation management plan associated with the working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement.

SECTION 6. (1) The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board shall establish programs to provide grants from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund for the purposes of:

(a) Assisting owners of working land with succession planning for those lands;

(b) Funding the purchasing, implementing, carrying out or monitoring of conservation management plans, working land conservation covenants or working land conservation easements described in sections 4 and 5 of this 2017 Act; and

(c) Providing development funding or technical assistance to organizations that enter into or propose to enter into agreements resulting in conservation management plans, or that accept or propose to accept working land conservation covenants or working land conservation easements.

(2) The board, after consultation with the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission established in section 7 of this 2017 Act, shall adopt rules that establish a process for submitting and processing applications for grants under sections 4 and 5 of this 2017 Act. To the extent practicable, the board shall design the process to:

(a) Allow flexibility and responsiveness to program participant needs; and

(b) Ensure compatibility with federal working land conservation easement programs and other programs for the conservation of working land.

(3) The board and the commission, shall jointly appoint one or more technical committees to evaluate and rank conservation management plans, working land conservation covenants and working land conservation easements described in applications filed under sections 4 and 5 of this 2017 Act. The system used by the technical committee or committees shall provide for the ranking of conservation management plans to be separate from the ranking of working land conservation covenants and working land conservation easements. The ranking for a plan, covenant or easement shall be based on criteria that include, but need not be limited to:

(a) The extent to which the plan, covenant or easement would protect, maintain or enhance farming or ranching on working land;

(b) The extent to which the plan, covenant or easement would protect, maintain or enhance fish or wildlife habitat, improve water quality or support other natural resource values;

(c) The extent to which the plan, covenant or easement would protect agricultural outcomes, benefits or other investment gains;

(d) The capacity of the organization that filed the application to enter into a conservation management plan, accept a working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement, and the competence of the organization;

(e) The extent to which the benefit to the state from the investment may be maximized, based on the ability to leverage grant moneys with other funding sources and on the duration and extent of the conservation management plan, working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement; and

(f) The extent and nature of plan, covenant or easement impacts on owners or operators of neighboring lands.

(4) The criteria for ranking conservation management plans, working land conservation covenants or working land conservation easements under subsection (3) of this section may not include a consideration of the type of agricultural operation conducted on the working land.

(5) An applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board that the participants in a conservation management plan, working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement to be benefitted by a grant under this section understand and agree to their roles and responsibilities under the plan, covenant or easement.

(6) The board may issue a grant to fund a conservation management plan, working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement described in sections 4 and 5 of this 2017 Act only if:

(a) There is a contribution of cash for the plan, covenant or easement, a contribution of in-kind services or another form of investment in the plan, covenant or easement from a funding source other than the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund;

(b) The plan, covenant or easement is reviewed by a technical committee that has expertise relevant to the described plan, covenant or easement; and

(c) The commission reviews and recommends funding of the plan, covenant or easement.

(7) Except as provided in this subsection, an organization that receives a grant from the board for a conservation management plan, or an agricultural owner or operator receiving payments of moneys from an organization grant regarding a conservation management plan, may receive cash contributions, other financial assistance, in-kind services or investments, rental or easement payments, tax benefits or other benefits from a federal, state or private entity in return for practices related to the purchasing, implementing, carrying out or monitoring of the conservation management plan. The board or an organization grant may not, however, provide payments that duplicate any federal, state or private payments for the same measures directed to maintaining or enhancing fish or wildlife habitat, improving water quality or supporting other natural resource values within the plan.

(8) An organization that receives a grant from the board for a working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement, or an owner of working land that enters into a working land conservation covenant or grants a working land conservation easement, may receive cash contributions, other financial assistance, in-kind services or other forms of investment from any public or private sources for purposes of purchasing, implementing, carrying out or monitoring of the covenant or easement.

SECTION 7. (1) The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission is established, consisting of 12 members appointed by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The board shall appoint one board member to serve on an ex officio basis as a nonvoting member of the commission. The board shall appoint 11 voting members from among persons recommended as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(2)(a) Four members shall be persons recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who are actively engaged in farming or ranching. The members must represent diverse types of agricultural commodities and be from geographically diverse areas of this state.

(b) One member shall be recommended by the Director of the Oregon State University Extension Service.

(c) Two members shall be persons recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission who have expertise regarding fish and wildlife habitat.

(d) One member shall be a person recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who has expertise in agricultural water quality.

(e) One member shall be a person recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission who has expertise in conservation easements and similar land transfers.

(f) One member shall be a person selected by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board who is a representative of natural resource value interests.

(g) One member shall be a person selected by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board who is a representative of Indian tribal interests.

(3) The term of office of each voting member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission is four years, but the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board may remove a member if requested by the authority that recommended the member. Before the term of a member expires, the authority that recommended the member shall make recommendations to the board regarding the appointment of a successor. An authority may recommend the reappointment of a member, but a member may not serve more than two consecutive terms. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the authority that recommended the vacating member shall make recommendations to the board regarding the appointment of a successor to serve for the unexpired term.

SECTION 8. (1) The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission shall select one of its voting members as chairperson and another voting member as vice chairperson, for terms and with duties and powers necessary for the performance of the functions of the offices as the commission determines.

(2) A majority of the voting members of the commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(3) The commission shall meet at least once every 12 months at a time and place determined by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The commission also may meet at other times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the voting members of the commission.

(4) Members of the commission are not entitled to compensation but, at the discretion of the board, may be reimbursed from funds available in the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred by the members in the performance of official duties in the manner and amount provided in ORS 292.495.

(5) The board shall provide staff support for the work of the commission.

SECTION 9. (1) In accordance with applicable provisions of ORS chapter 183, the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission may adopt rules necessary for the administration of the laws that the commission is charged with administering.

(2) The commission may establish any advisory or technical committee the commission considers necessary to aid and advise the commission in the performance of its functions. The committees may be continuing or temporary committees. The commission shall determine the representation, membership, terms and organization of the committees and shall appoint the members of the committees. The commission chairperson shall be a nonvoting member of each committee.

(3) Members of advisory or technical committees established by the commission are not entitled to compensation but, at the discretion of the commission and with the consent of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, may be reimbursed from funds available to the board for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred by the members in the performance of official duties in the manner and amount provided in ORS 292.495.

SECTION 10. (1) The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission shall:

(a) Assist the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board with the development of rules for the administration of programs under sections 1 to 10 of this 2017 Act;

(b) Adopt rules establishing three or more permissible terms of years, that are not less than 20 or more than 50 years, for working land conservation covenants formed under section 5 of this 2017 Act;

(c) Recommend policies and priorities for use by the board in evaluating the farm or ranch values, and the fish or wildlife habitat, water quality or other natural resource values, on working land described in a grant application filed under section 4 or 5 of this 2017 Act;

(d) Review and consider the recommendations of technical committees appointed under section 6 of this 2017 Act;

(e) Consult with the board concerning grant applications;

(f) Provide conservation management plan, working land conservation covenant and working land conservation easement funding recommendations to the board based on the availability of funding from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund; and

(g) Provide funding recommendations to the Legislative Assembly, or recommendations for grant funding to the board, to provide training and support to owners of working land, or persons advising owners of working land, regarding succession planning for the lands.

(2) The commission's recommendations for funding under subsection (1)(g) of this section may include recommendations for funding succession planning programs through the Oregon State University Extension Service only if the university has presented the commission with a program proposal for review. If a commission recommendation for funding succession planning programs through the university extension service is adopted, the university shall provide the commission with an annual report regarding each program.

SECTION 11. (1) As used in this section "working land" has the meaning given that term in section 1 of this 2017 Act.

(2) The Legislative Policy and Research Director, in consultation with the Department of Revenue and the State Department of Agriculture, shall conduct a study examining financial incentives, incremental tax reduction and tax elimination with regard to land transfer and succession planning for working land. The study must include, but need not be limited to, the identification of potential tax incentives and financial management tools that may improve the likelihood for land transfer and succession planning that supports the continued use of working land for agricultural operations while maintaining or enhancing fish or wildlife habitat, improving water quality or supporting other natural resource values of the land.

(3) In conducting the study, the director shall consult with state agencies and members of the public that have an interest in policy considerations related to the identification and proposal of potential tax incentives and financial management tools.

(4) The director shall complete the study and report findings and any recommendations to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, no later than September 15, 2018.

SECTION 12. Notwithstanding the term of office specified by section 7 of this 2017 Act, of the members first appointed to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission:

(1) One of the members recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who is actively engaged in farming or ranching shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2019.

(2) One of the members recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who is actively engaged in farming or ranching shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2020.

(3) One of the members recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who is actively engaged in farming or ranching shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2021.

(4) One of the members recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who is actively engaged in farming or ranching shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2022.

(5) One of the members recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2019.

(6) One of the members recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2021.

(7) The member recommended by the Director of the Oregon State University Extension Service shall serve a term ending January 1, 2020.

(8) The member selected by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board who is a representative of natural resource value interests shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2020.

(9) The member recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who has expertise in agricultural water quality shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2021.

(10) The member recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2022.

(11) The member selected by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board who is a representative of Indian tribal interests shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2022.

SECTION 13. Notwithstanding section 3 of this 2017 Act, the amounts paid from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund for the administrative expenses of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the reimbursements and staff support expenses of activities associated with the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission incurred on or before June 30, 2019, may exceed 12 percent of the moneys credited to the fund during the biennium ending June 30, 2019.

SECTION 14. Sections 1 to 10 of this 2017 Act apply to agreements and interests in land that:

(1) Are created on or after January 1, 2018; or

(2) Are the subject of an application for funding from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund.

SECTION 15. Sections 1 to 10 and 12 of this 2017 Act become operative January 1, 2018.

SECTION 16. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$190,000 which may be expended for carrying out sections 1 to 10 of this 2017 Act.

SECTION 17. This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect July 1, 2017.

Passed by House July 5, 2017

.....
Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

.....
Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate July 7, 2017

.....
Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2017

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2017

.....
Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2017

.....
Dennis Richardson, Secretary of State

OAHP Work Group Process & Membership Timeline

2017	2018 (continued)	
<p>September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire temporary employee to manage process • Initiate selection of commission members – meet with boards and commissions • Initiate selection of RAC members • Work Group meeting <p>October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with boards and commissions to discuss commission membership • Continue RAC and commission membership development • RAC process approved by OWEB board • OWEB board meeting update • Work Group meeting <p>November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue RAC and commission membership • Work Group meeting <p>December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize RAC/Commission membership for OWEB January Board Meeting • Work Group meeting - Finalize 'love letter' for January meeting 	<p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAC/commission meeting – rule public comment review <p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAC/commission meeting – finalize rules for board approval • Public comment period • OWEB board rule approval *if we don't make June board meeting, approve in October • Begin drafting application <p>July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application drafting complete <p>August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announce Application Cycle <p>September/ October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application consultations <p>November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications due • Site visits • Technical team application review <p>December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical review team application review • Site visits • Staff report to commission 	
2018		
<p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OWEB board meeting – formally approve commission • RAC/commission initiation/onboarding meeting with work group <p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAC/Commission meeting <p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAC/commission meeting (2?) • First rules draft <p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment on rule draft • OWEB board meeting update 	<th>2019</th>	2019
	<p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission meeting to review application list • OWEB Board receive report on application list <p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of 2019 Legislative Session 	



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Implementation Focused Investment Partnership (FIP)
Monitoring Update
October 24-25, 2017 Board meeting

I. Introduction

The team from Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) will join OWEB staff to provide the second of two presentations (the first occurred in July) about the Implementation FIP monitoring work. BEF will report on the application of a progress monitoring framework to each of the six Implementation FIPs, outline products of BEF's work with the FIPs and, with OWEB staff, discuss next steps for the monitoring.

II. 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 strategies.

In April 2016, the board awarded \$302,823 to BEF for FIP monitoring, including a progress monitoring framework for Implementation FIPs and the Partnership Learning Project (findings for which were reported to the board in July 2017). 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. Information will be used to adaptively manage partnership investments. OWEB staff meets regularly with the BEF team to develop the progress monitoring framework and track application of the framework within the six Implementation FIPs.

III. Progress Monitoring Framework for Implementation FIPs

BEF's work is developing a practical and consistent framework for measuring and communicating progress toward achieving implementation objectives (outputs) and predicted ecological results (outcomes). In addition to tracking and communicating progress, the framework is intended to be an effective tool to inform adaptive management of restoration initiatives by FIP partners.

The key elements of the progress monitoring framework are a results chain and a cross-walk matrix . The results chain is a graphical representation or model of the partnership's theory for how strategies are expected to produce long-term ecological impacts. The cross-walk matrix details key objectives related to implementation and ecological outcomes, along with associated indicators, to measure progress toward meeting those objectives.

At the July board meeting, the BEF team presented the elements of the framework and the process of developing unique versions of the framework for each of the Implementation FIPs. The team also discussed initial observations of how the process was proceeding to that point. As reported in July, the BEF team has engaged with each FIP to collaboratively construct and vet unique initial drafts of the frameworks.

At the October board meeting, the BEF team will share the results of developing FIP-specific progress monitoring frameworks with each of the six Implementation FIPs. They also will describe reflections on the process, lessons learned, and opportunities for meaningful integration of the frameworks into the OWEB funded FIP initiatives.

As part of the framework development, the BEF team is reviewing and overlaying existing monitoring plans and approaches. This work will help lay the foundation for subsequent discussions between OWEB and the FIP partners to identify potential monitoring gaps or needs. If such gaps or needs are able to be addressed, it could strengthen each FIP's ability to describe and communicate a more holistic and accurate narrative about progress being achieved by their work. Ultimately, the progress monitoring framework results may lead to refinements to existing monitoring approaches and modest requests for resources from the Implementation FIPs.

IV. Next Steps

BEF will continue to engage directly with each of the Implementation FIPs to refine the content of the individual progress monitoring framework. BEF will identify ways to adapt them to the unique circumstances and needs of each FIP, identify additional monitoring needs (if they exist), and work with OWEB staff to facilitate discussions about potential future funding requests to support implementation of the progress monitoring frameworks.

V. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachments

- A. BEF report about the Implementation FIP monitoring initiative (blue folder)

Focused Investment Partnerships

A Framework for Monitoring Progress

A project update prepared for the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

October 10, 2017

Background

In January 2016, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) awarded its first Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) investments to six landscape-scale restoration initiatives.

The Partnership Investment Program is a means by which OWEB works closely with partners and utilizes a different process to invest in longer-term activities intended to result in larger-scale ecological outcomes. Ideally, a Partnership Investment contributes to a historic change or surge of progress in the recovery of a species, the restoration of an ecosystem, or the launching of an initiative that addresses widespread issues.

Partnership	Initiative
Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Partnership	Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration
The Deschutes Partnership	Habitat Restoration for Resident and Anadromous Fish in the Deschutes
Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership	Upper Grande Ronde Initiative
Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Partners	Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Focused Investment
Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee	The Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse, All Counties
Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group	Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats

Table 1

To accomplish this goal the FIP program offers substantial levels of funding over a six-year timeframe to support both implementation of on-the-ground projects and the capacity of the partnerships to coordinate and lead their work.

The focus on partnerships and programmatic restoration versus individual organizations or projects is based on the premise that high-performing partnerships with well-

integrated strategies will benefit from stable funding to implement initiatives in landscapes with complex land ownership and management regimes. It is theorized that organizations working together on portfolios of restoration actions can accomplish more than if they were to operate independently or in isolation of each other, especially when they know that stable funding is available over an identified time period.

Soon after the FIP investments were committed, the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) received a grant to help OWEB actively learn from and adapt the FIP funding approach and to help the FIP partnerships document and communicate progress toward achieving their desired ecological outcomes. BEF assembled a team that included staff from Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and Reciprocity Consulting LLC to design and complete a project with two main elements: 1) the **Partnership Learning Project** to focus on learning what partnerships need to be resilient and the role that OWEB can play to increase and maintain their performance and effectiveness and 2) the **Progress Monitoring Framework** to design and begin applying a consistent, effective, and practical way to measure and communicate the partnerships' progress toward the ecological outcomes they are striving to achieve. This overview document is focused on the **progress monitoring framework** element of the project.

Progress Monitoring Framework

The progress monitoring framework ("framework") is intended to be a tool for tracking and communicating progress toward achieving long-term desired ecological outcomes the FIP partnerships defined in their Strategic Action Plans.

The framework seeks to deliver value at multiple levels of the FIP initiatives. Internal to a partnership, the framework can foster continuous learning, dialogue, and adaptation, and help partners hold each other accountable for the objectives and goals they set for themselves. Externally, the framework can be the basis for communicating progress to partner constituents, funders, decision-makers, and other interested parties.

The development of a clear theory for how actions are predicted to lead to outcomes and an associated approach for tracking outputs (projects) and outcomes (ecological results) can also facilitate integration with regional-scale restoration and monitoring efforts where they overlap with FIP efforts. Because all of the FIP partnerships are working in complex ecological systems where root causes of problems are often decades in the making and high-level ecological outcomes will take decades to materialize, the framework can also help communicate intermediate measures of progress.

Approach

In order for the framework to be used to track progress, the restoration strategies of each FIP were articulated in the form of a “results chain.” Results chains, developed with guidance from the Conservation Measures Partnership’s Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation (CMP 2013), are designed to graphically illustrate a specific “theory of change” in an ecological system. They describe how strategies are expected to lead to ecological outcomes and form the strategic foundation for an entire restoration initiative. Key results within the chain, when measured, provide an important opportunity to track progress, validate or invalidate underlying assumptions, and build understanding that then feeds back to inform the adaptive management of strategies. Communication strategies built around these results chains can then focus on how intermediate levels of progress are “moving the dial,” even when the achievement of a long-term ecological outcome may be decades away.

Figure 1 contains a generic results chain that has been the basis for developing results chains for each of the FIP initiatives. Each geometric shape and color represents actions or results and interconnecting arrows represent “if...then” relationships. In a FIP’s result chain, a **strategy** denotes a set of related actions or interventions, **implementation results** are strategy-related outputs, **near-term intermediate results** are predicted reductions of limiting factors and **long-term intermediate results** are predicted habitat process or species responses to the reduction of limiting factors. Together these elements define a partnership’s theory of change and the assumptions that underlie their predicted results and outcomes.

The process of developing a results chain also creates the opportunity to define specific measurable objectives for key implementation or ecological results. The FIP progress monitoring framework includes accompanying **cross-walk tables** that contain those detailed objectives and associated metrics that can be measured over time.

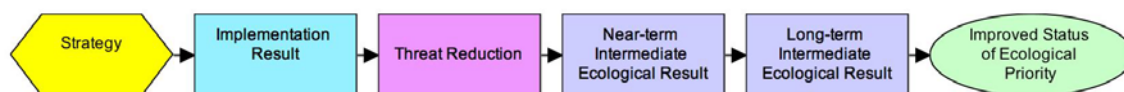


Figure 1: Generic results chain adapted from Open Standards for the Practices of Conservation (CMP 2013)

Process

We used the following steps to establish the progress monitoring framework:

1. Develop draft results chains and crosswalk tables

We reviewed the FIP applications, strategic action plans, monitoring plans, and other relevant materials and translated the contents of these documents into initial draft

results chains and crosswalk tables. We then distributed these drafts to each of the FIPs and presented the drafts at one of their scheduled meeting for discussion and feedback. During these meetings we recruited members of the partnerships that had desire, interest, and time to participate in the further development and refinement of framework elements to ensure the products accurately represented their initiative.

A note about timing for developing results chains: Although we built the results chains based on the existing documentation provided by each FIP, results chains are typically developed early in the planning process so they can inform strategy development and monitoring plans.

2. Collaboratively refine draft results chains and crosswalk tables

We scheduled one or more workshops with interested members of each partnership to refine or further develop their results chains and crosswalk tables. This step was intended to promote greater ownership of the frameworks by the partnerships, gain a deeper understanding of the partnerships and their ongoing work to plan and implement projects, and begin discussion to understand and explore alignment of the framework with existing monitoring plans.

Once results chains were complete, participants prioritized implementation results or intermediate ecological results for possible inclusion into a monitoring strategy and approach. Key results were selected based on the following:

- Results where the greatest uncertainty exists about the relationship between project implementation results and ecological outcomes;
- Results that will best tell the story of ecosystem response and restoration across the landscape; and
- Results for which changes are expected to be detectable and measurable within the 6-year FIP timeline.

3. Finalize elements of the progress monitoring frameworks

We delivered and presented updated and refined results chains and crosswalk tables to each of the partnerships for review, discussion, and agreement that they accurately represent their theories of change and that associated objectives and proposed metrics are accurate and appropriate.

4. Develop FIP summaries

Summaries that contain basic contextual information about the initiatives, along with updated versions of the results chains and crosswalk tables are contained in the FIP summaries.

The FIP initiative summaries are meant to be a concise description of each initiative containing basic attributes including members of the partnership, vision, ecological priorities, geographic scope, and operational context (see p. 6 for additional information). The core elements of the progress monitoring framework are included as well – the situation, theory of change, and key implementation and ecological results

with associated objectives and possible metrics. Also included are the ecological priorities with the potential to identify key attributes that would be measured over the long term to determine ecological impact.

Observations

The following observations illustrate some of the opportunities and challenges of using this framework more systematically in the future. Although the testing of the framework has not yet been fully completed (see Next Steps below), these initial observations are intended to offer insight into our ongoing learning and inform continued dialogue with OWEB and partnerships.

Results Chains as Tools

Results chains are powerful tools for the development, refinement, communication and adaptive management of strategic restoration plans.

Results chains offer a standardized approach that can be used by restoration partnerships to conceptualize and understand their integrated strategies, make decisions about interventions and their potential results, and establish a framework for tracking, measuring and communicating progress. The collaborative exercise of creating a results chain is an effective way to help partnerships think through, discuss, and come to agreement on the circumstances of their effort and how they expect their interventions to produce desired change. When complete, results chains serve as clear, explicit tools for the communication of restoration strategies and the intended results and outcomes. However, the process of creating a results chain is complicated and the product itself often has limitations because it simplifies highly complex natural systems into fewer than 20 or 30 elements. The process requires participation of the right people, and experienced facilitation to ensure participants achieve a balance of usefulness and accuracy and to minimize the risk of getting bogged down in process.

Partnership Diversity

Each FIP is unique in terms of the composition and capacity of its members, its interest in monitoring vs. implementation, the focus of its work, the character of its communities, and the regional conservation context of its efforts.

The diversity of partnerships creates a challenge for applying one-size-fits-all structures for organizing, planning, and implementing projects, monitoring results, and communicating progress. A framework for measuring and communicating progress needs to be consistent across FIPs to help OWEB measure its investment impact at a program level, but flexible enough at the partner level to respond to its specific needs and circumstances. With this in mind, core principles of this approach (e.g., the process or questions that are used to build results chains) may ultimately be pertinent to all FIPs, while the specific ways it is applied may need to vary between partnerships. The Conservation Measures Partnership's Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation are scalable and can serve as a good reference for this effort.

Strategic Planning Evolution

It will take time for this type of framework to more fully influence implementation objectives and project selection.

As noted previously, the best use of a tool like the results chain is in the early stages of an initiative because it helps the partners discuss, understand, and identify all critical elements of a conservation initiative before defining strategies and actions. In most existing FIPs, partners have come to the FIP with “shovel-ready” projects they have been developing for years prior to the launch of the FIP program. As a consequence, implementation objectives can sometimes be informed more by already identified projects or opportunities than by the emergent strategies developed in results chains. Given that it can take many years to identify, develop, and tee up projects for implementation, it will take time before the results chain drives not only monitoring, but also implementation objectives and the process of project selection and implementation.

Operational Context

The operational contexts for each FIP vary significantly in size and scope, requiring careful consideration of geographic and programmatic boundaries for the FIP, and the implications of defining any specific operational context.

All of the six FIPs are nested within (and contribute to) larger restoration or conservation initiatives as described in the FIP summaries. While the FIPs contribute in important ways to these larger-scale efforts, they also benefit from (or depend on) the actions of others operating outside the FIP scope to achieve the ecological outcomes defined in their Strategic Action Plans or results chains. Depending on how a FIP defines its scope, it may be difficult for them to account for and report on work that contributes to their desired outcomes, but that is being done by others external to the partnership.

The Mechanics of Monitoring

Given the nested operational context described above, monitoring of outcomes must also be nested, creating a high degree of complexity and uncertainty for some FIPs.

For most FIPs, measuring implementation progress can be relatively straightforward, assuming there are 1) processes and structures in place for gathering, managing, analyzing, and communicating implementation data and 2) specific measureable implementation objectives. However, effectiveness monitoring focused on measuring ecological outcomes is much more challenging and may require expertise or sustained capacity that does not currently exist among the core members. To solve these issues, some FIPs are relying on outside agencies, academia, or other organizations to conduct assessments and effectiveness or long-term status and trend monitoring. This approach of partnering with external entities to fulfill monitoring needs requires very robust communication channels and clear agreements to ensure that these partnerships are successful over the long term.

Integration with OWEB Strategic Action Planning

There are opportunities to integrate the Strategic Action Planning (SAP) guidance and this Progress Monitoring Framework to support strategic planning.

The current Strategic Action Planning (SAP) guidance from OWEB is largely complementary to the approach described here. The OWEB guidance focuses on questions that support development of a robust theory of change and measurable implementation and ecological outcomes objectives. Given this, we were able to develop draft results chains and crosswalk tables in a fairly consistent way across all FIPs. Nevertheless, there are opportunities to develop and integrate guidance that would bring together the core elements of this progress monitoring framework with the existing elements of the SAP guidance to create a refined guidance that encompasses facets of both. Over the long term, this approach could simplify processes for the FIPs and provide an effective tool for adaptive management. We suggest offering partnerships the flexibility to develop progress monitoring frameworks that meet their specific needs.

Framework Development and Stewardship

Conceptualizing, developing, stewarding and managing a partnership's progress monitoring framework is a complex role, requiring a specialized skill set, unique training, technical and financial resources, and sustained buy-in from an entire partnership.

Given that most FIPs formed with a focus on implementing “shovel-ready” projects, the time-intensive work of planning, funding, coordinating, and implementing on-the-ground restoration or conservation actions typically dominates the work of each partnership. The pressing need to carry out projects may leave the important work of coordinating monitoring, facilitating adaptive management, and communicating neglected. In addition, the work of developing and stewarding this framework often requires skills and expertise that are different than those that have been optimized for on-the-ground project implementation.

Integrating More Social Science

While all FIPs expressed a strong desire to integrate social, community and economic outcomes into their results chains, most FIPs are staffed by physical and biological scientists, have been formed with an emphasis on ecological outcomes, and need access to specialized social science expertise.

In every FIP there was a desire to integrate social aspects into their initiative. This desire was usually expressed in the following ways:

1. To gain community or landowner support necessary to advance critical strategies.
2. To broadly increase awareness and understanding of the initiative and the goals the partners are striving to achieve; and
3. To integrate social values as part of the set of goals or desired long-term outcomes.

Some of the FIPs requested that we spend time with them to begin identifying what these social values or outcomes could be and how they are linked to the ecological outcomes they are working to achieve (see FIP summaries). When the partnerships do not already have social scientists engaged, this kind of work will likely require new expertise through new partners, consultants or other resources.

Communications

The framework provides the basis for enhanced communications associated with the overall vision, goals, and strategies of the initiative as well as telling the story of recovery and restoration.

At their most basic level, results chains tell a visual story of the partnership's strategic plan, with opportunities to highlight key programs (strategies) and emphasize important outputs and outcomes. These make up some of the key ingredients of good storytelling and, as a result, these tools can help empower partnerships to expand their communications. All of the FIPs have expressed a desire to improve and expand their communications, and have been interested in leveraging this framework to achieve enhanced communications results.

Reporting

The framework offers an opportunity to improve reporting by promoting a more holistic approach to communicating progress. However, this comes with added complexity and the need for more time and resources to be invested in reporting.

Most reporting to funders at the project implementation level is an administrative requirement that is disconnected from a partnership's holistic progress monitoring efforts. Systems for collecting and processing implementation data can be complex and challenging, especially where multiple funders are contributing to each restoration or conservation action and reporting requirements vary between funders. Furthermore, the scope of FIP work is not always inclusive of the actions contributing to desired ecological outcomes (see Operational Context above) because non-FIP partners may be providing important restoration outputs that contribute to outcomes. The results chains could be used to clarify some of these reporting challenges because it provides a framework upon which progress can be illustrated within the scope of each FIP.

Partnership Capacity and Human Capital

Many of the opportunities brought by the framework – enhanced strategic planning, monitoring, communications, or the addition of social outcomes – require added capacity and expertise.

Many of the opportunities created by this framework will bring value only with the addition of specific, targeted resources designed to add capacity for local partnerships because of the new, unique skills and expertise required. The development and stewardship of the framework, enhanced reporting, integration of communications, and potential addition of social elements all require extensive time, diverse skills and specific expertise that may not be present in local partnerships. Much of the expertise and

capacity in local partnerships is focused on project implementation so successful implementation of the above opportunities may require that new disciplines be brought into the partnerships through added personnel, consultants or leveraged partnerships that can provide shared services.

Next Steps

To date we have worked with the FIPs to develop, refine, and complete results chains, operational context and crosswalk tables, gaining a deeper understanding of each partnership and initiative. The next important task is to begin testing the framework more rigorously by overlaying or integrating existing monitoring efforts of the FIPs or helping to inform further development of their monitoring plans in a way that links to the progress monitoring framework.

References

Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP), 2013. Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, Version 3.0. April.

Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Partnership

Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration Initiative (AFARI)

VISION

AFARI partners envision a rich and resilient dry-type forest landscape of both open and complex, closed old-growth habitats, along with thriving oak woodland and prairie in appropriate settings. The partners are cultivating a community that is deeply invested in all-lands management, which allows them to proactively engage with wildland fire for the benefits to sustained ecosystem function, terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, and delivery of desired ecosystem services to communities.

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Core Implementing Partners:

- City of Ashland
- US Forest Service
- Lomakatsi Restoration Project
- The Nature Conservancy

Additional Core Partners:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

New Partners:

- Oregon Department of Forestry
- OSU Extension Forester
- Bureau of Land Management
- Watershed Councils

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

- Dry - Type Forest Habitat**
- Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat**
- Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species**

FOCAL SPECIES

- Fisher**
- Northern Spotted Owl**



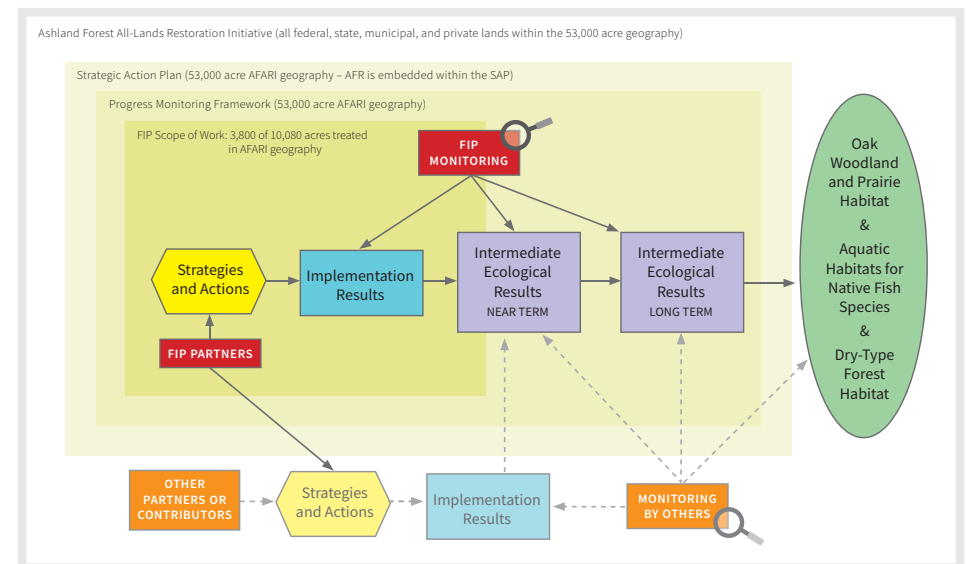
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The 58,000 acre Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration Initiative area is located in the eastern Siskiyou Mountains of the Klamath Mountains Ecoregion. The site is centered on the Ashland Creek watershed and adjacent watersheds and sub-watersheds of the Upper Bear Creek Basin including Wagner, Wrights, Hamilton, Tolman, Clayton, and Neil Creeks and upper branches of Emigrant Creek, all outlined on the south by the Siskiyou Crest, east to the western edge of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and west to Wagner Creek.

Operational Context

The initiative represents an expansion of the existing federal Ashland Forest Resiliency project occurring on US Forest Service lands - growing the 22,000-acre planning area focused on federal lands to 53,000 acres where treatments are applied on all land ownerships, including private and non-federal public lands. The FIP scope of work focuses on treatment of 3,800 acres and complements 4,500 acres already treated and 2,900 acres scheduled for treatment under the Ashland Forest Resiliency project, 380 acres anticipated to be treated by landowners, and 2,000 acres funded for treatment by the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership.

Figure 1: Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative



Theory of Change

SITUATION

A century of fire exclusion and large-tree timber harvest has allowed forests to become uncharacteristically dense, but without the needed natural species diversity at a landscape scale – both of which are important to a healthy forest system. As a result, the forest system is less resilient. In addition, the accumulation of leaf litter on the ground, combined with denser understory in the forest has left the system more prone to higher-intensity, higher-severity, stand-replacing fires.

Without action, fuel loads will continue to accumulate, risk of catastrophic wildfire and associated destruction of natural resources will increase, large tree mortality rates will continue to accelerate and a vital component of the forest ecosystem will be lost. These forests will be replaced by younger, dense, volatile forests that are less resilient to natural disturbances and to anticipated climate change. The overall health of the forest ecosystem – dry-type forest with late-successional wildlife habitat, oak woodlands, and aquatic habitat for native species – will continue to degrade and become increasingly dense, and the remaining open, fire-resistant forest will be compromised by encroachment.

APPROACH

The results chain (Figure 2) articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation results, and the intermediate ecological results partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation that will ultimately lead to restoration of the FIPs ecological priorities.

Numbered results identified in Figure 2 are those the partnership has highlighted as part of a monitoring approach. They will allow the partnership to measure progress in both the near (e.g. 6-year FIP timeframe) and long term, and to identify where key uncertainties might exist with regards to confidence of predicted outcomes or relationships between results.

Each numbered implementation result is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan (Tables 1 and 2). For intermediate ecological results, objectives are included if identified; however, for many ecological results, the degree (and timeframe) to which they will be achieved is not yet well understood. Given this complexity, continued assessment and planning will be required to support development of specific, measureable objectives for the desired ecological outcomes.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation results and ecological results prioritized for monitoring during the six-year FIP timeline are indexed to correspond to the results chain (Figure 2) and measuring progress tables (Tables 1 and 2).

STRATEGIES

The partnership proposes strategies and actions that focus primarily on needed forest thinning and fuels reduction. The work is designed to restore a balance between open and closed forest that approaches a desired range of variability. This will result in fuel conditions and stand composition and structure that mitigate the threat of severe wildfire, and promote low intensity fire. The work also reduces density of small trees, which supports growth of old legacy trees of by reducing competition and returns tree vigor and resistance to insects and disease. Successful implementation of strategies will benefit oak and late successional forest dependent wildlife.

STRATEGIES

1 Ecological thinning, fuels reduction, and prescribed fire

This strategy includes mechanical thinning and fuels reduction and subsequent prescribed burning to reset the stage for beneficial long-term maintenance with controlled fire.

Theory of Change.

Thinning in strategically identified and prioritized potential open canopy forest habitat sites¹ will result in the removal of vegetation that impedes development of large oaks that typically have wide branches⁶ and will reduce the density of smaller, understory plants¹².

- Strategic thinning will increase the overall proportion of open canopy¹³ at the landscape scale, increase the recruitment and vigor of fire-resistant species¹⁴, and increase the resilience of forest ecosystems to drought, extreme fire, insects, and disease.
- These landscape scale results will lead to an overall improvement of habitat supporting forest dependent wildlife species¹⁵.

The process of prioritizing areas with opportunities to optimize restoration and fire management on non-industrial private forests² results in the engagement and education of private landowners⁸, and the implementation of actions to reduce fuel density in these areas¹⁰.

- These identified fuel-reduction actions in turn will increase the landscape proportion of open canopy¹³, result in a shift in the frequency and severity of wildfire risk towards an acceptable range of variation¹⁶, and reduce risk of fire in the wildland urban interface¹¹.
- The reduction in fuel density will also reduce the occurrence of severe outbreaks of forest insects and diseases, thereby reducing tree mortality and potential for sediment inputs into aquatic environments from soil erosion and landslides.

The process of identifying forest thinning or fuels reduction treatment sites will also identify areas where no action is needed to protect existing sensitive resources⁴. The identification of fire management opportunities in the wildland urban interface associated with open forest habitat restoration³ will result in opportunities to use prescribed fire as a tool⁹ to manage fire risk in these areas¹¹.

2 Foster development of engaged citizenry

The partners will increase community outreach by organizing guided tours, delivering youth education programs, hosting workshops, and coordinating media coverage of their efforts. These outreach efforts educate interested citizens, establish an understanding of the ecological rationale and foundation of the partnership's strategies, and promote face-to-face opportunities to ask and answer questions.

Theory of Change.

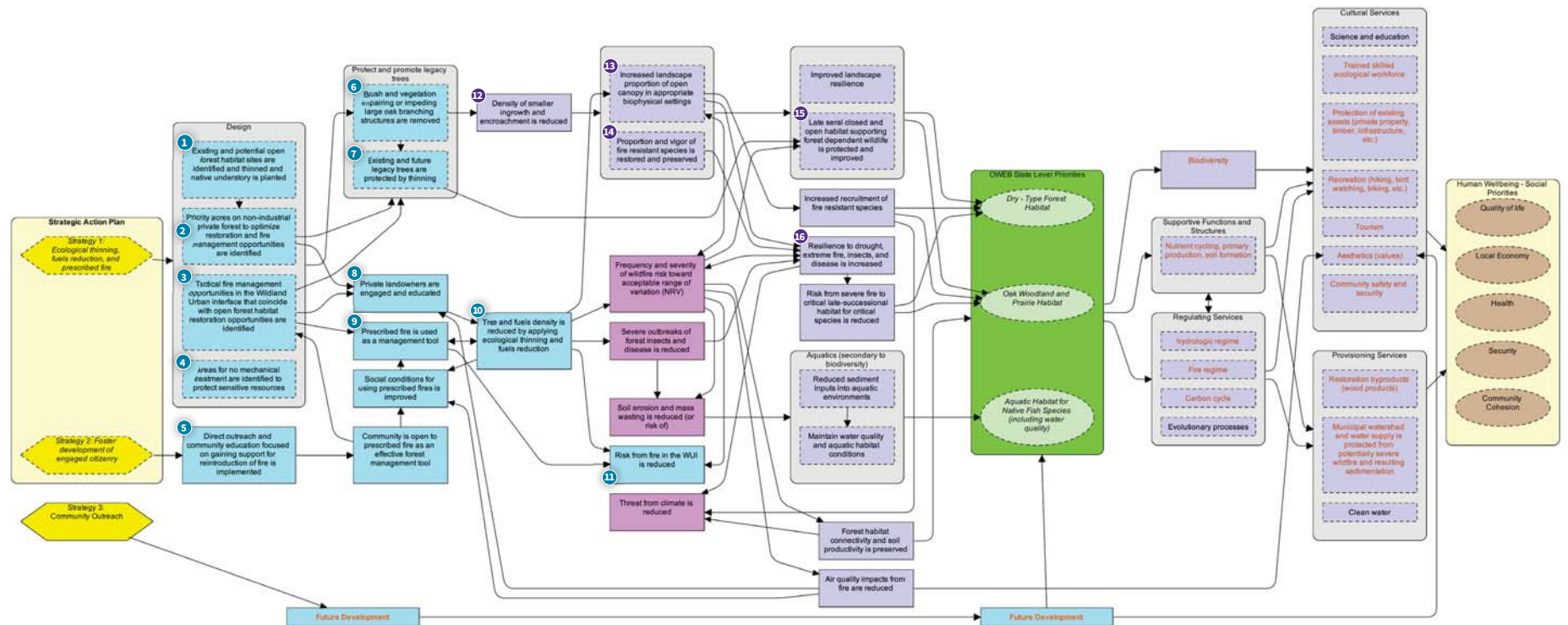
Community outreach and education focused on the benefits of prescribed fire⁵ will increase public understanding and expand community openness to using prescribed fire as a management tool. An expansion of public openness and support will allow the partnership to more fully act on identified opportunities in the wildland urban interface to apply prescribed fire treatments⁹.

Superscript numbers ¹⁻¹⁷ can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

Results Chain

Figure 2: Results chain for Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Partners Initiative

Progression of the Results Chain.



Measuring Progress

The partnership's monitoring approach is based on the 2013 Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project Monitoring Plan (The Nature Conservancy) and seeks to track treatment implementation, evaluate success at restoring desired habitat conditions where treatments occur, and evaluate change in potential wildfire spread and intensity as a result of treatments. The Partners are also tracking changes in public perceptions of the partnership's strategies and goals.

OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change.

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS	OBJECTIVES	METRICS
1 Existing and potential open forest habitat sites are identified and thinned and native understory is planted	Through spatial analysis and field assessment, identify both existing open forest habitat and sites with open habitat potential and apply ecological thinning, appropriate planting and native understory restoration.	Area of existing open forest habitat for protection Area of open habitat potential thinned/planted/restored
2 Priority acres on non-industrial private forest to optimize restoration and fire management opportunities are identified	Identify 3,800 strategic priority acres on non-federal land within the initiative area to optimize restoration of open forests and landscape fire management opportunities.	Area of non-federal lands identified as strategic restoration priorities
3 Tactical fire management opportunities in the wildland urban interface that coincide with open forest habitat restoration opportunities are identified	Identify tactical fire management opportunities in the Wildland Urban Interface that coincide with open forest habitat restoration opportunities to protect residential areas from severe wildfire and allow opportunities for safe reintroduction of fire through controlled burning.	Number of opportunities for safe controlled burning in the WUI
4 Areas for no mechanical treatment are identified to protect sensitive resources	Identify areas to avoid mechanical treatment to protect sensitive species and habitats.	Area to receive no mechanical treatment
5 Direct outreach and community education focused on gaining support for reintroduction of fire is implemented	Through direct outreach and community education, gain public support for reintroduction of fire on at least 2,000 acres in the initiative area.	Not identified
6 Brush and vegetation impairing or impeding large oak branching structures are removed	Retain and promote large oak branching structures, cavities, acorn production, and other critical oak habitat features through removal of brush and competing vegetation to reduce severe fire threat and set the stage for reintroducing low intensity fire.	Proportion of brush removed in areas identified through assessment activities (1-4 above)
7 Existing and future legacy trees are protected	Protect legacy trees and future legacy trees by thinning encroaching smaller trees, competing species, and fuel accumulations.	Proportion of identified legacy trees protected by thinning
8 Private landowners are engaged and educated	Engage and educate private landowners through direct marketing, neighborhood meetings, events, and social media.	# of landowner contracts (AFAR); Field tour attendance; Website use; Grant reporting; Website content; Tours and presentations
9 Prescribed fire is used as a management tool	Ameliorate risk to the forest from human-caused ignitions in the wildlife urban interface by treating	Area or proportion of planned fuels reduction treatment
10 Trees and fuels density are reduced by applying ecological thinning and fuels reduction	Ameliorate risk to the forest from human-caused ignitions in the wildlife urban interface by treating.	Density of fuels in treated areas
11 Risk from fire in the wildlife urban interface is reduced	Not defined	Fuel model; Canopy base height; Ladder fuel hazard rating; Modeled wildfire hazard

Table 2. Ecological results potential objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change.

Given the complexity of ecosystems, continued assessments and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for desired ecological outcomes.

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

LIMITING FACTOR REDUCTION OR INTERMEDIATE ECOLOGICAL RESULTS	POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES	POTENTIAL METRICS
12 Density of smaller ingrowth and encroachment is reduced	Reduction in density of smaller ingrowth achieved through restoration treatments will be identified on initial projects and inform specific objectives for future treatments.	Understory cover Abundance and diversity of native species
13 Increased landscape proportion of open canopy in appropriate biophysical settings	To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring	Stand structure (tree species, diameter, density, basal area, canopy closure) Seral structural state (Haugo et al. 2015) Cut tree lists (commercial thinning units only) Understory cover Treatment mapping
14 Proportion and vigor of fire resistant species is restored and proportion of open canopy in the landscape is increased	To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring	Stand structure Fuel model Treatment mapping Modeled wildfire hazard
15 Late seral closed and open habitat supporting forest dependent wildlife is protected and improved	To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring	Stand structure (tree species, diameter, density, basal area, canopy closure) Seral structural state Understory cover Legacy presence and species Photo monitoring Pre-post legacy condition Understory cover Ladder fuel hazard rating
16 Resilience of forest and old growth to drought, extreme fire, insects, and disease is increased	To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring	Treatment mapping Modeled wildfire hazard
ECOLOGICAL PRIORITIES		Status & Trends
Dry-Type Forest Habitat Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat Aquatic Habitat for Native Species		Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their monitoring framework with existing status and trends monitoring programs (if they occur) or to establish an approach for identifying key ecological attributes that should be measured to document and communicate change in the status and trajectory of ecological priority habitats and focal species populations.

The Deschutes Partnership

Habitat Restoration for Resident and Anadromous Fish in the Deschutes

VISION

The Deschutes Partnership envisions successful community-supported restoration that results in floodplain, riparian and aquatic conditions sufficient to support sustainable spawning and rearing of salmon and steelhead in the Metolius River, Whychus Creek, and the Crooked River.

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

The core partners of the Deschutes Partnership:

- Deschutes Land Trust
- Deschutes River Conservancy
- Crooked River Watershed Council
- Upper Deschutes Watershed Council

Other supporting partners (partners that provide needed help and support in the form of providing scientific data, feedback on the design of projects...)

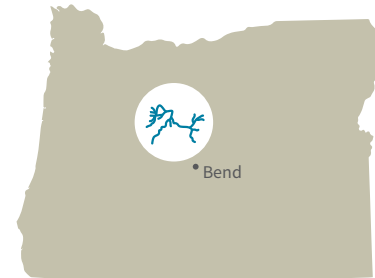
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Portland General Electric
- US Forest Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

FOCAL SPECIES

Summer steelhead
Chinook salmon
Sockeye salmon
Bull trout
Redband trout



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The Deschutes Partnership is focusing its efforts on the 226 miles of historic habitat for salmon and steelhead in the Whychus Creek, Metolius River (primarily Lake Creek and the mainstem Metolius) and lower Crooked River systems.

Operational Context.

The regional context for the Deschutes FIP is the Upper Deschutes River Basin, which is included within the Mid-Columbia spring salmon Ecologically Significant Unit (ESU) and Mid-Columbia steelhead Distinct Population Segment (DPS). The FIP is implementing actions of the Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Steelhead Populations in the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment (ODFW 2010). The restoration work is supporting the effort led by PGE, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and ODFW to reintroduce salmon and steelhead to the upper Deschutes River. Monitoring under the FIP is focused primarily on habitat results (although partners are also monitoring macroinvertebrate communities); fish response monitoring will be carried out by the other contributors involved in the reintroduction effort.

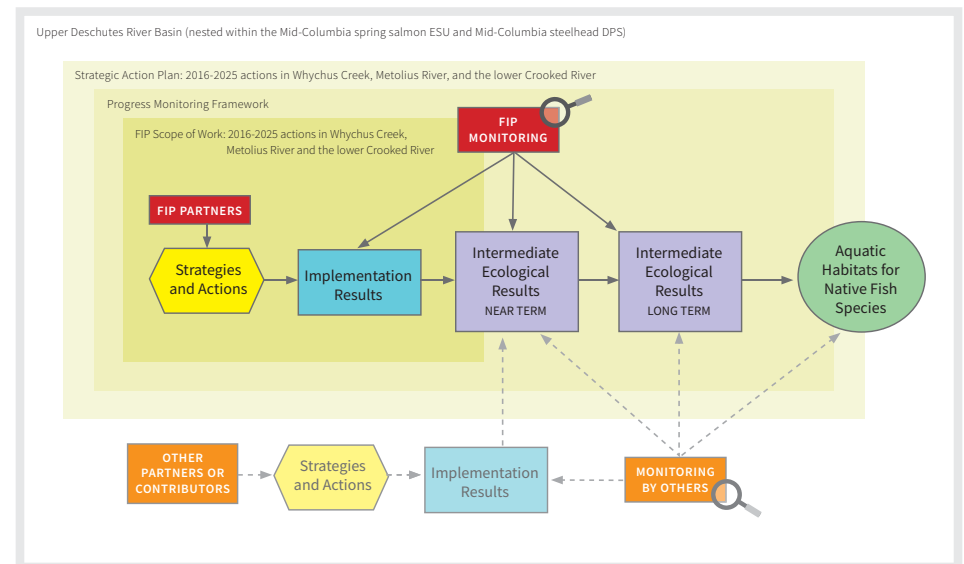


Figure 1: Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative

Theory of Change.

SITUATION

By the late 1990s, over a century of stream modifications including diversion of stream flow, construction and maintenance of diversion dams and other irrigation infrastructure to divert flow away from stream channels, and alterations to floodplain areas created conditions that impacted critical fish habitat.

These conditions include:

- Altered and simplified stream habitat
- Reduced flows and stream dewatering
- Floodplains disconnected from stream channels
- Altered riparian areas
- Elevated stream temperatures
- Barriers to fish passage
- Entrainment of fish through unscreened irrigation diversions

APPROACH

The results chain (Figure 2) articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation results, and the intermediate ecological results partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation. Intermediate ecological outcomes resulting from strategy implementation are, in the long term, expected to culminate in restoration of the FIP's ecological priorities.

Numbered results are those the partnership determined would be important to highlight as part of a monitoring approach. They will allow the partnership to measure progress in both the near (e.g., six-year FIP timeframe) and long term, and to identify where key uncertainties might exist with regards to confidence of predicted outcomes or relationships between results (Figure 2).

Each numbered implementation result is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan (Tables 1 and 2). For intermediate ecological results, objectives are included if identified; however, for many ecological results, the degree (and timeframe) to which they will be achieved is not yet well understood. Given this complexity, continued assessment and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for the desired ecological outcomes.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation results and ecological results prioritized for monitoring during the six-year FIP timeline are indexed to correspond to the results chain (Figure 2) and measuring progress tables (Tables 1 and 2).

STRATEGIES

Deschutes Partnership strategies aim to ameliorate the limiting factors identified in the Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Steelhead Populations in the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment (ODFW 2010). *The strategies are:*

- Strategy 1: Protect spawning and rearing habitat through **land conservation** easements and fee purchases
- Strategy 2: **Restore stream habitat** conditions necessary for successful spawning and rearing
- Strategy 3: **Restore stream flow** sufficient to support successful spawning and rearing
- Strategy 4: **Restore fish passage**
- Strategy 5: **Reduce or eliminate risk of entrainment** in irrigation infrastructure
- Strategy 6: **Engage the community** in the focal watersheds to promote increased awareness about reintroduction and to recruit support

STRATEGIES

1 Land Conservation

The partners will work cooperatively to purchase land or enter into conservation easements in critical areas of Whychus Creek and the Metolius and Crooked Rivers. Restoration actions will be planned and carried out on acquired or easement properties as needed.

Theory of Change.

Protection of spawning and rearing habitat through land purchases or conservation easements¹ will prevent development and further degradation of stream and floodplain habitat in areas of the watersheds that are critical for supporting fish. Protected lands will become available for stream channel, floodplain and riparian restoration where it is needed.

2 Stream Habitat Restoration

The partners will design and implement stream habitat restoration projects to restore stream, riparian and floodplain habitat including the suite of channel and floodplain conditions required for successful spawning and rearing in historic floodplain and wet meadow reaches.

Theory of Change.

Stream habitat restoration projects² set the stream channel and floodplain system on a trajectory toward self-sustaining function. These projects interrupt degradation of stream and floodplain habitat structure and function and create the necessary conditions for geomorphic processes to resume.

These include:

- floodplain inundation⁷, groundwater storage⁷, and groundwater recharge and cooling of base flows;
- functioning sediment transport, deposition, and erosion (fine suspended sediment reduced¹⁰); and
- an abundant and diverse native riparian plant community⁸ that slows floodwaters, stabilizes soil, shades the stream, and contributes plant material, from leaves and twigs that become food for aquatic insects to large wood that provides cover.

These processes in turn create and maintain stream channels with a diversity of habitats and flow velocities⁹.

3 Stream Flow Restoration

Restoration partners will implement infrastructure projects and transfer or lease water rights instream to restore stream flow sufficient to support successful spawning and rearing in Whychus, McKay, and Ochoco Creeks and the Crooked River.

Theory of Change.

Stream flow restoration³ increases the amount of water left in the stream (restored hydrograph¹¹) rather than diverted for irrigation.

- More stream flow means more stream habitat: as flows rise, stream reaches formerly fragmented through drying up sections of the stream are reconnected and wetted width and depth increase.
- With more water, the stream stays cooler¹², bringing down the unnaturally high temperatures that result from diminished flows, and making the stream more livable for fish.^{13, 14}

4 Restore Fish Passage

The partners will work with irrigators and landowners to remove or remediate dams in Whychus Creek and the Metolius and Crooked Rivers that are believed to impede the free upstream or downstream movement of trout and salmon. It is believed that important spawning and rearing habitat is currently left unused by trout and salmon because it is not accessible to them.

Theory of Change.

Removal of diversion dams⁴ will increase the availability of critical spawning and rearing habitat (habitat connectivity¹⁵) which currently limit the overall productivity and spatial distribution of trout and salmon in Whychus Creek and the Metolius and Crooked Rivers.

- With dam removal, fish will access and use newly available spawning and rearing habitat.
- With increased access to spawning and rearing habitat, productivity and population size and resilience of trout and salmon will increase.

5 Reduce or Eliminate Risk of Entrainment

The partners will work with irrigators and landowners to screen active diversions or decommission defunct diversions suspected of entraining juvenile trout and salmon into irrigation canals or other water diversion structures.

Theory of Change.

Installation of fish screens on active diversion structures⁵ will reduce entrainment of juvenile trout and salmon and decrease mortality rates.

- Reduction in mortality rates of juvenile trout and salmon from entrainment will increase fry/parr/smolt to adult survival.
- Increased adult survival will increase productivity of trout and salmon populations associated with Whychus Creek and the Metolius and Crooked Rivers.

6 Engage the Community

The partners will conduct a series of outreach and engagement activities including community presentations, stewardship projects for students, watershed education activities for elementary schools, stewardship hikes, and restoration tours.

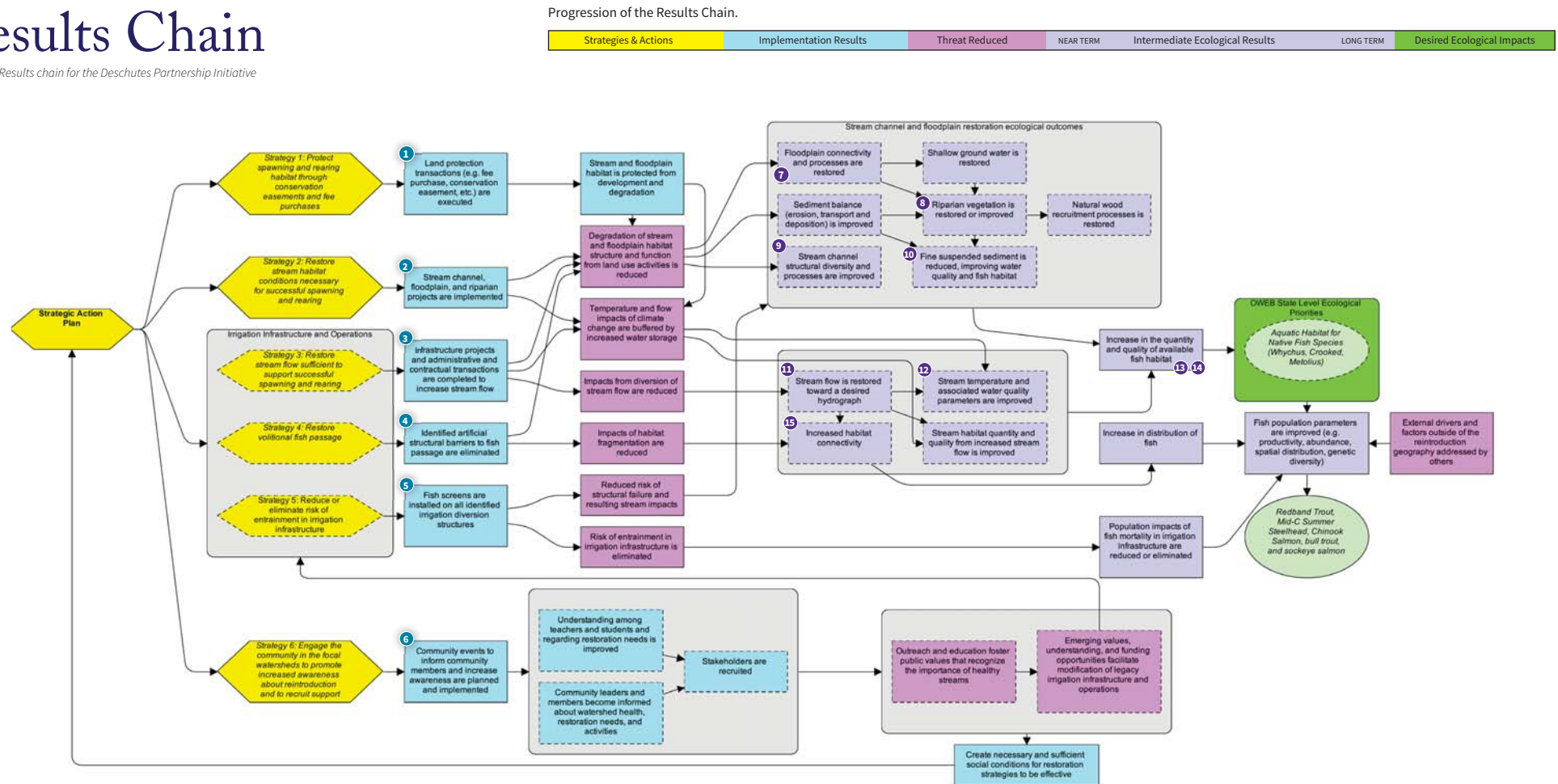
Theory of Change.

Delivery of information⁶ via a diverse array of approaches will improve the level of understanding and competence of the community regarding the need and approach for stream and river restoration. In turn, an increased level of understanding of the need and approach for stream restoration will increase engagement and participation in restoration activities on private lands.

Superscript numbers ¹⁻¹⁵ can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

Results Chain

Figure 2: Results chain for the Deschutes Partnership Initiative



Measuring Progress

Deschutes Partnership core partners draw on multiple sources to collect or obtain implementation and effectiveness monitoring data. Core partners collect or contract with consultants to collect implementation and some effectiveness monitoring data specific to the projects they implement. Where other subbasin partners are already collecting data useful for evaluation of Deschutes Partnership projects, core Deschutes Partnership organizations obtain subbasin partner data and evaluate it within the context of Deschutes Partnership projects. While core partners have been using this approach to monitoring since 2009, the approach will be formalized in the Deschutes Partnership Integrated Monitoring Plan currently in development.

Implementation objectives are those identified in the 2015 Deschutes Partnership Strategic Action Plan. Ecological objectives have been developed to describe the specific desired ecological condition or trajectory. In some cases target values for ecological objectives will necessarily be project-specific (e.g. ecological result ⁷, Stream channel structural diversity and processes are improved), or potential metrics may not be cost-effective to measure (e.g. ecological result ¹⁵, Habitat connectivity is increased).

OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change.

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS	OBJECTIVES	METRICS
1 Stream and floodplain habitat is protected from development and degradation	<p>1.1 Whychus Creek: Permanently protect 3.6 river miles and 173.95 floodplain acres between the City of Sisters (RM 21.3) and the Deschutes River (RM 0) by 2025</p> <p>1.2 Metolius River: Permanently protect 3.9 miles and 198.1 floodplain acres of high priority spawning and rearing habitat on Lake Creek and the Metolius River mainstem by 2025</p> <p>1.3 Crooked River: Work cooperatively with willing landowners to permanently protect 19.6 miles of stream habitat and 734.2 floodplain acres along McKay Creek, the lower Crooked River, and Ochoco Creek by 2025</p>	Stream miles and floodplain, wetland, and upland acres protected
2 Stream channel, floodplain, and riparian projects are implemented	<p>2.1 Whychus Creek: Restore stream, riparian and floodplain habitat along 8.5 miles and on 410 floodplain acres of Whychus Creek on the lands permanently protected by the Deschutes Land Trust.</p> <p>2.2 Metolius River: Restore stream habitat along Lake Creek and Metolius River by 2029.</p> <p>2.3 Crooked River: Restore stream habitat along 16 miles of McKay Creek, the lower Crooked River, and Ochoco Creek by 2040.</p>	<p>Post-project stream channel length</p> <p>Post-project acres planted</p>
3 Infrastructure projects and administrative and contractual transactions are completed to increase stream flow	<p>3.1 Whychus Creek: Protect a minimum of 27 cfs of instream flow (wet water) in Whychus Creek along its entire length from headwaters to the confluence with the Deschutes River by 2025.</p> <p>3.2 Crooked River: Protect spring and early summer stream flows of 11.2 cfs in McKay Creek, summer stream flows of 5 cfs in Ochoco Creek, and late spring through early fall stream flows of at least 26.1 cfs in the Crooked River through water transactions to meet target flow rates during critical times of year by 2035.</p>	Streamflow (cfs) protected instream
4 Identified artificial structural barriers to fish passage are eliminated	<p>4.1 Whychus Creek: Restore year-round fish passage along the entire length of Whychus Creek from RM 0 (confluence with the Deschutes River) to RM 39 (the upstream most natural barrier) by 2018.</p> <p>4.2 Metolius River: Restore year-round fish passage along the 5.5 miles of Lake Creek between Suttle Lake and the Metolius River by 2018.</p> <p>4.3 Crooked River: Restore year-round fish passage at all existing artificial barriers in the lower Crooked River by 2022.</p>	Artificial structural barriers to fish passage retrofitted or removed
5 Fish screens are installed on all identified irrigation diversion structures	<p>5.1 Whychus Creek: Eliminate the risk of fish entrainment in irrigation canals or other diversions by fully screening all diversions along Whychus Creek to meet state and federal criteria by 2022.</p> <p>5.2 Metolius River: Eliminate the risk of fish entrainment at diversions by fully screening all diversions along the 5.5 miles of Lake Creek between Suttle Lake and the Metolius River by 2018.</p> <p>5.3 Crooked River: Eliminate the risk of fish entrainment at diversions by fully screening all diversions in McKay Creek, lower Crooked River and Ochoco Creek by 2030.</p>	Proportion screened of total number of points of diversion
6 Community events to inform community members and increase awareness are planned and implemented	6.1 Expand community awareness and engagement in native fish reintroduction and restoration efforts in Whychus Creek, the Metolius River, and the Crooked River.	Number and type of outreach and engagement activities in Prineville, Sisters, Redmond, and Camp Sherman

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

Table 2. Ecological results potential objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change.

Given the complexity of ecosystems, continued assessments and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for desired ecological outcomes.

LIMITING FACTOR REDUCTION OR INTERMEDIATE ECOLOGICAL RESULTS	POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES	POTENTIAL METRICS
7 Floodplain connectivity and processes and shallow groundwater are restored	Raise water table to ~2-3 ft below the surface to support riparian vegetation	Depth to groundwater
8 Riparian vegetation is restored or improved	To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring	% increase in acres of riparian vegetation from GIS polygons
9 Stream channel function is improved	Reduce stream velocity	Stream velocity at channel cross-sections
10 Fine suspended sediment is reduced, improving water quality and fish habitat	Number of DEQ high sediment indicator taxa decreases and number of low sediment indicator taxa increases (range)	Macroinvertebrate sediment optima and other macroinvertebrate sediment metrics
11 Stream flow is restored toward a desired hydrograph	Instantaneous flow averaged over 60-minute intervals meets or exceeds target flow numbers (see Implementation Progress Objectives above)	60-minute average instantaneous stream flow
12 Stream temperature and associated water quality parameters are improved	Seven-day moving average maximum (7DADM) stream temperature does not exceed 18°C; Number of DEQ high temperature optima taxa decreases and number of low temperature indicator taxa increases	Percent of days meeting 18°C state temperature standard at WC 006.00; Macroinvertebrate temperature optima
13 Fish habitat quality is increased	Depth, cover and velocity values are within ranges suitable or optimal for all life stages of resident and anadromous fish	Depth, cover, and velocity criteria; habitat attribute criteria
14 Fish habitat quantity is increased (rearing)	Stream channel area (wetted extent) is increased	Wetted extent at x flow
15 Habitat connectivity is increasing	Fish move between formerly fragmented reaches	Fish movement between formerly fragmented reaches

Status & Trends

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their monitoring framework with existing status and trends monitoring programs (if they occur) or to establish an approach for identifying key ecological attributes that should be measured to document and communicate change in the status and trajectory of ecological priority habitats and focal species populations.

Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership

Upper Grande Ronde Initiative

VISION

The Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership envisions creating a healthy ecosystem with abundant, productive, and diverse populations of aquatic and terrestrial species, which will support sustainable resource-based activities that contribute to the social, cultural, and economic well-being of the communities within the subbasin and the Pacific Northwest.

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Core implementing members:

- Grande Ronde Model Watershed
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Union Soil and Water Conservation District
- US Forest Service

Other active partners that support the Initiative:

- NOAA Fisheries
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- The Freshwater Trust
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Watershed Councils

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

FOCAL SPECIES

Summer steelhead
Chinook salmon
Bull trout



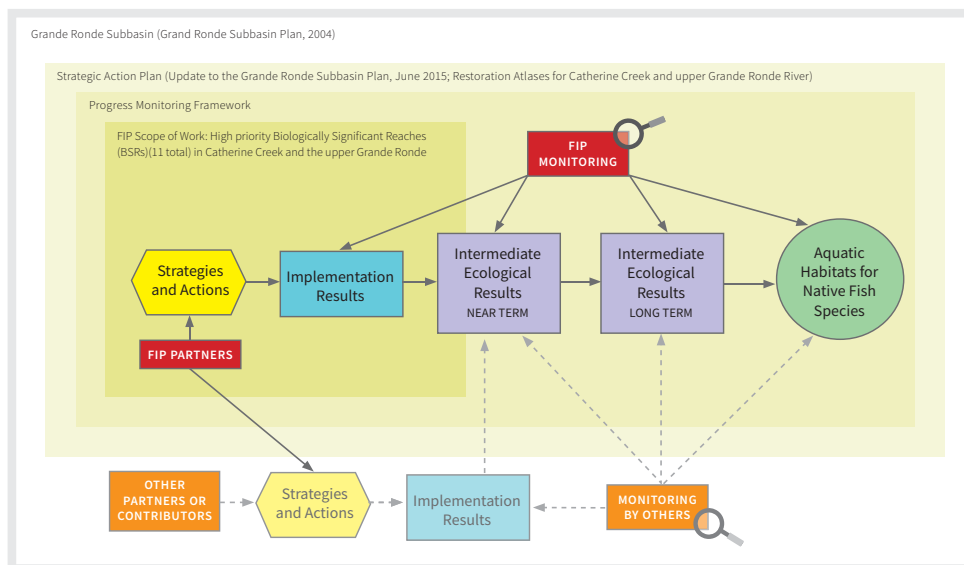
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The Partnership is focused on eleven prioritized reaches of the upper Grande Ronde subbasin, which includes the Grande Ronde River and all its tributaries upstream of the confluence with the Wallowa River. These reaches contain approximately 33 percent of the total acres in the upper Grande Ronde subbasin.

Operational Context

The Initiative is nested within a larger regional effort to recover ESA listed Snake River spring/summer run Chinook salmon and steelhead in the Grand Ronde Subbasin. Strategies and actions are contained in the Strategic Action Plan which is encompassed in both the 2015 Update to the Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan and Restoration Atlases for Catherine Creek and the upper Grande Ronde watersheds. These strategies and actions are funded by OWEB and others, including the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) within the Initiative geography as well as the larger Grande Ronde Subbasin. These actions contribute to and are required to achieve the desired near and long-term ecological outcomes contained in the results chain (Figures 1 and 2).

Figure 1: Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative



Theory of Change.

SITUATION

Land use in the upper Grande Ronde subbasin since the late 1800s, including poorly managed logging and grazing, construction of roads and railroads, and urbanization, as well as irrigation withdrawals, has resulted in degraded stream and floodplain conditions and fish habitat. Specific factors limiting fish populations and their habitat are:

- Reduced channel complexity and sinuosity and increased width-to-depth ratios
- Increased sediment resulting in reduced spawning habitat quality
- Increased stream temperature and suspended sediment
- Low late-season flows
- Reduced habitat quantity resulting from fish passage barriers and stream channelization
- Degraded riparian conditions
- Disconnected floodplains and floodplain infrastructure (roads, railroad grades, levees).

APPROACH

The results chain (Figure 2) articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation results, and the intermediate ecological results partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation that will ultimately lead to restoration of the FIPs ecological priorities.

Numbered results identified in Figure 2 are those the partnership has highlighted as part of a monitoring approach. They will allow the partnership to measure progress in both the near (e.g. 6-year FIP timeframe) and long term, and to identify where key uncertainties might exist with regards to confidence of predicted outcomes or relationships between results.

Each numbered implementation result is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan (Tables 1 and 2). For intermediate ecological results, objectives are included if identified; however, for many ecological results, the degree (and timeframe) to which they will be achieved is not yet well understood. Given this complexity, continued assessment and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for the desired ecological outcomes.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation results and ecological results prioritized for monitoring during the six-year FIP timeline are indexed to correspond to the results chain (Figure 2) and measuring progress tables (Tables 1 and 2).

STRATEGIES

Strategies in the 2015 Grand Ronde Subbasin Plan Update address the limiting factors listed above and reduce historical, current, and future threats that have and will impact health of both aquatic species and ecological functions. The long-term desired ecological outcome is increased habitat quality supporting all life stages of spring Chinook, summer steelhead, and other native species including lamprey, freshwater mussels, and resident trout, among others. This outcome will be accomplished by protecting and restoring watershed processes and function, cold-water refugia, and diverse, complex instream and floodplain habitats. It also will be achieved by improving habitat quality and diversity (large wood structures, side channels, pools) for all life stages of spring-summer Chinook, summer steelhead, and other native species. *Strategies that are designed to produce these outcomes include:*

- Strategy 1: **Conduct research** to fill knowledge gaps regarding juvenile fish mortality and wild and domestic mammal impacts on riparian restoration
- Strategy 2.1: **Remediate partial fish passage barriers** to connect habitat
- Strategy 2.2: **Create additional aquatic habitat**
- Strategy 3.1: **Restore flow** during critical periods
- Strategy 3.2: **Restore natural habitat complexity and processes**
- Strategy 4: **Inform, educate and engage relevant landowners and residents** in the Grande Ronde subbasin

STRATEGIES

1 Conduct research to fill knowledge gaps

The partnership will assist the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in identifying causes of mortality of out-migrating juvenile salmonids, and will assist US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station staff in studying the impacts of ungulates, small mammals, and pollinators on riparian restoration.

Theory of Change.

Funding and implementation of an ungulate study¹⁰ and installation of PIT tag arrays¹¹ will improve understanding of factors:

- impacting restored riparian areas, and
- affecting survival of wild spring-summer Chinook salmon, summer steelhead, and bull trout.

This knowledge will help to inform the development and implementation of restoration strategies to address those factors.

2.1 Remediate partial barriers

The partners will remove or replace existing partial fish passage barriers associated with road networks, railroad grades, and levees to improve the ability for native fish to access habitat.

Theory of Change.

Removal of artificial aquatic species passage barriers¹ reduces the impact of roads and associated stream crossings, increasing aquatic species access to formerly inaccessible habitats.

Increased aquatic species access to formerly inaccessible habitats results in increased spatial distribution of native aquatic species¹², which helps those populations become more viable, e.g., through increased food resources, increased rearing habitat, and reduced competition.

2.2 Create additional aquatic habitat

Implementing partners will recreate stream channel and floodplain/wetland habitat on Catherine Creek and the Upper Grande Ronde River in areas where these habitats have been lost due to channel straightening, draining and/or filling wetlands, and removing beavers.

Theory of Change.

Construction of new main and side channels² and floodplain/wetland complexes (3) in areas historically impacted by railroad infrastructure, agricultural practices, or urbanization promotes:

- re-establishment of floodplain connectivity,
- recovery of channel and floodplain structure, complexity, and function, and
- improved riparian plant community structure.

Restoration of processes that increase the extent, structure and function of aquatic and riparian habitats¹³, and the resulting use of restored habitats by aquatic species, ultimately increases their spatial distribution¹², improving their viability.

3.1 Restore Flow

Members of the partnership will work with core partners to improve irrigation efficiencies and secure water rights to restore flow during critical months (July-September) of the year.

Theory of Change.

Implementation of irrigation efficiency projects⁴ and purchase or lease of water from willing water rights holders⁵ will result in more retention of water in stream channels and increase late season flow¹⁵.

Higher late season flow will result in reduced stream temperature¹⁶, improve access to habitat for aquatic species, and contribute to an increase in their spatial distribution¹² which helps those populations become more viable, e.g., through increased food resources, increased rearing habitat, and reduced competition.

3.2 Restore natural habitat complexity and processes

Restoration partners will construct or enhance high-quality pools and habitats along the stream edge, install large wood and boulder habitat structures, install bioengineered stream bank stabilization features, and restore and protect riparian plant communities.

Theory of Change.

Construction of habitat function and structural elements⁶ will increase habitat complexity, contributing to the restoration of habitat forming and maintaining processes historically interrupted by road and railroad infrastructure, agricultural, livestock grazing, and timber harvest practices, and urbanization.

Improved habitat complexity and connectivity will contribute to:

- increased spatial distribution of native aquatic species and salmonids¹², which provides increased food resources, increased rearing habitat, and reduced competition, and
- improved channel structure, form, and processes that maintain habitat¹³.

Improved condition and complexity of aquatic habitat will increase critical rearing, holding, and spawning habitat for aquatic species.

Construction of habitat function and structural elements⁶ will also promote bank stabilization and reduce sedimentation rates, resulting in improved spawning habitat quality¹⁴. Improved spawning habitat will increase the reproductive success of aquatic species.

Improved riparian plant community structure and function resulting from riparian vegetation planting will contribute to reduced stream temperatures¹⁶ and serve as a filter to reduce fine sediments in streams.

4 Inform, educate, and engage relevant landowners and residents

The partnership will increase outreach to the public on watershed health by hosting education/outreach events, presenting to civic groups, and establishing new working relationships with landowners through coordinated outreach with core partners and by attending agricultural meetings.

Theory of Change.

New and strengthened relationships with landowners⁷ and presentations delivered to students and communities⁸ increase awareness and engagement of stakeholders and community members regarding aquatic ecosystem and salmon recovery⁹. Stronger relationships and increased awareness and understanding of restoration efforts help build trusting relationships with private landowners and public land managers and promote long-term ecologically-based conservation ethics.

Increased awareness and engagement of stakeholders and community members regarding aquatic ecosystem and salmon recovery⁹ creates and strengthens relationships with landowners⁷.

Increased awareness and engagement of stakeholders and community members regarding aquatic ecosystem and salmon recovery⁹ contributes to new agricultural, livestock grazing, and timber harvest practices and recreational activities that are grounded in a conservation ethic and are compatible with stream and floodplain function.

¹⁻¹⁶ can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

Results Chain

Figure 2: Results chain for the Grande Ronde Partnership Initiative

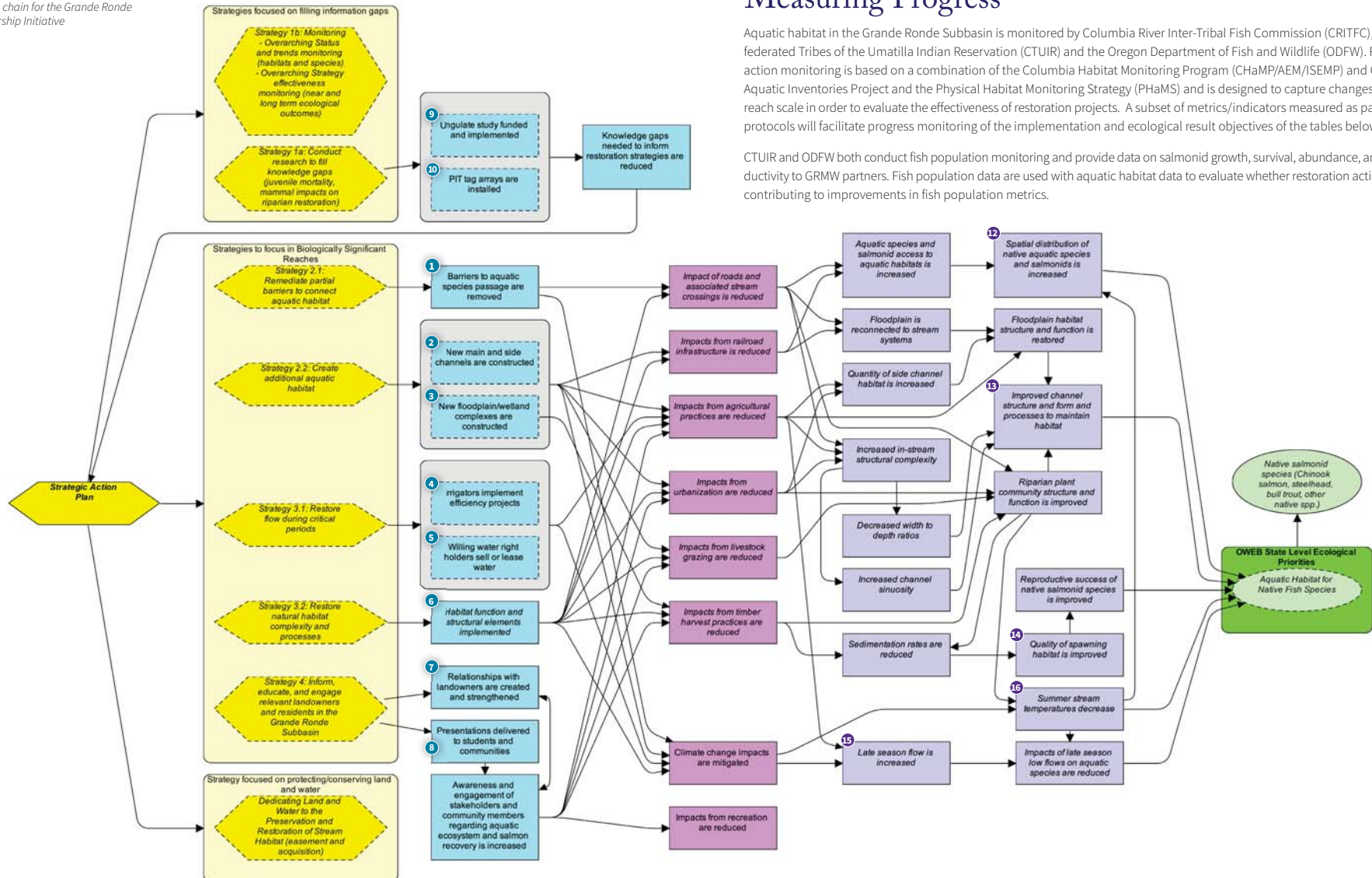
Progression of the Results Chain.



Measuring Progress

Aquatic habitat in the Grande Ronde Subbasin is monitored by Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Restoration action monitoring is based on a combination of the Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program (CHaMP/AEM/ISEMP) and ODFW's Aquatic Inventories Project and the Physical Habitat Monitoring Strategy (PHaMS) and is designed to capture changes at the reach scale in order to evaluate the effectiveness of restoration projects. A subset of metrics/indicators measured as part of these protocols will facilitate progress monitoring of the implementation and ecological result objectives of the tables below.

CTUIR and ODFW both conduct fish population monitoring and provide data on salmonid growth, survival, abundance, and productivity to GRMW partners. Fish population data are used with aquatic habitat data to evaluate whether restoration actions are contributing to improvements in fish population metrics.



OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change.

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS	OBJECTIVES	METRICS
1 Barriers to aquatic species passage are removed	By 2021, eight existing partial barriers to aquatic species passage have been removed or replaced. By 2021, 1000 feet of railroad grade along the Grande Ronde River between river miles 144 and 145 have been removed	Number of barriers removed Linear feet of railroad grade removed
2 New main and side channels are constructed	By 2021, at least 13,500 feet of new main and side channel alignment have been constructed.	Linear feet of new main and side channel constructed
3 New floodplain/wetland complexes are constructed	By 2021, at least 15 acres of new floodplain/wetland complexes have been constructed	Acres of new floodplain/wetlands created
4 Irrigators implement efficiency projects	By 2021, 1.0 cfs of water savings for in-stream use is secured through upgraded irrigation efficiency projects.	Water savings (cfs) from irrigation efficiency projects
5 Willing water right holders sell or lease water	By 2021, at least an additional 3 cfs of flow have been secured within the initiative area during July-September	Flow (cfs) secured during July-September
6 Habitat function and structural elements implemented	By 2022, 70 additional high-quality pools have been constructed along 20 miles of stream. By 2022, 13 units of alcove (peripheral) habitat have been constructed or enhanced. By 2022, large wood and boulder habitat structures have been installed along 33 miles of stream. By 2022, six sections of bank along 1 mile of stream have been stabilized. By 2022, native trees, shrubs and grasses have been planted along the upper Grand Ronde River and basin tributaries. By 2022, riparian fences have been built and are maintained along 20 miles of riparian area.	# of high-quality pools # of alcove units constructed or enhanced # or density of large wood and boulder structures installed Sections of bank stabilized Linear miles of riparian area planted Linear miles of riparian fenced
7 Relationships with landowners are created and strengthened	By 2018, contact is initiated and frequent communication is maintained with 15 landowners in high-priority restoration areas, and core partners have collaborated with all funding sources to develop funding for projects on private lands.	# of landowners contacted in high-priority restoration areas
8 Presentations delivered to students and communities	By 2018, presentations have been delivered to six grade-school classes, three civic groups and commodity groups annually.	# of presentations made to each target audience
9 Ungulate study funded and implemented	By 2018, funding for Starkey Experimental Forest ungulate exclusion study is provided.	% funding secured
10 PIT tag arrays are installed	By 2018, six PIT tag arrays are installed in the basin	# of PIT tag arrays installed

Table 2. Ecological results potential objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change.

Given the complexity of ecosystems, continued assessments and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for desired ecological outcomes.

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

LIMITING FACTOR REDUCTION OR INTERMEDIATE ECOLOGICAL RESULTS	POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES ¹	POTENTIAL METRICS
12 Spatial distribution of native aquatic species and salmonids is increased	By 20___, spatial distribution of native aquatic species and salmonids will increase by ___	Stream miles of available habitat occupied (snorkel surveys)
13 Improved channel structure and form and processes to maintain habitat	By 20___, channel structure and form and processes to maintain habitat are restored in treated reaches	CHaMP and Aquatic Inventory Project indicators for the following attributes in treated BSRs: channel morphology, habitat, substrate, and wood
14 Quality of spawning habitat is improved	By 20___, quality of spawning habitat in treated biologically significant reaches is improved by ___	CHaMP and Aquatic Inventory Project indicators for substrate
15 Late season flow is increased	By 20___, late season flow is increased by ___ cfs	Post water right/lease transaction flows
16 Stream temperature is decreased	By 20___, stream temperature in treated biologically significant reaches falls within desired range of ___ degrees C	Year round temperature monitoring

Status & Trends

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITIES

Aquatic Habitat for Native Species

Native salmonid species

(Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout, other native spp.)

Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their monitoring framework with existing status and trends monitoring programs (if they occur) or to establish an approach for identifying key ecological attributes that should be measured to document and communicate change in the status and trajectory of ecological priority habitats and focal species populations.

¹ Years and degrees of change that have not been specified will be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring.

Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Partners

Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Focused Investment

VISION

The Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Partners' vision is to conserve and enhance the health of Malheur Lake by managing in harmony with ecological forces in collaboration with our neighbors, partners, and friends and to learn from our efforts, successes and failures. The surrounding flood irrigated wet meadows are managed using science-based management practices that are common to public and private lands. There is a cooperative relationship between local ranching families and the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge staff working to build understanding of how to manage the flood irrigated wet meadows in a manner that reduces carp reintroduction, provides food for migrating waterbirds, and provides a sustainable economic return for ranching families.

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetlands Habitat
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

FOCAL SPECIES

Water and land birds that depend on wetlands
Redband trout and other native fish species

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Initiative Coordination / Cooperation:

- High Desert Partnership
- Harney County Court
- Harney Soil and Water Conservation District
- Harney County Watershed Council
- Private landowners
- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Universities

Implementing Partners – Malheur Lake:

- Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
- Ducks Unlimited
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Friends of Malheur Refuge
- Oregon Wildlife
- Portland Audubon Society

Implementing Partners –
Floodplain Wet Meadow / Pasture:

- The Wetlands Conservancy
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Intermountain West Joint Venture
- Portland Audubon Society
- Ducks Unlimited
- OSU Extension Service
- USDA, Agricultural Research Service



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

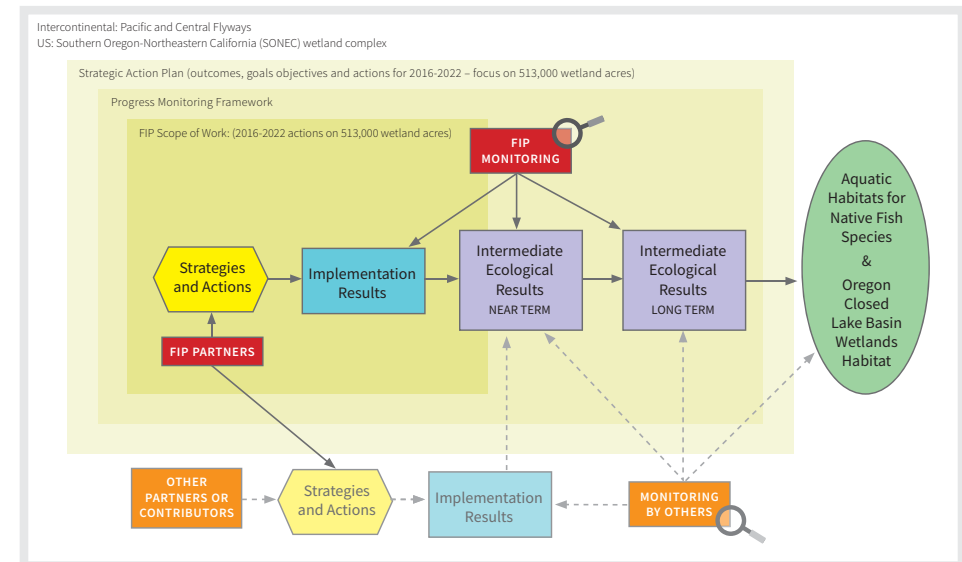
The Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative focus area encompasses Malheur Lake and adjacent wetlands, the tributary floodplain wetlands of the Silvies River, the Donner und Blitzen River, Silver Creek and associated tributaries that drain into Malheur and Harney Lakes. The focus area contains 513,000 wetland acres that includes the 187,000-acre Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

Operational Context

This Initiative has local, regional and international significance for the conservation of wetland dependent fish and wildlife species. It is an important part of efforts to manage and conserve the Southern Oregon-Northeastern California wetland complex with an even broader continental significance for migratory birds of the Pacific and Central Flyways.

The Strategic Action Plan is focused on goals, objectives, and actions the Partnership will strive to accomplish within the six-year time frame of the FIP funding program. The Strategic Action Plan represents an effort to integrate the most immediate objectives and actions from three existing plans that most directly address the goals of the Initiative (Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Plan, the Conservation Implementation Strategy for Harney Basin Aquatic Health Improvement, and the Conservation Implementation Strategy for Working Lands Waterbird Habitat Conservation in the SONEC Region).

Figure 1: Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative



Theory of Change.

SITUATION

In recent decades, the use of Malheur Lake by resident and migratory waterbirds, redband trout, and other native fish has declined dramatically with changes in the shallow lake ecosystem from a clear lake with abundant submerged aquatic vegetation and invertebrate fauna to a turbid lake with nearly no submergent vegetation. This change has resulted from the expansion of the non-native common carp population.

There is also a growing threat to spring migratory bird habitat posed by the conversion of flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation of the wet meadows in the Harney basin and the conversion of these working lands to development. The flood irrigated pastures and wet meadows are critical staging and feeding areas for migratory birds.

APPROACH

The results chain (Figure 2) articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation results, and the intermediate ecological results partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation that will ultimately lead to restoration of the FIPs ecological priorities.

Numbered results identified in Figure 2 are those the partnership has highlighted as part of a monitoring approach. They will allow the partnership to measure progress in both the near (e.g. six-year FIP timeframe) and long term, and to identify where key uncertainties might exist with regards to confidence of predicted outcomes or relationships between results.

Each numbered implementation result is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan (Tables 1 and 2). For intermediate ecological results, objectives are included if identified; however, for many ecological results, the degree (and timeframe) to which they will be achieved is not yet well understood. Given this complexity, continued assessment and planning will be required to support development of specific, measureable objectives for the desired ecological outcomes.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation results and ecological results prioritized for monitoring during the six-year FIP timeline are indexed to correspond to the results chain (Figure 2) and measuring progress tables (Tables 1 and 2).

STRATEGIES

The Strategic Action Plan contains two primary strategies intended to address the situation described above - carp control to improve water quality and the ecological health of wetlands and rivers, and the design and implementation of conservation measures to maintain the spring flooded wet meadow conditions of the tributary floodplains.

STRATEGIES

1 Control carp populations in Malheur Lake and surrounding aquatic systems

This strategy includes assessments and modeling to fill information gaps regarding carp distribution and population dynamics, identification and testing of carp control methods and locations to implement them, and continuation of ongoing carp control measures including commercial harvest and operation of fish traps.

Theory of Change.

Life history assessments of carp will improve the partners' understanding regarding the distribution and behavior of carp and the relationship between carp density and water quality¹:

- This knowledge will aid in establishing target densities² necessary to achieve ecological outcomes and control measures to achieve those densities, and
- Implementation of control measures in targeted locations³ will result in a reduction in the spatial distribution and density of carp;
- These results will reduce the overall impacts of carp, leading to an increase in water clarity and other water quality attributes¹²;
- Improvements in water quality will promote recovery of aquatic vegetation¹³ and associated invertebrates¹⁴.
- Together these results increase retention and abundance of breeding and migratory wetland obligate water and landbirds¹⁵.

2 Manage wetlands / flood irrigated wet meadows on refuge and private lands

The partnership will address the limiting factors of aging infrastructure, changes in water management and agricultural patterns and land development by implementing the following actions:

- Assessing water table and plant community dynamics in wet meadows;
- Designing and constructing diversion replacement systems;
- Implementing of management practices to improve on-farm water delivery and habitat values on flood-irrigated wet meadows;
- Investigating hydrology, vegetation, management scenarios, and bird use to evaluate and adapt restoration treatments;
- Outreach to third-party land trusts to recruit willing easement holders; and
- Establishing conservation easements on privately owned flood-irrigated wet meadows to maintain existing land management practices and secure habitat values.

Theory of Change.

Improved understanding of flood irrigated wet meadow systems and methods to enhance and maintain them will result in the implementation of effective conservation actions on privately owned wetlands⁴ that deliver ecological outcomes as well as continue to support traditional haying and grazing activities⁵. The partnership will provide needed assistance to landowners to ensure these objectives are achieved⁵.

Improving the ability for the water table to support emergent wetlands¹⁶ across a larger area¹¹ will increase the habitat available for water and land birds that depend on wetlands for part of their life cycle. Birds will stay in these habitats longer and in larger numbers¹⁵. This can be accomplished by developing and implementing projects on privately owned flood-irrigated wetlands⁴.

These water management methods will also reduce the extent of non-native reed canary grass and result in the enhancement of native meadow plant communities¹⁷.

3 Community and partner outreach and communications

The Partnership will carry out strategies and actions outlined in the 2015 Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Communications Plan to:

- contribute to advancing strategies 1 and 2;
- leverage funding;
- demonstrate success;
- increase public and constituent understanding; and
- change behaviors and perceptions where necessary.

The focus of communications strategies will be on improving internal communications within the partnership and bringing attention to external audiences with call-to-action messages to support the vision and goals of the Initiative. Target audiences include:

- Initiative Partners and their constituents;
- Harney County communities and landowners;
- the regional conservation and scientific communities; and
- regional decision and policy makers, funders, and the interested general public.

Theory of Change.

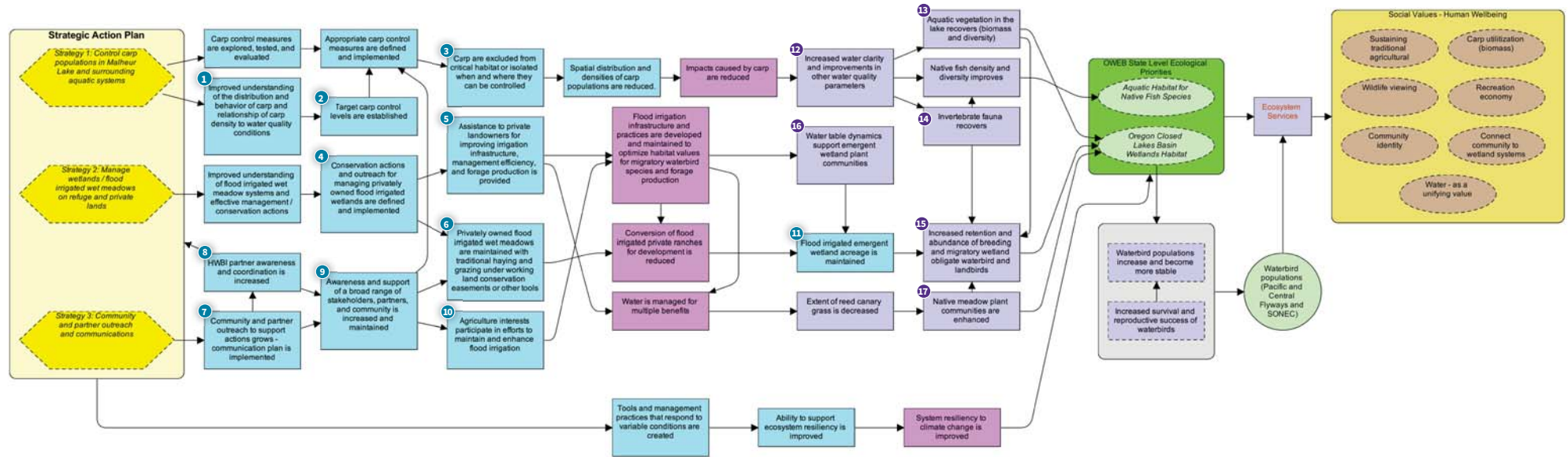
As the communications plan is implemented⁷, the awareness and support of stakeholders, partners, and the general community is enhanced, resulting in their increased interest and support⁹. This result supports successful implementation of wet meadow enhancement and maintenance projects with private landowners and other agricultural interests.

Successful implementation of the communications plan⁷ also supports partner awareness within the Initiative, and coordination is improved and maintained⁸. Improved communication and coordination within the Initiative improves the successful implementation of all strategies and long-term ecological outcomes.

Superscript numbers ¹⁻¹⁷ can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

Results Chain

Figure 2: Results chain for the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative



OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change.

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS	OBJECTIVES	METRICS
1 Improved understanding of the distribution and behavior of carp and relationship of carp density to water quality conditions	Determine carp population range and age/size distribution by 2018. Identify carp populations and movements within the basin by 2020.	Assessment completion Assessment completion
2 Target carp control levels are established	Determine the threshold carp population for lake change.	Target density of carp population
3 Carp are excluded from critical habitat or isolated when and where they can be controlled	Identify strategic locations to restrict carp movement within the hydrologic system by 2020.	Areas to restrict carp movement
4 Conservation actions and outreach for managing privately owned flood irrigated wetlands are defined and implemented	Evaluate management practices and irrigation infrastructure changes and improvements on wet meadow systems as reflected by plant community changes	Description of management practices and associated changes in plant communities upon implementation of the practices
5 Assistance to private landowners for improving irrigation infrastructure, management efficiency, and forage production is provided	Assist private landowners in improving irrigation infrastructure, management efficiency and forage production on 5,000 acres of wet meadow habitat within the focal investment priority area.	Instances of assistance delivered to private landowners Acres where private assistance has facilitated improvement to irrigation infrastructure and management
6 Privately owned flood irrigated wet meadows are maintained with traditional haying and grazing under working land conservation easements or other tools	By 2020, secure 1,500 acres of privately owned wet meadow habitat under working land conservation easements.	Acres of privately owned wet meadow habitat brought into working land conservation easements
7 Community and partner outreach to support actions grows – communication plan is implemented	Develop communications strategy and tools to increase partners' awareness and coordination to achieve goals.	Communications strategies and tools developed
8 HWBI partner awareness and coordination is increased	HWBI partners understand the role of High Desert Partnership	Level of partner understanding regarding the role of the High Desert Partnership
9 Awareness and support of a broad range of stakeholders and partners is increased and maintained	Use various communication tools and outreach events to increase awareness and deliver products and messages to local community and land owners in Harney County.	Communications tools and outreach events successfully implemented
10 Agriculture interests participate in efforts to maintain and enhance flood irrigation	5,300 acres by 2020	Acres or working lands where flood irrigation enhancement actions are implemented
11 Flood irrigated emergent wetland acreage is maintained	10,300 acres are maintained	Acres of flood irrigated emergent wetlands maintained

Table 2. Ecological results potential objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change.

Given the complexity of ecosystems, continued assessments and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for desired ecological outcomes.

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

LIMITING FACTOR REDUCTION OR INTERMEDIATE ECOLOGICAL RESULTS	POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES	POTENTIAL METRICS
12 Increased water clarity and improvements in other water quality parameters	To be determined through continued assessment and planning	Water quality parameters including Secchi depth, pH, T, DO, specific conductivity, salinity
13 Aquatic vegetation in the lake recovers (biomass and diversity)	To be determined through continued assessment and planning	Species diversity and percent ocular estimates
14 Invertebrate fauna recover	To be determined through continued assessment and planning	Macroinvertebrate abundance and species diversity
15 Increased retention and abundance of breeding and migratory wetland obligate waterbirds and landbirds	To be determined through continued assessment and planning	Abundance, species richness, species composition
16 Water table dynamics support emergent wetland plant communities	To be determined through continued assessment and planning	Depth to water table / soil water-holding efficiency Plant species composition
17 Native meadow plant communities are enhanced	To be determined through continued assessment and planning	Vegetation surveys (biomass and diversity)

Status & Trends

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITIES

Oregon Closed Lakes Basin
Wetlands Habitat
Aquatic Habitat for Native Species
Waterbirds and landbirds
Native fish

Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their monitoring framework with existing status and trends monitoring programs (if they occur) or to establish an approach for identifying key ecological attributes that should be measured to document and communicate change in the status and trajectory of ecological priority habitats and focal species populations.

Oregon All Counties

Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) Steering Committee

The Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse, All Counties

VISION

Oregon's private rangelands sustain abundant populations of sage-grouse, where threats of wildfire, exotic annual grasses, conifer/juniper encroachment, injurious grazing practices, and open space fragmentation have been reduced in a manner that supports and promotes local economic and social needs.

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Steering Committee and Core Partners:

- Harney Soil and Water Conservation District
- Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District
- Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Bureau of Land Management

External Partners:

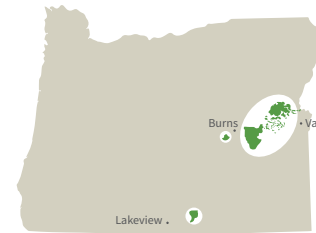
- County governments of Harney, Lake, and Malheur counties
- Cooperative Weed Management Areas
- US Department of Agriculture Research Service
- Oregon State University Extension
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat

FOCAL SPECIES

Greater sage-grouse



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The Steering Committee is focusing its efforts on privately-owned Preliminary Priority Habitats (PPH) for sage-grouse occurring within Harney, Lake, and Malheur counties (approximately 500,000 acres). The scope of work of the six-year OWEB Focused Investment Partnership program is to implement strategies and actions on 40% of these privately owned PPHs (approximately 200,000 acres).

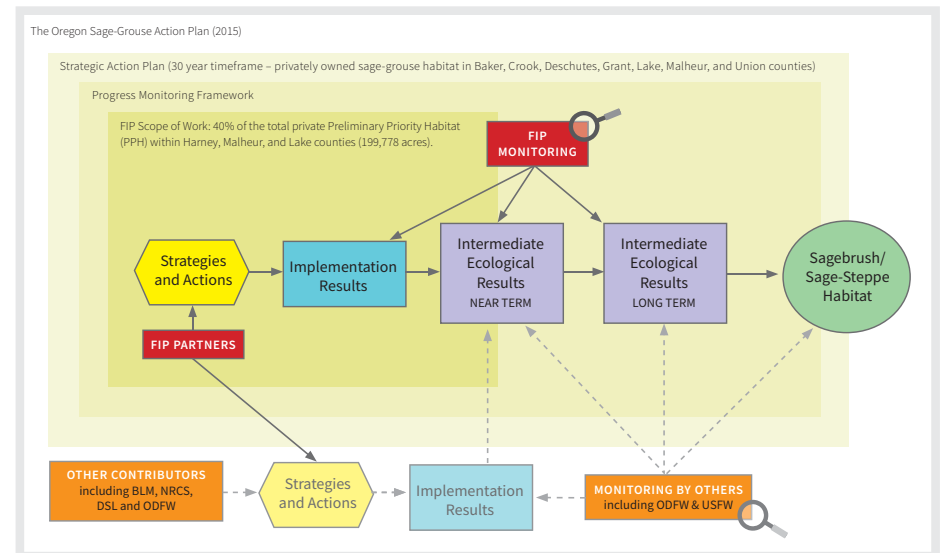
Operational Context

Greater sage-grouse conservation efforts are taking place across a 165-million-acre expanse of sage-grouse habitat that includes areas within eleven western states. The Oregon context for the Steering Committee's initiative is defined in the Oregon Sage-Grouse Action Plan – covering approximately 18 million acres of habitat.

The partnership's Strategic Action Plan is focused on privately-owned sage-grouse PPH in seven Oregon Counties and defines strategies and objectives that cover a 30-year timeframe (2015-2045). Complementary actions on public lands are being led by federal and state agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of State Lands, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, with complementary funding on private lands provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Together, the Steering Committee and partner agencies will contribute to the ecological outcomes shown in the results chain.

Figure 1: Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative



Theory of Change.

SITUATION

Sage-grouse habitat across Oregon is threatened by historic and ongoing changes to native plant communities and the impact of increasingly catastrophic wildfires. Native shrubs and grasses have largely been replaced by invasive annual grasses and historical fire suppression has encouraged expansion of juniper. The invasive grasses provide inadequate cover for sage-grouse nesting, and are highly flammable, promoting more frequent and more severe wildfire. Both the abundance of invasive grasses and the increased incidence and severity of wildfire prevent the re-establishment and persistence of native plant species.

APPROACH

The results chain (Figure 2) articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation results, and the intermediate ecological results partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation that will ultimately lead to restoration of the FIPs ecological priorities.

Numbered results identified in Figure 2 are those the partnership has highlighted as part of a monitoring approach. They will allow the partnership to measure progress in both the near (e.g. 6-year FIP timeframe) and long term, and to identify where key uncertainties might exist with regards to confidence of predicted outcomes or relationships between results.

Each numbered implementation result is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan (Tables 1 and 2). For intermediate ecological results, objectives are included if identified; however, for many ecological results, the degree (and timeframe) to which they will be achieved is not yet well understood. Given this complexity, continued assessment and planning will be required to support development of specific, measureable objectives for the desired ecological outcomes.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation results and ecological results prioritized for monitoring during the six-year FIP timeline are indexed to correspond to the results chain (Figure 2) and measuring progress tables (Tables 1 and 2).

STRATEGIES

The Initiative's theory of change is that the strategies and actions described in the Strategic Action Plan will reduce or eliminate factors limiting sage-grouse and their habitats within privately owned PPHs of Harney, Malheur, and Lake Counties. This work represents an important contribution to the larger regional-scale efforts to recover and conserve sage-grouse.

The strategies focus primarily on reducing the spatial extent of undesirable plant communities dominated by juniper and exotic annual grasses. It is predicted that a reduction in the extent of undesirable plant species will promote an increase in the extent and connectivity of the desired plant communities necessary to support all life stages of sage-grouse. It is also predicted that the strategies will reduce the frequency and severity of wildfires and allow the establishment and long-term stability of desired plant communities.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES

1 Complete Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAAs) for private lands

This strategy involves the development of CCAAs for privately owned sage-grouse habitat through recruiting landowner participation and developing Site Specific Plans for those interested in participating. CCAAs are agreements between private landowners and the US Fish and Wildlife Service in which landowners agree to take actions on their lands to reduce or eliminate threats to sage-grouse in exchange for assurances from USFWS that they will face no further regulatory requirements should the species become listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) at a future time.

Theory of Change.

The opportunity to avoid future regulatory requirements associated with the possible ESA listing of sage-grouse will encourage private landowners with PPH sage-grouse habitat on their lands to enroll in CCAAs¹ in sufficient numbers to achieve the Steering Committee's objectives. Once landowners enroll in CCAAs the partners will complete Site Specific Plans² and provide guidance to apply for and receive technical and financial assistance to carry out appropriate conservation actions³ on their land.

2 Provide the opportunity for private landowners to enroll in conservation easements

Conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements between a landowner and a specifically qualified conservation organization that place long-term restrictions on the use of property in order to protect certain natural values. Conservation easements are uncommon and not well accepted within the geographic scope of the Steering Committee so the Steering Committee will provide the opportunity for one or two interested landowners to participate in a conservation easement as a way to generate community dialogue about the role this strategy could play in the future.

Theory of Change.

Focused and strategic outreach with private landowners about the potential benefits of conservation easements will improve the understanding of how easements work and the benefits they can provide landowners and sage-grouse and their habitat. This more complete understanding will increase interest and encourage implementation of initial measurements.

Partners anticipate successful implementation with early adopters will promote additional participation and expand opportunities for Partners to provide support for applying and receiving technical assistance to carry out appropriate conservation actions³.

CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

3 Apply conservation measures to address the threat of wildfire

This strategy involves taking actions to reduce the threat of high frequency severe wildfires⁵.

Theory of Change.

A reduction in the frequency of severe wildfires will promote:

- establishment of connected plant communities composed of desired species¹², and
- structure and function¹⁴ across sufficient spatial extent.

Both outcomes will support all life stages of sage-grouse at a population scale.

4 Treatment of exotic annual grasses in sage-grouse habitat

Methods for treating exotic annual grasses may include application of herbicides, mechanical removal, prescribed fire, biological treatment, or targeted grazing. Treated areas are then seeded with desired species using areal, drill, or broadcast methods.

Theory of Change.

Actions to treat exotic annual grasses will lead to:

- removal of these species from sage-grouse habitat⁴,
- implementation of managed grazing systems⁷, and
- support of conservation measures addressing severe wildfire threats⁶.

These treatments will reduce the overall extent of exotic annual grasslands and the frequency and severity of wildfires in sage-grouse habitats. Reducing the extent of exotic annual grasses promotes the expansion of desired plant cover¹⁰, contributing to increased extent and connectivity of desired plant communities.

5 Remove juniper in sage-grouse habitat

Actions associated with this strategy may include prescribed fire, application of herbicides, or mechanical removal with various treatments of material including slash pile burning, broadcast burning, lop and scatter, or mastication.

Theory of Change.

Removal of juniper on CCAA enrolled properties will reduce the extent and density of juniper across CCAA enrolled properties. A reduction in woodland type plant communities¹¹ will increase desired plant cover¹⁰, thereby improving the extent of connected communities of desired plant species¹⁴.

In addition, a reduction in confers will reduce avian predator perches and reduce predation of sage-grouse.

6 Implement actions to address all other threats

This strategy focuses on actions to reduce threats and limiting factors not otherwise addressed. These include:

- implementation of managed grazing systems,
- installation of wildlife escape ramps in livestock watering troughs,
- marking fences in high risk collision areas, and
- additional conservation measures to address the threat of fire.

Theory of Change.

Implementation of managed grazing systems⁷ will:

- reduce the extent of exotic annual grasses,
- promote an increase in the extent of desired plant cover¹⁰, and
- diminish the frequency and severity of wildfire.

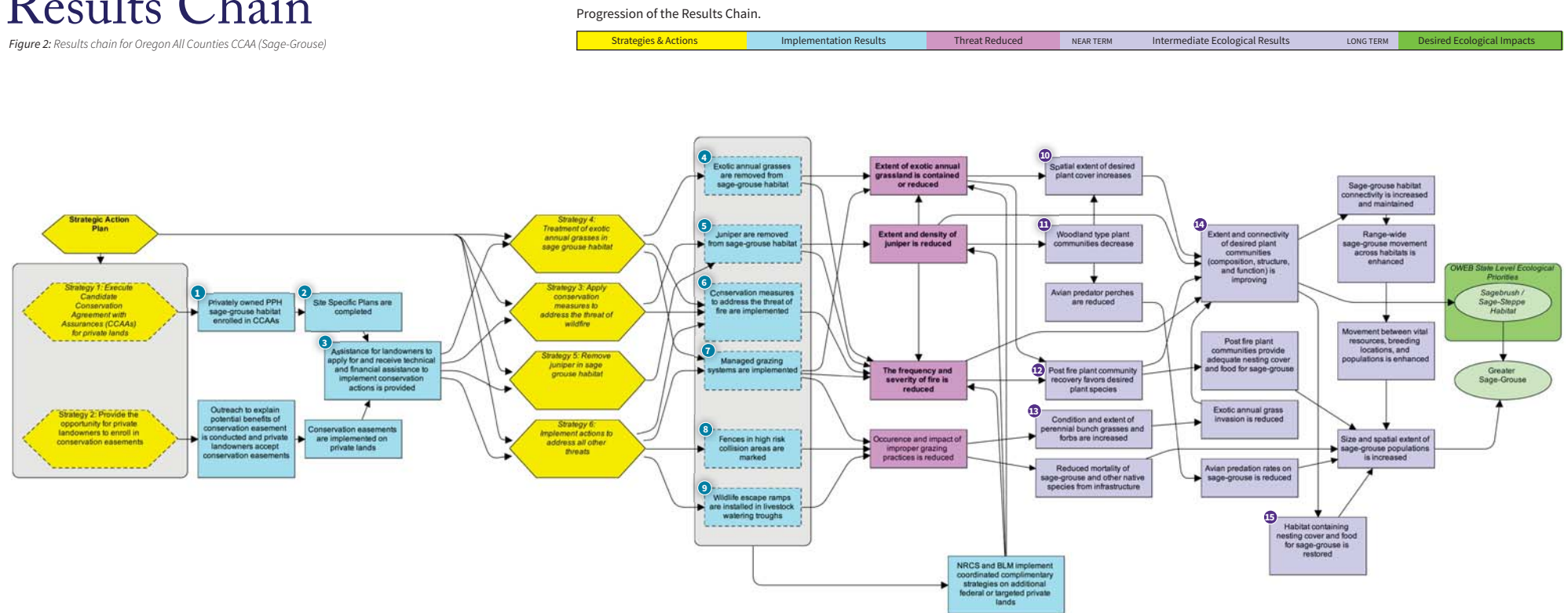
These results will expand connected plant communities containing desired species¹⁴.

Installation of wildlife escape ramps⁹ and marking fences in high-risk collision areas⁸ will reduce direct mortality of sage-grouse using these areas.

Superscript numbers ¹⁻¹⁵ can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

Results Chain

Figure 2: Results chain for Oregon All Counties CCAA (Sage-Grouse)



Measuring Progress

Monitoring and communication of the Initiative's progress occurs at the local scale (within the scope of the Initiative) and will contribute to reporting at the state or regional scale. At the Initiative scale the implementing members of the Steering Committee will measure and communicate progress towards achieving implementation objectives and effectiveness or ecological outcomes objectives outlined in Table 1 and specified in Site Specific Plans for each treated property.

Data will be processed, summarized, and reported at the initiative level as well, with partners, landowner, OWEB and other funders engaged in communicating progress.

Data collected from the Initiative will be reported to a state-level database for integration into a regional monitoring and reporting framework, thereby contributing to analysis and reporting at the landscape and population scale (status and trend monitoring).

OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change.

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS	OBJECTIVES	METRICS
1 Privately owned PPH sage-grouse habitat enrolled in CCAAs	By September 30, 2017, 40% (608,000 acres) of privately owned PPH sage-grouse habitat will be enrolled in CCAAs.	Percent of privately owned PPH in focal area with approved SSPs by 9/30/17
2 Site Specific Plans are completed	Complete Site Specific Plans for 40% (608,000 acres) of privately owned PPH sage-grouse habitat Complete Site Specific Plans for 40% (199,778 acres) of privately owned PPH sage-grouse habitat in the FIP Focal Area by 9/30/2017. (13% of all privately owned PPH.)	Percent of privately owned PPH in focal area with approved SSPs by 9/30/17
3 Assistance for landowners to apply for and receive technical and financial assistance to implement conservation actions is provided	Assist landowners in applying for and receiving technical and financial assistance as needed to implement conservation measures according to the timeframes specified in the site specific plans. Assist landowners in applying for OWEB FIP funding.	Percent of landowners applying for FIP funding receiving assistance
4 Exotic annual grasses are removed from sage-grouse habitat	30,900 acres of sage-grouse habitat have conservation measures applied to address exotic annual grasses by 6/30/2022. 8,550 acres of sage-grouse habitat in the FIP Focal Area have conservation measures applied to address exotic annual grasses by 6/30/2022	Number of acres with applied conservation measures (or percent of objective)
5 Juniper are removed from sage-grouse habitat	Remove 117,680 acres of juniper from sage-grouse habitat by 6/30/2022. Remove 14,680 acres of juniper from sage-grouse habitat in the FIP Focal Area by 6/30/2022.	Number of acres treated for juniper removal (or percent of objective)
6 Conservation measures to address the threat of fire are implemented	608,000 acres have conservation measures applied to address the threat of wildfire by 2045. 199,778 acres have conservation measures applied to address the threat of wildfire by 6/30/2022.	Number of acres with conservation measures to address wildfire (or percent of objective completed)
7 Managed grazing systems are implemented	Threats to sage-grouse (other than wildfire, exotic annual grasses, and conifer encroachment) will be identified and conservation measures will be implemented on 90% of the enrolled CCAA properties. Manage grazing systems on 199,778 acres of sage-grouse habitat in the FIP Focal Area by 6/30/2022	Number of CCAA enrolled acres with managed grazing systems (or percent of objective completed)
8 Fences in high risk collision areas are marked	Mark 146 miles of fence in high risk collision areas within the FIP Focal Area by 6/30/2022	Miles of fence marked (or percent of objective)
9 Wildlife escape ramps are installed in livestock watering troughs	Install escape ramps in 250 troughs located in the FIP Focal Area by 6/30/2022.	Number of troughs with escape ramps (or percent of objective)

Table 2. Ecological results potential objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change.

Given the complexity of ecosystems, continued assessments and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for desired ecological outcomes.

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

LIMITING FACTOR REDUCTION OR INTERMEDIATE ECOLOGICAL RESULTS	POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES	POTENTIAL METRICS
10 Spatial extent of desired plant cover increases	To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring	Perennial bunchgrass basal cover and density - change from baseline toward desired ecological state Niche occupation by bare-ground or desirable annual forbs - change from baseline toward desired ecological state Sagebrush cover and density - change from baseline toward desired ecological state
11 Woodland type plant communities decrease	To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring	Conifer cover in treated sites
12 Post fire plant community recovery favors desired plant species	To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring	To be determined through continued assessment and planning.
13 Condition and extent of perennial bunch grasses and forbs are increased	To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring	To be determined through continued assessment and planning.
14 Extent and connectivity of desired plant communities (composition, structure, and function) is improving	60% of enrolled private lands in Oregon will exhibit a stable to improving trend in ecological condition by 2022	Percent of enrolled acres in FIP Focal Area with a stable to improving trend.
15 Habitat containing nesting cover and food for sage-grouse is restored	117,680 acres of potential habitat identified as being in ecological states that do not currently provide seasonal or year round habitat during baseline inventory will transition to ecological states capable of providing seasonal or year round habitat by 2022.	To be determined through continued assessment and planning.
<h2>ECOLOGICAL PRIORITIES</h2> <p>Sagebrush / Sage-Steppe Habitat Greater Sage-grouse</p> <p>Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their monitoring framework with existing status and trends monitoring programs (if they occur) or to establish an approach for identifying key ecological attributes that should be measured to document and communicate change in the status and trajectory of ecological priority habitats and focal species populations.</p>		

Status & Trends

Willamette Mainstem

Anchor Habitat Working Group

Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats

VISION

The Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group affirms the basin-scale vision contained in the Willamette Restoration Strategy.

The Willamette Basin will provide a dynamic balance between diverse human and ecological needs.

- Basin residents live in healthy watersheds with functioning floodplains and habitats supporting a diversity of native species;
- Opportunities exist for people to interact with the wildness of a restored, healthy river system;
- Valley residents are part of a larger basin community connected by a system of rivers and streams providing healthy aquatic life, clean drinking water, safe places for recreation and support for a vibrant economy; and
- Residents accept individual and collective responsibility for this vision and provide leaders with the mandate and resources necessary to achieve and sustain it.

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

The Core implementing partners:

- Benton Soil and Water Conservation District
- Bonneville Environmental Foundation
- Calapooia Watershed Council
- Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council
- Friends of Buford Park and Mt Pisgah
- Greenbelt Land Trust
- Long Tom Watershed Council
- Luckiamute Watershed Council
- McKenzie River Trust
- The Nature Conservancy – Oregon Chapter
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- Willamette Riverkeeper

Other Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group member organizations provide needed help and support such as scientific data, feedback on project design, and more. These include:

- City of Eugene
- Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District
- Trust for Public Land

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

FOCAL SPECIES

Oregon chub
Chinook salmon
Summer steelhead
Pacific lamprey

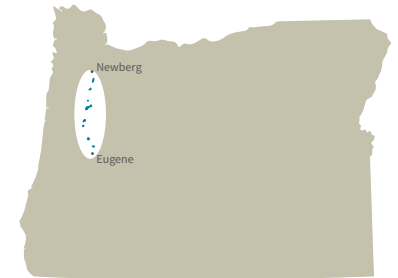
Operational Context

With a focus on the mainstem Willamette, the Initiative is nested within a variety of Willamette Basin scale efforts to restore, conserve, and protect a broad array of ecological values. These various efforts are led and supported by a mix of local, state, and federal agencies, watershed councils, and conservation NGOs (including members of the Working Group). Regional programs that define the context for the Willamette Anchor Habitats Working Group include the following:

- Willamette Mainstem Strategic Investment Program
- Model Watershed Strategic Investment Program
- Willamette River Habitat Protection and Restoration Program
- The Willamette River Basin Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Wildlife Protection and Enhancement (Willamette Wildlife MOA)

FIP partners are also working with the Army Corps of Engineers to promote dam management that better supports processes that improve aquatic habitat for native fish species. In addition, the Working Group continues mapping to identify key habitat needs to inform the Working Group's strategies.

The FIP focus area is within identified anchor habitats in the mainstem Willamette River and temporally limited to a 10-year



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The Working Group's focus is on identified priority "Anchor Habitats" of the Willamette River mainstem from the Middle Fork and Coast Fork confluence through the middle reach near Newberg, OR.

time horizon. Implementation will occur over the next ten years. The Working Group's Strategic Action Plan extends beyond the anchor habitats to encompass the upper and middle Willamette.

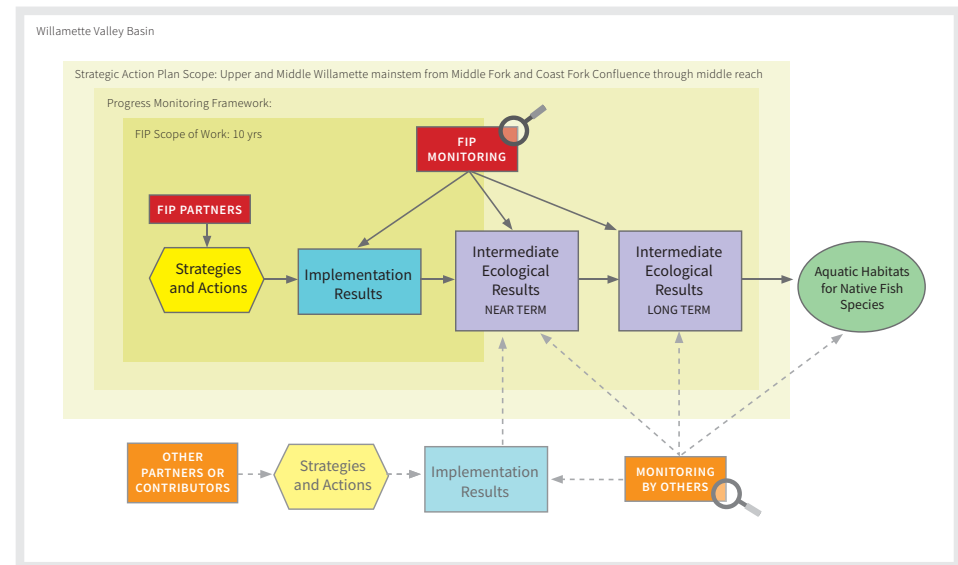


Figure 1: Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative

Theory of Change

SITUATION

Land use and development along the mainstem Willamette since the late 1800s has dramatically altered the form and function of the river, its tributaries, and floodplains:

- Development has reduced channel length by 44% and led to armoring of over half of the river's 180-mile length
- Dams block upstream fish passage and alter downstream flow and sediment transport
- Impacts from urban areas along with rural land uses have resulted in elevated stream temperatures, suspended sediment, nutrients and bacteria
- Ecologically rare bottomland hardwood forests have declined by more than 70%
- Flood control dams, bank stabilization, streamside logging, large wood removal, systematic closure of side channels, and dredging have greatly reduced channel and floodplain habitat complexity.

APPROACH

The results chain (Figure 2) articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation results, and the intermediate ecological results partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation that will ultimately lead to restoration of the FIPs ecological priorities.

Numbered results identified in Figure 2 are those the partnership has highlighted as part of a monitoring approach. They will allow the partnership to measure progress in both the near (e.g., 10-year) and long term, and to identify where key uncertainties might exist with regards to confidence of predicted outcomes or relationships between results.

Each numbered implementation result is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan (Tables 1 and 2). For intermediate ecological results, objectives are included if identified; however, for many ecological results, the degree (and timeframe) to which they will be achieved is not yet well understood. Given this complexity, continued assessment and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for the desired ecological outcomes.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation results and ecological results prioritized for monitoring during the 10-year FIP timeline are indexed to correspond to the results chain (Figure 2) and measuring progress tables (Tables 1 and 2).

STRATEGIES

The strategies contained in the Strategic Action Plan will contribute to achieving the goal by addressing factors limiting specific life history stages of native fish. The focus is on restoring complexity and connectivity of seasonally (summer-fall and winter-spring) important habitats and improving water quality. The Partnership predicts that implementing strategies to address these limiting factors will increase the extent and availability of quality habitat required to support critical life history stages of native fish species. Strategies include the following:

OUTPUT A Strategies to enhance summer-fall habitats (cold water resources)

- **Remove revetments and levees** in reaches likely to experience channel changes
- **Construct lateral channels** in areas with high likelihood of hyporheic (subsurface) flow
- **Plant riparian vegetation** along sloughs and side channels
- **Control invasive aquatic weeds** within anchor habitats

OUTPUT B Strategies to enhance winter-spring habitats (food resource production and slow water refuges)

- **Increase and enhance floodplain plant communities** in key habitat areas
- **Modify floodplain topography** to increase the extent and duration of floodplain inundation
- **Modify artificial barriers** to aid fish passage and increase extent and duration of floodplain inundation
- **Enhance former gravel pits** by re-connecting shallow pits, re-grading pond boundaries and filling ponds

OUTPUT A

Enhance the Quality and Extent of Summer-Fall Habitats

A Remove revetments and levees

Working Group partners will remove revetments and levees acting as barriers to floodplain flow in areas likely to experience channel changes.

Theory of Change.

Removing bank stabilization structures¹ will make sediment available for transport¹⁰,

- allowing bare channel bar formation and channel migration to resume,
- promoting increased channel sinuosity and habitat complexity, and ultimately
- resulting in more seasonally important habitat for native fish.

Simultaneously, removing these structures allows the river channel to reconnect with the floodplain¹⁶, resulting in increased extent and duration of floodplain inundation¹⁷ and consequently increased habitat connectivity.

A Construct lateral channels

Working group partners will construct lateral channels or sloughs in floodplains where there is a high likelihood to cool stream temperatures by improving hyporheic flow, in areas like porous gravel deposits and where there is connectivity to side channels.

Theory of Change.

Lateral channel construction² will increase the length of secondary channel features¹¹ and re-establish hyporheic flow. Re-establishment of hyporheic flow will cool stream temperatures and increase dissolved oxygen, improving water quality conditions and seasonally important habitat for native fish.

A Plant Riparian Vegetation

Working group partners will plant riparian vegetation along sloughs and side channels where it is likely to provide shade and support feeding grounds.

Theory of Change.

Riparian vegetation planted along sloughs and side channels³ will enhance the species composition of the native riparian forest community¹², increasing forest canopy cover and further contributing to improved temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions through shading.

Native trees and shrubs⁵ stabilize banks, which reduces fine sediment and toxic inputs that result from unstable bank erosion¹³, contributing to improved water quality.

Improved water quality (reduced sediment and temperature and increased dissolved oxygen) and increased canopy cover and shading in turn provide more seasonally important habitat for native fish.

A Control aquatic invasive weeds

Working group partners will treat aquatic invasive species on sites where they are degrading water quality and biodiversity.

Theory of Change.

Application of aquatic weed treatments⁴ reduces the extent of invasive plant species¹⁴, which

- reduces competition with native aquatic species and habitat modification from invasive plants,
- improves water quality, and ultimately
- results in increased seasonally important habitat for native fish.

OUTPUT B

Enhance the Quality and Extent of Winter-Spring Habitats

B Increase and enhance floodplain plant communities

Working group partners will plant native trees and shrubs and apply treatments to control invasive species.

Theory of Change.

Planting native trees and shrubs in floodplain areas⁵ reduces:

- the extent of invasive plant species¹⁴ in floodplain communities,
- competition with native species, and
- habitat modification from invasive plants.

Native trees and shrubs⁵ also reduce fine sediment and toxic inputs that result from erosion of unstable banks¹³ by stabilizing banks, contributing to improved water quality.

B Modify floodplain topography to increase floodplain inundation

Working group partners will modify levees and road crossings to increase the extent and duration of floodplain inundation in targeted areas.

Theory of Change.

Modifying floodplain topography⁷ reconnects the river to its floodplain¹⁶, promoting increased extent and duration of floodplain inundation¹⁷ and improved habitat connectivity. Modifying floodplain topography⁷ will also reduce the quantity of fine sediment and toxic inputs from unstable bank erosion¹³.

B Modify artificial barriers to aid fish passage and increase floodplain inundation

Working group partners will remove fish passage and floodplain inundation barriers where barrier removal will promote floodplain flow and access to habitat.

Theory of Change.

In combination with modifying floodplain topography⁷, removing artificial barriers to fish in floodplain areas⁸ reconnects the river to its floodplain¹⁶, promoting:

- increased extent and duration of floodplain inundation¹⁷ and
- improved habitat connectivity.

Removing artificial barriers to fish in floodplain areas⁸ increases fish access to the floodplain¹⁶, representing an increase in seasonally important habitat for native fish.

B Enhance former gravel pits

Working group partners will re-contour and reconnect shallow gravel pits to reconnect side channels to the main channel.

Theory of Change.

Enhancing, re-connecting, or filling former gravel pits⁹ increases extent and duration of floodplain inundation¹⁷ and habitat connectivity, cumulatively increasing seasonally important habitat for native fish.

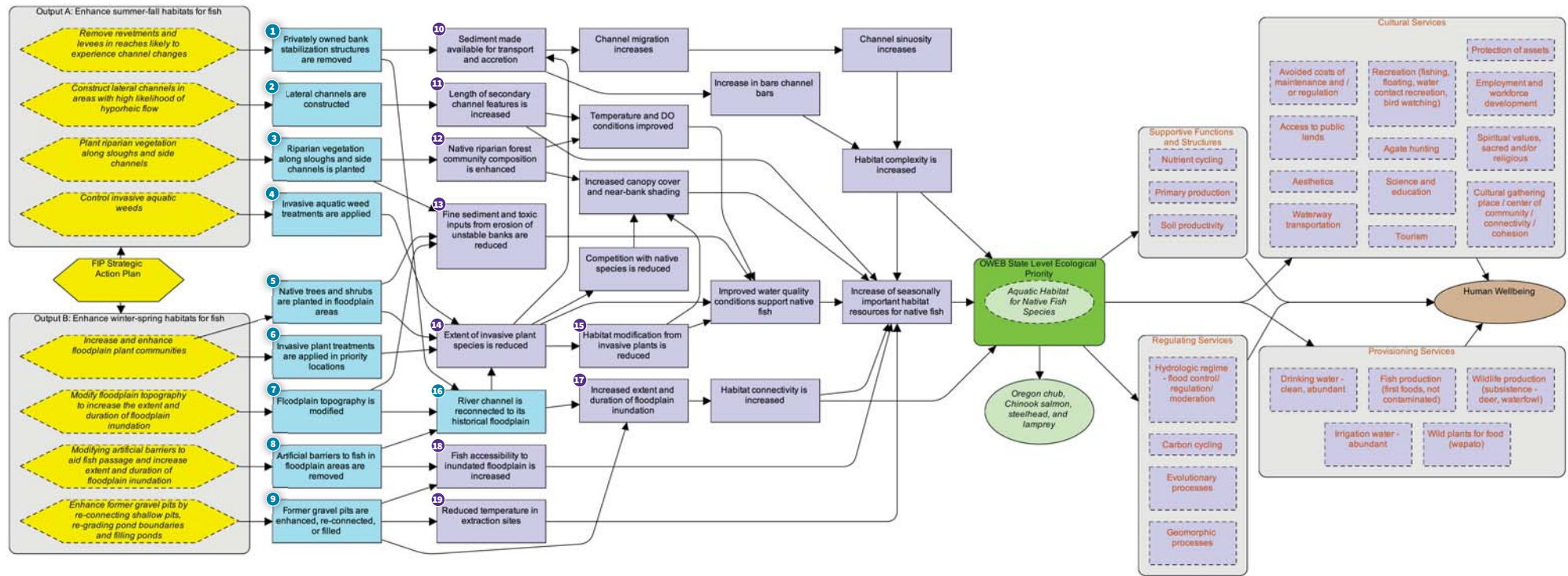
Importantly, enhancing, re-connecting, or filling former gravel pits⁹ also increases fish access to inundated floodplains¹⁸ and the organic material abundant on inundated floodplains that provides essential calories for rearing fish.

³ Superscript numbers ¹⁻¹⁹ can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

Results Chain

Figure 2: Results chain for the Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group Initiative

Progression of the Results Chain.



Measuring Progress

Project managers and implementers will measure and communicate implementation progress. Agency and academic experts will collaborate with project managers and implementers to measure near and long term ecological result objectives. Long-term status and trend monitoring associated with ecological outcomes and impacts will be completed by academic experts in collaboration with project managers.

Numbered results (Results chain and tables 1 and 2) describe hypothesized results of strategy implementation and linkages of outputs to outcomes. Corresponding metrics are shown as potential indicators and do not necessarily reflect monitoring for which the FIP has capacity or funding. Some implementation objectives include a larger geography or longer timeframe than those addressed within the FIP.

OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change.

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS	OBJECTIVES	METRICS
1 Privately owned bank stabilization structures are removed	Modify artificial barriers to floodplain flow at 15 high priority sites in anchor habitats in the Upper and Middle Willamette by 2025.	Sediment made available for transport and accretion Increase in bare channel bars
2 Lateral channels are constructed	Partners will construct lateral channels or sloughs in floodplains with a high likelihood of hyporheic flow (e.g., porous gravel deposits, connectivity to side channels) and the majority of these sites will meet cold water criteria after restoration.	Length of secondary channel features
3 Riparian vegetation along sloughs and side channels is planted	Partners will plant riparian vegetation along sloughs and side channels to provide shade and support feeding grounds for native fish on over 120 acres by 2025 (Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group Members, Landowners)	Native riparian forest community composition and extent
4 Invasive aquatic weed treatments are applied	Control aquatic invasive species that threaten water quality and native fish habitat on over 500 acres by 2019.	Extent of invasive plant species
5 Native trees and shrubs are planted in floodplain areas	Implement 25 large scale floodplain forest conservation and restoration projects in priority anchor habitats between 2016 and 2022 (Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group Members; within 3600 floodplain forest restoration acres).	Acres of floodplain forest
6 Invasive plant treatments are applied in priority locations	Implement 25 large-scale floodplain forest conservation and restoration projects in priority anchor habitats between 2016 and 2022 (Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group Members; within 3600 floodplain forest restoration acres)	Extent of invasive terrestrial plant species in priority locations within 3600 acres of floodplain forest
7 Floodplain topography is modified to increase extent and duration of flood inundation	To be determined through continued assessment and planning.	Extent and duration of floodplain inundation
8 Artificial barriers to fish in floodplain areas are removed	Implement barrier removal projects at 15 high priority sites (Objective) across eleven anchor habitats (Action) by 2025 (Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group Members)	Extent and duration of floodplain inundation Fish accessing inundated floodplain
9 Former gravel pits are enhanced, re-connected, or filled	Enhance former gravel pits and alleviate stranding by re-connecting shallow pits and regrading pond boundaries at 5 sites by 2025	Fish accessing inundated floodplain Water temperature in extraction sites

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

Table 2. Ecological results potential objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change.

Given the complexity of ecosystems, continued assessments and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for desired ecological outcomes.

LIMITING FACTOR REDUCTION OR INTERMEDIATE ECOLOGICAL RESULTS	POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES	POTENTIAL METRICS
10 Sediment is made available for transport and accretion	To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring	Bank erosion; channel migration (erosion pin surveys; repeat mapping using aerial photographs and repeat surveys)
11 Length of secondary channel features is increased	Increase channel (secondary channel feature) length by over 10 miles	Channel length
12 Native riparian forest community composition is enhanced	Enhance native riparian forest community composition on over 120 acres	Canopy cover; near-bank stream shading; species composition and structure
13 Fine sediment and toxic inputs from erosion of unstable banks are reduced	To be determined through continued assessment and planning.	To be determined through continued assessment and planning.
14 Extent of invasive plant species is reduced	Invasive aquatic species are controlled on over 500 acres; invasive terrestrial species are controlled on 3600 floodplain forest restoration acres	Extent of aquatic and terrestrial invasive plant species (Cover)
15 Habitat modification from invasive plants is reduced	To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring	Bed substrate; bathymetry; water quality per September 2016 grant application
16 River channel is reconnected to historic floodplain	Increase local inundation by more than 2 weeks during typical winters	Inundation assessments using water level loggers
17 Extent and duration of floodplain inundation is increased	Increase local inundation by more than 2 weeks during typical winters	Inundation assessments using water level loggers
18 Habitat connectivity is increasing	To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring	Fish use
18 Water temperature is reduced in extraction sites	To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring	Water temperature from continuous temperature loggers; fish use

Status & Trends

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their monitoring framework with existing status and trends monitoring programs (if they occur) or to establish an approach for identifying key ecological attributes that should be measured to document and communicate change in the status and trajectory of ecological priority habitats and focal species populations.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Miriam Hulst, Acquisitions Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item P-1: Other Business-Time Extension for Mountcrest Acquisition Project
October 24-25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report updates the board on due diligence for the Mountcrest Conservation Easement Project and recommends the board approve a time extension to allow the grantee to close the transaction.

II. Background

Land acquisition grants awarded by the board are conditioned on general and project-specific due diligence requirements, which must be met by the grantees before funds are released for the land transactions. OAR 695-045-0185 states that funds encumbered for a specific project may be made available for other uses by OWEB if all conditions required by the board are not satisfied within 18 months of the conditional board approval. The intent of the rule is to keep due diligence progressing efficiently and avoid a backlog of projects. In the event that a grantee does not satisfy the conditions of a board funding award, including closing the transaction within 18 months of the award, the board may rescind the award or authorize continued encumbrance of all or part of the awarded funds in accordance with OAR 695-045-0200.

In accordance with the 18-month rule for closing, projects funded by the board at its April 2016 meeting must close by October 26, 2017. The Mountcrest Conservation Easement transaction (Grant No. 216-9903) has not yet closed for reasons explained below. The grantee is making good progress on meeting the requirements for closing, but needs extra time to complete the requirements.

III. Project Requiring an Extension for Closing – Mountcrest Conservation Easement

The Mountcrest project is the purchase of a working forest conservation easement by Pacific Forest Trust. Working lands conservation easements are complex documents that must be drafted with close attention to legal details in order to effectively achieve the project's desired ecological outcomes. In addition to meeting OWEB's requirements for easements, the Mountcrest conservation easement must meet the requirements of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which are partners in the project. Multi-party negotiations and coordination processes take more time than single-funder projects. The easement is nearly complete, but more time is needed to finish the document and complete other due diligence for the project, including final approvals for the federal funds that will be spent by ODFW.

Staff expect that the Mountcrest transaction will be complete by early 2018, but are recommending the board extend the closing deadline to May 31, 2018, to allow staff time to resolve any unexpected complications without needing to seek another time extension from the board.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board extend the deadline for closing the Mountcrest Conservation Easement Project described in this staff report, to May 31, 2018.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item P-2: Other Business: Organization Collaboration Grant Awards
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2017-2019 Organization Collaboration grant offerings, and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards for the September 2017 application deadline.

II. Background

OWEB announced this grant offering in July 2013. The funding is intended to support new, or expand, strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local organizations that achieve ecological outcomes and engage communities. Organizational Collaboration grants may support the following activities:

- 1) Evaluating the operational structure of multiple collaborating organizations to improve service delivery or reach under-served communities/geographies, which may result in sharing of staff and services among the organizations.
- 2) The merger/consolidation of organizations.

The applicants must demonstrate that the options being considered will strengthen the impact and build resiliency and sustainability of multiple organizations.

Since its inception, four grants have been awarded for a total of \$367,249. At the July 2017 meeting, the board adopted its 2017-2019 spending plan and allocated \$400,000 for Organization Collaboration grants. Of this amount, \$200,000 was delegated to OWEB's Executive Director for the merger implementation grant for the Rogue River Watershed Council.

III. Solicitation Process

In August 2017, staff announced the Organization Collaboration grant offering for the 2017-2019 biennium, with deadlines in September and December of 2017, and March and September of 2018. Prior to submitting a proposal, applicants were required to participate in a consultation with the Capacity Programs Coordinator. During the consultations, staff discuss the purpose of the program, allowable activities, evaluation criteria, and timing.

IV. Review

Two applications were received by the September 29, 2017 deadline. Applicants were interviewed by OWEB staff on October 12, 2017. The interview included board and staff members from each partnering organization. Interviews focused on understanding how the existing structure(s) limit capacity for community engagement and watershed restoration, the openness of the partnership to change, and shared commitment and likelihood of success.

V. Current Grant Cycle Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend funding both applications submitted for this cycle. The applications demonstrate the partnerships are committed to exploring and developing new ways of doing business through collaboration in order to increase their ability to engage local communities and implement watershed restoration.

VI. Recommendations

Staff recommend the board award Organization Collaboration grants as described in Attachment A.

Attachments

- A. Staff Funding Recommendations
- B. Evaluations

Staff Funding Recommendation

September 2017 Organization Collaboration Applications

Project Number	Applicant	Project Title	OWEB Request	Amount Recommended	Brief Description
218-8007-15891	Forest Park Conservancy	Collaborative Partnership Agreement	\$53,772	\$53,772	The goal of the project is to create a formal partnership between Verde, Forest Park Conservancy, and West Multnomah Soil and Watershed Consecration District. We seek to develop an organizational partnership model with specific goals, objectives, and outcomes that will improve our restoration work and strengthen meaningful engagement of communities of color. The model will help restore the greater Forest Park ecosystem and also be a tool that can be replicated by other organizations around the state.
218-8007-15892	Greenbelt Land Trust	Shared Space Center - Phase II	\$72,848	\$72,848	Greenbelt Land Trust will work with Benton Soil & Water Conservation District and Institute for Applied Ecology to oversee Phase II of the Shared Space Center project, which when completed will support our collective missions and increase our ability to deliver on-the-ground services such as watershed restoration and protection. This proposal requests OWEB support to fund in part a contract to facilitate planning around the Center's governance structure, shared serves and communications planning, legal fees to cover the formation of a collaborative nonprofit, partner meetings and community surveys, travel to assess regional shared space centers, initial interior design discussions, and the public launch of the project.
Total Request			\$126,620		
Total Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				\$126,620	

Organization Collaboration Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8007-15891

OWEB Region: 3

Application Name: Collaborative Partnership Agreement

Requested Amount: \$53,772.00

Applicant's Summary: The goal of the project is to create a formal partnership between Verde, Forest Park Conservancy, and West Multnomah Soil and Watershed Consecration District. We seek to develop an organizational partnership model with specific goals, objectives, and outcomes that will improve our restoration work and strengthen meaningful engagement of communities of color. The model will help restore the greater Forest Park ecosystem and also be a tool that can be replicated by other organizations around the state. Funds will be used to develop an MOU or workplan (or both) that will lead to greater success in the greater Forest Park ecosystem and beyond.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partners have a history of working together.
- Partners are committed to a shared vision and outcome, a different way of doing business, which includes a diversity, equity, and inclusion outcome.
- Partners have the capacity to accomplish the work.
- The partners plan to engage staff and board members of the three organizations during the process.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The timeline seems rushed.

Concluding Analysis: There is shared partnership vision around changing how they work together and a vision of shared diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. The work they are proposing is challenging and the partnership will likely need more time than proposed in the initial application. Significant board and staff engagement from all the partners will be needed throughout the process to realize the shared vision.

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$53,772.00

Organization Collaboration Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8007-15892

OWEB Region: 3

Application Name: Shared Space Center – Phase II

Requested Amount: \$72,848.00

Applicant's Summary: Greenbelt Land Trust will work with Benton Soil & Water Conservation District and Institute for Applied Ecology to oversee Phase II of the Shared Space Center project, which when completed will support our collective missions and increase our ability to deliver on-the-ground services such as watershed restoration and protection. This proposal requests OWEB support to fund in part a contract to facilitate planning around the Center's governance structure, shared serves and communications planning, legal fees to cover the formation of a collaborative nonprofit, partner meetings and community surveys, travel to assess regional shared space centers, initial interior design discussions, and the public launch of the project.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partners successfully completed phase I of the shared space concept.
- Partners are committed to a shared vision and outcome.
- Partners have developed a MOU to guide Phase II of the effort.
- The proposal includes both concepts for shared space and shared services such as GIS, administration, and IT support.
- Partners have the capacity to accomplish the work.
- The timeline is clear and realistic.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- No concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis: There is significant partnership commitment to this project, including time and financial resources. The partners have developed a shared vision and the proposal demonstrates a well thought out approach to completing phase II of the shared space concept.

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$72,848