



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Materials

for

**April 24-25, 2018
Board Meeting**

Frenchglen, Oregon



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Agenda

April 24-25

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Frenchglen Elementary School
39235 Hwy 205
Frenchglen, OR 97736

Directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/AnVRkJWVgB2>

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 E, G, H, I, N, and O), 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 3 to 5 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 April 17, 2018 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 (8:50 a.m.)

The minutes of the January 30-31, 2018 meeting in Florence will be presented for approval. *Action item.*

C. Board Co-Chair Election (8:55 a.m.)

The current term of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Co-Chair Randy Labbe ends in April 2018. Co-Chair Will Neuhauser will lead a discussion and vote by board members to elect one board Co-Chair position for a new two-year term. *Action item.*

D. Board Subcommittee Updates (9:00 a.m.)

Representatives from board subcommittees will provide updates on subcommittee topics to the full board. *Information item.*

E. Public Comment (9:20 a.m.)

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

F. Small Grant Program – Administrative Rule Amendments (9:35 a.m.)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will present final rule amendments for the small grant program for board consideration and approval. Public comment associated with this item may be heard as part of general public comment. However, because this item has already been the subject of a formal public hearing and a comment period, further public testimony may not be taken except upon changes made to the item since the original public comment period, or upon the direct request of the board members in order to obtain additional information. *Action item.*

G. Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (10:10 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 11:20 a.m.

Introduction

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives will provide background information on the Fall 2017 Open Solicitation grant offering.

Public Comment [approximately 11:20 a.m.]

This time is reserved for public comment on pending restoration, technical assistance, monitoring, and stakeholder engagement 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. Any written comments pertaining to pending grant proposals must be received by agency staff by the **April 17, 2018 deadline** in order to be provided to the board in advance of the meeting. ***The board encourages speakers to limit comments to 3 to 5 minutes.***

Board Consideration of Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications

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

H. Land Acquisition Grant Awards (1:30 p.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 1:50 p.m.

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will request board action on land acquisition grant applications that were received during the Fall 2017 grant offering. The board will hear public comment on land acquisition applications. *Action item.*

I. Water Acquisition Grant Awards (2:50 p.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 3:05 p.m.

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy will request board action on water acquisition grant applications that were received during the Fall 2017 grant offering. The board will hear public comment on water acquisition applications. *Action item.*

Tour – 3:45 p.m.

The OWEB Board and staff will participate in a field tour of uplands restoration on Roaring Springs Ranch. The tour will be leaving from the Frenchglen Elementary School. 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:

Roaring Springs Ranch
31437 Highway 205
Frenchglen, OR 97736

Wednesday, April 25, 2018**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 E, G, H, I, N, and O), 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 3 to 5 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 April 17, 2018 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

J. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (8:00 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will update the board on the timeline for developing rules for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, and board members Laura Masterson and Will Neuhauser will brief the board on the latest developments of the program. *Information item.*

K. OWEB Agency Request Budget (8:20 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Deputy Director Renee Davis will provide the board an initial presentation on the agency request budget that OWEB will be submitting to the Governor for the 2019-2021 biennium. *Information item.*

L. Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Request (8:50 a.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis will request the board provide funding for items related to effectiveness monitoring, including for the Focused Investment Partnership program, programmatic effectiveness monitoring to “tell the story” of OWEB’s restoration investments, and the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership. *Action item.*

M. Organizational Collaboration Grant Awards (9:35 a.m.)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff will request board action on an organizational collaboration grant application that was submitted during the March, 2018 grant offering. *Action item.*

N. Public Comment (10:05 a.m.)

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

O. OWEB Strategic Plan (10:20 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 10:20 a.m.

After public comment, Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will join Principal Consultant Steve Patty and Associate Consultant Jessamyn Luiz with Dialogues in Action to seek the board’s feedback on the revised strategies and proposed actions that have emerged from an extensive community involvement process in developing OWEB’s new strategic plan. *Information item.*

P. Executive Director's Update (11:50 a.m.)

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

Q. Other Business (12:15 p.m.)

This item is reserved for other matters that may come before the board.

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 18 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and seven 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 **6 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 6 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 8 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 3 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, April 24 at 9:20 a.m.* and *Wednesday, April at 10:05 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 3 to 5 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 *April 17, 2018* 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 or send an e-mail to darika.barnes@oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Darika Barnes 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*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Fish and Wildlife Commission member*
Vacant, *Board of Forestry*
Meg Reeves, *Water Resources Commission*
Jason Robison, *Public (tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Will Neuhauser, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Randy Labbe, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Jan Lee, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *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*
Paul Henson, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Contact Information

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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

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

2019 Board Meeting Schedule

January 15-16, North Coast TBD
April 16-17, in Salem
July 16-17, in Klamath Falls
October 15-16, TBD

For online access to staff reports and other OWEB publications, visit our web site:

www.oregon.gov/OWEB.



OWEB Strategic Direction and Principles

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

Goals

Goals from OWEB's 2010 Strategic Plan

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

Goal 1: Adaptive Investment

Restore and sustain resilient ecosystems through program and project investments that enhance watershed and ecosystem functions and processes and support community needs.

Goal 2: Local Infrastructure Development

Support an enduring, high capacity local infrastructure for conducting watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Goal 3: Public Awareness and Involvement

Provide information to help Oregonians understand the need for and engage in activities that support healthy watersheds.

Goal 4: Partnership Development

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

Goal 5: Efficient and Accountable Administration

Ensure efficient and accountable administration of all investments.

Long-Term Investment Strategy

OWEB's Framework for Grant Investments

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

Operating Capacity

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

Open Solicitation

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

Focused Investments

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

Effectiveness Monitoring

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



OWEB

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Operating Principles

Operating Principles to Enhance OWEB Team Work

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

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

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
January 30, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting
Best Western Pier Point Inn Conference Center
85625 US Highway 101
Florence, OR 97439

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording at <https://youtu.be/RMjwvOZ9q0>).
Some agenda items may be discussed out of order.

OWEB Members Present

Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
McAlister, Liza Jane
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Stangl, Kathy
Webber, Bob

ABSENT:

Alvarado, Ron
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Henson, Paul

VACANT:

Environmental Quality Commission
Board of Forestry

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Davis, Renee
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Hartstein, Eric
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Others Present

Beamer, Kelley
Buckmaster, Bruce
Coordes, Regan
Craig, Amanda
Keith, John
Klock, Clair
Luiz, Jessamyn
McDonald, Jessica
Morford, Shawn
Patty, Steve
Pope, Michael
Riley, Eric
Schmelzer, Julie
Souder, Jon
Sundstrom, Johnny
Taylor, Barbara

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser.

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

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.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 0:36:00)

Minutes of the October 24-25, 2017 board meeting in Lebanon were presented to the board for approval.

Gary Marshall moved the board approve the minutes from the October 24-25, 2017 meeting in Lebanon. The motion was seconded by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:36:45)

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 0:37:15)

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

D. Public Comment (Audio = 0:46:30)

The board was addressed by Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT). Beamer provided an overview of COLT operations and their role in supporting conservation in Oregon. She said COLT recently hired a communications contractor to help broadcast their message.

Shawn Morford from the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils also addressed the board to discuss their role in the upcoming CONNECT Conference happening in Seaside in April and the topics to be presented. Morford also mentioned that progress is occurring in her role in facilitating for the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council.

Clair Klock came to represent Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District to endorse monitoring and funding for equipment purchases as recommended in Agenda Item F.

(Audio = 3:42:08) Johnny Sundstrom, representing the Siuslaw Institute, came before the board to discuss the past student outreach activities of the Institute and how the change of OWEB Outreach grants to Stakeholder Engagement grants will impact the future of conservation and restoration in Oregon.

E. Tide Gate Literature Review (Audio = 0:59:40)

Deputy Director Renee Davis provided background on the board-funded effort to compile and review existing literature and materials from the Pacific Northwest that describes the effects of tide gate restoration projects. Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho provided a summary of findings contained in the literature review, and an overview of the report's Executive Summary. Oregon State University's (OSU) Watershed Management Specialist, Jon Souder, explained the function of tide gates with a detailed description of tidal cycles. Souder presented examples of gate designs with improved performance, and talked about how design and function of tide gate structures can maximize different functions in differing landscapes. Souder said there are significant gaps in the research of hydrologic and species movement involving tide gates and emphasized the importance of understanding habitat on both sides of the gates.

F. Volunteer Water-Quality Monitoring Equipment Funding (Audio = 2:07:25)

Deputy Director Renee Davis provided an overview of the State of Oregon's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program and requested funding to support equipment purchases for the program, which is administered by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Will Neuhauser moved the board award \$39,651 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan in support of new and replacement equipment for the Department of Environmental Quality's Volunteer Water-Quality Monitoring Program, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 30, 2018. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:17:10)

G. Coordinated Streamside Management / Strategic Implementation Area Monitoring (Audio = 2:18:00)

Deputy Director Renee Davis explained the evolution of the multi-agency Coordinated Streamside Management approach to water quality improvements and briefed the board about Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) monitoring as part of this framework. Davis requested funding to support this monitoring for up to twelve SIAs selected during the 2017-19 biennium.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board award \$300,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan for Strategic Implementation Area monitoring, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 30, 2018. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:43:15)

H. Organization Collaboration Grant – Shared Space Project Update (Audio = 2:44:40)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff was joined by Michael Pope and Jessica McDonald from the Greenbelt Land trust to present the history of collaboration at the Corvallis Shared Space Center. They demonstrated the many benefits of sharing space, and provided an update to the status of the Organization Collaboration Shared Space Project among Greenbelt Land Trust, Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, Institute for Applied Ecology, and Marys River Watershed Council.

I. Governor's Priorities, Post-Fire Response (Audio = 3:13:00)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams requested the board support technical assistance needs required for a local response to catastrophic wildfire impacts to watershed health on private lands as a result of the Chetco Bar Fire in Southwest Oregon. Williams explained the importance of meeting landowner outreach, assessment, and project prioritization needs following a wildfire in a timely manner which cannot be accommodated within a typical OWEB grant offering.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden discussed the lack of an existing mechanism to address this type of urgent issue and the potential for a future proposal to reserve technical assistance funds for disaster response.

Randy Labbe moved the board delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into a grant agreement to implement technical assistance activities to identify and develop responses to immediate watershed health needs caused by the Chetco Bar Fire on private lands in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, to be taken from the Governor's Priorities line item in the 2017-2019 spending plan. The motion was seconded by Bob Webber. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:24:40)

L. Director's Update (Audio = 3:25:50)

L-1: Legislative Update (3:25:50)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided a brief update to the board on the recent activities of the Oregon Legislature, including the addition of a representative from U.S. Fish & Wildlife to the OWEB Board, and the modification of a reporting date for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Biennial Report to even years, which allows for better alignment with the biennium. He also mentioned the November senate confirmations of two at large OWEB Board members, Jan Lee and Liza Jane McAlister, and announced the February 8th start date for the legislature's short session in 2018.

L-2: Rulemaking Update (3:30:00)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided a brief update on rulemaking activities for small grants to reflect board decisions to amend rules and to correct minor inconsistencies. He also discussed the current rulemaking process and future activities of a Rules Advisory Committee for technical assistance grants.

L-6: Board Subcommittee Assignments (3:34:35)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden reviewed opportunities for board members to serve on four standing subcommittees (Open Solicitation, Monitoring, Focused Investment, and Capacity) and one ad hoc committee (Acquisitions). She discussed committee structure and the process for participating.

J. Strategic Plan (Audio = 3:52:30)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden, supported by Steve Patty from Dialogues in Action, presented the steps in OWEB's strategic planning process over the past year and the suite of strategies that have emerged from an extensive community involvement process in developing OWEB's new strategic plan.

Patty asked the board to consider that the timeline for strategic plan implementation is five to ten years, and that the next step will be about developing specific actions necessary to implement the plan. He assisted the board in identifying what may be missing from the set of strategies. Loftsgaarden noted the strategies and actions will be back before the board in April for further discussion and refinement.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 3:00 p.m. by Co-Chair Neuhauser. (Audio = 5:40:00)

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

January 31, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting

Best Western Pier Point Inn Conference Center

85625 US Highway 101

Florence, OR 97439

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording at https://youtu.be/JaV1_KIC1mY).

Some agenda items are discussed out of order.

OWEB Members Present

Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
McAlister, Liza Jane
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Stangl, Kathy
Webber, Bob

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Hartstein, Eric
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Others Present

Beamer, Kelley
Buckmaster, Bruce
Coordes, Regan
Keith, John
Klock, Clair
Ruzycki, Jim
Selker, John
Taylor, Barbara

ABSENT:

Alvarado, Ron
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Henson, Paul

VACANT:

Environmental Quality
Commission
Board of Forestry

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

K. Public Comment (Audio = 0:00:10)

Clair Klock came before the board to talk about fire response and OWEB's strategic plan, especially regarding small acreage.

John Keith, representing the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, came before the board to introduce himself as the new executive director and present the current activities of his organization.

L. Director's Update (Audio = 0:08:35)

L-3: Focused Investment Partnership Capacity Building Name Change and 2018 Offering Schedule (0:09:00)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff provided an update on the name change for Capacity Building Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grants to "Development FIP" grants. She also presented the schedule for the second offering of the biennium.

L-4: Lower Columbia River Watershed Council Update (0:13:10)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff and Region One Program Representative Katie Duzik provided 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.

L-5: State Revolving Fund Loan Application for Septic System Upgrades (0:17:00)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on a new effort in partnership with Craft3, a nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution, to apply to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality State Revolving Loan Fund to provide affordable loans to owners of failing On Site Sewage Disposal Systems. If the project moves forward, staff will request board approval to enter into loan agreements to implement the program.

M. Focused Investment Partnership Administrative Rules (Audio = 0:29:15)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein updated the board on the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grants rulemaking process, and requested board approval on the proposed administrative rules.

The board was given an opportunity to ask questions for each section and discuss proposed changes. Williams and Hartstein addressed questions from the board, assisted by Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden.

A set of revised proposed rules which incorporated board-recommended changes was printed and distributed to board members. (Audio = 3:30:01)

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve the Focused Investment Partnership Grants administrative rules as specified in Attachment C to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Bob Webber. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:40:40)

Board member Jason Robison announced the presence of Margaret Corvi, who is the Natural Resources Director for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. Robison thanked Corvi and her Tribe for the opportunity to participate in a meeting within a portion of the Tribe's ancestral homelands.

N. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (Audio = 1:45:15)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden updated the board on the progress of the new Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program and Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC) member selection. She presented the background information on the program, the timeline of expected activities of the OAHC over the next year, and the role of the OWEB Board in relation to the OAHC. Loftsgaarden presented a slate of names proposed for appointment to the OAHC and their proposed terms, and requested approval by the OWEB Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

Laura Masterson moved the board vote to appoint the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission members for the listed terms as described in Attachment B to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. There was board discussion of the start date of commission member terms. The motion was amended by Bob Webber to designate terms as reflected in the House Bill. This friendly amendment was accepted by Laura Masterson and Gary Marshall. Jason Robison disclosed that he works closely with one of the proposed commissioners, Nathan Jackson from the Cow Creek Tribe, but does not see any perceived conflict of interest. Will Neuhauser abstained from the vote due to his name being listed as a proposed commissioner. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:14:30)

O. Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed (Audio = 2:22:20)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho, with Jim Ruzycki, Program Director from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and John Selker, Distinguished Professor from Oregon State University, presented the results of the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) final summary report. This presentation provided background on the IMW, summarized the key findings from monitoring, described lessons learned from the combined restoration and monitoring efforts in the Middle Fork John Day River, and outlined future monitoring needs of the IMW.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser. (Audio = 3:41:50)

April 24-25, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members

Past-Chair Rosemary Furfey, Current Chair Alan Henning, Stephen Brandt, Jason Robison

Background

The Monitoring Subcommittee is discussing both open solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring (EM) and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) monitoring. They also are overseeing the process to develop improved guidance for monitoring grant applications.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on February 6 and April 3, 2018, and discussed the following topics:

- Debrief from the January board meeting – The group discussed next steps from the monitoring related presentations at the meeting, in particular for the tide gate literature review, and the importance of providing periodic updates about status of next steps.
- Open Solicitation monitoring guidance – In February, staff updated the subcommittee about status of the process, including upcoming communications with monitoring applicants and grantees. In April, staff described how feedback received during the process is being organized and next steps for analyzing the feedback. The process will result in refinements to the monitoring application and/or guidance in the near term. Over the longer term, potential improvements to OWEB's monitoring grant-making process that are identified will be cross-walked to strategic plan priorities.
- Monitoring related agenda items for the April 2018 board meeting – Staff briefed the subcommittee about three funding requests, along with livestock exclusion study results and the strategic plan items to be discussed at the board meeting.
 - FIP monitoring/reporting – As follow up to the progress monitoring framework developed with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation for FIPs and based on communications with the six Implementation FIPs, staff will request funding to address monitoring/reporting gaps identified by the results chains.
 - Programmatic EM / 'Telling the Restoration Story' – Staff reviewed potential locations and restoration actions for describing the ecological effects of restoration over different time horizons. Staff are reaching out to partners in 'high potential' areas to discuss opportunities, and will request funding to pursue an initial slate of retrospective analyses to 'tell the story.' The subcommittee suggested highlighting the potential for products to be used with multiple audiences and recommended using a 'template'-type process to ensure consistency among the stories.
 - Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (CEP) – Staff updated the subcommittee about needed analyses to support the CEP's work in Fifteenmile Creek, and will request funding to complete these analyses with CEP partner agencies.
 - Subcommittee members discussed the funding requests and concluded these are consistent with OWEB's mission and programs.

The subcommittee will meet again on May 15, 2018.

To Be Presented at the April 2018 Board Meeting by:

Rosemary Furfey, Past Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F—Small Grant Program Administrative Rule Amendments
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report requests board approval on proposed administrative rule amendments to OWEB's Small Grant Program.

II. Background

The Small Grant Program is an easy-to-engage-in, competitive grant program that awards funds for on-the-ground restoration projects. The program responds to a need for local decision-making about watershed restoration opportunities on a timeline shorter than many of OWEB's other grant programs.

At the July 2017 meeting, the board approved the 2017-2019 spending plan for the agency, which included an increase of the cap on small grants from \$10,000 to \$15,000. To increase the cap, rulemaking is required for the Small Grant Program, as the cap stated in the administrative rules is currently \$10,000. Following the July board meeting, a rule waiver has been in place for small grant projects awarded between \$10,000 and \$15,000. In addition to raising the cap on small grants, OWEB staff have identified other areas in the administrative rules for amending. These include:

- Stating that OWEB staff will coordinate with small grant teams to ensure soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, and tribes are invited to participate on teams;
- Better aligning language in rule with language in statute (ORS 182.162 et seq.) regarding tribal participation on small grant teams by stating participating tribes be federally recognized in Oregon;
- Requiring all members of a small grant team to have met reporting obligations with OWEB prior to entering new small grant team agreements;
- Removing reference to OWEB's "Regular" grant program, and replacing it with OWEB's "other" grant programs; and
- Aligning restoration guidance language with Division 10 Restoration Grants, administrative rules.

III. Public Comment on Proposed Small Grant Program Rule Amendments

OWEB released draft rule amendments for public comment on March 1, 2018. The public comment period was open from March 1 - March 31, 2018 with a public hearing in Salem on March 21. A summary of the written comments received during the public comment period are provided in Attachment A. Staff reviewed the public comments, and made revisions to the proposed small grant program rule amendments, which are found in Attachment B. At its April meeting, the board may only receive public comment on the revisions to the proposed rules that have occurred since the close of the public comment period.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the administrative rule amendments to the Small Grant Program found in Attachment B.

Attachments

- A. Public Comments Received and Staff Response
- B. Proposed Small Grant Program administrative rules (redlined)

Summary of Public Comments: Small Grant Program Rule Amendments (Division 35)

ATTACHMENT A

Rules: General Comments			
Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Cynthia Care, Friends of Wagner Creek	Supports proposed changes to the Small Gant Program.	OWEB appreciates the support for the amendments to the Small Grant Program.	No
Karin Stutzman, Polk Soil and Water Conservation District	Supports proposed changes to the Small Gant Program.	OWEB appreciates the support for the amendments to the Small Grant Program.	No
Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee	Supports proposed changes to the Small Grant Program, with the exception of OAR 695-035-0020(4), noted below.	OWEB appreciates the support for the amendments to the Small Grant Program.	No
Kelly Timchak, Lower Rogue Watershed Council	Supports proposed changes to the Small Grant Program, and suggests increasing the cap on small grants to \$20,000.	OWEB appreciates the general support for the amendments to the Small Grant Program. In determining the cap on small grants, the OWEB Board open solicitation subcommittee considered increasing costs, trends toward larger projects, and grantee feedback, and found the increase in the small grant cap from \$10,000 to \$15,000 appropriate at this time. The open solicitation subcommittee will continue to evaluate the small grant program to ensure the most optimal cap on individual projects.	No
Audrey Squires, Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council	Supports proposed changes to the Small Grant Program, and suggests increasing the amount of funds allocated to each small grant team to accommodate the increased cap on individual projects.	OWEB appreciates the general support for the amendments to the Small Grant Program. While not captured in administrative rule, OWEB currently distributes \$100,000 to each of 28 small grant teams in Oregon. At the July 2017 meeting, the OWEB Board determined that up to \$500,000 in any biennium may be allocated to small grant teams that have utilized 95% of their allocated funding after the first year of the biennium. The open solicitation subcommittee will continue to evaluate the small grant program to determine if an increase in small grant team funding is warranted.	No

Summary of Public Comments: Small Grant Program Rule Amendments (Division 35)

Caley Sowers, Coos Soil and Water Conservation District	Supports proposed changes to the Small Grant Program, with the exception of OAR 695-035-0020(3), noted below.	OWEB appreciates the support for the amendments to the Small Grant Program.	No

Rule: 695-035-0020, Small Grant Program Administered by Small Grant Teams				
Sub-Section	Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
(3)	Caley Sowers, Coos Soil and Water Conservation District	Concerned that requiring all representatives of a small grant team to have met OWEB reporting obligations under earlier agreements may penalize team members who are current on reporting, if another member of the team has reports that are past due.	OAR 695-035-0020(3) refers to the <u>small grant team agreements</u> that are entered into with OWEB once per biennium. It is OWEB policy that all signatories to agreements have met reporting requirements on earlier agreements. OAR 695-035-0020(3) will not delay <u>individual project grant</u> agreements to small grant team members if another team member is behind in reporting.	No
(4)	Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee	Concerned that proposed language for tribal participation on small grant teams would exclude the Nez Perce Tribe from participation in the program.	According to OWEB's revised 2018 Tribal Policy, OWEB works with the Nez Perce Tribe along with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon. Consistent with this policy, we agree with the Nez Perce Tribe's comment and have revised the draft OAR 695-035-0020(4) accordingly to read: "Small Grant Teams, in coordination with OWEB, will invite in writing each soil and water conservation district and watershed council located partially or entirely within the Small Grant Area, and each federally recognized tribe in Oregon, <u>and the Nez Perce Tribe</u> , with reservation, tribal, ceded lands or established usual and accustomed areas located partially or entirely within the Small Grant Area to appoint one representative to a Small Grant Team."	Yes

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Division 35 Small Grant Program

695-035-0010

Small Grant Program

- (1) The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) may provide funding for a locally administered Small Grant Program from its Watershed Conservation Grant Fund. Funds may be allocated for the Small Grant Program in amounts and at times decided by the Board.
- (2) The goals of the Small Grant Program are to:
 - (a) Support implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.
 - (b) Support projects designed to improve water quality, water quantity, and fish and wildlife habitat. Such projects include, but are not limited to, those developed to address Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans, urban nonpoint source pollution management plans, and the Board of Forestry's Forestry Program for Oregon.
 - (c) Make funds available to local Small Grant Teams to address local priority resource concerns, habitat values, and watershed functions.
 - (d) Encourage landowner participation in watershed improvement by making funds available more quickly than is possible through OWEB's ~~Regular Grant Program~~ [other grant programs](#).
 - (e) Treat the source of watershed health problems through technically sound projects that use proven techniques from one of the approved sources listed in OAR 695-035-0030(3), and that demonstrate benefits to aquatic species, wildlife, or watershed health across all land uses.
 - (f) Encourage partnerships among watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts-~~(SWCDS)~~, and tribes.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2005, f. & cert. ef. 6-8-05; OWEB 1-2011, f. & cert. ef. 10-18-11

695-035-0015

Definitions

- (1) "Small Grant" is a grant of ~~\$1015~~,000 or less for an eligible watershed restoration project awarded by OWEB on the recommendation of a Small Grant Team.
- (2) "Small Grant Team" (Team) is composed of representatives of watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and tribes formed in each Small Grant Area to recommend funding for watershed restoration projects.
- (3) "Small Grant Area" is a geographic area established by the OWEB Board based upon hydrologic boundaries, existing watershed restoration partnerships, and similarities in resource concerns.
- (4) "Program Grant" is a grant from OWEB to a Small Grant Team to recommend as eligible Small Grants of up to ~~\$1015~~,000 within the Small Grant Area.
- (5) "Program Grant Agreement" is a grant agreement between OWEB and a Small Grant Team regarding the allocation of Small Grant funds within a Small Grant Area by the Small Grant Team using OWEB funds.
- (6) "Project Evaluation Committee" (Committee) is a group of Small Grant Team members designated

by vote of the Team to evaluate Small Grant Project applications received and to make Small Grant Project award recommendations based upon the Team's adopted priority watershed concerns and eligible project types. A Team may by unanimous vote decide not to designate a Committee.

(7) "Program Administration" refers to all efforts made by Teams or individual team members on behalf of applicants or the Small Grant Team prior to a project grant award recommendation. No program administration costs may be included in Small Grant project grant awards.

(8) The "Small Grant Fiscal Agent" is responsible for managing all expenses associated with a Small Grant Project and for reporting those expenses to OWEB in a manner consistent with OWEB fiscal reporting standards. Fiscal Agents will be councils, districts, tribes, or entities designated as eligible by the Small Grant Team in their operating procedures. A Small Grant project's eligible fiscal agent will be identified on the Small Grant Project application and in the OWEB Small Grant Project grant agreement.

(9) "Project Manager for the Grantee" is the individual (typically, but not necessarily, the grantee) who will shepherd the project from start to finish. This person will serve as the Team's and OWEB's main point of contact for a project.

(10) "Team Contact" is OWEB's main point of contact for the Small Grant Team, and is also the person authorized by the Team to sign OWEB Small Grant agreements.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969 Hist.: OWEB 3-2005, f. & cert. ef. 6-8-05

695-035-0020

Small Grant Program Administered by Small Grant Teams

(1) The OWEB Board may award program grants to eligible Small Grant Teams to enable the Teams to administer a Small Grant Program within a Small Grant Area. A Small Grant Team must submit a program grant application to OWEB on a designated form at times designated by the OWEB Board to be eligible to receive a program grant to administer a Small Grant program.

(2) Small Grant Program funds not used in one biennium may not be carried over by the Small Grant Team to the next biennium unless otherwise determined by the Board.

(3) The Board will only enter into new Small Grant Team agreements once Teams have submitted on a standard OWEB form, and to OWEB's satisfaction, the revised Team bylaws for the coming biennium, a revised list of the Team's priority watershed concerns and eligible project types, a revised Application Evaluation Worksheet, and all representatives of the Team have met OWEB reporting obligations under earlier agreements. Year Two Status Reports due in the previous biennium.

(4) Small Grant Teams, in coordination with OWEB, will invite in writing each soil and water conservation district (~~SWCD~~) and watershed council located partially or entirely within the Small Grant Area, and each federally recognized tribe in Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe, with reservation, tribal, ceded lands or established usual and accustomed areas ~~reservation, tribal, aboriginal, or ceded lands, or usual and accustom sites~~ located partially or entirely within the Small Grant Area to appoint one representative to a Small Grant Team. Participation on a Team is voluntary. A Small Grant Team must have at least one actively participating watershed council representative and one soil and water conservation district representative to be eligible to allocate Small Grant funds. Each eligible Team may receive a program grant from OWEB to allocate Small Grant Project awards of up to ~~\$10~~15,000 for eligible watershed restoration projects consistent with local priority watershed concerns and eligible project types adopted by the Team.

(5) Members of each Small Grant Team are encouraged to invite individuals with expertise in a watershed restoration discipline or other watershed restoration interests to consult with the Team on its priorities, program elements, and recommendations for project grant awards.

(6) The OWEB Board will establish Small Grant Areas for the Small Grant Program. The boundaries of the Small Grant Areas will be drawn based upon hydrologic boundaries, existing watershed restoration partnerships, and similarities in resource concerns. Only one Small Grant Team may administer a Small

Grant Program in each Small Grant Area. A copy of the Small Grant Area map is available upon request from OWEB and can also be viewed on the OWEB website.

(7) A Small Grant Team may petition the OWEB Board to adjust the boundaries of Small Grant Areas. If a Team has not been formed in a Small Grant Area, an organization eligible to appoint a member to a Small Grant Team may petition the Board to adjust the boundaries of Small Grant Areas. Written approval from all Small Grant Teams affected, or if a Small Grant Team has not been formed, all entities eligible to appoint a member to the Small Grant Team in that area, is required before a boundary adjustment petition may be filed with the Board.

(8) The OWEB Board will consider all boundary-adjustment petitions once a biennium at the time it considers reauthorizing Small Grant Program funds for the next biennium. The OWEB Board may choose to consider a boundary adjustment upon a valid motion by Board members, without petition by a Small Grant Team or organization that is an eligible Small Grant Team member. However, the OWEB Board will consult with affected Small Grant Teams, and if a Team has not been formed, eligible Team members in the area before considering the boundary adjustment. A decision by the OWEB Board to approve a boundary adjustment will consider one of the following:

(a) The current Small Grant Area boundaries fragment existing watershed restoration partnerships; or
The current Small Grant Area boundaries fragment hydrologically connected areas or ecologically similar landscapes in a way that would make setting local restoration priorities difficult; or

(b) The current Small Grant Area boundaries encompass many different limiting factors for water quality, water quantity, and fish and wildlife habitat. Adjusting boundaries would improve the ability of watershed restoration partners to focus their efforts on the limiting factors with which they have expertise.

(9) Prior to submitting a program grant application to OWEB, the Small Grant Team will adopt the following program elements that will be attached as part of the program grant application:

(a) Rules of operation for administration of the Small Grant Team and the Small Grant Program, including:

(A) Rules governing decision-making and membership;

(B) Application processing and project grant agreement procedures;

(C) Designation of a Team contact, and a member with authority to sign project grant agreements on behalf of the Small Grant Team;

(D) Record keeping;

(E) Processes and criteria for recommending project grant awards;

(F) Processes for evaluating the technical feasibility of projects;

(G) Processes and formats for biennial reporting;

(H) Entities, in addition to watershed councils, soil and water conservations districts, and tribes, designated by the Small Grant Team as being eligible fiscal agents; and

(I) Application acceptance windows.

(b) Priority watershed concerns to be addressed by the Small Grant Team;

(c) A list of project types most likely to effectively address the local watershed concerns adopted by the Small Grant Team. This list must be consistent with the list of eligible project types in OAR 695-035-0050(4). Teams wishing to add project types not on the list need to petition OWEB for their eligibility in their Small Grant Area. The proposed project type needs to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the OWEB Director a clear watershed benefit for the Small Grant Area. It must also be consistent with the Team's adopted priority watershed concerns, and must be referenced to one of the approved technical guidance sources listed in OAR 695-035-0030(3).

(10) The program elements adopted by the Small Grant Team will be included as an attachment to the program grant application to OWEB from the Small Grant Team. A program grant to a Small Grant Team

to administer a Small Grant Program will not be awarded until the Team has adopted the required program elements.

(11) In identifying priority watershed concerns, the Small Grant Team will consider current information on the condition of the watershed and its limiting factors to support native fish and to meet water quality standards. The priority watershed concerns should be adopted with reference to documents addressing the limiting factors to:

(a) Clean Water Act standards as identified in Total Maximum Daily Load Water Quality Management Plans and in Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans; and

(b) Watershed assessments and action plans, other watershed analyses, the Oregon Forest Practices Act, and soil and water conservation district annual work plans and long-range business plans. Priority watershed concerns and the list of eligible project types adopted by the Small Grant Team will address the source of watershed health problems, and not the effects.

(12) Small Grant Teams may designate members of the Team as a Project Evaluation Committee to evaluate Small Grant Project applications in lieu of the entire Team. If established, this Committee will have equal representation from soil and water conservation district and watershed council Team members. The Team, or if designated, its Committee, will select applications to recommend for funding based on its priority watershed concerns, eligible project types, and the technical merits of the project. The Small Grant Team, or if designated, the Committee, is encouraged to invite technical experts to assist in the evaluation of proposed projects.

(13) Each Small Grant Team will develop application evaluation criteria that will be based on the questions asked in the application, as well as on additional evaluation considerations listed by Teams in their operating procedures. Evaluation criteria will be attached to a Team's operating procedures. Teams will make available to applicants the evaluation criteria along with the Team's list of priority watershed concerns and eligible project types.

(14) Small Grant Teams will establish in their operating procedures the terms by which they receive and act on applications. At a minimum, Teams will establish two-week windows four times in the State fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) during which they or their designated committee will receive applications. Teams may also accept applications at any time throughout the State fiscal year. All Teams must act within 30 days of receiving a complete application.

(15) Small Grant Teams will write their own project grant agreements, using an OWEB-provided template. Teams will create one original grant agreement and secure all relevant signatures before forwarding it to OWEB for final signature. In case of discrepancy, the OWEB signed original supersedes all other signed copies. The OWEB Director reserves the discretion to alter this arrangement as necessary.

(16) OWEB has 20 working days after receipt of the application materials to verify that the approved application is consistent with the Team's local priorities and with OWEB's statutes and administrative rules. Upon verification, OWEB will return fully executed copies of the project grant agreement to the Team Contact, listed in the Team Bylaws. OWEB will keep the original project grant agreement on file, and the Team Contact will be responsible for providing copies to all signatories. Signatories to the grant agreement will include the Grantee; Landowner; Team Contact; a representative of OWEB; and a Fiscal Agent for the Grantee, if different from the Grantee. A project grant agreement is not valid until all signatories to the agreement have signed. Project grant agreements must be signed within 90 days of the first signature on the grant agreement, or they will be considered void. Work will not begin on a project until a project grant agreement is valid. OWEB will make Small Grant Project award payments directly to the fiscal agent designated in the Small Grant Project agreement.

(17) Project maintenance and effectiveness monitoring are the responsibility of the landowner. OWEB will not pay for either, and applicants may not use any planned post-project maintenance and effectiveness monitoring as match for the OWEB project grant. However, applicants may budget for plant establishment (i.e., weeding and watering of plants over time to improve chances of successful establishment) in the Small Grant Project application, or they may put the amount estimated for plant establishment toward the required 25 percent match. OWEB will pay for no more than two years of

post-project plant establishment, or up to \$1,000 for two years, which is paid for in the final payment request.

(18) The Small Grant Team will be responsible for providing the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission with a summary Biennial Report, due no later than 60 days after the close of each OWEB biennium that:

(a) Addresses:

(A) How the Team's funded projects demonstrated clear watershed benefit to aquatic species, wildlife, or watershed health.

(B) Which specific projects met the Team's high-priority watershed concerns that it identified for the biennium (show award amounts for each project).

(C) Which specific projects the Team awarded for other priority watershed concerns (show award amounts for these projects, as well).

(b) Evaluates the effectiveness of the Team's:

(A) External interactions with landowners, applicants, Grantees, project partners, and OWEB Small Grant Program staff (i.e., the challenges that faced the Team with each of these groups and whether the Team was successful at resolving them).

(B) Internal interactions with each other (i.e., the challenges that faced the Team and whether the Team was successful at resolving them).

(c) Attaches the following:

(A) Tracking sheets for recommended and denied applications for the current biennium.

(B) Revised operating procedures, priority watershed concerns, eligible project types for the coming biennium, and application evaluation worksheet, if any.

(19) The OWEB Director may authorize an independent performance audit of any Small Grant Team, and if the Director determines the Team is not complying with the rules of the Small Grant Program, may restrict future Team funds.

(20) Small Grant Teams will retain for a period of five years unsuccessful applications and copies of successful applications, as well as meeting records.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2005, f. & cert. ef. 6-8-05

695-035-0030

Small Grant Program Application

(1) A Small Grant applicant may be a tribe, watershed council, or soil and water conservation district. These entities may act on behalf of private landowners, not-for-profit institutions, schools, community colleges, state institutions of higher education, independent not-for-profit institutions of higher education, local agencies, state agencies, or federal agencies.

(2) When reviewing applications, Team members will abide by the same conflict of interest standards that apply to Oregon's public officials, as detailed in ORS 244.020.

(3) Small Grant Project applications submitted to the Small Grant Team will include a completed application form provided by OWEB, and will use technical guidance from at least one of the sources listed below in this subsection. Small Grant Project applicants will cite in the application the practice code(s), or the page number and paragraph, for the technical guidance source listed. The Small Grant Team will verify the citation. If technical guidance and standards for a project are not available from one of these sources, the project is not eligible for funding under the Small Grant Program.

- (a) The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide, and local cost share list.
 - (b) A Guide to Placing Large Wood in Streams (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Forestry, 1995).
 - (c) The Oregon Road/Stream Crossing Restoration Guide (Oregon Department of Forestry, Spring 1999).
 - (d) Forest Practices Technical Note No. 4: Fish Passage Guidelines for New and Replacement Stream Crossing Structures (Oregon Department of Forestry, May 10, 2002).
 - (e) Forest Practices Technical Note No. 5: Determining the 50-Year Peak Flow and Stream Crossing Structure Size for New and Replacement Crossings Structures (Oregon Department of Forestry, May 10, 2002).
 - (f) The Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Guidebook for Local Government (Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, 1994).
 - (g) Urban Subwatershed Restoration Manual Series #4: Urban Stream Repair Practices (Center for Watershed Protection, November 2004).
 - (h) Tribal Natural Resource Plans or Water Plans on Tribal Trust Lands.
- (4) Only watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, tribes, and entities designated as eligible by the Small Grant Team in their operating procedures may serve as fiscal agents for a Small Grant Project.
- (5) The application budget is the Small Grant applicant's statement of how OWEB funds will be spent. Should the Small Grant Team approve the application for funding, the Grantee will only be able to bill OWEB for the line items appearing in the OWEB column in the application budget. Changes in line item amounts are permissible, with the exception of Project Management, which may change only with prior approval from OWEB. Grantees wishing to add new line items must also request prior permission from OWEB.
- (6) The applicant, landowner, and fiscal agent will sign the application. Teams may write a separate cooperative agreement where multiple landowners are involved. Teams will keep the original cooperative landowner agreement on file, and all signatories, plus OWEB, will be provided copies. Project funds will not be released until OWEB has a signed copy of the cooperative landowner agreement.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2005, f. & cert. ef. 6-8-05

695-035-0040

Small Grant Program Grants

- (1) Prior to the disbursement of any Small Grant Project funds, the Grantee must sign a Small Grant Project agreement containing such terms and conditions as may be deemed necessary by the OWEB Director to ensure that the expected benefits of the project are realized, and that applicable legal requirements and any special conditions of the Board with regard to particular grants are met.
- (2) Each Small Grant Project awarded will be limited to a maximum of \$159,000 per project, per landowner, per OWEB fiscal year, including technical assistance and fiscal administrative expenses.
- (3) The Board will only enter into new Small Grant project agreements with a grantee once that grantee has addressed to OWEB's satisfaction all active Small Grants with outstanding advances and all expired Small Grants with outstanding advances.
- (4) Fiscal administrative expenses included in each Small Grant Project may not exceed 10 percent of the OWEB grant amount for direct project costs. However, project grants for a total of \$2,000 or less may include fiscal administrative expenses up to \$200, not to exceed the total amount awarded.

- (5) A change in fiscal agent requires an amendment to the original grant agreement, and must be requested in writing of the OWEB Small Grant Program.
- (6) Travel expenses directly related to project implementation are eligible for funding under the Small Grant Program, subject to OWEB review and approval. Travel expenses will be reimbursed only in accordance with rates approved by the Department of Administrative Services and which are in effect at the time the expense was incurred. The Grantee must identify the reason or purpose for all travel expense reimbursement requests. No mileage reimbursement will be paid for the use of motorcycles or mopeds. The Small Grant Program will not reimburse for meals, lodging, or out-of-state travel.
- (7) Equipment purchases directly related to project implementation are eligible for funding under the Small Grant Program, subject to OWEB review and approval. However, OWEB discourages the use of limited Small Grant Project funds on equipment purchases, and instead encourages Teams to work with applicants to obtain equipment through other means, such as borrowing or renting. Following project completion, equipment purchased with OWEB funds will reside with any of the following: watershed council, soil and water conservation district, tribe, local government, or a school district. These entities will make the equipment available to each other at no cost, other than nominal maintenance costs.
- (8) Small Grant Project award recipients must provide evidence of at least 25 percent secured match for the Small Grant Project award prior to disbursement of grant funds by including a signature of commitment from the entity(ies) providing match on the OWEB Secured Match Form. Match must be current and specific to the Small Grant Project. The same match may not be used for multi-phased projects, unless it is divided among the phases. Applicants may attach the completed match form to their application or they may submit the form with their first grant award payment request. Disbursement of the final grant award payment requires evidence of actual match contributed, shown on the Actual Match Form. Match may include labor, volunteer time, technical assistance, materials or services provided, donated property, or cash. OWEB funding may not be used as match for a Small Grant Project funded by OWEB.
- (9) All Small Grant Projects will be completed within 24 months from the date of Team approval of the application. No project completion extensions beyond 24 months will be allowed.
- (10) Upon project completion, the Grantee will provide OWEB and the Small Grant Team with a copy of the Project Completion Report and color photographs with captions. Final project accounting and reporting are due no later than 60 days following the project completion date.
- (11) The following standards will be applied to each Small Grant Project payment:
- (a) OWEB will not pay for activities that were not covered under the project grant agreement, or did not receive prior approval from OWEB per OAR 695-035-0030(5).
 - (b) Each Small Grant award will be disbursed in no more than two payments.
 - (c) The Board will retain ten percent of project funds until the final report, as required in the grant agreement, has been approved.
 - (d) The first payment may consist either of an advance of up to 60 percent of the Small Grant award upon presentation of a detailed estimate of expenses for a specified time period, or of a reimbursement of expenses to date upon presentation of receipts and invoices.
 - (e) No funds will be released until evidence is submitted to OWEB that all required permits and licenses for the project have been granted.
 - (f) Receipts for the full advance amount are due within 120 days of the date OWEB issues the advance check.
 - (g) The second and final payment will not be disbursed until OWEB receives from the Grantee through the designated fiscal agent:
 - (A) Receipts and invoices for expenditures of previous fund releases, and receipts and invoices supporting the new fund release request;
 - (B) A spreadsheet documenting all project expenses;

(C) A completed Actual Match Form, showing all project match, which must total at least 25 percent of the amount of OWEB funds actually spent on the Small Grant Project;

(D) A satisfactory Project Completion Report and color photographs with captions of the project site; and

(E) A current Oregon Watershed Restoration Reporting Form, showing among other things, evidence of actual match contributed.

(12) Two years following receipt by OWEB of the project completion report, the individual designated in the project application will provide OWEB and the local Small Grant Team with a Year-Two Status Report. Applicants may budget for this as an expense to OWEB in the application (not to exceed \$200), or they may put the amount toward the required 25 percent match funds by showing the amount in the cost share column.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2005, f. & cert. ef. 6-8-05

695-035-0050

Eligible Small Grant Projects

(1) The Small Grant Program will fund only those projects that:

(a) Demonstrate in the Small Grant Project application a clear watershed benefit to aquatic species, wildlife, or watershed health.

(b) Are consistent with the local Small Grant Team's priority watershed concerns, as identified in their program grant agreements with OWEB.

(c) Adhere to OWEB administrative rules, OAR 695-005-0010–695-005-0060 and 695-050- 0010–695-050-0050.

(d) Implement a project to restore, enhance, or protect native fish or wildlife habitat, watershed or ecosystem functions, or water quality.

(e) Are implemented in a manner [that follows professionally accepted restoration approaches resulting in ecological or watershed benefits consistent with the Oregon Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Guide.](#)

(f) Use and clearly identify in the small grant application technical guidance from at least one of the approved sources in OAR 695-035-0030(3), and cite in the application the practice code(s), or the page number and paragraph, for the technical guidance source listed.

(g) Where applicable, have been approved for technical sufficiency by the appropriate state agency, or by the appropriate tribal government for projects on Tribal Trust Lands.

(2) Small Grant Projects to be completed in phases on the same property are eligible for Small Grant Project funding, provided only one phase is submitted for funding consideration per OWEB fiscal year, and provided all phases occur at different locations on the property. In general, OWEB encourages multi-phased project applications to be submitted through [other the -OWEB grant programsRegular Grant Program.](#)

(3) Teams must select from the following list when identifying priority watershed concerns for their Small Grant Area:

(a) Instream Process and Function;

(b) Fish Passage;

(c) Urban Impact Reduction;

(d) Riparian Process and Function;

- (e) Wetland Process and Function;
 - (f) Upland Process and Function;
 - (g) Water Quantity and Quality/Irrigation Efficiency;
 - (h) Road Impact Reduction.
- (4) The following project types are eligible for funding. Teams are encouraged to be strategic in identifying eligible project types in an effort to better support salmon recovery objectives and Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans. Teams may petition OWEB to allow project types not appearing on the list, as described in OAR 695-035-0020(9)(c).
- (a) Instream Process and Function.
 - (A) Improve Instream Habitat: place large wood, boulders, or salmon carcasses;
 - (B) Manage Erosion: bioengineer stream banks, slope stream banks, or develop water gaps, streambank barbs;
 - (C) Eradicate or Control Exotic Aquatic Species.
 - (b) Fish Passage.
 - (A) Remove Irrigation or Push-Up Dams: install alternatives (e.g., infiltration galleries, point-of-diversion transfers) or convert from gravity diversion to pumps;
 - (B) Remove and/or Replace Culverts (as a condition of funding, such projects require ODFW or ODF technical review and approval, or tribal government review and approval for projects on Tribal Trust Lands, using a standard OWEB form; and for culverts under state roads, a 50 percent ODOT match);
 - (C) Remove or Replace Stream Crossings (as a condition of funding, such projects require ODFW or ODF technical review and approval, or tribal government review and approval for projects on Tribal Trust Lands, using a standard OWEB form).
 - (c) Urban Impact Reduction.
 - (A) Install Stormwater Runoff Treatments (e.g., create bioswales, pervious surfaces, native plant buffers, green roofs);
 - (B) Create Off-Channel Flood Storage;
 - (C) Employ Integrated Pest Management.
 - (d) Riparian Process and Function.
 - (A) Manage Nutrient and Sediment Inputs through managed grazing (e.g., fencing and developing off-channel watering) and plantings;
 - (B) Manage Vegetation: plant or seed native riparian species, propagate native riparian plants, or control weeds in conjunction with a restoration project;
 - (C) Employ Integrated Pest Management.
 - (e) Wetland Process and Function.
 - (A) Manage Nutrient and Sediment Inputs: fence out livestock or develop alternative watering sites;
 - (B) Manage Vegetation: control weeds (in conjunction with a restoration project), or plant native wetland species;
 - (C) Restore Wetlands: excavate or remove fill, or eliminate drainage structures;
 - (D) Employ Integrated Pest Management.
 - (f) Upland Process and Function.
 - (A) Manage Erosion on Agricultural Lands: terrace land; employ laser leveling; create windbreaks; install water and sediment control basins (WASCBs); develop filter strips/grassed waterways; manage

mud (e.g., gravel high-use areas, develop paddocks); seed bare areas (OWEB may require a grazing management plan, if appropriate, prior to release of funds. For post-fire areas, seed only where natural regeneration is unlikely — e.g., on slopes of 30 percent or more — or where it can be demonstrated that seeding would retard or prevent the spread of noxious weeds); or reduce tillage.

(B) Manage Nutrient and Sediment Inputs to Streams through the management of grazing, vegetation cover, animal waste, or irrigation runoff.

(C) Manage Vegetation: prescribed burning, except when conducted as part of a commercial harvest; non-commercial thinning; control/remove juniper (except late-seral/old growth); plant or seed (native upland species or native beneficial mixes preferred); or control weeds (in conjunction with a restoration project). Projects for prescribed burning to reduce fuel loads require ODF technical review and approval, or tribal government review and approval for projects on Tribal Trust Lands, using a standard OWEB form.

(D) Manage Wildlife: install water guzzlers.

(E) Employ Integrated Pest Management.

(g) Water Quantity and Quality/Irrigation Efficiency.

(A) Recharge Groundwater: roof water harvesting;

(B) Implement Irrigation Practices (e.g., pipe existing ditch, install drip or sprinkler systems, install automated soil moisture sensors where water and electrical savings can be documented, or recover or eliminate tail water). Such projects must either not adversely impact the current level of groundwater in a Groundwater Management Area, or must measurably reduce the diversion of water at the point of diversion. As a condition of funding, irrigation efficiency projects require local watermaster technical review and approval, or tribal government review and approval for projects on Tribal Trust Lands, using a standard OWEB form.

(h) Private Road Impact Reduction.

(A) Decommission Roads;

(B) Improve Surface Drainage: surface road drainage improvements, gravel surfacing, stream crossings.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2005, f. & cert. ef. 6-8-05; OWEB 1-2011, f. & cert. ef. 10-18-11

695-035-0060

Ineligible Small Grant Projects

(1) The Small Grant Program will not fund projects that:

(a) Do not demonstrate a clear watershed benefit to aquatic species, wildlife, or watershed health.

(b) Are not consistent with the local Small Grant Team's priority watershed concerns, as identified in their program grant agreements with OWEB.

(c) Do not adhere to OWEB administrative rules: OAR 695-005-0010–695-005-0060, 695-035- 0010–695-035-0070, and 695-050-0010–695-050-0050.

(d) Do not implement a project to restore, enhance, or protect native fish or wildlife habitat, watershed or ecosystem functions, or water quality.

(e) Do not use and clearly identify in the small grant application technical guidance and standards from one of the approved sources listed in OAR 695-035-0030(3).

(f) Are at the same location as, and are identical to, projects that have already been funded, are

currently being funded, or are currently being considered for funding through either the Small Grant Program or ~~other the~~ [OWEB grant programs- Regular Grant Program](#).

- (2) The following project types are ineligible for funding through the Small Grant Program:
- (a) Project planning and design not done in conjunction with the implementation of funded restoration or enhancement activities.
 - (b) Routine maintenance.
 - (c) Trash removal.
 - (d) Fish screens and trash racks.
 - (e) Tide gate removal, replacement, or installation.
 - (f) Constructed stream bank armoring.
 - (g) Development of off-channel watering systems not done in conjunction with fencing a riparian area or managing nutrient and sediment inputs in upland areas.
 - (h) Pond cleaning and pond creation (does not include off-channel watering systems and pump- back systems).
 - (i) Residential landscaping not done in conjunction with the implementation of funded riparian restoration or enhancement activities.
 - (j) Weed control not done in conjunction with the implementation of funded restoration or enhancement activities.
 - (k) Projects required as a condition of a local, state, or federal permit, order, or enforcement action (e.g., mitigation projects, manure storage and management projects that are required by a permit from ODA).
 - (l) Irrigation practices that adversely impact the current level of groundwater in a Groundwater Management Area, or do not measurably reduce the diversion of water at the point of diversion.
 - (m) Irrigation water conservation projects that propose any of the following activities:
 - (A) Irrigation system maintenance or renovation of existing pipe.
 - (B) Restoring a system that has deteriorated due to lack of maintenance and/or inadequate design.
 - (C) Portable pipe (does not include gated pipe) or ditch cleaning.
 - (D) Electrical costs resulting from conversion to pump from flood irrigation.
 - (n) Western juniper management that involves the removal of late-seral/old growth juniper.
 - (o) Reforestation or tree planting on lands following a commercial harvest.
 - (p) Prescribed burning when conducted as part of a commercial operation.
 - (q) Commercial thinning. Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2005, f. & cert. ef. 6-8-05; OWEB 1-2011, f. & cert. ef. 10-18-11

695-035-0070

Periodic Review and Evaluation of the Small Grant Program

Once a biennium, and in consultation with representatives of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, tribes, and Small Grant Teams, OWEB will review annual reports submitted by Small Grant Teams and evaluate the need for program improvements and administrative rule changes.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2005, f. & cert. ef. 6-8-05

695-035-0080

Waiver of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of division 35, unless they are required by statute, for individual grants, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's grant program. Any waiver granted shall be in writing and included in the permanent file of the individual grant for which the waiver was granted.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

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



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G-1 – Request for increased spending plan funding
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

During the 2018 Legislative Session, OWEB was informed that Lottery revenues had increased to a level that resulted in the agency receiving an additional \$5 million in expenditure limitation for Measure 76 Lottery funding. Staff will discuss options with the board for investing a portion of those funds in the current spending plan.

II. Background

OWEB receives 7.5 percent of state Lottery revenues to operate the state grant fund focused on native fish and wildlife habitat and water quality. Of that amount, 65% is required to go to what is termed as the watershed conservation grant fund. The remaining 35% covers operations for OWEB and a number of other agencies that are responsible for implementing the provisions of the Measure 76 constitutional and statutory language relating to native fish and wildlife habitat and water quality.

Due to the requirement that funds be deposited directly into the watershed conservation grant fund, any increases in Lottery projections directly result in an increase to that fund. Typically this occurs once a biennium, but based on the current increase in projections, the legislature chose to increase the agency's limitation mid-biennium. The total increase in expenditure limitation is \$5 million. This increase was not anticipated by staff or included in the current spending plan.

III. Spending Plan Increases

While revenues are increasing this biennium, the revenue forecast for 2019-21 is not as strong. Because of this, staff propose the board consider increasing the total spending plan by \$3 million, reserving \$2 million of the limitation to include in next biennium's spending plan, though the board may also consider adding additional dollars to the current spending plan in early 2019, if appropriate. Staff recommendations are contained in Attachment A Spending Plan. Increased line items include:

- \$350,000 increase in open solicitation monitoring grants to cover an increased demand in this category as well as some higher cost proposals.
- \$2 million increase in acquisitions to cover an increased demand in this category.

- \$150,000, delegated to the Executive Director, to increase in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) funding for landowners. This program is exceeding estimates for payments.
- \$500,000 for a new 'Strategic Plan Implementation Grant' category. This is outlined and will be discussed further under agenda Item O – Strategic Plan. This request will be outlined at the April meeting, with a final request to create the category at the June board meeting.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the spending plan as proposed, except for the new Strategic Plan Implementation Grant category, which is being discussed at this meeting, with a request to approve at the board's June meeting.

Staff recommend the board increase the open solicitation monitoring line item of the spending plan by \$350,000.

Staff recommend the board increase the acquisitions line item of the spending plan by of \$2 million.

Staff recommend the board increase the CREP line item of the spending plan by \$150,000 and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of July 1, 2017.

Attachments

A. Spending Plan

OWEB 2017-19 Spending Plan for the April 2018 Board Meeting

	OWEB SPENDING PLAN	July 2017 Spending Plan	TOTAL Board Awards To- Date	Remaining Spending Plan as of Jan 2018 awards	April 2018 Proposed Board Limitation Increase	April 2018 Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan as of April 2018
1	Open Solicitation:						
2	Restoration	28.550	8.255	20.295		7.794	12.501
3	Technical Assistance						0.000
4	Restoration TA	3.600	0.809	2.791		1.035	1.756
6	CREP TA	1.125	1.125	0.000			0.000
7	Stakeholder Engagement	0.700	0.000	0.700		0.172	0.528
8	Monitoring grants	2.500	0.000	2.500	0.350	1.753	1.097
9	Land and Water Acquisition						0.000
10	Acquisition Projects	6.200	0.000	6.200	2.000	5.630	2.570
11	Acquisition Technical Assistance	0.300	0.000	0.300		0.150	0.150
12	Weed Grants	3.000	3.000	0.000			0.000
13	Small Grants	3.150	3.150	0.000			0.000
14	Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring	1.587	0.340	1.247		0.216	1.031
15	TOTAL	50.712	16.679	34.033	2.350	16.750	19.633
16	% of assumed Total Budget	59.43%					
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	0.572	0.578			0.578
25	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.750	0.000	0.750		0.750	0.000
26	TOTAL	17.427	16.099	1.328	0.000	0.750	0.578
27	% of assumed Total Budget	20.42%					
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	0.327	0.073			0.073
32	TOTAL	14.397	14.324	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.073
33	% of assumed Total Budget	16.87%					
34	Other:						
35	CREP	0.600	0.600	0.000	0.150	0.150	0.000
36	Governor's Priorities	1.000	0.875	0.125			0.125
37	Strategic Implementation Areas	1.200	1.200	0.000			0.000
38	Strategic Plan Implementation Grants	0.000		0.000	0.500		0.500
39	TOTAL	2.800	2.675	0.125	0.650	0.150	0.625
40	% of assumed Total Budget	3.28%					
41	TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	85.336	49.777	35.559	3.000	17.650	20.909
42	OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION						
43	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF	10.450	10.450	0.000			0.000
44	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.309	0.309	0.000			0.000
45	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF	0.500	0.500	0.000			0.000
46	PSMFC-IMW	0.438	0.438	0.000			0.000
47	PSMFC-Coho Habitat Tools	0.166	0.166	0.000			0.000
48	Natural Resources Conservation Svc-CREP TA	0.250	0.250	0.000			0.000
49	TOTAL	12.113	12.113	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
50	TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds	97.449	61.890	35.559	3.000	17.650	20.909



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G-2 – Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering and funding recommendations. Staff request the board approve the funding recommendations outlined in Attachment D to the staff report, including funding for 59 restoration projects, 22 technical assistance projects, 15 monitoring projects, and 4 stakeholder engagement projects.

II. May 2017 Grant Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering solicited Restoration, Technical Assistance, Monitoring, and Stakeholder Engagement applications. A total of 160 grant applications were received seeking nearly \$17 million. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

B. Applications Withdrawn

Following the application deadline, two applications (218-6025 and 218-6031) were withdrawn by the applicant prior to review, and one application (218-5043) was determined to be ineligible.

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.

For monitoring applications, following site visits, OWEB facilitated the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team to review and evaluate applications with respect to significance to the Oregon Plan and likelihood of success.

OWEB then facilitated RRT meetings in each region for all grant types offered. 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. Fall 2018 Grant Offering and Board Policy Decisions

A. Salmon License Plate Projects

At this stage 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 Spring 2018 Grant Offering, which will be reviewed by the board at its October 2018 meeting.

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 Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering, there are four projects (218-5035, 218-5038, 218-5039, and 218-5049) recommended for funding that meet these criteria, requesting \$505,217. Total funding awarded to sage-grouse projects since April 2015 is \$6,509,619. If the recommended projects are awarded funding from the board, the new total will be \$7,014,836.

IV. Funding Recommendations

The funding recommendations for the Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering are shown in Table 1. Since the board will not yet have considered proposed increases to the spending plan, the Spending Plan Total column below reflects previously approved spending plan amounts.

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

Grant Type	Spending Plan Total	Previously Awarded	Grant Funds Available	Staff Recommendations	Recommended Grant Funds Remaining
Restoration	\$32,000,000	\$7,979,680	\$24,020,320	\$7,793,978	\$16,226,342
Technical Assistance	\$4,000,000	\$808,696	\$3,191,304	\$1,034,812	\$2,156,492
Monitoring*	\$2,750,000	\$0	\$2,750,000	\$1,752,967	\$997,033
Stakeholder Engagement	\$700,000	\$0	\$700,000	\$172,221	\$527,779
TOTAL	\$39,450,000	\$0	\$30,661,624	\$10,753,978	\$19,907,646

*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. Fall 2017 Grant Offering – Funding Recommendations

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

Attachments

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

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

November 6, 2017 Open Solicitation Offering

Applications Received by Type

	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	6	3	7	13	29
Region 2	4	1	11	8	24
Region 3	2	4	9	16	31
Region 4	2	1	2	7	12
Region 5	4	1	3	25	33
Region 6	6	3	4	18	31
Totals	24	13	36	87	160

Dollar Amounts by Application Type

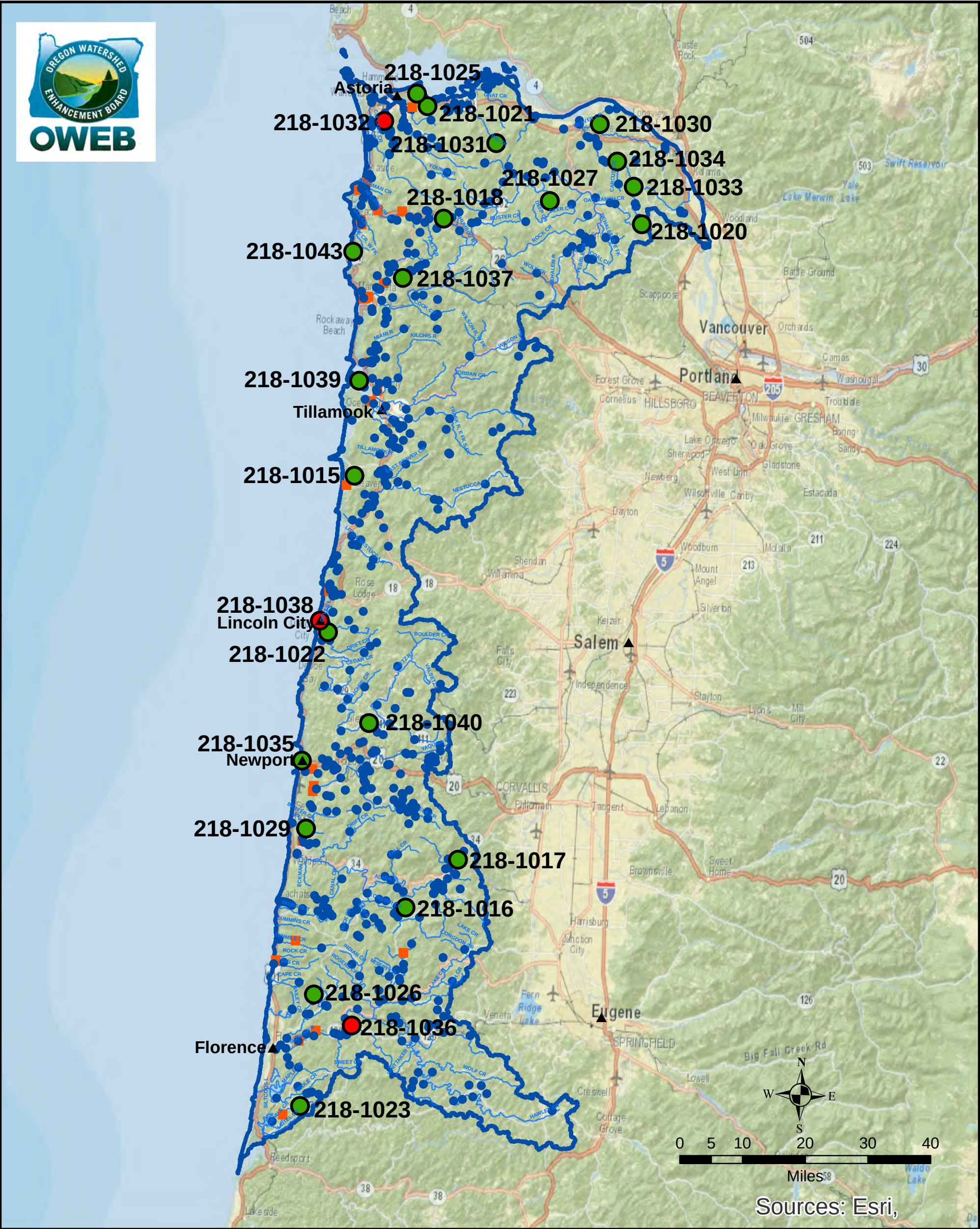
	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	389,711	142,373	438,538	1,379,135	\$2,349,757
Region 2	595,737	74,782	461,739	1,284,674	\$2,416,932
Region 3	150,728	137,254	346,347	2,247,649	\$2,881,978
Region 4	402,590	75,000	113,624	2,197,517	\$2,788,731
Region 5	500,649	16,848	173,072	2,644,917	\$3,335,486
Region 6	860,956	119,238	221,389	1,908,917	\$3,110,500
Totals	\$2,900,371	\$565,495	\$1,754,709	\$11,662,809	\$16,883,384

**RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations
for the Fall 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering**

Region	Restoration			Technical Assistance			Monitoring			Stakeholder Engagement		
	RRT	Staff	%	RRT	Staff	%	RRT	Staff	%	RRT	Staff	%
Region 1	11	11	100%	5	6	83%	4	6	67%	1	1	100%
Region 2	6	6	100%	6	8	75%	3	4	75%	0	0	-
Region 3	11	15	73%	6	7	86%	2	2	100%	1	2	50%
Region 4	5	6	83%	1	1	100%	1	1	100%	0	0	-
Region 5	15	15	100%	2	2	100%	2	3	67%	0	0	-
Region 6	11	11	100%	2	2	100%	3	4	75%	2	3	67%
Total	59	64	92%	22	26	85%	15	20	75%	4	6	67%

Region	Restoration	Technical Assistance	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement
Region 1	\$1,315,045	\$261,301	\$343,592	\$33,443
Region 2	\$1,104,303	\$259,710	\$568,811	\$0
Region 3	\$1,565,971	\$257,660	\$150,728	\$51,863
Region 4	\$1,501,929	\$38,624	\$217,770	\$0
Region 5	\$1,239,286	\$98,963	\$158,500	\$0
Region 6	\$1,067,444	\$118,554	\$313,566	\$86,915
Total	\$7,793,978	\$1,034,812	\$1,752,967	\$172,221

North Coast - Region 1 Fall 2017 Funding Recommendations



Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2017Fall\Cycle\Projects\Region1_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2017Fall.mxd
ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wills 03262018

Fall 2017 Applications

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

Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions

Streams

Region 1 Boundary

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Region 1 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

Region 1 - North Coast**Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order**

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-1023	Siuslaw Watershed Council	Fivemile-Bell Restoration Project Phase 4	This project funds Phase 4 of the ten-year, multi-phase, collaborative restoration project in the Tahkenitch Lake watershed south of Florence. Proposed work includes channel reconstruction, valley floor re-grading, large wood placement, and native plant revegetation on a landscape scale to improve habitat for native fish and wildlife.	256,484	Douglas
218-1021	North Coast Watershed Association	John Day Crossing Restoration Project	This project improves fish passage on a tidal reach of a tributary of the John Day River in Clatsop County. Fish passage will be restored to 22 acres of tidal wetlands used by coho, Chinook, and chum salmon.	177,167	Clatsop
218-1026	Siuslaw Watershed Council	Lower North Fork Siuslaw Helicopter Large Wood Placement	This project will improve instream habitat complexity for native fish by adding large wood to 10 miles of stream reaches in the North Fork Siuslaw watershed.	134,600	Lane
218-1015	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	Lower Jewell Creek Culvert Replacement	This project will replace the last remaining fish passage barrier on Jewell Creek, a tributary of Sand Creek in the Sand Lake estuary. The project will restore access to 2.7 miles of rearing and spawning habitat for native fish species, including coho, winter steelhead, fall Chinook, chum, and cutthroat trout.	222,890	Tillamook
218-1025	North Coast Watershed Association	Mill Creek Road Decommission	This project will decommission two stretches of active forest road crossing Mill Creek, a direct tributary of the Columbia River located east of Astoria. With the removal of road fill and culverts, fish passage will be restored to 1.6 miles of aquatic habitat.	45,946	Clatsop
218-1016	MidCoast Watershed Council	Little Lobster Stream and Riparian Restoration	This project will place large wood structures and reestablish a riparian area on the lower 2.4 miles of Little Lobster Creek in the Alsea watershed east of Waldport. Working with multiple landowners across a range of land uses, the project directly addresses known limiting factors for salmon by aiming to improve water quality and habitat complexity.	94,161	Benton
218-1027	Upper Nehalem Watershed Council	Deep and Calvin Creek - Salmon Passage Improvement Project	This project replaces two crossings in the Upper Nehalem watershed, restoring fish passage in a priority location to 15 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for native fish, including coho, Chinook, winter steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and lamprey.	172,271	Columbia
218-1018	Upper Nehalem Watershed Council	Upper Beaver Creek - Salmonid Habitat Enhancement	This project improves instream habitat complexity by placing large wood structures in Beaver Creek, a tributary in the Nehalem watershed. The wood placements will bring the stream up to habitat benchmark levels, addressing a key limiting factor for coho salmon.	26,639	Clatsop

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Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order (Continued)					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-1022	Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council	Schooner Creek Riparian Restoration	This project addresses water quality issues on four contiguous properties in the lower Schooner Creek, which is a tributary of Siletz Bay in Lincoln City. The project will restore riparian vegetation and install fencing along 1.2 miles of Schooner Creek.	58,451	Lincoln
218-1020	Columbia SWCD	Dribble Creek Culvert Removal	This project will remove a culvert on an unused forest road and restore fish passage to 1 mile of critical fish habitat for salmonids on Dribble Creek, a tributary of the Clatskanie River.	73,853	Columbia
218-1017	MidCoast Watershed Council	Ernest Creek LWD and Riparian Restoration	This project will address limiting factors for native fish by improving instream habitat complexity and riparian habitat on Ernest Creek in the Alsea watershed.	52,583	Benton
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,315,045	
Restoration Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
		None			
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				1,315,045	
Restoration Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County	
218-1019	Lower Nehalem Watershed Council	Grassy Lake Creek Tributary Culvert Replacements and Habitat Enhancement	52,776	Clatsop	
218-1024	Lincoln SWCD	Mill/Slack Creeks Riparian Enhancement Project and Tide Gate Removal	35,586	Lincoln	

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Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-1029	MidCoast Watershed Council	Beaver Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration Design	This project addresses watershed function and habitat for native fish within the Beaver Creek sub-basin, a direct ocean tributary south of Newport. Restoration designs will be produced for channel restoration, off-channel habitat development, and large wood placement on four properties.	66,120	Lincoln
218-1034	Columbia SWCD	Clatskanie River Habitat Restoration-Reach 10 Design	The project will produce restoration designs that address limiting factors for Lower Columbia River salmon on the Clatskanie River. The resulting restoration project will improve and increase mainstem, floodplain, and off-channel habitat for salmon and other aquatic species.	74,800	Columbia
218-1030	Columbia SWCD	Stewart Creek Crossing and Habitat Designs	This project will produce designs for a restoration project on Stewart Creek in the Lower Columbia River watershed, a critical location for the recovery of chum salmon. The project will restore passage to over 2 miles of key spawning and rearing habitat for native salmonids.	35,200	Columbia
218-1031	North Coast Watershed Association	Upper Big Creek Road Decommissioning	This project will produce designs for the decommissioning of a legacy logging road encroaching on the floodplain of Big Creek in the Nicolai-Wikiup watershed east of Astoria. Restoration actions will include road obliteration, removal of fish passage impediments, large wood, and planting.	10,381	Clatsop
218-1033	Columbia SWCD	Apiary Road Fish Passage Improvement	This project will produce designs for a fish passage project on the Little Clatskanie River under Apiary Road in Columbia County. The replacement of the crossing will restore access for 10 miles of high quality salmon habitat for spawning and rearing.	74,800	Columbia
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				261,301	

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Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-1032	CREST	Upper Lewis and Clark Tidal Restoration Project	This project will produce final designs and a geotechnical investigation for a tidal restoration project on the Lewis and Clark River. Tidal processes and associated salmon habitat will be restored on a 29 acre floodplain that is part of Lewis and Clark National Historic Park in Clatsop County.	71,089	Clatsop
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				332,390	
Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount	County
218-1028	Siuslaw Watershed Council	Coastal Native Seed Partnership		71,498	Lincoln
Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-1043	Sustainable Northwest	Arch Cape Community Forest	This stakeholder engagement project will support a collaborative locally driven effort to develop a community forest in the town of Arch Cape in Clatsop County. The community forest will be focused around the headwaters of the town’s drinking water source and be managed with stewardship practices that promote watershed function and health.	33,443	Clatsop
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				33,443	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount	County
		None			
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				33,443	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount	County
218-1042	Siuslaw Watershed Council	Siuslaw River Restoration Accomplishments and Stakeholder Engagement		72,153	Lane

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Stakeholder Engagement Projects Deemed <i>Ineligible</i> Prior to Review					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount Requested	County
218-1041	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Lower Columbia River Stakeholder Engagement Project		55,691	Columbia
Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-1039	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	Tillamook Bay Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH) Monitoring	This monitoring project will develop a pilot program to monitor ocean acidification and hypoxia in the Tillamook Bay estuary, a critical threat to Oregon’s coastal ecosystems. Baseline information will be collected and used to leverage existing efforts that currently monitor ecosystem processes in the estuary.	63,360	Tillamook
218-1035	Lincoln SWCD	Mid Coast Monitoring Project	This ongoing monitoring project collects data on fish populations and restoration effectiveness throughout the Mid-Coast basin. Data collected includes aquatic habitat inventories and spawning ground surveys.	124,317	Lincoln
218-1040	Lincoln SWCD	Mid-Coast Basin Water Quality Trend Monitoring Phase III	This project collects water quality monitoring data in the Siletz and Beaver Creek watersheds in Lincoln County to fill critical data gaps. Data will be collected to support ongoing planning efforts, including the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership, the Siletz Coho Business Plan, and the Mid-Coast TMDL.	25,689	Lincoln
218-1037	Lower Nehalem Watershed Council	Lower Nehalem RBA and LFA Light	This monitoring effort would conduct a watershed scale Rapid Bioassessment and Limiting Factors Analysis of the lower 201 miles in the Nehalem watershed. The project will fill an identified data gap by collecting information regarding salmonid distribution and abundance as well as associated watershed characteristics.	130,226	Tillamook
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				343,592	

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Monitoring Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount	County
218-1038	Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council	2018-2019 Salmon Drift Water Quality Monitoring	This ongoing monitoring project will begin to collect data on smaller ocean tributaries and ocean outfalls in Lincoln City. The data collected will be used to determine impairments and serve to inform recreational users of beaches and shellfish harvesters.	32,928	Lincoln
218-1036	Siuslaw Watershed Council	2018-19 Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program	This project will continue an existing monitoring effort in the Siuslaw River basin, focusing on first flush events and cold-water refugia monitoring during low flow conditions. Continuous monitoring for temperature, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity will be employed at strategic locations throughout the watershed.	13,191	Lane
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				389,711	
Monitoring Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount	County
		None			
Region 1 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				1,953,381	18%
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				10,753,978	

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1015-15944

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Jewell Creek Culvert Replacement

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$222,890

Total Cost: \$582,400

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Lower Jewell Creek culvert replacement project is located on Tillamook County owned Sandlake Road north of Pacific City. This culvert is the only remaining fish passage barrier in the Jewell Creek basin with the completion of one upstream culvert replacement project on private lands in 2017 and the other scheduled for summer 2018. Jewell Creek is a tributary of Sand Creek, which is on the northern end of the Sand Lake estuary. Jewell Creek is Sand Creek's most productive tributary and coho, fall Chinook, chum, steelhead, cutthroat, lamprey, salamanders, crayfish and sculpin are all present. Salinity and water temperatures are high in the Sand Lake Estuary. Jewell Creek is an important Sand Lake basin cool water and salinity refugia because its relatively high flows throughout the summer result in cooler water temperatures and lower salinity than other basin tributaries. The existing crossing consists of three corrugated steel pipes installed in parallel at the elevation of the stream. These culverts are partially filled with sediment, undersized and contribute to roadway overtopping. They present a velocity barrier to adults and juveniles under high flow conditions. US Forest Service, in cooperation with Tillamook County and Nestucca, Neskowin and Sand Lake Watersheds Council (NNSL) has developed a design to replace this crossing with a bridge. US Forest Service will take the lead in preparing the project's federal permits. NNSL prepares the county land-use and ODFW fish passage permits and prepares BOLI compliance forms. Tillamook County Public Works secures construction easements with affected landowners. OWEB funds will be used toward contracted construction services, project management and grant administration.

Review Team Evaluation Strengths

- The project complements other work in the Jewell Creek watershed and has good connectivity with riparian restoration and fencing projects.
- The Sand Lake watershed is a priority location in which to work to support Oregon Coast coho salmon, and Jewell Creek is important for cold water and salinity refugia. The creek contains excellent spawning habitat for coho, steelhead, and even chum.
- This project addresses the last fish passage barrier on Jewell Creek, with other barriers recently addressed or slated for replacement soon.
- The project is well-leveraged and cost-effective with a high functioning partnership behind the design and implementation. There is a high degree of confidence in the team to implement a successful project.

- The design team addressed concerns of the review team expressed during the site visit, and revised the designs accordingly prior to the review team meeting.

Concerns

- The application did not contain updated designs, and the designs as shown in the application initially raised some concerns with regards to Aquatic Organism Passage. Review team members who attended the site visit were provided with updated designs, which were then updated again between the site visit and the review team meeting. The changes were not translated by the engineer into the drawings and therefore up-to-date plans were not available for review at the time of the meeting.
- Deposition is an issue at this crossing, and there was concern that the proposed regrade of the stream bed to 1% could accelerate the rate that deposition was occurring.

Concluding Analysis

The reviewers appreciated the opportunity to address the last fish passage barrier on the Jewell Creek system, especially within the context of the many other successful nearby projects that had improved riparian conditions, fish passage, and water quality. The project has a strong partnership with a design and implementation team encompassing technical expertise from several different agencies and organizations. The funding for the project was well leveraged, making this a cost-effective approach to restoring full passage for aquatic species to Jewell Creek. There was some concern over the readiness of the designs, especially as they changed several times between time of application and the review team meeting. Overall though, the reviewers appreciated the communicative nature of the project team and understood that a 2019 scheduled implementation would allow ample time to ensure the designers arrive at an acceptable solution to provide passage for all aquatic organisms.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$222,890

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$222,890

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1016-15950

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Little Lobster Stream and Riparian Restoration

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$94,161

Total Cost: \$242,078

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project, involving six private and public landowners, is in the lower 2.4 miles of Little Lobster Cr, a 4th order tributary of Lobster Cr in the Alsea Watershed. The 1997 USFS Watershed Analysis and the 2006 Bio-Surveys Limiting Factor Analysis identified two co-limiting habitat factors for salmonids. These landscape scale habitat issues are elevated summer stream temperatures that put Little Lobster Cr on the OR Department of Environmental Quality 303d list for water quality and the long term lack of instream wood complexity that has led to a nearly total loss of stored bedload. The restoration prescriptions identified in those analyses and pursued here are to reestablish conifer in the riparian area for long term wood recruitment to the aquatic corridor, and to place a significant amount of large wood in the channel to trap migratory bedload and begin the process of channel aggradation. Because changes in summer temperature profiles and bedload aggradation are the key objectives, we are proposing a long term effectiveness monitoring in the form of continuous data loggers for documenting pre and post project conditions and the establishment of permanent cross-sections to quantify bedload aggradation. We will also monitor planted tree survival. Project partners include the Siuslaw Collaborative Watershed Restoration Program, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Weyerhaeuser, and three private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Little Lobster Creek is a producer of chinook, coho, and lamprey. The fish populations utilizing the creek would benefit from the increase in habitat complexity expected from the project.
- The project involves enthusiastic landowners with technical expertise, who are contributing effectiveness monitoring to the effort in addition to facilitating the restoration on their property. The landowners have also been considering a succession plan for the property, thus increasing the likelihood that restoration efforts will have a long lasting beneficial impact.
- The proposed restoration actions will have good ecological benefit and will address legacy land use impacts.
- The application successfully tied the proposed restoration into the limiting factors analysis for the Five Rivers watershed.
- Riparian buffers proposed are of good size for the site and will ensure long-term recruitment of large wood into the system.

Concerns

- The proposal would have benefitted from more details on the proposed road work, culvert, and cross drains.
- There were funds allocated in the budget towards fencing, but no details on the design or type of fencing were provided. Orchard fence, as listed, is not considered to be wildlife-friendly.
- The contribution of the effectiveness monitoring by the landowners was a nice bonus to the project, however, the reviewers would have liked to see more collaboration with local monitoring efforts in order to increase the usability of the resulting data.
- The table and the stated timeline sections of the application didn't line up properly, causing some confusion over the planned timeline for implementation.

Concluding Analysis

The landscape approach to restoration across several different ownerships in the Little Lobster Creek basin was appreciated, and the review team felt that the project would have an excellent ecological benefit to the instream and riparian habitats of the watershed. The large riparian buffers, the significant amount of wood, and the scale of the project as proposed all contributed to a favorable review by the team. There were some minor proposal clarity issues, which would have improved the application had they been addressed. Most significantly, there was little detail provided on the planned road work and effectiveness monitoring which are being included as match on the project. Overall though, the reviewers thought this to be an excellent project with a high likelihood of success and felt confident that the project would achieve the stated goals and objectives.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$94,161

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$94,161

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1017-15956

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Ernest Creek LWD and Riparian Restoration

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$52,583

Total Cost: \$77,413

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located on the Thyme Garden property on Ernest Creek, a tributary of Crooked Creek in the Alsea River watershed which 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. This project will improve stream complexity and riparian and aquatic habitat conditions by adding large woody debris and planting conifer species. 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 16 large wood structures on 0.7 miles of Ernest Creek in order to increase habitat complexity and floodplain connectivity, and plants conifers on two acres of riparian habitat to increase potential for long term large wood recruitment. Project partners are Thyme Garden, another local landowner, Georgia Pacific, Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership, and Bio-surveys LLC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has addressed comments from previous reviews in a concise and informative manner. This most recent submittal addressed limiting factors in the watershed in a more comprehensive way and provided new hydrology information for the team to consider.
- The project site has developed into a nursery for salmon rearing and spawning. The manmade pond located on the property has contributed additional rearing habitat and enhanced the numbers of fish being produced by Ernest Creek. The numbers of fish reported from the 0.7 mile project reach, 75 adults per mile, are impressive, and are the highest in the basin.
- It seems unlikely that adjacent and incised Crooked Creek will have restoration potential given the numerous site constraints associated with the highway, thus limiting restoration opportunity in the localized area to Ernest Creek.
- The project addresses issues with the previously implemented 2002 project and the reinforcements to the plug will protect the OWEB investment.
- The project was thought to be cost-effective for the work proposed.

Concerns

- There is some concern that the project is aiming to restore a hydrology that is not possible along that reach. Placing large wood structures within the project site may help locally, but are unlikely to cause a broader reconnection to the floodplain and may not address on a wider reach scale the channel incision issues currently plaguing the watershed.
- The project site is located on a confluence bar, which by nature contains a significant amount of sediment. Placing log structures is unlikely to aggrade the system significantly.
- The presence of the trail immediately adjacent to the stream serves as a site constraint that may limit the ability of the designer to place wood effectively.

Concluding Analysis

The review team continued to have similar concerns with the restorability of the project site given the complexities in hydrology, but they found this most recent submittal improved. The application contained new information on the site's hydrology, fish populations, and how the proposed work will address limiting factors in the watershed. The review team recognized that the project site, despite its anomalies, was a significant contributor of coho to the Crooked Creek system and acknowledged that conducting habitat work nearby in incised Crooked Creek would be a near impossibility due to infrastructure constraints. The continued enthusiasm of the landowner was also acknowledged by the team as a major benefit to this project. The team recommends funding the project, acknowledging that while the benefits to watershed process and function may not be as dramatic as expected, the localized project area would see a boost in habitat complexity that would be welcomed by the native fish species spawning and rearing in Ernest Creek.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$52,583

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$52,583

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1018-15965

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Beaver Creek - Salmonid
Habitat Enhancement

Applicant: Upper Nehalem WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$26,639

Total Cost: \$57,237

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Beaver Creek is an essential anadromous fish tributary that includes ESA listed Coho and is located in the mid-Nehalem River Basin. This stream has been identified by ODFW as being below habitat benchmarks for LWD material including number of "key" pieces. UNWC in partnership with Weyerhaeuser Western Timberlands, ODFW, and OWEB plan to construct 12 LWD structures comprised of large conifer trees within a 0.7 mile stream reach to help restore stream channel complexity, diversify habitat, and bring the stream habitat metrics LWD materials up to benchmark standard(s).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Humbug basin is a priority location in which to work to support recovery of Oregon coast coho. Upper Beaver Creek is notably lacking in habitat complexity.
- The project has good connectivity to previously implemented projects completed downstream.
- The system has excellent availability of gravel and should respond well to the placement of large wood. The goal of more instream habitat complexity is likely to be achieved by the proposed actions.
- The project will have a positive impact on temperature, another limiting factor in the Upper Nehalem watershed.
- There is easy access for ground-based large wood placement that will limit disturbance of the existing riparian area.
- The stream seemed relatively healthy ecologically besides the lack of in-stream habitat complexity, with ample beaver sign and a good spectrum of riparian vegetation throughout the project reach.
- The project has a high likelihood of success. The logs to be utilized in the project are of the appropriate size, the project implementers are highly experienced with completing similar projects.
- The timing of the project is appropriate with the landowner planning forest operations concurrently with the restoration effort.

Concerns

- Some of the costs in the application seemed high, in particular the hourly rate for large equipment.
- The application would have benefitted from more detail related to the expected geomorphic response of the system to large wood.
- The objectives stated in the application are not measurable or quantifiable.

- Information on the location of the sourced wood would have been helpful.

Concluding Analysis

The reviewers found this to be a relatively straightforward project that would have a beneficial impact on habitat complexity for a high priority stream in the Upper Nehalem watershed. They thought the project was a good opportunity to partner with an industrial timber landowner and appreciated their commitment to engaging in restoration along this reach. The field visit revealed that the stream had a good supply of gravel and reviewers thought the project was proposed in an optimum location in which to place wood and generate maximum ecological benefits for aquatic species. The application suffered a little bit from proposal clarity issues, with some details missing or unclear. Examples include lack of information about the expected geomorphic response and benefit to fish and an explanation of why the project is needed in this location. Having learned more about the project reach on the site visit, the project was found to be a sound investment with an experienced project team likely to implement a successful project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

\$26,639

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$26,639

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1019-15973

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Grassy Lake Creek Tributary
Culvert Replacements and Habitat Enhancement

Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$52,776

Total Cost: \$125,704

Project Abstract *(from application)*

LOCATION:Grassy Lake Creek encompasses 5.53 square miles with 39 stream miles, located in the North Fork Nehalem watershed north of Nehalem off North Fork Road. The crossings being addressed in this proposal are on an unnamed tributary to Grassy Lake Creek. There are two undersized culverts both located on Weyerhaeuser property. During the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council's 2015 culvert inventory, these two pipes were identified as "medium" priority candidates for replacement. **PROJECT NEED**This summer (2017) Lower Nehalem Watershed Council reached out to Weyerhaeuser to determine whether any culverts that were identified as candidates for replacement in the culvert inventory lined up with any near-term harvest actions. Weyerhaeuser has a harvest scheduled for Grassy Lake Creek in 2018. Both of these culverts proposed for replacement are on Soapstone Mainline which will be used during harvest actions. **PROPOSED WORK**This project proposes to remove the existing undersized pipes and replace them with appropriately sized culverts. The project also proposes to install large wood in the stream to enhance habitat conditions. **PROJECT PARTNERS/ROLES**1. Lower Nehalem Watershed Council providing project management, photo documentation, project permitting and grant reporting2. Weyerhaeuser providing engineering survey and designs, permitting assistance, construction contracting and construction management 3. OR Department of Fish and Wildlife providing large wood layout and construction oversight

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project supports a unique life history of resident cutthroat trout and if implemented could enhance the resiliency of this population in the lower Nehalem. Brook lamprey are also present in the system above the falls.
- The project appeared straightforward and well-planned.
- The timing of the project is opportune with the landowner planning forest operations in the watershed that would be timed with the restoration work for maximum cost efficiency.
- The project presents a good opportunity to partner with a major landowner in the watershed.

Concerns

- The culverts as designed did not contain elements of Aquatic Organism Passage. All aquatic species, including resident cutthroat, have differing passage requirements that should be considered in the

design of fish passage projects.

- The stream had a 3.2% grade immediately upstream of the crossing with a 6 cfs water velocity and intense peak flows. There was some concern that the placed streambed material may not stay in the culvert unless designed and installed properly. Reviewers would have liked more information on the plan for the streambed material inside the culvert.
- One goal of the project is to connect watershed processes, but with the proposed culverts only sized at 1:1 ACW there was some debate about whether they would be large enough to pass adequate sediment and achieve that goal.
- The application would have benefitted from more information on the gradient up and down stream of the structure, more detail on the site constraints that led to the chosen design alternative, and more hydrologic analysis to justify the smaller sized structures.
- The large wood component of the project would have benefitted from more information on the expected geomorphic response from the large wood placements.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the opportunity to work in the Grassy Lake Creek watershed and was enthusiastic about the potential to support a unique life history of resident cutthroat trout. They recognized that resident cutthroat, while not anadromous, are highly adaptable and still contribute genetically to sea-run cutthroat populations. They found the project to be straightforward and well planned, and the project team to be a good partnership. Many questions surrounded the proposed designs, however, and notably lacking were Aquatic Organism Passage design elements for the target species involved. The crossings proposed were of a smaller size than is typical for north coast fish passage projects, and while the reviewers understood the rationale behind the chosen alternative they found data backing up the decision to be lacking in the application. More details on stream gradient, hydrology, and expected geomorphic response would have been helpful in evaluating the designs. It is unclear whether the crossings as proposed would have the desired effect on watershed process and function.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1020-15974

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Dribble Creek Culvert Removal

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$73,853

Total Cost: \$97,536

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed culvert removal is located on Dribble Creek, a tributary of the Clatskanie River. The project site is in Columbia County, outside of St. Helens, OR. Dribble Creek drains an area of 1.42 square miles, 909 acres, flowing 1.78 miles east to its junction with the Clatskanie River. Currently the culvert is located approximately 400 feet upstream from the confluence. It is perched and acts as a fish passage barrier at certain times throughout the year, both during high and low flow periods. The culvert is also significantly undersized and has been identified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to be a priority culvert for removal. This culvert is on an abandoned logging road and the landowners have determined that it is no longer needed. The proposed project would remove the culvert, create an inset floodplain and stream channel, gradually slope back the existing road grade to allow for the creek to move freely past the obstacle, and plant riparian vegetation in the newly widened corridor. This project will open up just over 1 mile of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed Coho Salmon as well as steelhead. This habitat is primarily spawning grounds with some rearing capacity. The project is a targeted restoration activity supporting the recovery of ESA species identified in the Lower Columbia River Partnership developed through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and would be a collaboration between the Columbia SWCD, ODFW, NRCS, and Hancock Forest Management Group.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Clatskanie is a priority basin in the Lower Columbia watershed and Dribble Creek is a priority location in which to work within the Clatskanie. The location of the culvert to be removed on Dribble Creek is well situated close to the stream's mouth to provide access from the mainstem and replacement will have excellent fish benefit. The project has good connectivity with other nearby projects.
- The project brought a strong partnership together which builds on the NRCS- RCPP effort and involves a key timber landowner in the basin.
- The riparian area along the project reach is healthy, the stream had nice gravels, and the project design will promote natural stream hydrology.
- Removing the culvert as proposed will open up over a mile of habitat.

Concerns

- The application would have benefitted from some more detail. Reviewers found the specifics on the designs, the budget, and the plan for the forest road to be limited.
- The cost of the project seemed very high for pulling out one culvert, especially when compared to other similar projects.
- It was unclear how the project designers arrived at the engineering estimate.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the opportunity to work in the Clatskanie watershed, recognizing that it is a priority location in which to work in the Lower Columbia. The project site itself is just upstream from Dribble Creek's confluence with the Clatskanie River, making it an ideal location to restore unimpeded fish passage to one mile of spawning and rearing habitat. The project team was experienced and represented a good partnership, and the reviewers felt the project had a high likelihood of success. More detail would have been desirable in the application, particularly a more detailed budget breakdown and clearer plans. The cost-effectiveness of the project was lower than similar projects. Overall though, the reviewers thought that the project would have good ecological benefit and had confidence in the project team to implement a successful project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

10 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$73,853

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$73,853

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1021-16004

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: John Day Crossing Restoration Project

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$177,167

Total Cost: \$704,373

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The John Day Crossing Restoration Project is a partnership between Clatsop County, the North Coast Watershed Association and CREST. The proposed project is located on a tidal reach of an unnamed John Day River tributary that passes under North John Day River Road through two 60 inch culverts. The undersized culverts restrict natural hydrologic function and are an artificial fish passage barrier. The road adjacent to the culverts is also annually flooded preventing several residents and emergency services from reaching households. The proposed project involves removing the two culverts and replacing them with a 61 foot bridge and raising the low stretch of the road above the 100-year flood elevation. Post-project, salmonids and other fish species will have unrestricted access to high quality tidal wetlands upstream of the culverts and local residents will have safe passage to and from their homes throughout the year. This project removes barriers to 22 acres of tidal wetlands for ESA listed salmonids utilizing the Lower Columbia River Estuary. Juvenile Chinook, chum, and coho will benefit from newly improved access to this tidal wetland complex. The existing conversion from pasture land back to a more natural wetland habitat reestablishes the upstream area as prime rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids. The removal of the two undersized culverts and replacement with a 61 ft single span bridge will allow for full tidal prism upstream of John Day River Road and remove the fish passage barriers that are currently in place.

Review Team Evaluation **Strengths**

- The project location comprises critical fish habitat and improvements to the crossing will improve fish access to 22 acres of estuarine wetland. Of notable importance is the benefit the project could have to Columbia River chum salmon.
- Tidal restoration is a high priority in the north coast basin and the size of the habitat involved is significant in this area.
- The project team had considered an appropriate suite of alternatives and the application was detailed in describing how the chosen alternative was selected. The detailed design criteria that went into the project was appreciated.
- The partnership surrounding the project was strong and the adjacent landowners supportive. The project was well-leveraged and cost effective.
- The project has clear linkages to the Lower Columbia River recovery plans.

Concerns

- The current crossing may not be a true barrier to all life stages, raising some questions about priority.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the strong partnership involved in the project, finding the many entities that had joined forces to address the passage barrier to be engaged, thoughtful, and well-prepared to implement a high quality project. Working in tidal wetlands is a high priority for the north coast, and given the scarcity of available estuarine habitats in this stretch of the John Day, reviewers considered 22 acres to be of sizable importance. Many accolades were given to the design criteria considered for the effort, and the application was clear, concise, and included measurable objectives. There was some question about the extent of the barrier in its current condition, but the reviewers agreed that the structure limited passage at certain velocities and that restoring impeded passage could have excellent ecological benefit to aquatic species and would support the goals of the Lower Columbia River Recovery Plan.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$177,167

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$177,167

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1022-16020

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Schooner Creek Riparian
Restoration

Applicant: Salmon Drift Cr WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$50,751

Total Cost: \$74,708

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed Schooner Creek riparian restoration project is found southeast of Lincoln City, Oregon on four contiguous properties between Schooner river miles 1.3 and 2.5. This area is within 2.3 miles of Siletz Bay. The land has been pasture for decades with declining riparian habitat quality. Pasture grass growing to the edge of the creek is the predominate floodplain vegetation. Schooner Creek aquatic habitat is 303(d) listed for summer warm water and E. coli. Schooner Creek is home to ESA listed coho salmon, winter steelhead, fall Chinook, and sea-run cutthroat trout. Summer and winter juvenile fish rearing habitats are impaired. This proposed project will restore riparian vegetation along 1.2 miles of Schooner Creek with trees and shrubs planted on 10 acres of riparian area and excluded from livestock grazing. The riparian fence on the downstream Butler property was constructed in October 2017 in partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service. Sitka spruce and shrubs will be planted on the newly protected riparian area on the Butler property. New smooth wire electric fence will replace the old degraded and non-functional stream-adjacent fence on the three upstream properties, protecting the riparian restoration plants. Streambank sloping will occur on portions of the three upstream properties before fence construction and planting. We also propose placing ten key large wood pieces on a Schooner Creek tributary and would construct two water gaps. The project partners are the four landowners, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Forest Service, and Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on a previous Technical Assistance grant to the applicant and involves a priority reach in which to work.
- The project involves several key landowners and represents an excellent agricultural partnership in the Schooner Creek watershed, involving a contiguous stretch of 1.2 stream miles within a working landscape.
- The stream is currently 303d listed for bacteria. The proposed fencing and plantings will have a positive impact on water quality.

Concerns

- With the dynamic nature of the stream in this reach, there was some concern that the proposed fence

plan did not provide enough room for the stream to move. NRCS had already implemented fencing on the Buttler property, and it was clear in places that the stream had already eroded up to the fenceline.

- The designs as proposed for bank stabilization and fencing create a risk of failure with limited buffer widths and no large wood to help stabilize the banks.
- The project's budget included limited funds for plant stewardship and project maintenance.
- The project would have benefitted from the addition of more habitat work. Large wood should be incorporated into the design to protect the eroding banks and reduce sedimentation to the stream.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the opportunity to work along this reach of Schooner Creek, which has been a priority location in which to address water quality issues for some time. They found the partnership and landowner engagement to be impressive, with contiguous properties proposed for riparian and fencing treatments for 1.2 stream miles. The project would benefit from more habitat features, since instream habitat complexity is extremely limited along this reach. There is a degree of risk of failure with trees and fenceline potentially calving off into the stream, given the dynamic nature of Schooner Creek in this reach. In conclusion, this is an important place to work given the complexities of restoration projects on working lands and the opportunity to directly benefit water quality. Additional funds (\$7000 for Contracted Services and \$700 for the additional indirect costs) are recommended to ensure adequate stewardship of the plantings.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Increased with Conditions

Review Team Priority

9 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$58,451

Review Team Conditions

Additional funds (\$7000 for Contracted Services and \$700 for the additional indirect costs) are recommended to ensure adequate stewardship of the plantings.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$58,451

Staff Conditions

Additional funds (\$7000 for Contracted Services and \$700 for the additional indirect costs) are recommended to ensure adequate stewardship of the plantings.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1023-16028

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Fivemile-Bell Restoration Project
Phase 4

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$256,484

Total Cost: \$522,084

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This application is in support of Phase 4 of the ten-year, multi-phase, collaborative Fivemile-Bell Restoration Project (Project). The Project area is located about 10 miles southeast of Florence, Oregon, and includes the sub-watershed of Fivemile Creek of the Tahkenitch Lake basin 6th-field watershed in Douglas County (See Maps 1-4). Phase 4 project actions are focused in Lower Bell Creek, with additional actions planned in Upper Bell Creek and in Middle and Lower Fivemile Creek (Figures 1-7). Tahkenitch Lake is home to the healthiest runs of wild coho salmon in Oregon. The estimated population of returning adults in the winter of 2010/2011 was over 10,000 coho. Tributary streams of Tahkenitch Lake consistently have hundreds of adult coho salmon spawning each year per mile of stream. While strong when compared with coho returns throughout the other Oregon Coast coho populations, historic runs have been estimated near 23,000 (Lawson et al, 2007). Declines in the Tahkenitch Lake salmon runs since the late 1800s correspond to land and resource use actions that reduced the available high quality habitat, including the introduction of warm-water fish species to the lake, the draining and diking of wetlands, the clearing of valley bottoms and channelization of streams to increase available agricultural land, and timber harvest practices. As a result, existing conditions in the Fivemile Creek sub-watershed, the largest tributary to Tahkenitch Lake, were found to have adversely affected coho salmon production and a landscape-scale restoration project was developed (USFS 5MB LMP, 2012). Proposed work in Phase 4 includes channel reconstruction, valley floor regrading and re-contouring, large wood placement, invasive plant control and native plant revegetation. Project partners include the Siuslaw National Forest, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the Siuslaw Institute, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds upon a successful multi-year landscape level restoration project with high ecological benefit. It represents a unique opportunity to restore the entirety of a valley basin.
- The Coastal Lakes watershed is an excellent place to work to support recovery of Oregon coast coho, and the project addresses key limiting factors for the species in the watershed. The numbers of salvaged coho juveniles from the project to date have been high, indicating excellent fish use of the project area.
- The project has been highly successful to date, with the project partnership proving to be adaptable, efficient, and cost-effective. The new staff at the Council has improved capacity.

- The previous 3 phases of the project have been accomplished on the expected timeline with minimal delays and have shown great results with regards to restoring wetland soils, hydrology, and native biodiversity.
- This 4th phase of the project will see the removal and re-grading of the stockpiled material on site, and the project team seemed to have a good plan in place for doing so.

Concerns

- The application would have benefitted from some additional detail with regards to the design, particularly with the grading details and quantities of materials.
- Removal of the stockpiled material represented a significant cost within the budget.

Concluding Analysis

The review team had many accolades for this well-known landscape-scale restoration project, understanding that the previous 3 phases had all been implemented on schedule and had achieved the desired ecological goals and objectives expected at this stage of the project. The Coastal Lakes watersheds are recognized as being an ideal place to work to restore habitat for Oregon coast coho salmon, and the project directly addressed one of the key limiting factors for the species -- summer rearing habitat. The adaptive management approach adopted by the project team over the phased implementation was well received by the reviewers. Design details were more limited when compared to similar types of projects, but the level of design is consistent with the other applications submitted for the project, all of which produced highly successful project phases. There is a high level of confidence in the project manager to implement another successful phase.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$256,484

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$256,484

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1024-16038

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mill/Slack Creeks Riparian Enhancement Project and Tide Gate Removal

Applicant: Lincoln SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$35,586

Total Cost: \$77,921

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located at the head of tide water (~river mile 1.2) on Mill and Slack Creeks in the Yaquina watershed. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has recognized a "potential concern" from elevated summer temperatures in Mill Creek. The project property is actively grazing cows and there is a lack of native vegetation within the riparian areas. There is a subsided pasture within the tidally influenced area on Mill Creek that has a tidegate blocking tidal flux to 2.6 acres of wetland. This project will remove the tidegate and dike restoring tidal influence to the 2.6 acres of wetland. Dike and tidegate removal will improve access for fish and add 2.6 acres of estuarine habitat for aquatic species. This project will also prepare, plant, protect, and maintain native trees and shrubs on 4.8 acres of riparian area. Maintenance and release of the plantings is scheduled for three years and effectiveness monitoring will take place annually to document survival rates for riparian plantings. The project partners are: the landowner, Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District, The Siuslaw Collaborative Watershed Restoration Program, and Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location is in a priority location within the Yaquina watershed and improving habitat at the site could have many benefits to anadromous fish species, including Oregon coast coho and chum salmon. With regards to chum, the project area is considered to be the most stable of the mid-coast area.
- The project contains excellent low-gradient habitat and has good potential for coho rearing.
- A portion of the project aims to restore estuarine habitat, a high priority for the north coast basin. This is an excellent opportunity to remove a tide gate and restore tidal function.

Concerns

- The fence plan for the site could still allow access for cattle to the exclosures around the plantings. The goal of the fence plan was unclear. The fence plan appears inadequate to prevent wildlife browse, particularly from elk.
- The proposed fencing for portions of the project at 4' woven wire was not wildlife-friendly and could negatively impact elk calves.
- Cattle on the property would continue to have access to the stream and the riparian portions of the project may not have a positive impact on water quality.

- The plant maintenance portion of the budget at only one visit per year did not seem sufficient to cover the expected maintenance generated from the project.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the opportunity to work at this priority location in the lower Yaquina, recognizing that the site provided ideal habitat for many native fish species. There is a good partnership with the landowner, who is committed to improving the property for the benefit of native fish and wildlife species. The plan to remove a tide gate and restore estuarine habitat to the southernmost portion of the property generated a high degree of support from the reviewers, who noted that the restoration of tidally influenced marsh habitat was a high priority for the north coast and was particularly lacking in this reach of the Yaquina. The reviewers agreed with the applicant that complex designs were unnecessary for the site and thought the proposed approach for that portion of the project was sufficient.

While the tidal restoration component of the project was met with enthusiasm, the problems with the current fencing plan rendered the project technically unsound. The applicant is encouraged to revisit the fencing plan with the landowner to see if more benefit couldn't be gained from a wildlife-friendly fencing plan that effectively excluded cattle from the plantings and improved water quality within Mill and Slack Creeks.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1025-16039

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mill Creek Road Decommission

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$45,946

Total Cost: \$66,590

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will decommission two stretches of active forest road crossing Mill Creek, a direct tributary of the Columbia River located just east of Tongue Point, approximately 4 miles east of Astoria, Oregon. This project will 1) decommission 1.9 miles of active forest road; 2) remove culverts and fill at 22 road crossings including 7 identified anadromous fish streams and 3 suspected anadromous fish streams - restoring hydrologic function, floodplain connectivity, and fish passage; 3) remove cross drain culverts and restore natural drainage with cross drain water bars; 4) sidecast pullback where it poses a threat to water quality or hydrologic function; and 5) roughen and reseed the remaining roadbed. This project will increase fish passage to high quality spawning and rearing habitat for coho salmon and steelhead that is rich with beaver activity. It will also improve hydrologic function, improve floodplain connectivity, and decrease erosion, thereby improving habitat and water quality. With the removal of these roads, 1.6 miles of stream will have restored fish access and hydrologic function, and this stand of forest will be shifted to a management plan that allows for development of a more complex structure providing better habitat for anadromous salmonids and resident beaver. OWEB funding is sought for project management and contracting to decommission one of the two road sections (V9-V10). Oregon Department of Forestry will provide the contracting of the second section of road (V7-V8) as match to this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location is a priority for the Lower Columbia watershed and will support the Lower Columbia Recovery Plan. Mill Creek is a direct tributary to the Lower Columbia River and provides key habitat for Lower Columbia fish species including steelhead, chum, and Chinook.
- The culverts slated for removal are the last remaining barriers to upstream habitat.
- The project adopts a landscape level approach and is complemented by expected management changes on behalf of the landowner to the Mill Creek watershed.
- The project has a strong partnership and the highly experienced project team insures a high likelihood of success.
- The project has good connectivity to other restoration projects nearby, including the recently restored crossing under Hwy 30 and the South Tongue Point property proposed for acquisition.
- The project is extremely cost-effective for the expected ecological benefit of restoring access to an entire watershed.

Concerns

- The amount of sediment released downstream will be significant and there was no evidence that the project design considered the watershed size, scale, and stream gradients when developing BMPs.
- The plan for dewatering and pumping is unclear.

Concluding Analysis

The review team thought that this project's landscape level approach would have a significant beneficial impact to both aquatic and upland habitats. The Mill Creek watershed is a priority location in which to work to address actions in the Lower Columbia Recovery Plan, and the project had good connectivity to other nearby conservation and restoration projects. There was some concern over the expected sediment release and the limited details describing plans for dewatering and pumping, but there was confidence that the project team would further refine the BMPs before implementation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$45,946

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$45,946

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1026-16043

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower North Fork Siuslaw
Helicopter Large Wood Placement

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$134,600

Total Cost: \$1,413,330

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Lower North Fork Siuslaw Helicopter Large Wood Placement Project (Project) plans to add large wood to stream reaches (up to 10 total miles) of the following tributaries to the North Fork Siuslaw River: Condon, Uncle, Billie, Russell, Wilhelm, and Drew Creeks. Project reaches are located in the Lower North Fork Siuslaw 6th-field HUC, in the Siuslaw watershed, on the Central Coast of Oregon (Map 1). Land use practices over the last 150 years have disrupted natural habitat-forming processes that support healthy populations of salmonids, including the delivery and retention of large wood in streams. Sufficient large wood in streams has been identified as a key component of high quality spawning and rearing habitat for Oregon Coast coho. The North Fork Siuslaw has been identified as a high priority sub-watershed for restoration by local, state and federal entities, based on high habitat intrinsic potential and existing anchor habitat characteristics. Streams proposed in this project have been prioritized for restoration actions by the USFS (NF Siuslaw LMP, 2012) and the Siuslaw Coho Partnership (Draft Siuslaw Coho SAP, 2017). Stream surveys in Project streams identified a lack of sufficient wood needed to create and maintain pools, retain and sort sediments, and generate connectivity with the floodplain, key components of high quality winter rearing habitat. Proposed work to address the lack of large wood includes tipping and cutting of 400 trees, most including rootwads, from identified source locations and transporting them by helicopter, then placing them into up to 10 miles of streams in North Fork Siuslaw tributaries. The log jams will be placed and configured to mimic log jams resulting from natural processes. Project partners include the USFS - Siuslaw National Forest and the Siuslaw Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The North Fork Siuslaw is a priority location in which to work under the draft Coho Business Plan Strategic Action Plan being produced for the Siuslaw watershed. The system is a high producer of Oregon coast coho salmon.
- Good habitat is present in the tributaries of the North Fork Siuslaw slated for wood placement, but large wood is clearly lacking.
- The addition of large wood will improve watershed function as well as improve rearing potential.
- The management of the surrounding USFS lands means that long-term recruitment of large wood is possible and likely.

- The application contained a detailed description of where the large wood sources for the project were located.

Concerns

- The considerable amount of match for the project is coming from associated road work and fish passage activities in the watershed, but limited details were provided.
- The application would have benefitted from more discussion on alternative placement strategies considered.

Concluding Analysis

The review team considered this project to be in a high priority location that directly addresses key limiting factors for Oregon coast coho salmon. The landscape scale of the project was appreciated, and excellent ecological benefit in the way of increased instream habitat complexity could be expected as a result. The approach seemed well planned and reviewers appreciated that the large wood locations had been pre-selected and that they were able to view some of those forest stands on the site visit from where the wood would be obtained. More details are needed on the road work component of the project being used as match, as well as an explanation of the chosen alternative of helicopter wood placement. Overall, this is a high priority project that is likely to have a measurable effect on aquatic habitat in the basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$134,600

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$134,600

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1027-16050

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Deep and Calvin Creek - Salmon
Passage Improvement Project

Applicant: Upper Nehalem WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$155,699

Total Cost: \$322,524

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Deep Creek is a salmonid bearing 6th field HUC sub-basin of the Mid/Upper Nehalem Watershed that confluences with the Nehalem river near the small hamlet of Birkenfeld Oregon. This stream provides off channel refuge and spawning/rearing habitat for ESA listed Coho, chinook salmon, winter steelhead, Coastal cutthroat trout, and lamprey. Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) habitat surveys conducted over the past two decades have documented fish passage and habitat deficiencies within this basin. Upper Nehalem Watershed Council (UNWC) in cooperation with Weyerhaeuser Western Timberlands and ODFW are partnering to address these deficiencies through a proposed two-phased fish passage and habitat restoration approach whereby fish passage impediments will be resolved at five locations during phase I and the fish habitat enhancement needs during phase II.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Deep and Calvin Creeks are both considered to be prime habitat for anadromous fish, including Oregon coast coho salmon.
- Replacing the two structures would improve access to nearly 15 miles of salmon habitat.
- The project benefits from a strong partnership with the landowner. The landowner is willing to consider repairs to a structure solely to benefit fish, since the structure is otherwise in good condition.
- The location of the work on the Columbia River mainline involves a level of difficulty which has made this area a challenging place to work in the past. The contributions of landowner in-kind work and technical expertise make the project possible and there is a degree of urgency to ensure compatibility with planned future harvests.
- The project is cost-effective and has found creative ways to save funds, particularly by securing a used bridge.
- The project partners were responsive in addressing review team concerns at the site visit and provided a simple revision that would meet the design needs.

Concerns

- The designs in the application did not fully consider appropriate measures to meet Aquatic Organism Passage standards. The designs did not contain habitat features and did not show a thalweg.

- The application was lacking some critical details necessary for a fish passage project. There was limited information available regarding the habitat quality and active channel widths, and no longitudinal profile appeared to have been completed at the time of submittal.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the opportunity to work in Deep and Calvin Creeks, noting that these were both prime coho streams. The enthusiasm of the landowner to engage in this kind of work was also appreciated, with an awareness that working on the Columbia River mainline was challenging due to the high volume of log truck traffic. The two projects when considered together would mean a large amount of fish habitat opened up, with almost 15 miles of mainstem and tributary habitat made available. However, there was considerable concern over the designs expressed during the project site visit, as they did not include typical Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) features and had very limited information on how passage would be ensured through the new structures. In response, the applicant proposed to subcontract a firm specializing in AOP and have them work with the existing structural engineer to redesign the project with more of a focus on fish passage. The review team, recognizing the urgency of the project as well as the high potential ecological benefit, agreed with the approach and voted to recommend additional funds for the design work, bringing the total project cost to \$172,271.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Increased with Conditions

Review Team Priority

7 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$172,271

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Increase the budget by \$16,572 and include project design in the scope of work.

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$172,271

Staff Conditions

Increase the budget by \$16,572 and include project design in the scope of work.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1028-15955

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Coastal Native Seed Partnership

Applicant: Institute for Applied Ecology

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$71,498

Total Cost: \$166,608

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Coastal ecosystems are among the most rare and impacted ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest. As a result, the endangered Oregon silverspot butterfly, salmonoids and other species that make their home in these habitats are greatly imperiled. A diverse group of partners, including land managers, restoration practitioners, tribes, conservationists and private landowners, are working together to restore coastal grasslands, estuaries, and other habitats, and to recover the listed species that depend upon them. One barrier to successful restoration in this ecoregion is a lack of diverse, genetically appropriate, native plant materials available in sufficient quantities to implement large-scale restoration projects. This project will bring partners involved in coastal restoration together with native plant materials producers to increase the availability and affordability of native seed to restore Pacific Northwest coastal habitat. The group will develop a seed strategy that will establish a dependable and sustainable supply of native seed that is genetically and ecologically appropriate in sufficient quantities needed to accomplish restoration goals on a landscape scale and to provide a stable marketplace for both growers and land managers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Coastal prairie is a unique and threatened habitat type, and lack of native seed has been identified as a key limiting factor to successful restoration.
- Native seed has proved challenging to propagate; extra support and oversight in the process might be beneficial.

Concerns

- Restoration of Oregon Silverspot Butterfly habitat has proved extremely challenging. Native seed is only one of many limitations to success.
- There is an existing, high-functioning native plant partnership that serves the north and central coasts, the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP). NORP has been growing out coastal prairie species and seems equipped to continue. The effort seems duplicative and there was no letter of support from NORP, who is mentioned in the application as coordinating with the new partnership.
- Creating an additional layer of bureaucracy around native plant propagation on the coast seems like a poor use of resources.
- The similar Willamette Valley Native Seed Partnership, also run by the applicant, has not yet proved to be self-sustaining as planned and seems on a trajectory to continually require investments in capacity.

- The application mentions the importance of developing seed for estuarine restoration, but many practitioners are finding that herbaceous propagules on site are sufficient in high salinity areas.
- The application would have benefitted from more collaboration with existing plant partnerships.
- Project cost seems high, especially the travel expenses.

Concluding Analysis

The need for native seed in order to facilitate more effective coastal prairie restoration is recognized, and the region could benefit from more coordination and collaboration. However, the review team had many questions about how this new partnership would interact with NORP, the existing, high-functioning plant partnership already serving the coast. NORP is equipped to grow out coastal prairie species in containers and has been engaged in coastal prairie restoration. It would be more efficient to build on existing resources rather than create a new program around native seed that requires another stream of capacity funding. The applicant is encouraged to work with NORP on building their capacity to handle coastal prairie seed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1029-15964

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Beaver Creek Stream and
Floodplain Restoration Design

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$66,120

Total Cost: \$83,805

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project focuses on four properties in the Beaver Creek (Ona Beach) sub-basin in Lincoln County, Oregon. This subbasin provides high quality habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed Oregon Coast coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), as well as winter steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and other resident fish. The habitat values on these four properties could be further enhanced through channel restoration and off-channel habitat development, and by reducing stranding on the adjacent floodplain areas. The tributary junctions, extensive connected marshlands, and remnant topographical channel features offer important opportunities to restore the types of secondary channels and off-channel complex habitat that has been lost due to historic land drainage and channel manipulation. This project will provide designs to restore channels, meandering, off-channel habitats and new secondary channel development, and large wood placement. The project will also address fish passage restrictions on Simpson Creek where it crosses North Beaver Creek Road. The proposed work involves three elements: 1) Site Survey and Field Work, 2) Concept Development and Preliminary Design and 3) 90% Design and Permit Assistance. The end result will be digital terrain models of properties, hydraulic models along with a technical report, recommend design concepts in the form of memos and drawings, 90% drawings, cost estimates and specifications for project implementation and estimated quantities to support grant and permit applications. The MCWC's partners in this project include three private landowners, ODFW, US Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Our technical consultants is River Design Group.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on a previously funded restoration project in the Beaver Creek watershed involving a suite of private landowners.
- Beaver Creek has been a priority watershed in which to work since 1994. Recent changes in land ownership have begun to open up restoration opportunities.
- The resulting restoration project could have significant water quality and fish benefits.
- The applicant considered the recommendations of the review team when developing the technical assistance proposal, and was supportive of one major landowner opting to pursue technical assistance to increase the degree of restoration activities to be implemented.

Concerns

- It would be preferable for the technical assistance efforts to look more holistically at the Beaver Creek watershed, rather than piece meal project-by-project.
- It may be premature for site specific designs, given that the project is expected to be a phased approach and could encompass more of the watershed in the future.

Concluding Analysis

The review team was enthusiastic about the application, recognizing it as a promised future phase from a recently funded restoration effort within the same watershed. They were pleased to see that the landowners of the Beaver Creek Community property were on board with considering a more comprehensive channel redesign approach to restoration, and were supportive of the decision to include that property in the technical assistance request. The Beaver Creek watershed is a priority location in which to work, with excellent potential for wetland restoration that could be broader than just the group of projects presented here. The only significant concern was the lack of a more holistic whole-watershed approach during the planning phase; developing projects on a site-specific design basis may result in missed opportunities to expand restoration in the future. While it could prove fruitful to look more broadly at the watershed's hydrology, there is also value in addressing the differing needs of each landowner involved to keep momentum going in the watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$66,120

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$66,120

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1030-15976

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Stewart Creek Crossing and Habitat Designs

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$69,850

Total Cost: \$113,237

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Partners seek to restore fish passage and enhance habitats on Stewart Creek, a tributary to Beaver Creek in the Lower Columbia River Watershed, Columbia County. Stewart Creek has been identified as a high priority stream for the recovery of Chum salmon and also supports coho salmon and steelhead. This project will restore passage to over 2 miles of habitat and enhance key spawning and rearing habitats. The project aims to address key limiting factors including reduced habitat access and reduced habitat quality identified in the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan. These impacts are primarily associated with past land use practices and development that affected historic spawning, rearing and refugia habitats. The crossing under Rutters Road has been identified as limiting fish access and the transport of sediment and debris. The reach immediately upstream of the crossing lacks floodplain connection and habitat complexity. Despite these limitations, this site is one of the most important Chum spawning sites in the watershed and upstream areas provide quality coho and steelhead habitat opportunities. Partners seek funding to design a new properly sized bridge that restores fish passage to all life stages and flow regimes. This request includes technical assessments to evaluate habitat enhancement treatments upstream of the crossing. Deliverables include 1) 85-100% engineering designs and permits for the crossing, 2) Identification of feasible habitat enhancement alternatives and associated 30-60% designs. Project partners include Columbia County Roads Dept., ODFW, NRCS, and private landowners. SWCD and partners have developed the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to leverage support for activities targeting the recovery of ESA and other significant species. This project aligns with the identified restoration practices addressed within the Watershed Plan Environmental Assessment for the RCPP area.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location is a tidally influenced, low gradient site that will offer prime benefit for Lower Columbia River fish species once restored.
- Stewart Creek is considered to be an important location for chum recovery in the Lower Columbia.
- The project has a strong partnership and builds on the NRCS – RCPP effort. There is a high degree of technical expertise present in the partnership and designs are being contributed by the NRCS engineers.
- The funding request will cover geotechnical survey work, a critical component of a fish passage design which is unable to be funded independently by the partnership.

- Future phases of the project will include additional habitat work to further increase the ecological benefit arrived at by the replacement of the crossing.

Concerns

- The budget line item for project management time seemed high when compared to similar types of design projects.

Concluding Analysis

The review team recognized Stewart Creek as an important place to work for chum recovery, and they appreciated that future phases of the project would look beyond just passage to making other habitat improvements. The low gradient, tidally-influenced habitat present on the site was ideal for restoration of native fish species, and the resulting restoration project could have additional benefits on other species that rely on riparian and wetland habitats in the lower Columbia. The project is well-leveraged with an excellent partnership. There was a concern about the high cost of project management involved, but the review team understood that the project team would be helping on-the-ground with the survey work and associated brush clearing. The review team recommended a reduced amount of \$32,500 after receiving a revised budget from the applicant during the site visit. The reduced request takes into account the offer from another partner to do the majority of the survey work in house, thus leaving the only contracted service to be the geotechnical work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$35,200

Review Team Conditions

The review team recommended a reduced amount of \$32,500 after receiving a revised budget from the applicant during the site visit.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced

Staff Recommended Amount

\$35,200

Staff Conditions

The review team recommended a reduced amount of \$32,500 after receiving a revised budget from the applicant during the site visit.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1031-15985

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Big Creek Road
Decommissioning

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$10,381

Total Cost: \$21,069

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Camp 7 Spur is a 1.2 mile stretch of legacy logging road adjacent to Big Creek that encroaches on the floodplain and needs to be evaluated for abandonment. The project is located on Hampton Lumber Company forest land upstream from the Big Creek Fish Hatchery and the town of Knappa, 15 miles east of Astoria. This legacy haul-route roadbed constricts Big Creek's width, confining it to a much narrower floodplain and the basin's logging history has left the channel largely devoid of complexity and structure. Big Creek upstream from the ODFW fish hatchery is a priority stream for ESA listed species in the Nicolai-Wikiup Watershed because it is the only location in the watershed inaccessible to competition from hatchery fish. This project proposes to contract with technical services providers to design a host of restoration actions to improve fish habitat and channel processes including: 1) obliterate a section of road that is in the stream floodplain including removing road fill, 2) remove existing cross drains and restore natural drainage, 3) remove tributary culverts and associated road fill, 4) roughen remaining road bed and plant with conifer, 5) evaluate two bridges for removal and re-use for placement in appropriate locations and 6) design large wood placements to improve spawning and rearing habitat, promote floodplain connectivity, and increase off-channel refugia. Project partners include the private landowner, Hampton Resources and the North Coast Watershed Association (NCWA). This project has been identified by the Nicolai-Wikiup Watershed Council as a number one priority for implementation and the NCWA is eager to move this project forward now that the landowner is on board after years of discussion.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Big Creek is one of the largest watersheds in Clatsop County and the project location is in an ODFW priority basin for chum reintroduction.
- The project has a good partnership with the landowner and appropriate natural resource agencies.
- The project builds on past projects in the Big Creek watershed.
- The technical design request is extremely cost-effective and will complement well other project planning efforts contributed by the partnership.
- The conceptual design produced through this effort will be a good tool for working cooperatively with the landowner, who is engaged and willing to implement a restoration project on the property.
- The approach to the project was technically sound and there is an established need for the expertise to provide additional information that cannot be readily assessed by the landowner and council.

Concerns

- A letter of support was not provided by ODFW, and there was a concern that the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program was not involved with the project.

Concluding Analysis

Reviewers welcomed the opportunity to work within the Big Creek watershed, recognizing it as an important place for chum recovery as well as other Lower Columbia River fish species. The cost-effective technical assistance approach capitalized on using the existing resources of the partnership. The products produced would be beneficial to the landowner and could help arrive at a good restoration design. There was concern that ODFW wasn't involved, as this particular project type seemed like a prime focus area of the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program, although it was understood that program is heavily subscribed. The review team recommended the project for funding and looked forward to seeing a resulting restoration project from the applicant. The review team also wanted the applicant to be aware that a DEQ Section 401 permit would be required for implementation, and to plan accordingly with the project budget.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$10,381

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$10,381

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1032-15995

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Lewis and Clark Tidal Restoration Project

Applicant: CREST

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$71,089

Total Cost: \$160,963

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Columbia River Estuary Taskforce (CREST) and the National Park Service are requesting technical assistance funding to complete the geotechnical investigation as part of the design phase of Upper Lewis and Clark Tidal Restoration Project. The investigation will aid the design engineers in the completion of 60%, 90% and final design stages paid for by National Park Service funding. 30% designs and hydraulic modeling have already been completed for the proposed project. Project partners are proposing to restore salmonid habitat and tidal processes on a 29 acre floodplain known as East Bank Netul Landing, which is part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Park. The site is located in Clatsop County Oregon on the Lewis and Clark River at River Mile 2.5. The site is currently hydrologically disconnected from the Lewis and Clark River and as a result, the habitat is degraded. The primary purpose of this project is to restore degraded estuary habitat critical to the recovery of threatened/endangered Columbia River and tributary salmon. The project will improve hydrologic connectivity, tidal processes and habitat quality on off-channel tidal scrub-shrub/forested marsh floodplain habitat by 1) Building a setback levee on an adjacent property surrounding the project site to protect an adjacent landowner 2) Installing a tidegate at the setback levee location in order to restore tidal influence to 1,100 feet of natural slough. 3) Strategic marshplain lowering, channel creation (3 tidal channels) and levee breaches (three channel breaches) will improve onsite hydraulics 4) A flow-through channel would be constructed to provide both instream habitat benefits and recreational opportunities for the National Park Service through a portion of the site 5) LWD placement and native planting in riparian and wetland areas and invasive species management will improve habitat quality and complexity on the property.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in a priority area and would restore 29 acres of critical estuarine habitat to the Lewis and Clark River, a habitat type that is extremely imperiled with an estimated 95% lost over the last century. There are limited opportunities in the Lewis and Clark to restore tidally influenced habitat.
- The project has the potential to improve water quality, especially dissolved oxygen, with the reconnection of slough habitat.
- The project works cooperatively with an adjacent agricultural landowner, and if designed appropriately, could be a showcase project in the north coast region and prompt similar efforts.

- The project team is experienced and has a good track record of success implementing similar projects.

Concerns

- The plans to move the levee to a location which would cross an existing channel were unclear. There is concern that the flow velocities might be exasperated by the current design, making fish passage an issue.
- The proposed location of the flow-through channel on the site seemed to be located right where the natural levee would be, which may cause sediment challenges.
- The application would have benefited from more information about the plan to construct a new levee and tide gate for the adjacent owner in order to accommodate the restoration project. A new tide gate, if required to be fish-passage friendly, could greatly escalate the timeline and cost of the project.

Concluding Analysis

The review team recognized the significance of the opportunity to restore 29 acres of estuarine habitat within this reach of the Lewis and Clark River, understanding how limited site availability is for this type of restoration. A properly designed and implemented project would have far reaching benefits to fish and water quality. Several design elements were unclear, including the location of the proposed new setback levee, associated tide gate, and flow-through channel. Further, the proposed set back levee and tide gate could propel the resulting restoration project's total cost beyond what would be a feasible cost-benefit ratio. However, these issues can be addressed during the final stages of the design, and the project team represented a strong partnership with a good track record of implementing similar types of projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$71,089

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1033-16006

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Apiary Road Fish Passage Improvement

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$74,800

Total Cost: \$170,300

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Clatskanie River drains 94.9 sq. miles of Columbia County before terminating into Wallace Slough at approximately River Mile 50 of the Columbia River. Its headwaters provides critical spawning and rearing habitat for coho and steelhead. Several culverts within its headwaters and tributaries have been identified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and habitat surveys as fish passage barriers impacting the ability of juvenile and adult salmonids to reach high quality habitat. Receipt of this TA grant will begin permit ready designs to a barrier on the Little Clatskanie River which will open 10 miles of unimpeded access to some of the highest quality salmonid habitat in this watershed. Potential design solutions for replacement of the culverts include a span bridge or bottomless culvert. The design selected will be one that meets ODFW fish passage criteria, Columbia County Road Standards, and maintains the natural stream morphology. Project partners include the Columbia SWCD, Columbia County Road Department, and the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council. Associated partners have developed the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to leverage support for activities targeting recovery of ESA and other significant species. This project aligns with the identified targeted restoration activities addressed within the Environmental Assessment RCPP area.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Clatskanie River is a high priority watershed in which to work in the Lower Columbia. This particular project location has been a high priority for numerous natural resource agencies for some time.
- Restoring passage at this crossing would complement ODFW's extensive ongoing restoration efforts upstream.
- The resulting restoration project would restore passage to 6.5 miles of high quality aquatic habitat for anadromous and resident fish species.
- The project team is a strong partnership between the applicant, the County, and ODFW, and builds on the NRCS – RCPP program. The approach laid out by the applicant is thoughtful and well-considered.

Concerns

- From the site visit, it was clear that the culvert is in imminent failure. The benefit of OWEB's involvement at this stage of the project was called into question, with it seeming increasingly likely

that the culvert would not last much longer in its current condition.

- The NRCS match was not secured and it was unclear if it would be available at the time of project implementation.

Concluding Analysis

The review team recognized that replacement of this structure had been a high priority for multiple entities for some time, and they acknowledged that the culvert's location at the bottom of the Little Clatskanie River watershed meant that it was an imperative location to have fish passage. Replacement of the existing structure would have a substantial benefit to aquatic species, with access to over 6.5 miles restored. The project had a strong partnership assembled and seemed well positioned to design and implement a successful restoration project. While the culvert is in danger of imminent failure, a stronger project on behalf of fish and wildlife could be implemented with OWEB funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,800

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$74,800

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1034-16021

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Clatskanie River Habitat
Restoration-Reach 10 Design

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$74,800

Total Cost: \$95,405

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Historically, the Clatskanie River in Columbia County, Oregon, supported robust populations of salmonids, all of which have declined due to anthropogenic influences that negatively impact riparian and aquatic habitats. Lower Columbia River evolutionary significant unit (ESU) Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Coho (*O. kisutch*) and Chum (*O. keta*), all federally listed as threatened, and non-ESA listed SW Washington distinct population segment (DPS) steelhead (*O. mykiss*) occur within the Clatskanie River. The Clatskanie River Habitat Restoration-Reach 10 project, roughly located between RM 15 and 16, aims to address key limiting factors associated with impaired habitat complexity and diversity, and access to off-channel habitats, identified by the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead (ODFW 2010) as key factors influencing the river's ability to support salmonid populations. To leverage support for restoration activities that address key limiting factors within the Lower Columbia-Clatskanie River Watershed the Columbia SWCD, in partnership with the NRCS, has developed the Lower Columbia River Partnership Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The Lower Columbia River Partnership is comprised of federal, state and local partners, such as the USFWS, ODFW, Columbia County Roads Department, and the Lower Columbia Watershed Council, that have pledged support for RCPP restoration activities. In a letter dated 11-10-15 OWEB acknowledges that over the next five years competitive grant requests for the Lower Columbia River Partnership RCPP will be submitted; see enclosed letter. If granted, OWEB technical assistance funding will be used to leverage additional RCPP funding for this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located on the Clatskanie River, a priority watershed for restoration in the Lower Columbia. The project area is of importance for spawning and rearing for both coho salmon and winter steelhead. The site also is considered to have potential benefits for chum reintroduction.
- The project location has few design constraints, presenting an opportunity for a comprehensive restoration project with a variety of project elements that addresses limiting factors in the watershed.
- The landowners are enthusiastic and engaged, and project development at this site could result in other opportunities within the watershed.
- The project partners have a good track record implementing similar types of projects in the watershed.

- The resulting restoration could have good water quality benefits to the Clatskanie.

Concerns

- The NRCS match was not secured and it was unclear if it would be available at the time of project implementation.

Concluding Analysis

Given the project team's past success at implementing similar projects in the Clatskanie, the review team was enthusiastic about the opportunity to expand upon past work and design a project in this location that could have good water quality and habitat benefits. With few site constraints and a willing landowner, a comprehensive restoration project on the site could potentially be a model for other landowners to consider. The project location had high intrinsic potential for spawning coho, and could also benefit the reintroduction of chum, another priority in the Lower Columbia.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$74,800

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$74,800

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1035-16013
Project Name: Mid Coast Monitoring Project

Project Type: Monitoring

Applicant: Lincoln SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$124,317

Total Cost: \$158,713

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District (LSWCD), in cooperation with the Mid Coast Watersheds Council (MCWC), Salmon Drift Watershed Council (SDWC), Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI), and other agencies and private landowners, is conducting an ongoing data collection and restoration effort in the Mid Coast region, from Salmon River basin in the north to the Yachats Basin in the south including Ocean Tributaries. This grant would fund three surveyors to continue Aquatic Habitat Inventories, and Spawning Ground Surveys, for one year using OWEB and ODFW protocols. The work load would come from 60% ODFW direction and 40% requests from the Mid Coast Watersheds Council, Salmon Drift Watershed Council, CTSI and other agencies. The Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District (LSWCD), in cooperation with the Mid Coast Watersheds Council (MCWC), Salmon Drift Watershed Council (SDWC), Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI), and other agencies and private landowners, is conducting an ongoing data collection and restoration effort in the Mid Coast region, from Salmon River basin in the north to the Yachats Basin in the south including Ocean Tributaries. This grant would fund three surveyors to continue Aquatic Habitat Inventories, and Spawning Ground Surveys, for one year using OWEB and ODFW protocols. The work load would come from 60% ODFW direction and 40% requests from the Mid Coast Watersheds Council, Salmon Drift Watershed Council, CTSI and other agencies.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The data the applicant proposes to collect is helpful to ODFW for fisheries management.
- The role the applicant plays in gaining access to private land is crucial in filling data gaps that would exist if a state or federal agency was the lead.
- The applicant has a good track record of producing high quality data following ODFW's protocols.
- The application included several letters of support from local, state and federal partners.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application does not describe how the grantee uses these data. It would be strengthened if they

described how the data fits into their decisions for restoration planning and how important this data is to the work they are doing.

- The OPMT openly questioned what would happen if this application was not funded given that ODFW relies on these data for management decisions (e.g., district-level decisions about fisheries).
- It was unclear how the different monitoring locations would meet the objectives that were stated in the application.

Monitoring Team Comments

- Work with ODFW to utilize the pre- and post-habitat quality data to understand the effectiveness of restoration actions and report on these findings.

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-38%, Medium-38%, Low-24%

Certainty of Success

High-12%, Medium-88%, Low-0%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The long-running monitoring project has become a staple for the region in terms of reliance on the data collected. Multiple users of the data continually attest to its quality and applicability.
- The data is used in multi-species planning efforts by ODFW to address fishing regulation issues and handle population estimates, in addition to being used by local watershed organizations to plan restoration efforts and track project success.
- The Aquatic Inventory work conducted by the project team is useful and helpful for setting threshold levels.
- The project is cost-effective based on the unit cost for salaries, wages, and benefits.
- The data collection efforts serve to ground truth modeling data.
- The project is critical for fisheries managers to arrive at confidence levels of Siletz fish populations, and has become more important in the context of the Coho Business Planning efforts underway in that basin. The project team has been working closely with the Siletz tribe on effectiveness monitoring.

Concerns

- Utilization of the data to set fish harvest levels may not be a meaningful use of OWEB funds.
- AQI data would be more useful at the population level. A more coordinated effort should be facilitated to achieve this goal.
- Investment from other funding partners for the positions involved would be welcome and has been absent from this project.
- It would be preferable for a program of this nature to be more strategic and able to be utilized throughout the entirety of the north coast.

Concluding Analysis

The review team was very familiar with this project, recognizing this iteration from the previous two decades of similar monitoring projects from this applicant. The data collection methods are sound and the data is used widely and for a variety of purposes. The project supports new partnerships with the Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians and the MidCoast partners developing a Strategic Action Plan. There is great value in continuing surveys that have been done for over 50 years, particularly given the budget shortfalls among other natural resource agencies. Concerns similar to those in previous applications remain: lack of other funders and a narrow geographic scope. Addressing these concerns would allow the program to become a resource that could be accessed by other restoration practitioners throughout the north coast basin. The review team felt that the program, despite those shortfalls, was valuable and needed to continue, especially within the context of Strategic Action Planning in the Siletz basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$124,317

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$124,317

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1036-16014
Project Name: 2018-19 Volunteer Water Quality
Monitoring Program

Project Type: Monitoring

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$13,191

Total Cost: \$30,078

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will continue and modify an existing monitoring effort in the Siuslaw River basin, a 773 square mile watershed in the central Oregon coast range that empties into the Pacific Ocean just south of the city of Florence in Lane County. An extensive portion of the Siuslaw River is 303(d) listed for temperature, dissolved oxygen, bacteria, biological criteria, and sedimentation, and the Oregon Coastal Coho Assessment has identified water quality as population-limiting across the Siuslaw Basin. Volunteers will be focused on first flush events and cold-water refugia monitoring during low flow conditions. Continuous monitoring for temperature, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity will be employed at strategic locations throughout the watershed. This project will continue and modify an existing monitoring effort in the Siuslaw River basin, a 773 square mile watershed in the central Oregon coast range that empties into the Pacific Ocean just south of the city of Florence in Lane County. An extensive portion of the Siuslaw River is 303(d) listed for temperature, dissolved oxygen, bacteria, biological criteria, and sedimentation, and the Oregon Coastal Coho Assessment has identified water quality as population-limiting across the Siuslaw Basin. Volunteers will be focused on first flush events and cold-water refugia monitoring during low flow conditions. Continuous monitoring for temperature, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity will be employed at strategic locations throughout the watershed.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant is coordinating with state agencies to incorporate this information into coastal Coho recovery plan implementation and TMDL development efforts.
- The applicant has shown their ability to collect and manage past water quality monitoring data.
- The applicant has done a good job of working with volunteers to get involved with monitoring.
- The OPMT liked that the applicant looked at the past data to plan future monitoring efforts.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application stated they want to identify cold water refugia, but it was unclear how they were going to do this.

- The application was difficult from the standpoint of understanding how past data were used to inform future monitoring approaches at the various locations.
- The application lacked sufficient detail about how they would analyze the data for trends and if that would inform restoration planning.
- It was not clear what question they were trying to answer with the first-flush sampling, why nutrients were chosen, and how they would analyze the data.

Monitoring Team Comments

- In order to compare the E. coli results to the state standard, collect 5 samples within a 90-day period.

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-13%, Medium-75%, Low-13%

Certainty of Success

High-13%, Medium-75%, Low-13%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project expands on a long-term temperature monitoring effort.
- The MidCoast TMDL development effort depends on this data and the years of data collection are now translating to the TMDL process.
- The monitoring effort has been adaptive to new technology and practices over time.
- The project will directly support the Strategic Action Plan in development for the Coho Business Plan process in the Siuslaw watershed.

Concerns

- The rationale for monitoring nutrients described in the application was difficult to follow.
- The methodology proposed for the first flush monitoring efforts has a low likelihood of success.
- It takes a broader scope of work to grasp the specifics of cold water refugia within a watershed, and it was unclear how much information could be obtained with this proposal strategy.
- There is no information in the application explaining how the data will be associated with stream miles.
- It was unclear how the bacteria monitoring was connected with the nutrient work.

Concluding Analysis

The review team was very familiar with this long running monitoring project in the Siuslaw watershed and understood that the TMDL process in the MidCoast region was dependent on this type of data collection.

The project has adapted new practices in recent years. The monitoring effort will help inform any refinements to the Strategic Action Plan currently in its final stages of development within the watershed. The project is recommended for funding due to the importance of the long-running data set and its usefulness in informing the TMDL process, outweighed the concerns about the effectiveness of the first flush and nutrient monitoring. It is recommended that the project team further refine the plan for those monitoring components.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$13,191

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1037-16026

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Lower Nehalem RBA and LFA Light

Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$130,226

Total Cost: \$167,726

Project Abstract *(from application)*

LOCATION:The Lower Nehalem watershed encompasses a drainage area of approximately 300 square miles of Oregon's North Coast. This expansive watershed provides habitat for ESA Oregon Coast coho salmon, as well as Chinook and chum salmon, steelhead trout, coastal cutthroat trout and Pacific and brook lamprey. **PROJECT NEED:**The draft Nehalem Strategic Action Plan for Coho and other watershed assessments and plans drafted by local, state, tribal and federal entities have identified the lack of basin-scale inventories of salmonid distribution, abundance and habitat distribution in the Nehalem watershed, especially in the Lower Nehalem, as overwhelming data gaps in our effort to identify high priority areas for restoration and conservation. Previous assessments do not provide the detail needed to establish restoration goals for specific sub-watersheds or reaches within those streams. **PROPOSED WORK:**This project proposes to conduct a Rapid Bioassessment and Limiting Factors Analysis Light of 201 stream miles in the Lower Nehalem Watershed. The project will collect essential data regarding salmonid distributions and abundance and associated watershed characteristics that may serve as limiting factors for salmonids. The goal is to determine seasonal habitat limitations for coho and develop a systematic approach to identify and implement restoration actions that address those limiting factors. **PROJECT PARTNERS/ROLES**1. LNWC providing project management and coordination.2. A contracted qualified consultant will perform the data collection and analysis.3. LNWC will work with a University program for GIS consultation and analysis.4. A Technical Advisory Committee will review the data, analysis and final products. **LOCATION:**The Lower Nehalem watershed encompasses a drainage area of approximately 300 square miles of Oregon's North Coast. This expansive watershed provides habitat for ESA Oregon Coast coho salmon, as well as Chinook and chum salmon, steelhead trout, coastal cutthroat trout and Pacific and brook lamprey. **PROJECT NEED:**The draft Nehalem Strategic Action Plan for Coho and other watershed assessments and plans drafted by local, state, tribal and federal entities have identified the lack of basin-scale inventories of salmonid distribution, abundance and habitat distribution in the Nehalem watershed, especially in the Lower Nehalem, as overwhelming data gaps in our effort to identify high priority areas for restoration and conservation. Previous assessments do not provide the detail needed to establish restoration goals for specific sub-watersheds or reaches within those streams. **PROPOSED WORK:**This project proposes to conduct a Rapid Bioassessment and Limiting Factors Analysis Light of 201 stream miles in the Lower Nehalem Watershed. The project will collect essential data regarding salmonid distributions and abundance and associated watershed characteristics that may serve as limiting factors for salmonids. The goal is to determine seasonal habitat limitations for coho and develop a systematic approach to identify and implement restoration actions that address those

limiting factors. PROJECT PARTNERS/ROLES 1. LNWC providing project management and coordination. 2. A contracted qualified consultant will perform the data collection and analysis. 3. LNWC will work with a University program for GIS consultation and analysis. 4. A Technical Advisory Committee will review the data, analysis and final products.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This proposal builds on past efforts to use RBA results to characterize fish distribution for the remainder of the watershed that has not been assessed previously.
- This information will contribute to the local coastal Coho recovery planning efforts.
- They are working with local partners and pursuing other sources of funding to plan the monitoring effort.
- The OPMT liked that there will be a technical advisory group convened that can help interpret the results and use them to plan future restoration efforts.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- This monitoring is proposed to occur a year after poor adult Coho returns and may not provide an accurate picture of fish distribution in this watershed.
- The timeline seemed ambitious to secure the contractor, gain access and collect, analyze and report all of the data in one calendar year.
- The applicant does not have a confirmed commitment from a single university to provide the GIS assistance.
- The objectives and questions stated in the application do not completely align.
- Caution should be taken to avoid equating absence of fish to a specific habitat or ecosystem driver.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-29%, Medium-71%, Low-0%

Certainty of Success

High-0%, Medium-100%, Low-0%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The data collected with the project will provide additional information to help support project prioritization with the Nehalem Strategic Action Plan under the Coho Business Plan. It will also be used to assist with the validation of the NetMap modeling effort completed by the SAP process.

- Major landowners within the Nehalem are engaged with the project and are allowing access for the survey work.
- The applicant plans to put the project out to bid, which could help bring down the estimated cost of the work.
- In the locations in the Upper Nehalem where previous RBA data was collected, it was very useful in helping to calibrate NetMap and assist with the project prioritization process.

Concerns

- Only one year of data for juvenile coho may not be useful, especially only one year after poor returns due to ocean conditions.
- The project provides only a snapshot in the watershed for one year.
- The budget contained many lump sums and it was difficult to determine the project's cost effectiveness.
- The price per mile for the work was still very high at \$590/mile. Previous applications involving RBA data in recent years listed prices of \$310/mile.
- The application would have benefitted from more detail with regards to timing and the plan for data collection.
- The unknown partnership with an unidentified university seemed vague and raised concerns about the viability of the plan to get the necessary GIS work done.

Concluding Analysis

The review team understood that the Nehalem SAP process had identified lack of RBA data as a key data gap for prioritizing watersheds and projects, and felt that such a data collection effort would be helpful in arriving at a finalized plan and project list. They had concerns about the data being only a snapshot in time -- but recognized that in bad years the fish go to the best habitat, so the limited time of the monitoring effort may not be too much of an issue. There were continued concerns over the high cost of the project, but going out to bid for the work may bring the cost down. Despite several concerns about the project, it will address a key data gap identified by the Coho Business Planning team and is recommended for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$130,226

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
\$130,226

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1038-16029

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: 2018-2019 Salmon Drift Water
Quality Monitoring

Applicant: Salmon Drift Cr WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$32,928

Total Cost: \$74,948

Project Abstract *(from application)*

SDCWC proposes doing a water quality screening process of smaller ocean tributaries and outfalls in our boundary. Project will focus on urbanized watersheds in Lincoln City. Project addresses the need to better understand current status of smaller, less studied ocean tributaries and outfalls within the urbanized coastal landscape. Major streams previously not studied include Baldy Creek, Agnes Creek, and Logan Creek plus outfalls at numerous sites along the 7 mile beaches of Lincoln City. Water quality data to be collected will include physical parameters of dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, temperature and turbidity along with biological parameters of bacteria as indicators of fecal contamination. Sampling will be primarily in the freshwater, however, marine samples will be taken from the nearshore for a comparative bacteria study. Data will be used to determine impairments and be of value to recreational users of area beaches as well as harvesters of shellfish (clams and mussels). Project partners include Oregon DEQ, Neighbors for Kids, Surfrider Foundation, and the City of Lincoln City. SDCWC proposes doing a water quality screening process of smaller ocean tributaries and outfalls in our boundary. Project will focus on urbanized watersheds in Lincoln City. Project addresses the need to better understand current status of smaller, less studied ocean tributaries and outfalls within the urbanized coastal landscape. Major streams previously not studied include Baldy Creek, Agnes Creek, and Logan Creek plus outfalls at numerous sites along the 7 mile beaches of Lincoln City. Water quality data to be collected will include physical parameters of dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, temperature and turbidity along with biological parameters of bacteria as indicators of fecal contamination. Sampling will be primarily in the freshwater, however, marine samples will be taken from the nearshore for a comparative bacteria study. Data will be used to determine impairments and be of value to recreational users of area beaches as well as harvesters of shellfish (clams and mussels). Project partners include Oregon DEQ, Neighbors for Kids, Surfrider Foundation, and the City of Lincoln City.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant has a strong demonstration of success collecting similar data sets.
- The OPMT liked that the applications states that a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) will be developed as part of this project.
- The applicant has good support from the local partners and this information is likely to have an education and outreach value to them.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application did not make the case that these small tributaries are important to study.
- It was not clear if high bacteria levels are an issue along the beaches near the mouths of these streams.
- The application did not explain if these streams are valuable to salmonids and if there is a need for this type of monitoring.
- The continuous DO measurements proposed during the winter seem unnecessary.
- The four flow measurements in each stream will have limited value. It would be better to collect a flow measurement during each grab event or gage one stream continuously to understand variability in these small and flashy streams.
- It was unclear if the local municipality is a partner on this project.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-12%, Medium-38%, Low-50%

Certainty of Success

High-38%, Medium-38%, Low-24%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is a long-running monitoring effort in Lincoln County run by a project team with a high capacity and high expertise for effective monitoring work.
- The ocean outfall monitoring component of the project is an interesting project element. Ocean outfalls are often unaddressed, despite the fact that they are plagued with water quality issues.
- The utilization of the Swim Guide is a good public outreach benefit of the project.

Concerns

- It was unclear how ocean outfall monitoring fits in with other watershed monitoring priorities. The application did not make a strong case for the need for this type of monitoring and there was not a clear plan with what the applicant would do with the information.
- The application would have benefitted from evidence of a stronger partnership with local municipalities -- such as letters of support or provided match.
- Outfall monitoring could help inform beach monitoring, but has limited usefulness when not analyzed by a certified lab.

- It was unclear why 12 months of continuous DO and temperature monitoring was proposed, and how the data would be used.

Concluding Analysis

The review team found the application to be very well written and the project team involved to be highly experienced in monitoring work. Ocean outfall data could prove useful, but the application was unclear about the need and priority for this monitoring focus, and about how the data would be used. Due to the potential to expand knowledge about an overlooked ocean water quality issue, the application is recommended for funding. Future applications, if submitted, should address the need for this monitoring and the connection between monitoring and restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$32,928

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1039-16049

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Tillamook Bay Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH) Monitoring

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: \$63,360

Total Cost: \$84,672

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Ocean acidification and hypoxia (OAH) represent growing threats to coastal ecosystems. OAH is particularly severe in Oregon, as our coastal ocean is subject to some of the lowest DO and pH waters on the west coast if not nationally. Addressing the problem of OAH is important to the economy and the livelihoods of many coastal communities. The suite of organisms that will be impacted by OAH continues to grow beyond oysters and Dungeness crabs, to include iconic species such as salmon, and rockfishes. To better understand OAH, Oregon has created the Oregon Ocean Acidification & Hypoxia Monitoring Group (OOMG) that includes water quality, ecology, and environmental monitoring professionals and natural resource managers. OOMG has developed a multi-stage strategy to address OAH through: 1) enhanced and coordinated monitoring; 2) research on impacts, local mitigation and adaptation options; 3) outreach and engagement across industry, management, political leaders, and researchers. Our proposal contributes to enhancing and coordinating monitoring of OAH and focuses on Tillamook Bay. Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP), with the assistance of OOMG members, propose to establish baseline information on carbonate chemistry and spatiotemporal patterns of OAH in Tillamook Bay that will leverage existing efforts by TEP and the EPA that currently monitor ecosystem processes in the estuary. We seek funding to purchase high quality pH sensors and to conduct a targeted campaign to collect water samples for the purpose of describing the estuarine carbonate system and the role of freshwater in altering OA properties.

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that currently monitor ecosystem processes in the estuary. We seek funding to purchase high quality pH sensors and to conduct a targeted campaign to collect water samples for the purpose of describing the estuarine carbonate system and the role of freshwater in altering OA properties.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This proposal seeks to collect data on an important subject and they can leverage data already being collected off-shore.
- The OPMT liked that a final report will be produced and put on TEP's website.
- The proposed monitoring project has good involvement with OSU and state agencies that are actively working on this issue.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacked detail on how the various data will be managed and analyzed to look for relationships between sites and at various tides, and why nutrients were chosen to be sampled.
- The budget seems low for the amount of work that is proposed over the period of time.
- It was not clear how this information could contribute to better restoration planning and monitoring efforts in the Tillamook basin.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-43%, Medium-43%, Low-14%

Certainty of Success

High-29%, Medium-71%, Low-0%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Ocean acidification is a growing threat to estuaries and there is a critical data gap in Oregon. Addressing this issue is a high priority for both the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership and the EPA.
- The project assembles a broad group of technical experts and provides a path to move forward on an effort to begin gathering data. The partnership is organized, cohesive, and produced a high quality application.
- The study design represents an innovative approach and could be a pilot for Oregon and provide important information for how to approach monitoring for OAH on an estuary-scale.
- The monitoring work would correlate with an EPA-funded 2 year monitoring effort currently underway in the Tillamook estuary that examines isotopic DNA.

- The information collected from this project could be used to refine a localized response to acidification in estuaries as well as potentially support native oyster restoration.

Concerns

- The application would have benefitted from more information on the next steps for the project, a summary of how the data will be used, and presenting the hypothesis closer to the beginning of the narrative.

Concluding Analysis

The review team was excited about this project to begin monitoring OAH in the Tillamook estuary, recognizing the importance of the issue from the perspective of both ecological restoration and the local economy which depends on healthy estuaries for recreational and commercial shellfish production. While it is possible to tailor restoration projects on a localized level to address the growing problem, there is a large data gap within Oregon's estuaries that limits our ability to target the problem. This proposal, with a well-organized team of technical experts, would be a good start to getting a grasp on the issue by beginning a pilot study in Tillamook Bay. The main concern is that the project was small in geographic scope; however, the applicant developed a cost-effective proposal that is replicable in other estuaries.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$63,360

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$63,360

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1040-16075

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Mid-Coast Basin Water Quality
Trend Monitoring Phase III

Applicant: Lincoln SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: \$25,689

Total Cost: \$44,883

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Siletz River and Beaver Creek watersheds have been targeted for this third phase of monitoring (Figure 1. Phase III Monitoring Sites). Each watershed has a separate monitoring focus and timeline and will therefore be presented separately. Siletz: The six established Siletz monitoring sites along with one new downstream site and four new tributary sites will be visited once a month for one year (Figure 2. Siletz Monitoring Sites). Data will be collected for temperature, conductivity, pH, pressure, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and stage as before. Nitrate will be added to the in situ suite of parameters and Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus will be analyzed by a certified laboratory. Photo points will be established at each site to document changes in aquatic plant growth throughout the year. Nutrients have been chosen to fill a water quality data gap and to provide baseline data to partner organizations and local residents concerned with eutrophication. In addition to the monthly visits, specified parameters will be measured in conjunction with the Turbidity Threshold Sampling (TTS) at one monitoring site for two significant precipitation events at intervals along the hydrograph. Beaver Creek: There are four established monitoring sites in the Beaver Creek watershed (Figure 3. Beaver Creek Monitoring Sites). ODEQ is in the process of selecting up to five additional sites for the continuous dissolved oxygen (CDO) monitoring to guide the development of a TMDL for Beaver Creek. Monitoring will be conducted July - November 2018 in order to characterize conditions during the rearing and migration and spawning seasons. A total of six site visits are expected, three visits for each set of conditions, which include: equipment deployment, auditing, and retrieval visits. During each visit specified parameters will be recorded and photo points established. Partners: ODEQ, City of Toledo, City of Newport, Seal Rock Water District, DOA, OPRD, CTSI, ODFW, MCWC, SWC The Siletz River and Beaver Creek watersheds have been targeted for this third phase of monitoring (Figure 1. Phase III Monitoring Sites). Each watershed has a separate monitoring focus and timeline and will therefore be presented separately. Siletz: The six established Siletz monitoring sites along with one new downstream site and four new tributary sites will be visited once a month for one year (Figure 2. Siletz Monitoring Sites). Data will be collected for temperature, conductivity, pH, pressure, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and stage as before. Nitrate will be added to the in situ suite of parameters and Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus will be analyzed by a certified laboratory. Photo points will be established at each site to document changes in aquatic plant growth throughout the year. Nutrients have been chosen to fill a water quality data gap and to provide baseline data to partner organizations and local residents concerned with eutrophication. In addition to the monthly visits, specified parameters will be measured in conjunction with the Turbidity Threshold

Sampling (TTS) at one monitoring site for two significant precipitation events at intervals along the hydrograph. Beaver Creek: There are four established monitoring sites in the Beaver Creek watershed (Figure 3. Beaver Creek Monitoring Sites). ODEQ is in the process of selecting up to five additional sites for the continuous dissolved oxygen (CDO) monitoring to guide the development of a TMDL for Beaver Creek. Monitoring will be conducted July - November 2018 in order to characterize conditions during the rearing and migration and spawning seasons. A total of six site visits are expected, three visits for each set of conditions, which include: equipment deployment, auditing, and retrieval visits. During each visit specified parameters will be recorded and photo points established. Partners: ODEQ, City of Toledo, City of Newport, Seal Rock Water District, DOA, OPRD, CTSI, ODFW, MCWC, SWC

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant has experience collecting similar data sets.
- This applicant proposes to collect data that will build on past monitoring efforts.
- The applicant works closely with DEQ and the data will contribute to the TMDL development effort.
- The OPMT liked that the application proposes to complete a SAP as part of this project.
- There were numerous letters of support describing the value of the monitoring effort.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- No time is built into the project timeline to develop QA/QC documentation.
- It is uncertain if the frequency of maintenance for dissolved oxygen probes is sufficient.
- It is unclear what data management system they are going to use prior to submitting data to DEQ for analyses.
- It is unclear who would complete the analyses to meet the objectives stated in the application.
- The application did not include time and expenses to develop a final report to summarize results and interpret findings.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-63%, Medium-25%, Low-12%

Certainty of Success

High-13%, Medium-75%, Low-12%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project builds on past monitoring efforts and would produce important information that will inform several planning efforts on the MidCoast, including the Siletz basin Coho Business Plan and the MidCoast TMDL process.
- The monitoring effort also correlates with the ongoing Place Based Planning initiative underway with the City of Newport and the Oregon Water Resources Department. The project seems timely and capitalizes on the current interest in water quality from the local municipalities involved.
- The study design considers numerous pertinent regional questions and seems well considered.
- Water quality in this part of the region has been identified as a secondary limiting factor in the Coho Recovery Plan.
- The proposed nutrient data collection could provide valuable information in refining an approach to restoration in target areas.

Concerns

- The frequency of bacteria sampling proposed may not be adequate given the recent change in bacteria standards.
- The plan to conduct some grab samples as well as continuous monitoring may not be necessary or especially useful, given that the parameters fluctuate daily.

Concluding Analysis

The review team was pleased to see that there was momentum in the mid-coast basin to build upon the water quality monitoring effort in the region, acknowledging that there were numerous local planning efforts that relied on the collection of updated water quality data and that there was considerable interest in the project at the local municipal level. The application is straightforward and well-written, and the applicant has a high likelihood of implementing a successful project. The applicant should consider increasing the frequency of bacteria sampling to meet current standards, since that will increase the usability of the data on a broader scale.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$25,689

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$25,689

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1041-15972

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Lower Columbia River Stakeholder
Engagement Project

Applicant: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Basin: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$36,777

Total Cost: \$55,691

This application was deemed ineligible prior to review.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1042-16017

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Siuslaw River Restoration
Accomplishments and Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$72,153

Total Cost: \$97,653

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Founded in 1997, the Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) has demonstrated a rich history of successful, collaborative efforts to restore our watershed. As we continue to build new partnerships and complete new projects, we seek to use dynamic tools that can share our compelling history of restoration and support wider engagement of a variety of stakeholders across the watershed. Through this project, SWC and its partners will create a Story Map and supporting communications tools that: (1) illustrate past examples of restoration projects; (2) explain how restoration efforts benefit the health of ecosystems, local communities, and local economies; and (3) create opportunities for SWC to work with local landowners and other stakeholders on future restoration. Story Maps combine maps with narrative text, images, and other digital content to help paint a more detailed picture than may be presented in static maps or reports (visit <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/en/>). This project will harness the knowledge, skills, and expertise of our partners at Ecotrust, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District. Together, we will create interactive tools to both elevate awareness about and engage our stakeholders in restoration projects identified in the Siuslaw River Coho Recovery Strategic Action Plan (Siuslaw SAP) 15 priority 6-field HUC watersheds within the Siuslaw River and Coastal Lakes watersheds. This project is needed so that SWC and its partners can more effectively communicate with others about the Siuslaw SAP's priority restoration projects. If we are to advance our work and complete future restoration projects, we must better communicate exactly why these projects are necessary, including sharing information about the positive economic, ecological, and social potential that these projects bring.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The StoryMap format proposed in the application can be a great communicative tool. It is user-friendly and intuitive.
- There is a need for more stakeholder engagement in the Siuslaw watershed to complement the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan developed as part of the Coho Business Planning process.

Concerns

- The application references the need for additional monitoring and visiting project sites to take photos. With many post-project photos already in existence as part of regular monitoring reporting requirements, this seems duplicative and inefficient.
- No details are provided on what sort of monitoring will be conducted and a strong case is not made for the need for additional monitoring to achieve the goals and objectives of the project. The monitoring has a fairly high cost (24k) with no details provided. Monitoring activities should be proposed in a monitoring application.
- The applicant proposes to conduct juvenile snorkel surveys, for which the applicant's qualifications to do so are in question and the goal the surveys would have in the stakeholder engagement is unclear.
- The application did not provide a clear link to how stakeholders in the watershed would be involved via the proposed effort.
- The price for the StoryMap seemed very high based on experience with similar projects.
- Much of the GIS data already exists and there is no need to acquire additional data. Partners in the watershed who could provide the data were not contacted.

Concluding Analysis

The review team recognized the need for more stakeholder engagement in the Siuslaw watershed, especially given the timeliness of the completion of the Strategic Action Plan for coho. The StoryMap tool is intuitive and user-friendly; however, the reviewers found no clear pathway within the application for how the StoryMap tool would be presented to landowners, and had difficulty envisioning the link by which landowners would become engaged with the tool and implement restoration projects. Given the high costs of StoryMap, it is likely that a more cost-effective and targeted form of engagement could be produced within the watershed. The plan to conduct additional monitoring was not well-described within the application. With a good deal of existing monitoring data and post-project photos already available, it is unclear how additional monitoring would engage the landowners in the watershed. They wanted to encourage the applicant to rethink this stakeholder engagement strategy, leverage partners and use existing data, and perhaps start with a smaller version of the project to discern whether a StoryMap is an effective tool to reach landowners in the Siuslaw.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1043-16057

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Arch Cape Community Forest

Applicant: Sustainable Northwest

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: \$33,443

Total Cost: \$56,547

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The coastal community of Arch Cape (Clatsop County, HUC 17100202) faces ongoing challenges from logging activities in their drinking watershed. The community now proposes a stakeholder engagement project that will enable acquisition of 2,121 acres of coastal headlands. The outcome will be a Community Forest owned by the Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District and managed for clean and safe drinking water, increased local engagement with sustainable forestry, and the permanent protection of rare and wild species habitats. Community Forests are a public/private model of resource governance with a long history of practice in New England, Germany, and Nepal that rest on the central principles of local decision-making and permanent protection of conservation values. Management of the headwater timberlands to at least Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) practices will increase riparian buffers, diversify stand age structure, and limit pesticide applications compared to Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA) standards. This application represents a collaborative effort between the municipality's utility district (Arch Cape), the local Watershed Council (Ecola Creek), and a regional conservation organization (Sustainable Northwest). In addition, the Arch Cape Community Forest fits within the North Coast Land Conservancy's "Coastal Edge Campaign" as a vital piece of the puzzle, with coordination between groups occurring monthly. Our priority is to collect input from stakeholders and otherwise engage the broader community during the watershed acquisition and management planning process. This grant will fund a coast-based Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator reporting to the Arch Cape Water District and with grant administration provided by Sustainable Northwest.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project addresses a problem common on the north coast -- the vulnerability of small coastal watersheds that are flashy, surface water-driven systems that also provide drinking water for small communities.
- The applicant has created a sound approach to community engagement around protection of the city's watershed.
- The right partners are on board, and the group has been working with DEQ to monitor turbidity.
- The resulting conservation project could have excellent water quality benefits.
- The resulting restoration project could prevent future turbidity events

Concerns

- The turbidity issue addressed by the project is complex and it is unclear whether the conservation project would arrive at a solution.
- The application would have benefited from more details on the expected outcomes of the work.
- The objectives listed in the application were not measurable and could have been improved upon.
- The target audience was not well defined in the application- which landowners would be targeted? Is there a subset of the community already engaged with the project?

Concluding Analysis

The review team thought this project was a good first step toward addressing the issues surrounding the Arch Cape watershed and drinking water supply. The potential acquisition project could have excellent ecological benefit to native species and habitats and help protect the public drinking water source. These types of watersheds are common on the north coast, and are prone to water quality issues. The neighboring community of Cannon Beach has also taken steps to conserve their watershed, and this effort will continue that momentum on the coast.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$33,443

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

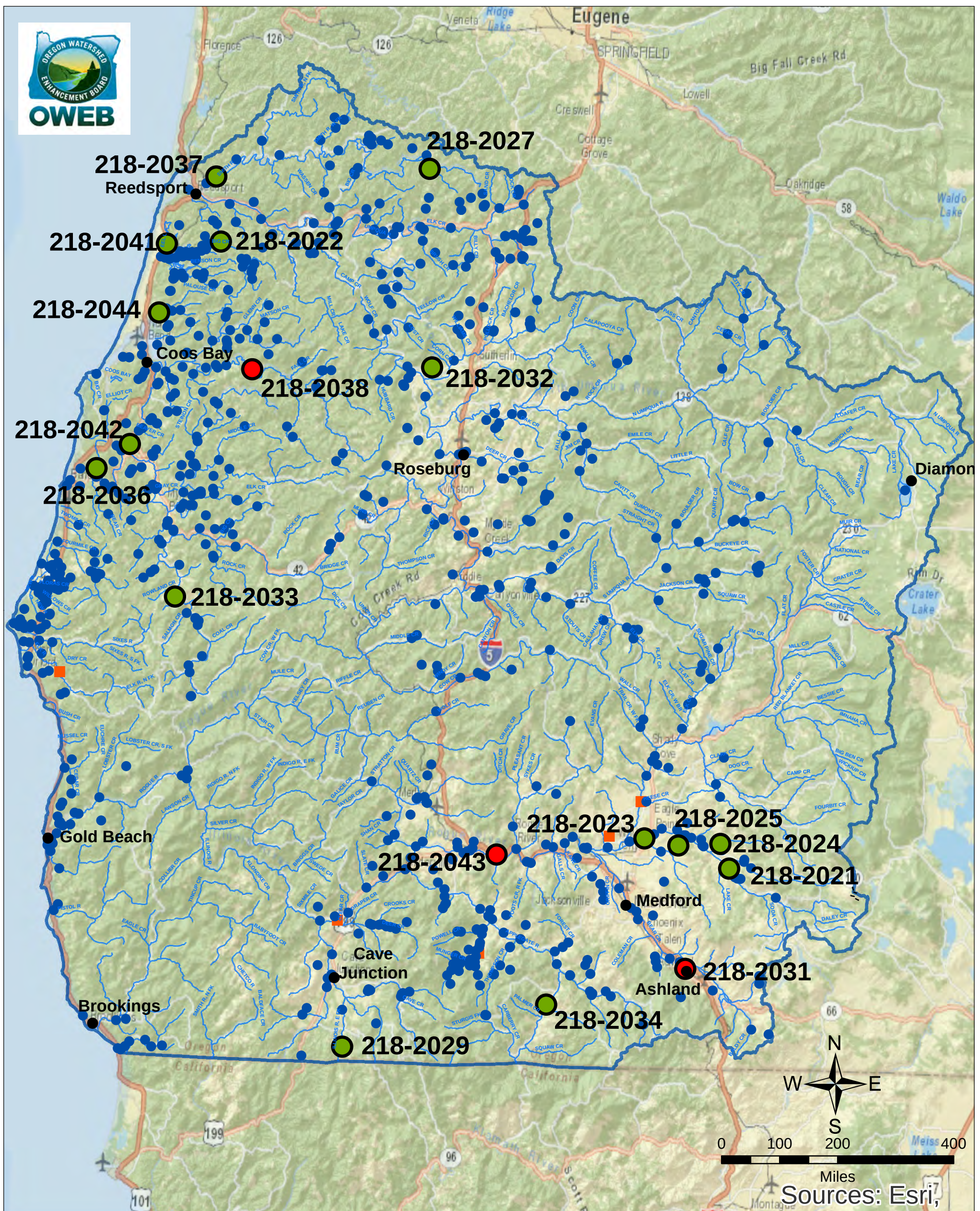
Staff Recommended Amount

\$33,443

Staff Conditions

None

Southwest - Region 2 Fall 2017 Funding Recommendations



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Software: ESRI ArcMap 10.2, Oregon Lambert Projection, NAD 83, WKID 2992, OWEB- PK Wills Fall 20180326

Fall 2017 Applications

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

Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 2017

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

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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Region 2 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon**Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order**

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-2024	Rogue River Watershed Council	Salt Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project	The project will remove two of Salt Creek's seven high priority push up dams by installing an upgraded system which does not require the use of push dam to divert water. Project will help restore access for coho and other native fishes to roughly 7.5 miles of cold water habitat. Salt Creek is a tributary to Little Butte Creek located approximately one half mile above Lake Creek.	58,981	Jackson
218-2021	The Freshwater Trust	South Fork Little Butte Creek Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project	Project work will include riparian restoration and improve side-channel habitat conditions through large wood placement on a reach of South Fork Little Butte Creek approximately 1 mile above Lake Creek. Project work will improve water quality and instream habitat conditions for coho and other native fish species.	232,518	Jackson
218-2027	Smith River Watershed Council	South Fork Smith River and Halfway Creek Instream Restoration	This project seeks to improve instream habitat conditions by placing large wood and boulder complexes in South Fork Smith River and Halfway Creek across 8.5 miles of stream. The project area is located in the upper Smith River, 10 miles to the north of Elkton, Oregon, and project activities will benefit coho and other native fish species.	478,560	Douglas
218-2025	Rogue River Valley Irrigation	Bradshaw Drop Mainline Piping Project	Project work would support Phase 2 of Bradshaw drop piping project located about 7 miles North of Eagle Point. The project would see the remaining upper 2 miles of open ditched piped. The piping of the upper section would provide the drop in order to pressurize the system which would allow landowners to convert from flood to pressurized irrigation, which provides substantial water quality benefits. Piping would also reduce water loss due to evaporation and leaky ditches.	150,000	Jackson
218-2022	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Plum Gultch Habitat Improvement	The project proposes to restore a 1 mile section of Plum Gulch, a tributary to Big Creek located in the Tenmile Lakes watershed near Lakeside. The project will remove invasive blackberries and replant the area with native tree species as well as place large wood structures instream along 1 mile of creek to improve water quality and instream habitat conditions for coho and other native fish species.	24,054	Douglas
218-2023	Rogue River Watershed Council	Little Butte Creek Floodplain Connectivity Project at RM 2.2	This project is a result of an OWEB TA project (217-2023) and will implement riparian restoration and channel stability activities through instream structure placement and side channel reconnection on Little Butte Creek 1 mile below the City Of Eagle Point. Project work will help to improve instream habitat conditions and improve water quality for coho and other native fish species.	160,190	Jackson
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,104,303	

Region 2 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

Restoration Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None			None		
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				1,104,303	
Restoration Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount Requested	County
218-2026	South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership	Stouts Creek Whole Watershed Restoration Phase I		86,716	Douglas
218-2028	Coos Watershed Association	Daniels Creek Riparian Restoration Project		97,155	Coos

Region 2 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-2037	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Glover Tidegate Replacement and Channel Re-meander TA	This project will provide the support for development of project details and engineering necessary for final project design to replace tidegates and implement restoration actions on a ranch property located in the Umpqua River Estuary, near the communities of Gardiner and Reedsport. The restoration plan for the property includes plans for fish passage, water management to provide fish habitat, livestock management and fencing of the channels, native vegetation planting and restoration monitoring.	55,743	Douglas
218-2033	Coquille Watershed Association	Baker Creek Culvert Removal Technical Assistance	This Technical Assistance project will complete the ongoing engineering phase of the project and result in final designs, construction costs, and permitting to support the removal of a fish blocking culvert located on Baker Creek, a tributary to the South Fork Coquille River located near Powers. The barrier is located 626' upstream from the confluence restricting access by coho and native fish species to 2.0 miles of habitat.	40,683	Coos
218-2034	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	McKee Dam Irrigation and Fish Passage Improvement Study	This project will develop alternatives and preliminary designs for improving fish passage, irrigation efficiency, and fish screening at McKee Dam (Newberry Dam), an active diversion structure and fish passage barrier at river mile 40.4 on the Applegate River. McKee Dam impedes adult passage and completely blocks juvenile access. In addition to impacting several native fish species, the dam suppresses access by coho to 20.2 miles of habitat.	47,272	Jackson
218-2032	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Burke Creek Technical Assistance	The project proposes to develop project designs to support riparian restoration and instream habitat structure placements on Burke Creek, located west of Sutherlin. Burke Creek is home to coho salmon and other native fish species and enters Calapooya Creek near its confluence with the mainstem Umpqua River.	21,480	Douglas
218-2029	Illinois Valley Watershed Council	Page Creek Analysis and Design	Project seeks to accomplish a complete channel, habitat, and riparian forest restoration design package for use in restoration project development and implementation that directly address key limiting stresses for a one mile reach of lower Page Creek located near O'Brien.	36,199	Josephine
218-2036	Coos SWCD	North Bank Working Landscapes and Habitat Restoration Project	This project will provide the support for development of project technical support activities necessary for final project design to replace tidegates and implement restoration actions on a 43 acre ranch property located on the Coquille River approximately 7 river miles from Bandon.	58,333	Coos
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				259,710	

Region 2 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-2031	Rogue River Watershed Council	Smith Meyer Roper Fish Passage Improvement Project Design	This proposal will undertake tasks necessary to develop design alternatives and select the preferred alternative for fish passage improvements on the Smith Meyer Rope Diversion located at stream mile 1.5 on Ashland Creek in Ashland. Approximately 2 miles of stream currently has restricted access for coho adults and completed blocked for juveniles as well as other native migratory species.	20,393	Jackson
218-2038	Coos Watershed Association	South Fork Coos River Road Inventory and Sediment Reduction	This grant will fund a road inventory to evaluate approximately 240 miles of roads that drain directly to the South Fork Coos River and its tributaries. The project will provide 3 types of data: (1) estimated road sediment yield and hydrological connectivity; (2) identify needs, prioritization, and layouts for road improvements, or decommissions; (3) a road features GIS database to be used for long term asset management. The South Fork Coos River and its tributaries support numerous species of anadromous salmonids and resident fish including coho.	65,166	Coos
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				345,269	
Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount Requested	County
218-2035	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Million Dollar Mile Subsurface Hydrologic Mapping on Forest Creek		14,773	Jackson
218-2039	Curry SWCD	South Coast Lidar 2018		75,000	Curry
218-2040	Curry SWCD	Floras Creek Sediment Abatement Road Inventory		26,697	Curry

Region 2 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				0	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None		None			
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				0	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount Requested	County
218-2045	American Forest Foundation	Oregon Woodland Owner Engagement Project		74,782	Jackson

Region 2 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-2044	Coos Watershed Association	Coho Life History and Migrations in Tide Gated Lowland Coastal Streams 2018-2020	This project renews and refines long-term monitoring, initiated in 2004, which examines coho salmon abundance, survival, life histories and habitat use in Palouse and Willanch Creek, two tide gated coastal lowland streams in the Coos Bay estuary. This project enhances PIT tag mark-recapture-release techniques and expands Rotary Screw Trap sampling methods to more effectively monitor coho life cycles, evaluate seasonal tidal habitat use and assess fish passage effectiveness at an upgraded tide gate.	229,549	Coos
218-2042	Coquille Watershed Association	Winter Lake Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring	The Winter Lake Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring Project will evaluate the effectiveness of the Winter Lake Restoration Project located off the mainstem Coquille River at RM 20 near Coquille. The monitoring project will collect data on the changes observed due to the tidegate replacement and restoration and at a reference location for four years post-implementation. Parameters include: fish passage, fish habitat quality and quantity, water, water level, vegetation, and fish	282,596	Coos
218-2041	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Eel Creek Pacific Lamprey Passage Effectiveness Monitoring	Project partners propose to conduct effectiveness monitoring of new fish passage designs and resulting projects and how Pacific Lamprey passage is affected. Project sites are within the Eel Lake watershed near Lakeside. Project work will also monitor the movements, holding habitats, barrier issues, and habitat use of Pacific Lamprey within the basin.	56,666	Coos
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				568,811	

Region 2 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

Monitoring Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount	County
218-2043	Klamath Bird Observatory	Using Bird Monitoring to Evaluate Effectiveness of Riparian Restoration in the Rogue Basin	Project partners propose a pilot project to use avian monitoring data and a focal species approach to evaluate effectiveness of and improve riparian restoration in the Rogue Basin. Existing standardized bird monitoring techniques will be adapted for their use for smaller-scale sites already restored in the Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek watersheds.	26,926	Jackson
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				595,737	
Monitoring Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount	County
None					
Region 2 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				1,932,824	18%
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				10,753,978	

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2021-15927

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: \$229,018

Total Cost: \$691,968

Project Abstract *(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 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 (river miles 1.15 - 1.75) on 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 would 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 at its inlet; 3) Treat noxious weeds and revegetate riparian floodplain with native plants; 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 partner with the site's landowner (C2 Cattle Company) and US Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is a resubmit, and the applicant addressed previous comments regarding reed canary grass and channel modeling. The applicant is taking a thoughtful and innovative approach to restoring this site.
- The application made the case for investing in seven years of plant establishment efforts.
- Cattle exclusion from the project site is included in the project design.
- Applicant has a good working relationship with landowners.
- The project builds on other efforts in the area and will provide improved off channel habitat that will benefit SONC Coho.

- The project will benefit water quality. The applicant is encouraged to consider employing temperature monitoring devices in the side channel around structures and at the top of the project site to determine whether pool creation results in cooler water temperatures through stratification in the pools or hyporheic flow.

Concerns

- Applicant cannot use work to meet requirements of the Bureau of Reclamation Bi-op.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant addressed evaluation comments from the previous review, and has taken a very thoughtful and innovative approach to restoration at this site. Project work will address two critical limiting factors in Little Butte Creek, including water quality and habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$232,518

Review Team Conditions

Add up to \$3,500 to support temperature monitoring in the side channel. Work cannot be used to meet requirements of Bureau of Reclamation Bi-op.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$232,518

Staff Conditions

Add \$3,500 to support temperature monitoring in the side channel. Work cannot be used to meet

requirements of Bureau of Reclamation Bi-op.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2022-15929

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Plum Gulch Habitat Improvement

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$24,054

Total Cost: \$35,342

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Plum Gulch is a tributary of Big Creek that flows into North Tenmile Lake, east of Lakeside in Southwest Oregon. It is located in the Elliott State Forest and managed within the 51 acre Big Creek Meadow Lease Area. Historic management practices have left Plum Gulch with no large wood and impacted riparian zones. This lack of functioning riparian vegetation and limited large wood results in poor rearing habitat. Plum Gulch has high intrinsic value for Coho and Pacific Lamprey and is identified in the Tenmile Watershed Large wood Sub-basin Plan (TLBP 2016) and draft Tenmile Basin 30year Pacific Lamprey Conservation Plan (TLBP/CTCLUSI) as a high priority for restoration. Due to The Elliott State Forest Project, this important project as well as others within the Forest were suspended. In October 2017, TLBP received permission to submit this proposal. The Big Creek Meadow Resource Group that includes DSL, ODFW, TLBP, and Lessee Gary Wallace propose to improve Plum Gulch habitat by mechanically removing and replanting a 3 acre blackberry infestation with native willow, Oregon Ash, and Willow as well placing 20 logs in five sites. Engineered log jams will be placed in 1 mile of Plum Gulch above the current exclusion fencing and successful riparian improvements. OWEB funds will be utilized to support project management, contracted services, materials/supplies, and administration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has been focusing on agricultural lands in the lower watershed, and implementing fish passage, riparian, and livestock exclusion projects. This proposal is their first large wood placement project.
- The project builds on successful livestock exclusion and riparian restoration work in the project area.
- This stream supports Coho and has high intrinsic potential.
- Large wood and overwintering habitat are limiting factors and this project will address these issues. Also, there is potential for natural large wood recruitment, and this large wood placement project will likely serve as collectors of future wood in the system.

Concerns

- Some of the wood to be used is very large for the stream channel. This material was chosen because it is from an area close to the project site. Since the project has an experienced design team, this will not likely be an issue for the project to be successful.

- Since the project includes installing logs upstream of a bridge crossing, there needs to be careful consideration in placement to allow enough distance to prevent potential damage to the crossing.

Concluding Analysis

The project was originally funded and set for implementation; however, it was terminated at ODF and DSL direction due to the impending sale of Elliott State Forest. Since this sale process is no longer moving forward, DSL is now managing the Elliott State Forest and has agreed to move forward with the project. The project is ready for implementation and will address a critical limiting factor for Coho in this area.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$24,054

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$24,054

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2023-15932

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Little Butte Creek Floodplain
Connectivity Project at RM 2.2

Applicant: Rogue River WC

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$160,190

Total Cost: \$255,190

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed project is located on property owned by the City of Eagle Point at river mile 2.2-2.5 of Little Butte Creek. Little Butte Creek is a large tributary to the upper Rogue River in Jackson County. The watershed is adversely affected by poor water quality and hydrologic modification. Despite limited conditions, Little Butte Creek remains a priority stream for endangered Coho Salmon recovery. Little Butte Creek also contributes seasonal drinking water supply for over 136,000 Rogue Valley residents. Limiting factors in this reach include: - Loss of floodplain and side channel connectivity- Reduced channel complexity- Poor water quality- Degraded riparian forest conditions Restoration components of this project include: - Reconnect Little Butte Creek with its floodplain by selectively breaching a berm, creating a side channel, and re-contouring eroded stream banks - Increase floodplain roughness and habitat complexity by constructing 4 engineered log jams in the bank and installing 10 small log jams in newly connected floodplain/side channel- Improve streamside forest conditions along a 1,500-foot reach This project seeks to improve water quality and enhance the quality and quantity of winter rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids. The City of Eagle Point wants to rehabilitate the land for use as a community park and nature trail. The reach is near the Denman Wildlife Area where a large scale channel restoration project with similar objectives was completed in 2011. The proposal originates from technical assistance funding awarded by the Drinking Water Provider Partnership in 2016. It represents input from a technical team of agency hydrologists and biologists, City of Eagle Point planning staff and Cascade Stream Solutions, the technical assistance provider. Specific partners include the City of Eagle Point, Medford Water Commission, BLM, and OWEB who is providing funding for permit related activities under grant 217-2023.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is the result of an OWEB Technical Assistance project.
- While the City has completed some outreach, additional public outreach will occur during project implementation. The project will continue to serve as an outreach tool in the future.
- Riparian plantings will have summer watering through existing water rights.
- This restoration will benefit water quality, which is a critical limiting factor in this watershed.
- Coho will benefit from this restoration work.
- The project design resulted from a strong technical team approach.

Concerns

- While the project exceeds required match, the City's match contribution is limited even though the City will benefit as the landowner.
- The project has a bank stabilization component to the project. Since bioengineering techniques are utilized in the design, there should be meaningful watershed benefits gained beyond just bank stabilization.
- The cost per mile is higher compared to other similar projects. However, given the size of the area to be restored and higher costs due to challenges with implementing restoration in an urban area, this cost may be reasonable for the benefits.

Concluding Analysis

This project addresses symptoms of a much larger watershed problem that extends beyond the project reach, and is the result of channelization, diking, and urbanization upstream. These impacts will not likely be resolved except through a site-by-site approach such as this proposed restoration. The project is proactive and timely because restoration will be implemented before a sports park development begins. Project activities will address water quality issues impacting the watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$160,190

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$160,190

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2024-15937

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Salt Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project

Applicant: Rogue River WC

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$58,981

Total Cost: \$88,110

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed project is located on private property on Salt Creek, a cool-water tributary to Little Butte Creek. Salt Creek is one of just a few major producers of ESA-listed Coho Salmon in the Rogue Basin. It also contains healthy populations of fall Chinook Salmon, summer and winter steelhead, and resident Cutthroat Trout. Spring fed, Salt Creek maintains cold water temperatures throughout the summer months providing essential over-summering habitat for both Coho Salmon and steelhead. Fish passage restoration is a cornerstone action to address limiting factors in the Rogue Basin. Removal of smaller barriers is essential to improving salmonid access to tributary streams. During the summer months, tributary streams provide refuge from warm stream temperatures in the larger streams and during winter, provide refugia from high winter flows. Nine diversion dams block roughly 7.5 miles of high quality habitat on Salt Creek. Seven of these nine structures are listed as high priority by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) 2013 review of priority fish passage barriers in the Rogue. With full support of the private landowner, the proposed project seeks funding to remove two of Salt Creek's seven high priority push up dams by reprofiling the existing ditch system, resetting the invert of the fish screen at two sites, an installing two new headgates, concrete intakes, and piping the existing open ditch flows. The project partners include ODFW, NOAA, Oregon Water Resources Department, Jackson SWCD, BLM, Rogue Basin Partnership, Cascade Stream Solutions, and a private landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant is building a strong track record of addressing fish passage issues on private lands.
- Improving access to cold water refugia for Coho, and other native species, in a system limited by high summer water temperatures is critical work. Since cold water refugia is in limited supply in the project section of Little Butte Creek, providing access to over seven miles of cold water habitat is a priority.
- This work will improve irrigation efficiency, and flow meters will be installed with funding. While the primary project benefit is fish access, finding opportunities for water conservation with irrigation improvements is also important.
- The project is located on an important tributary, and restoring fish passage will provide potential for future restoration projects.
- Currently, there is considerable restoration focus on the Little Butte Creek system and this project fits in well with these efforts.

Concerns

- The budget has lump sums. The application would benefit from budget detail for activities, budget development, and appropriateness of costs.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant has established a strong track record of identifying restoration projects, working with landowners, and designing and implementing fish access projects on private lands. This project builds on and continues momentum generated by other projects in the area and has a high likelihood of resulting in other restoration opportunities. This restoration work will restore access to seven miles of critical cold water refugia for Coho and other native species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$58,981

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$58,981

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2025-15948

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bradshaw Drop Mainline Piping Project

Applicant: Rogue River Valley Irrigation District

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$150,000

Total Cost: \$5,546,556

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Little Butte Creek Watershed is in Jackson County and is considered one of the prime spawning tributaries for salmonids, especially Coho. However, Little Butte Creek and its tributary, Antelope Creek, are also water quality limited for a variety of factors that negatively impact fish and wildlife, including sedimentation, bacteria and temperature. The Rogue River Valley and Medford Irrigation Districts divert water from Little Butte Creek through a shared canal. That canal splits at the top of Bradshaw Drop, about 5 miles from Eagle Point. The area from Bradshaw Drop to Antelope Creek, which is approximately 3.15 miles and completely within RRVID's jurisdiction, has substantial leakage. RRVID has collaborated with the Bureau of Reclamation to leave (not divert) 7 CFS of water from Little Butte Creek during the month of June in median water years to benefit Coho, but must pipe this stretch of canal to achieve sufficient water savings to leave that water instream. The piping of this section will also provide pressurized water to RRVID's patrons within this stretch. Many of these patrons have been unable to convert to sprinkler irrigation because of the cost of bringing electricity to the site. Pressurized water makes conversion possible, which previous work in the watershed has shown has a substantial effect on water quality. Current partners for this WISE Demonstration Project include the BOR, Governor's RIF, Or. DEQ, Jackson SWCD, Or. NRCS, Farmer's Conservation Alliance (FSA), Three Sisters Irrigation District, and WISE.

Review Team Evaluation **Strengths**

- The project, while a stand-alone for the applicant, ties into the larger WISE project effort and could serve as a demonstration project for that work.
- The application presents a well thought out project with a high likelihood of successful implementation.
- The budget is straightforward and detailed.
- The Phase I project is funded by BOR.
- South Sisters Irrigation District is providing oversight and contracted services for the pipe installation. They have the equipment and experience to implement this project in a successful manner.
- Improving water quality and stream flows in the Little Butte Creek watershed is a priority. Water quality and water quantity represent two critical limiting factors in this system.

- This is a high priority project for NRCS and Jackson SWCD. NRCS is currently developing a focus area with landowners for irrigation. Additionally, 13 of 14 landowners currently on the ditch are working with Jackson SWCD to develop on-farm plans in anticipation of installing a pressurized system. Pressurized systems will allow conversion from flood to other more efficient irrigation systems, which will also improve water quality in Antelope Creek.
- Jackson SWCD is monitoring water quality above and below the project area on Antelope Creek. It will be important for project partners to work with other agencies to continue and expand these efforts to look at flow and fish use in the areas of the project footprint.
- This Phase 2 project is critical to the on-farm projects because without it the system cannot be pressurized.
- There currently are a number of efforts underway in Little Butte creek to improve water quality, water quantity, fish passage, and instream habitat; and this project fits in with those efforts.

Concerns

- Water quantity in the form of instream flows clearly needs to be a project deliverable. There are a number of variables that affect quantifying water savings from this project; from unknown water loss due to leaky ditches and evaporation to inputs to the ditch from a leaky upstream ditch and springs and side draw. As a result, it is likely the true potential for water savings cannot be known until the project is implemented. Water savings could result with instream flows in South Fork Little Butte or Antelope Creek; or possibly times releases during critical times could be initiated. For the project to have a reasonable cost-benefit there needs to be demonstrable benefits to instream flows from water that will be saved or conserved from the piping process. The applicant is encouraged to look at the findings and recommendations from the WISE Instream Committee developed under the Oregon Solutions project.
- Phase I deliverables are somewhat unclear from the application and specifically the 7cfs of flow being left instream in South Fork Little Butte during median (average) flow years is unclear. BOR is required to provide this cfs as a result of their Bi-op. The Phase 2 project described in this OWEB application cannot be used to meet the BOR Bi-op requirements

Concluding Analysis

There is a lot of interest and work being undertaken in the Little Butte system to improve water quantity, water quality, access, habitat, and stream health. This project fits in with those other efforts and has potential to serve as a demonstration project for the larger WISE effort. The application is clear and presents a technically sound case, clear budget, reasonable overall cost, and high likelihood of success. This Phase 2 project will provide the high pressurized system that is critical to achieving on-farm irrigation improvement planning already underway. Improving water quality in Antelope Creek is a priority and this benefit will be realized after the on-farm irrigation improvements are completed. This work has potential for recruiting future restoration projects with these landowners. Piping the ditch will result in some water savings. However, a number of variables, including lack of data, make it difficult to determine what that savings may be. Regardless, this project needs to result in a tangible benefit to instream flows in South Fork Little Butte creek or Antelope Creek; or through some sort of time releases once the project is completed. It will be vital for RRVID to work with OWRD and ODFW on this effort. The monitoring data by Jackson SWCD and landowners on Antelope Creek could also be a helpful resource for this discussion.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$150,000

Review Team Conditions

Work cannot be used to meet requirements of Bureau of Reclamation Bi-op. The project must include some method for quantifying, protecting and monitoring water savings.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$150,000

Staff Conditions

Work cannot be used to meet requirements of Bureau of Reclamation Bi-op. Applicant must work with a technical team that consists of, but is not limited to, OWEB, ODFW, and OWRD, to quantify, protect and monitor anticipated water savings.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2026-15999

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Stouts Creek Whole Watershed
Restoration Phase I

Applicant: South Umpqua Rural Community
Partnership

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$86,716

Total Cost: \$189,003

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership (SURCP) has joined with the Roseburg BLM to assist with the recovery of a significant tributary to the South Umpqua River--Stout's Creek. This sub-watershed was a victim of a serious fire in 2015, burning more than 26,000 acres. Landslides and debris flows in the creek have become commonplace during the previous two winters, resulting in public safety hazards and a lack of LWD and boulders in the channel. Through collaboration with private landowners, we have developed a multi-phase project which will reduce landslides, repair the riparian area, restore salmonid habitat, and bring the overall health of the watershed to acceptable levels. The first phase of this project will concentrate on the lower 1 1/2 miles of Stout's Creek, owned by seven families as well as the BLM. Here we will place LWD and boulders in large structures designed to collect gravel and stabilize the stream channel. Additional phases will occur on private and public lands in the upper reaches of the watershed and will result in the complete restoration of Stout's Creek. The project has been designed and is ready for implementation. All boulders and the majority of the LWD required for the project has been donated by the Roseburg BLM. Time is of the essence as the soils in this area are highly granitic and thus unstable.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project demonstrates the power of partnerships and what can be accomplished in a short time to address natural disasters like fires.
- Restoring riparian and instream habitat will be very important to recovery after the fire, help stabilize conditions, and support Coho and native fish species recovery as well as water quality conditions.
- There is urgency to this project since the large wood to be used has a "shelf life" due to being partially burned in the fire.
- The project includes a revegetation plan that has a high probability of success.

Concerns

- The project does not have involvement from industrial timber.
- Since the project is described as "Phase I" and the application references future phases, the application would benefit from some description of these other phases to provide project context.

- The project reach is characterized by having an existing road system in close proximity to the stream as well as being situated in a narrow and constrained valley. The lower section of the stream has seven private residences located just above the confluence of Stouts Creek and East Stouts Creek. Following the fire, a log jam developed on the upper residence and had to be removed to protect the house and access bridge. Placing large wood structures in the same vicinity could have similar risks due to the amount of material that could still move downstream as the watershed recovers from the fire. It may be difficult to have engineers sign off on the structures because of liability concerns. The applicant and partners should consider a technical assistance grant to address these concerns as well as flesh out future phases.

Concluding Analysis

This project is in response to a catastrophic wildfire that burned nearly 100% of the watershed. Project partners rapidly responded to develop actions that could help restore and protect the watershed as it recovers from the event. The riparian work is well designed; however, the instream work could potentially have unintended consequences. The applicant is encouraged to consider using a technical assistance proposal to work on design as well as help with future phase.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2027-16022

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: South Fork Smith River and
Halfway Creek Instream Restoration

Applicant: Smith River WC

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$478,560

Total Cost: \$838,075

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project area is located in the upper Smith River, 10 miles to the north of Elkton Oregon and 15 miles west of Springfield Oregon. This project seeks to improve instream habitat conditions degraded by past land use practices. SRWC, ODFW and two BLM Districts have worked collaboratively to design log and boulder structures to slow water velocities, increase sediment deposition, trap large wood and contribute to recovery of aquatic populations.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is supported by partnerships and an experienced design team.
- The restoration work addresses limiting factors for Coho and other native species.
- Project support is demonstrated with match. While the overall project cost is large, the cost benefit for the restoration is a good value.
- Project will be straightforward to permit.
- Large wood placement sites have been identified and designed. Access locations for construction have been identified and plans are in place to minimize intrusion into the riparian area as well as restoring those access sites.
- Riparian areas in the project reach and above the project site are high quality, and there is a high potential for future recruitment of large wood into the stream.

Concerns

- The project would be strengthened by the inclusion of the industrial timber company that has property in the project area. This would increase the impact of the work.

Concluding Analysis

The project continues successful efforts by the applicant and partners to improve instream habitat conditions and provide overwintering opportunities for juvenile Coho salmon, and other native species, within the Smith River watershed. A portion of the project is an area with previous attempts at placing large wood instream well over a decade ago. Little remains of these structures, and the large wood that

does remain is not functioning optimally. Large wood placement project designs and approaches have changed greatly since then, as a result this current project will ensure these areas have properly designed and placed structures with boulders incorporated into them that maintain their integrity. The proposed project has a high likelihood of success and will benefit many native species dependent upon the system.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$478,560

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$478,560

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2028-16045

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Daniels Creek Riparian Restoration Project

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$97,155

Total Cost: \$139,036

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Daniels Creek drains into the South Fork Coos River, immediately upstream of its confluence with the Millicoma River, 11 miles east of Coos Bay, Coos County. The landowners are active land stewards who take great pride in their role in helping to rehabilitate native fish populations and overall stream function to the basin. Daniels Creek provides both spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook/coho and other resident trout and other salmonid species. This system has been heavily impacted by past and current land management practices which have resulted in the removal of riparian vegetation. The project site contains moderate habitat with natural pools and downed wood. The reach has high intrinsic value for coho, but it is limited by lack of shade and deposition of fine sediment. This project proposes to stabilize banks and restore riparian function through riparian planting and fencing 2,300' of stream. The riparian buffer will be planted with native trees and shrub that will stabilize the bank, shade out invasive reed canary grass, improve water quality, and decrease stream temperatures. This project will complement a previous OWEB riparian planting project on the opposite bank (206-1016, 206-1027; 210-2073). Plant establishment activities will occur for 5 years after the planting to insure a goal of 80% plant survival. OWEB funds will be used for project management, contracted services, 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

- The project involves enthusiastic and willing landowners.
- The restoration will benefit Coho as well as beaver present in the area.
- The project area has high visibility.
- This work could lead to recruiting additional landowner interest in undertaking restoration on their properties.

Concerns

- The project includes seasonal solar electric fencing, which requires a long-term commitment for the landowner to install and remove it seasonally. Since the application is unclear on the long-term management vision for the property, this may not be the right approach for the landowner situation

- It is unclear whether CREP was considered as an option.
- The chosen stock water approach is instream, which will still impact water quality. The applicant and landowner are encouraged to consider out of channel options, such as solar powered trough systems.

Concluding Analysis

The landowner enthusiasm is a project strength, and the proposed restoration has merit and value as well as outreach potential. However, project design approaches should demonstrate the best restoration options for accomplishing the work and protecting some of the high habitat value areas. If application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to consider the following: (1) utilizing CREP; (2) utilizing solar powered stock tanks that would eliminate the livestock access to the stream currently allowed in the project design by the rock access points; and (3) utilizing more permanent fencing options that could meet both landowner and stream protection needs. Investigating these options could result in a more impactful project that still addresses the landowner's management needs and vision for the property while providing a higher cost benefit for the restoration investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2029-15923

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Page Creek Analysis and Design

Applicant: Illinois Valley WC

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Josephine

OWEB Request: \$36,199

Total Cost: \$56,701

Project Abstract *(from application)*

A tributary of the East Fork Illinois River, Page Creek is approximately 12 miles south of Cave Junction near the town of Takilma. Page Creek has high intrinsic potential (IP) for ESA listed SONCC ESU coho salmon. The Illinois River has a core, functionally independent population of SONCC ESU coho salmon at high risk of extinction. Altered hydrologic function and degraded riparian forest conditions are the documented key limiting stresses for that species in the subbasin (NOAA, 2014). The applicant seeks funding to partner with Rogue River - Siskiyou NF aquatics team to collaboratively collect and analyze resource data, consider design alternatives that directly address key limiting stresses, and determine and develop a recommended restoration strategy into a complete 100% design package for stream and habitat restoration for a one-half mile reach of Page Creek. The stream, habitat, and riparian forest restoration design produced will directly address stresses and recovery strategies of the Final Recovery Plan for the SONCC ESU of Coho Salmon (NOAA, 2014) and priority restoration actions of the Rogue River - Siskiyou National Forest's Watershed Restoration Action Plan for the East Fork Illinois River watershed (USFS, 2014). Negative effects of historic land use practices in Page Creek include channel modification, alteration of the riparian vegetative community (including introduction of invasive species), reduction of off-channel habitat features, and reduction of large wood recruitment. The resulting straightened and simplified channel is mostly disconnected from its floodplain. Natural process and function has been significantly compromised, limiting the ability of coho salmon to fully utilize Page Creek's high intrinsic potential. A stream, habitat, and riparian forest restoration project that restores Page Creek to desired and self-sustaining conditions will be developed by the IVWC from the design produced by this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Illinois River system is an important area for SONC Coho spawning and rearing.
- The application demonstrates project participants have a team partnership approach and relevant experience.
- The project area is a good candidate for large wood placement because it is a priority watershed with good water quality, but habitat is limiting.
- Resulting restoration activities will help address watershed factors limiting to Coho.
- The project is part of a larger restoration effort in this sub-basin.

- There is a high degree of confidence this technical assistance product that will lead to on-the-ground restoration efforts.

Concerns

- The application lacked specific details on project implementation and relied on assumptions of familiarity with USFS technical team processes and work.
- The role of the technical team in the project process was not well explained.
- This project is highly dependent upon future in-kind match from consultants.
- A letter of support from the USFS would have been helpful.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal builds on a strong working relationship developed between the applicant and the USFS. Both parties are working together on restoration efforts upstream of the proposed project area. There is a high probability that meaningful restoration projects will result from this proposal. Future applications would be strengthened by project implementation specifics as well as information on habitat conditions above and below the project reach. The applicant is strongly encouraged to incorporate irrigation efficiency that improves instream flows into the project planning and landowner outreach.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$36,199

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$36,199

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2031-15935

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Smith Meyer Roper Fish Passage Improvement Project Design

Applicant: Rogue River WC

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$20,393

Total Cost: \$36,432

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed fish passage project is on Ashland Creek, a tributary to Bear Creek in the upper Rogue Basin in Jackson County, Oregon. Ashland Creek's perennial flow and relatively cold water is both unique and considerably important to the Bear Creek watershed. It provides habitat for Coho Salmon, steelhead trout and other native fishes. Near river-mile 1.5 on Ashland Creek is an actively used irrigation structure called the Smith Meyer Roper Diversion. This channel spanning, concrete dam is approximately 2.5 feet in height and impairs access to approximately 2 miles of valuable Coho Salmon and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat. The dam is also considered a near complete barrier to upstream migrating juveniles seeking cold water refuge in summer and high flow refuge in winter. This proposal requests funding for tasks necessary to develop design alternatives and select the preferred alternative for fish passage improvements that benefit native migratory species. Other deliverables include stakeholder and technical expert engagement, construction cost estimate development, and construction permit application preparation. Project partners include the City of Ashland, Oregon Department of Wildlife, Rogue River Watershed Council, Cascade Stream Solutions, The Freshwater Trust, and private landowners and water users.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Restoring Coho access to spawning, rearing, and cold water refugia is a priority in Bear Creek; therefore, barriers are a major concern for this population of Coho.
- Ashland Creek is one of the few cold water habitat opportunities Coho have in this sub-basin.
- The project site was identified through a prioritization process and is a priority for this sub-watershed.
- The proposed design approach is technically sound and the engineer has relevant experience.
- The applicant has the capacity to undertake this type of work and a proven track record of success.
- This project offers a potential opportunity for improvements on farm uses as a benefit.

Concerns

- This project area is located mid-system in the Bear Creek watershed. There are known barriers below and above the project site that limit the project cost-benefit; the lower barriers have some fish passage improvements already completed.

- The application would benefit from including letters of support.
- The project focuses on addressing fish passage issues and does not examine irrigation efficiency opportunities associated with this fish passage work, and it is unclear why irrigation efficiency is not a consideration.

Concluding Analysis

Ashland Creek offers one of the few cold water refugia opportunities for salmonids in the Bear Creek watershed. Enabling fish access to this habitat is very important. The applicant is establishing an excellent track record of developing and implementing fish passage projects. The proposal is technically sound and has a high likelihood of resulting in an implementable project that can have meaningful benefits to salmonids using the Bear Creek system. The applicant is encouraged to look for opportunities to improve irrigation efficiency to potentially return water instream when considering future applications related to diversion dams.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$20,393

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2032-15939

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Burke Creek Technical Assistance

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$21,480

Total Cost: \$28,593

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Burke Creek flows through a working family ranch located west of Sutherlin in Douglas County. It is home to both coho salmon and winter steelhead and enters Calapooya Creek near its confluence with the mainstem Umpqua River. According to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) High Intrinsic Potential Maps, Burke Creek and an unnamed tributary located on the Baird property have high potential to provide quality spawning and rearing habitat for coho salmon and steelhead. However, fish production is limited by a lack of instream wood, poor riparian areas dominated by invasive blackberry and two failing culverts that are barriers to fish passage. The Baird family owns the land along a one-mile stretch of Burke Creek and approached PUR with the desire to improve watershed health by enhancing riparian and instream habitat and restoring fish passage at two failing culverts. The family will donate time to help develop the project and donate large wood for habitat structures. Downstream of the Baird Family Property, there is a culvert under a county road that is considered to be a partial barrier due to a perched culvert and lack of outlet pool. To address limiting factors to fish production in Burke Creek we are seeking OWEB TA funds to 1) complete site surveys at the two culverts, 2) produce bridge designs, 3) create a fencing/livestock exclusion plan, 4) develop a riparian management/blackberry eradication plan, 5) work with PUR Monitoring Coordinator to develop a monitoring plan, 6) work with the landowner on selecting materials for instream placement, 7) design instream fish habitat structures in order to enhance habitat on one mile of Burke Creek, 8) coordinate with Douglas County to prioritize the replacement of the County-owned culvert and 9) prepare the OWEB restoration grant application for submission. Partners for this Technical Assistance Grant includes ODFW, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the Baird family.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project area is in coastal Coho spawning and rearing habitat.
- Fish access to stream habitat will be improved for an additional 1.4 miles.
- The landowner is supportive and engaged in the project, which is demonstrated by a well-written letter of support.
- The project has a high likelihood of success and should result in a meaningful restoration project.
- Resulting restoration work should provide a great outreach tool.
- Resulting restoration work will address water quality issues, including temperature, E.coli, and pH.

- The application presents a sense of urgency for this project work, and pictures included in the application provides helpful context for the project review.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by information on the downstream County culvert that is passable but needs improvement work.
- The application was unclear on whether CREP was examined as an option, or if there is a role for either NRCS or the SWCD in the project planning.

Concluding Analysis

This project has a high likelihood of success and will address several watershed limiting factors. The project creates a good opportunity for outreach. The applicant is encouraged to use the CREP program where applicable. Future applications that contain fish passage work would be strengthened by including information on any upstream and downstream barriers. Final fish passage designs must meet both ODFW and NOAA fish passage criteria.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$21,480

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$21,480

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2033-15971

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Baker Creek Culvert Removal
Technical Assistance

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$40,683

Total Cost: \$149,960

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Baker Creek is a tributary to the South Fork Coquille River (SFCR) located near Powers, OR (Coos County). The watershed problem is a fish passage barrier located 626' upstream from the confluence of the SFCR on Baker Creek. Currently, there is a 12' diameter culvert perched 18' above the stream and a deteriorating fishway hindering adult access to 1.2 miles of spawning habitat and preventing juvenile access to 2.0 miles of rearing habitat. The perched culvert is causing habitat fragmentation and impedes natural physical and biological processes in the stream. In 2012, a feasibility study occurred to evaluate the removal of the culvert and the project team decided to move forward with removal in 2013. Following a delay due to a landowner change (Plum Creek Timber Co. bought by Weyerhaeuser Co.), the engineering phase for the restoration project is currently ongoing. Engineering includes: the culvert removal, maintenance of road infrastructure impacted by the removal, gravel export analysis, and design of the channel realignment, grade control structures and habitat. The proposed TA will complete the ongoing engineering phase of the project and result in final designs, construction costs, and permitting. Ultimately, because of this project habitat quantity and quality will be improved for salmon and steelhead and natural stream processes will be restored. Project partners include: BLM, USFWS, ODFW, and Weyerhaeuser.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project area contains high quality Coho spawning and rearing habitat with good water quality and upstream habitat quality.
- The resulting restoration project will improve adult and juvenile passage as well as restore stream function in the project reach. Approximately 2 miles of stream habitat will be made accessible.
- This project builds on stream restoration and water quality work completed in Baker Creek.
- This project builds on previous OWEB investment in a feasibility study and this proposal is the next step.
- Landowner supports the project.
- Partner support is demonstrated by match.
- The design approach is technically sound and the contractor is well qualified.

Concerns

- The resulting project will likely have a high cost, which could limit the potential for this restoration work to move forward.
- There is a considerable amount of material expected to be hauled away as part of the restoration project. The applicant is encouraged to continue coordination with regulatory agencies on this issue.
- The old railroad trestle located at the project site is potentially a cultural resource.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds on an earlier feasibility study. Ensuring fish passage at the site is very important to Coho and other salmonids. The current system of utilizing a Denali fish ladder is not a long-term or best solution for restoring passage. This project will enhance restoration completed instream and in the riparian area of this watershed. Baker Creek provides cool water refugia from the warmer main stem. Due to the potential high cost of the resulting restoration project, the applicant and their partners will need to be very proactive in fundraising. It will be important to develop and tell the story of the cost benefits of this project to help explain the value of this future restoration work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$40,683

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$40,683

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2034-15981

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: McKee Dam Irrigation and Fish Passage Improvement Study

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$47,272

Total Cost: \$66,512

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will develop alternatives and preliminary designs for improving fish passage, irrigation efficiency, and fish screening at McKee Dam (Newberry Dam), an active diversion structure and fish passage barrier at river mile 40.4 on the Applegate River in Jackson County. McKee Dam impedes adult passage to high quality spawning habitat and completely blocks juvenile access to habitat designated as core cold water habitat and high intrinsic potential habitat. The dam suppresses access to 6.1 miles of habitat for Chinook salmon, 20.2 miles of habitat for ESA-listed threatened SONCC Coho salmon, 25.7 miles of habitat for steelhead and fluvial cutthroat trout, and ESA-listed species of concern Pacific lamprey. McKee Dam is listed on the ODFW Statewide Fish Passage Priority list as #50 in the state and #6 in the Rogue River Basin and is on the Rogue Basin Partnership Future Project Priority "Top 10 List" of fish passage projects. Furthermore, the problematic fish screen on Swayne Ditch does not meet current standards and has an appreciable risk of entrainment and mortality for fish. Installation of flashboards during high flows in the spring is a hazard to irrigators. The current conveyance and irrigation system loses an estimated 40% of diverted water and irrigation returns decrease water quality. This proposal will develop alternatives and designs that will restore access to miles of high quality fish habitat and provide adequate fish screening thereby supporting fish population recovery for ESA-listed species. The developed irrigation efficiency designs will improve fish population and watershed health by increasing water quality and leaving water instream. Project partners include Cowhorn Vineyard & Garden, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Water Resources Department, Rogue Basin Partnership, Jackson County SWCD, Trout Unlimited, and Middle Rogue Steelheaders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting restoration project will improve water diversion efficiencies as well as open up 20.2 miles for Coho salmon and 6.1 miles for other native fish species. The project will also reduce smolt mortalities at the site.
- The project area is rated as a #6 priority for barriers by ODFW in the Rogue Basin, and this project continues the momentum in the Rogue to address fish passage.
- The applicant has a proven record of success.
- The project addresses numerous stream function and salmonid access issues.

- This project provides opportunity for needed restoration work on the left side of the stream.

Concerns

- The application includes numerous different objectives. While there are benefits with all of these objectives, it is unclear whether it is feasible to meet them all.
- Not all of the landowners are on board yet.
- It is unclear whether the fish passage issues at the tributary crossings are being addressed.

Concluding Analysis

This project has the potential to address a priority barrier in the Applegate system, and the additional habitat that will be opened up for Coho is significant. There is still considerable work that needs to happen to recruit all of the landowners as well as address technical challenges posed by the barrier and ditch system. The approach the applicant is taking through this technical assistance application is warranted and critical to the development of a viable restoration project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$47,272

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$47,272

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2035-15988

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Million Dollar Mile — Subsurface Hydrologic Mapping on Forest Creek

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$14,773

Total Cost: \$21,073

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project area, "Million Dollar Mile," is located in Jackson County, Oregon, between river mile 0.31 and 0.50, upstream from its confluence with the Applegate River. There was extensive historic mining using a walking dredge within the lowest reach of Forest Creek, a.k.a. "Million Dollar Mile," during the 1870s and 1880s. This channel disturbance has induced 300 meters of the lower reaches of Forest Creek to go below the surface every spring, well before the rest of the creek dries up in the summer. The dry reach presents a significant barrier to out-migrating juvenile salmonids, including ESA-listed threatened SONCC Coho salmon, SONCC Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and (Klamath Mountain Province) steelhead, and cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), just before reaching the Applegate River. Additionally, due to the hydraulically altered condition of the reach, there is little to no riparian vegetation that is supported along the reach, thereby reducing bank stability and causing elevated stream temperatures. This project will use ground penetrating radar (GPR) to map the extent of the subsurface anthropogenic disturbance and hydrology and assess the potential for a channel reconstruction project to bring the instream flow back during the critical juvenile salmonid out-migration period. Project partners include Bureau of Land Management, the landowner, and Cascade Stream Solutions.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This technical assistance is an innovative and inexpensive approach to assess the cause of the watershed problem.
- The project builds on a previous OWEB investment in an upstream fish passage project.
- This project will address a critical limiting factor on Forest Creek.
- The project focus appropriately targets a stretch of stream near the confluence with the Applegate River that becomes dewatered during summer months, and another stretch of stream that is so damaged that efforts to restore the riparian zone have failed.

Concerns

- The application is unclear on how the proposed technique will determine the location of water, and inform the appropriate depth at which the restoration fix should be implemented.

- It is unclear whether this technique has been used for this type of watershed concern and is technically sound to inform restoration approaches that address the problem. The application would be strengthened by a description of examples of this technique being used successfully.
- There are no letters of support in the application, and there is no landowner involvement in the project.
- It is unclear whether the applicant is looking at a large enough project area to address the major factors causing stream dewatering. The area above the project reach has been heavily impacted by mining as well as water withdrawals and the highway road crossing at the top of the project area may also affect the stream.

Concluding Analysis

Dewatering in the project reach impacts fish and other species during summer months, and the inability of juveniles to move either up or downstream prevent them from accessing cool water refugia. This stretch of stream has been impacted to the point where stream flows disappear, and efforts to restore the riparian area have failed due to harsh conditions. Determining the cause of this and developing strategies to address it is important to the health of the stream. While addressing the problem is important and the proposed approach is innovative, additional information on the technique is needed. Future applications would be strengthened by providing information on how this technique has been used in similar situations and how the information collected was specifically used to design a restoration solution.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2036-16010

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: North Bank Working Landscapes
and Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: Coos SWCD

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$58,333

Total Cost: \$73,162

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Project area is 43.0 acres upstream from Randolph Island (River Mile (RM 7.5)) on the Coquille River, near Bandon, Coos County, OR. The site was historically tidal saltmarsh. Diking and draining of the site for agricultural use was facilitated by installation of culverts with tide-gates and construction of linear drainage channels in the early 1900s. Tidal influence to these channels is currently near zero as the single gate servicing the property is a top-hinged "Flapper" gate that does not allow for tidal inflow. Flooding has occurred on the project area when the Coquille River reaches flood stage. Recently the dike suffered erosion in two locations, allowing saline tides over 7.0ft MLLW into the field. Resultantly, water quality is low, access for fish is very poor, and farming operations have been impossible. The TA funds will provide needed information and design for developing the full restoration proposal for the project area. Restoration project actions include: installation of new culvert and Muted Tidal Regulator (MTR) Tide-gate, improving water quality and maximizing fish access; reconstruction of ~4500 feet of sinuous, on-grade, tidal channel network to provide greatly improved watercourse drainage and hay production; riparian fencing along both sides of reconstructed channel network; re-establishment of native woody vegetation along the banks of tidal channels for direct improvements to water quality over current conditions; installation of large woody debris to increase hiding cover and overall complexity. Final Deliverables of this Technical Design phase: • Hydraulic analysis & engineered design • Approved water management plan • Fish Passage Plan • Adaptive Management/Monitoring Plan • DSL/USACE/SHPO/NMFS/County Planning Permits Project is led by Coos SWCD and ODFW staff. Project partners include Coquille Watershed Association (CWA), and Stalley Family Trust.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The potential for creating habitat for overwintering Coho, as well as other fish and wildlife species, dependent on off-channel areas with salt influence is important in this watershed where the majority of these types of habitats are only a fraction of their historical acreage.
- The landowners are enthusiastic and supportive of the project and want to return the property to a productive working landscape. This is demonstrated by the landowner proactively completing some levy repair work.
- The application addresses previous review comments from a restoration application submission. The complexity of the watershed issues, dikes, tidegates, and drainage system make this an appropriate and needed technical assistance project.

- By hiring an engineer to design the restoration, the project is likely to succeed. The applicant is encouraged to ensure final designs are stamped by the engineer.

Concerns

- Since cultural resources are an issue noted in the application, the applicant will need to ensure appropriate surveys are completed.
- While smaller channels do not need large riparian buffers, riparian set back goals are still needed to measure progress.
- The application contained several design completion percentages.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance project is the result of previous review team recommendations on a restoration application. The applicant addressed previous review comments and proposes a technically sound approach for a Technical Assistance project to develop designs. The resulting restoration will have a high likelihood of resulting in a project with important ecological benefits as well as providing the landowner tools for productively managing the property.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$58,333

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$58,333

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2037-16023

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Glover Tidegate Replacement and Channel Re-meander TA

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: \$55,743

Total Cost: \$83,506

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Umpqua River Estuary, near the communities of Gardiner and Reedsport in Douglas County, provides critical feeding and refuge habitat for salmon, steelhead, eulachon and Pacific lamprey. Unfortunately, many of the estuarine wetlands in the Umpqua have been filled, cleared, diked and drained for agriculture or urban development and are limiting wetland inundation and fish passage. The Glover Family Ranch is one such place where 135 acres of tidal wetlands were converted to pastures by building levees, re-configuring stream channels to ditches and installing tidegates to control the incoming tide. A group of partners including Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR), Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District (USWCD), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Glover Family have been working together to create a restoration plan for the property. Plans for fish passage, water management to provide fish habitat, livestock management and fencing of the channels, native vegetation planting and restoration monitoring are being drafted by the group. To continue the development of the project and provide details needed for final project design, OWEB funds are needed to 1) obtain structural and geotechnical engineering reports for the tidegate structures, 2) complete final channel design including drainage details for the mosquito management plan, 3) finalize tidegate designs after structural and geotechnical reviews are received, 4) solicit bids for work to create accurate project budget estimates and 5) prepare and submit OWEB restoration grant to fund project work.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in a working landscape with potential to provide a large area, potentially up to 130 acres, of over wintering habitat for juvenile Coho. The project also has potential to be a win-win with significant ecological benefits as well as enhancing the landowner's ability to manage the property for livestock production.
- The landowner is actively involved and supportive of the project.
- The application addresses previous review comments from a restoration application submission. The complexity of issues on the project sites and the necessity for designs to address them warrants a technical assistance project to ensure a successful on-the-ground project.

Concerns

- The budget has lump sums. The application would benefit from more breakout detail of costs.
- The applicant is encouraged to investigate approaching the County as a collaborating partner in the project.

Concluding Analysis

The technical assistance project is the result of recommendations by the RRT on a previous restoration application. The applicant addressed previous review comments and proposes a technically sound project to develop and design the restoration project. The resulting restoration will have a high likelihood of resulting in a project with significant ecological benefits as well as providing the landowner tools for productively managing the property.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$55,743

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$55,743

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2038-16027

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Fork Coos River Road
Inventory and Sediment Reduction

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$65,166

Total Cost: \$86,617

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The South Fork Coos River and its tributaries support numerous species of anadromous salmonids and resident fish. These tributaries are very important for refuge from high winter stream flows and unfavorable summer water temperatures. Surrounding these streams are a network of both private and federal forest roads. Fine sediment from these roads can have significant effects on aquatic habitat and water quality. This grant will fund a road inventory to evaluate approximately 240 miles of roads that drain directly to the South Fork Coos River and its tributaries. The project will provide 3 types of data: (1) estimated road sediment yield and hydrological connectivity; (2) identify needs, prioritization, and layouts for road improvements, or decommissions; (3) a road features GIS database to be used for long term asset management. Project partners will be Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, and Weyerhaeuser. OWEB funds will be used to conduct surveys, data analysis, project management, training, travel, equipment and supplies.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project covers a large number of miles, including many with high value habitat for Coho and other native species. While the overall project cost seems high, the cost per mile is reasonable.
- This project is supported by partners; and the landowners provide a great example of very well managed logging roads.
- Proposed restoration leverages other project work.
- The applicant has a system to identify sediment factors using an established methodology, which the applicant has successfully utilized in other watershed areas.
- There is a high likelihood for a restoration project to result from this technical assistance work.

Concerns

- The application did not address habitat potential or capacity; and would be strengthened by detail on the roads that are likely to be in areas of most importance to fish species. This information would be helpful for understanding the project scope and specific impact areas.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant and partners have developed a strong working relationship and track record on this type of project. Previous efforts have resulted in multiple restoration projects that address road issues in streams important to Coho and other native fish species. The applicant is encouraged to consider providing training on the methodology to Weyerhaeuser road staff so it could be incorporated into regular work activities and future planning.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$65,166

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2039-16047

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Coast Lidar 2018

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$218,650

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Curry SWCD is partnering with the Oregon Lidar Consortium, DOGAMI and other local partners to acquire high quality lidar derived remote sensing products. The area of interest (AOI) is generally the areas of Curry County that do not currently have complete or adequate lidar coverage. Specifically for this project, the area was prioritized by watershed based on recent priorities and the needs of local partners which includes the Coquille Indian Tribe and the City of Brookings. The Sixes River, Elk River and Chetco River watersheds are the focus of this project (see attached map). The recent Chetco Bar Fire burned 245 of the 352 sq. mi. that make up the Chetco River watershed. Curry County covers over 1,600 square miles of land that is characterized as topographically steep and geologically complex. Large landscape-scale landslides underlie major portions of the county's watersheds. Historic and current land use activities can magnify the complexities of the terrain by creating roads and infrastructure that are difficult to maintain and can lead to chronic fine sediment inputs when not designed and sited properly. The Curry SWCD along with numerous partners has worked over the years to address issues such as fish passage, sediment abatement, bank stabilization and WQ concerns. Some portion of almost all of the watersheds in Curry County are 303d listed for temperature concerns while many are listed as category 3 for other parameters such as sedimentation, which indicates that there is concern but insufficient data to determine whether a standard is being met (Table 1). Existing lidar coverage along a several mile wide strip along the coast has been invaluable to our work as it reduces field mapping time, provides controlled elevation data for preliminary engineering and design of projects, and provides a more accurate representation of hydrological features. We are proposing to acquire lidar to fill the gaps and have high resolution data for whole watersheds.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Lidar can be an important tool for project design.
- The proposed work will fit into other previous Lidar efforts.

Concerns

- The overall project cost is high and the application does not clearly explain deliverables for the cost.
- It is not clear whether this work is redundant to DOGAMI work.

- The application did not specify whether the land to be covered by LiDAR is public or private.
- LiDAR needs a ground-truthing component and it is not clear whether this project includes this ground-truthing.
- A considerable portion of match is pending and it is not clear whether this will impact the project schedule or implementation.
- It is unclear whether the higher Lidar resolution is needed for effective project development.

Concluding Analysis

LiDAR can be a helpful tool for identifying and designing restoration projects. The application left many unanswered questions that need clarification to provide a better understanding and effective evaluation of the technical soundness of the proposed project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2040-16063

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Floras Creek Sediment Abatement
Road Inventory

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$26,697

Total Cost: \$44,197

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Floras Creek is a 52,000 acre coastal watershed that is located in the northern Siskiyou Mountains of Curry County, near the town of Langlois, Oregon. Approximately 92% of the watershed is privately owned and actively managed for timber, livestock, and aggregate. Sediment loading from roads, gullies, and quarries impairs water quality and inundates the lower Mainstem with bedload; to the detriment of the native salmonid populations, Langlois' municipal water source, and bottomland agricultural operations. Through this TA proposal we will inventory sediment sources on 40.2 miles of non-industrial, forestry-grazing roads located on 6 ownerships (4950 acres) in the Middle Mainstem and South Fork subwatersheds; and 7.13 miles of BLM road that are interspersed within the private road networks. Road inventory data will be collected using an established protocol that catalogues road drainage, stream crossings, and unstable road fills; and prioritizes sediment abatement based on the magnitude and likelihood of delivery. Sediment abatement plans will be developed that summarize the inventory data, prescribe treatments for high and medium priority sites, and provide design specifications and cost estimates for implementation. BLM staff and private landowners will assist with the inventory; ODA and the Drinking Water Providers Partnership will provide matching funds.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Private lands located lower in the watershed are a priority for water quality projects.
- This project builds on several CREP projects in the area as well as several restoration projects.
- The project work addresses TMDL water quality concerns by targeting sediment sources; which has a big impact on salmonids utilizing the system.

Concerns

- The proposed protocol may be outdated and may not provide useful data for understanding the magnitude of watershed issues.
- The application has some discrepancies in the number of roads to be inventoried.
- The use of Lidar maps in the application is confusing.
- Since all project match is identified as pending, it is unclear when the project will be implementation ready.

- The application would benefit from inclusion of letters of support.

Concluding Analysis

Addressing sediment sources in this watershed is an important priority. The applicant has a successful track record of developing and implementing restoration projects in this watershed. Surveys can be powerful tools for targeting and developing restoration approaches that address problem areas. The application would benefit from more detail on the proposed technical approach with clear deliverables that lead to a focused restoration project. The proposal needs to be further developed and vetted to ensure that the work proposed can result in data and information needed to develop meaningful, targeted restoration work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2041-15938

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Eel Creek Pacific Lamprey Passage
Effectiveness Monitoring

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$56,666

Total Cost: \$85,521

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Eel Lake and Eel Creek are located in Coos and Douglas Counties just south of Reedsport Oregon. Eel Lake is a natural lake formed by dunal sand encroachment. Historically this basin and streams supported robust runs of native fish including Coho Salmon and Pacific lamprey. In 1989, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife constructed a fish weir on Eel Creek at the outflow of Eel Lake. While the current design works well for Coho Salmon, it is not conducive to Pacific Lamprey passage. As a result, there has been no documented Pacific Lamprey presence in Eel Lake or tributaries since before 1990. In addition, two ODOT HWY 101 culverts on Eel and Clear Creeks were recently identified as lamprey barriers. The Eel Creek culvert lamprey passage enhancement was constructed during August, 2017, while the Clear Creek culvert is scheduled to be upgraded in summer of 2018. The Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI), ODFW, and TLBP are scheduled to install a new lamprey passage (A ramp that will pass adult Pacific Lamprey) at the Eel Lake Trap in 2018. This situation creates a unique opportunity to conduct effectiveness monitoring of these new designs for Pacific Lamprey passage. ODFW, CTCLUSI, and TLBP, in cooperation with ODOT, propose to conduct effectiveness monitoring on the Eel Lake Trap Lamprey Passage and Eel Creek Hwy 101 culvert designs. We also propose to conduct pre-implementation monitoring on the planned ODOT Clear Cr. culvert project. Using approved techniques, we will monitor the movements, holding habitats, barrier issues, and habitat use of Pacific Lamprey within the Eel Lake Basin. Implementation of this Monitoring project will provide the state and local partners with valuable data for Oregon Pacific Lamprey. Funding this priority monitoring effort will complete several actions recommended in the draft Tenmile Lakes 30 Year Pacific Lamprey Conservation Plan as well as supplement the creation of the Oregon Lamprey Recovery Plan (OLRP). Eel Lake and Eel Creek are located in Coos and Douglas Counties just south of Reedsport Oregon. Eel Lake is a natural lake formed by dunal sand encroachment. Historically this basin and streams supported robust runs of native fish including Coho Salmon and Pacific lamprey. In 1989, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife constructed a fish weir on Eel Creek at the outflow of Eel Lake. While the current design works well for Coho Salmon, it is not conducive to Pacific Lamprey passage. As a result, there has been no documented Pacific Lamprey presence in Eel Lake or tributaries since before 1990. In addition, two ODOT HWY 101 culverts on Eel and Clear Creeks were recently identified as lamprey barriers. The Eel Creek culvert lamprey passage enhancement was constructed during August, 2017, while the Clear Creek culvert is scheduled to be upgraded in summer of 2018. The Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI), ODFW, and TLBP are scheduled to install a new lamprey passage (A ramp that will

pass adult Pacific Lamprey) at the Eel Lake Trap in 2018. This situation creates a unique opportunity to conduct effectiveness monitoring of these new designs for Pacific Lamprey passage. ODFW, CTCLUSI, and TLBP, in cooperation with ODOT, propose to conduct effectiveness monitoring on the Eel Lake Trap Lamprey Passage and Eel Creek Hwy 101 culvert designs. We also propose to conduct pre-implementation monitoring on the planned ODOT Clear Cr. culvert project. Using approved techniques, we will monitor the movements, holding habitats, barrier issues, and habitat use of Pacific Lamprey within the Eel Lake Basin. Implementation of this Monitoring project will provide the state and local partners with valuable data for Oregon Pacific Lamprey. Funding this priority monitoring effort will complete several actions recommended in the draft Tenmile Lakes 30 Year Pacific Lamprey Conservation Plan as well as supplement the creation of the Oregon Lamprey Recovery Plan (OLRP).

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The focus on lamprey is needed to understand the life history of Pacific Lamprey in the local area, and provide a baseline to determine if it is possible to correct passage through culverts or similar structures.
- This will help determine if structure alteration to achieve lamprey passage is successful.
- This application has extensive support from the local lamprey advisory group, and the statewide lamprey coordinator has committed to assist with sampling design and implementation of the project, if funded.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application describes that photo-points are being established before and after the culvert replacement. It was unclear how this information would help in interpreting the data they are proposing to collect.
- The application was not clear on how they are going to analyze the data they propose to collect.
- The timeline is confusing and not well organized. However, this may have been a technical issue with the OWEB Online Apps system.

Monitoring Team Comments

NONE

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High

Certainty of Success

High

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has expanded the partnership between the applicant, the tribes, and other entities.
- The applicant has a long history of implementing monitoring activities, especially water quality monitoring.
- Gaining a better understanding of lamprey life history and their use of the lake system is an important piece of the puzzle for planning future lamprey habitat restoration.
- This monitoring could lead to improvements in restoration designs related to passage and habitat needs for Pacific Lamprey.

Concerns

- The application does not address whether there is consideration of the potential for non-native fish presence in the system.
- The project addresses the physical habitat, such as passage concerns, but not necessarily the biological aspects of lamprey use in the system, such as population distribution.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds on a smaller project designed to look at lamprey use in the system. The applicant has expanded on this work and built a partnership committed to better understanding lamprey in the watershed. The project work is important and will inform future restoration actions, especially those related to lamprey passage to habitat. Future applications can be strengthened by adding activities that look at lamprey distribution and other limiting factors impacting lamprey usage in the system as well as being more descriptive on data analysis.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$56,666

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$56,666

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2042-15946

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Winter Lake Restoration
Effectiveness Monitoring

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$282,596

Total Cost: \$365,073

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Winter Lake Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring Project will evaluate the Winter Lake Restoration Project. Location: floodplain off the mainstem Coquille River (river mile 20/Coquille, OR/Coos County). Originally a freshwater tidal, forested marsh, it was cleared, bermed, and drained for agriculture (seasonal pasture grazing). China Camp Creek was channelized and tide gate infrastructure was installed, reducing habitat diversity and floodplain connectivity and altering thermal regimes. The restoration project addresses these watershed issues by restoring the 407-acre Winter Lake area owned by ODFW and the China Creek Gun Club, and improving the river floodplain connectivity in the remaining 1,300 acres of privately owned pastures. This project is a highly visible, substantial restoration investment and provides significant uplift to a large tract of juvenile coho rearing habitat. Therefore, comprehensive monitoring is essential to document results, inform adaptive management, and disseminate lessons learned. Starting in 2018, the monitoring project will collect data on the changes observed due to the restoration and at a reference location for four years post-implementation. Parameters include: fish passage (channel depth and connectivity, tide gate velocity), fish habitat quality and quantity (channel complexity, water quality (temperature, DO, TN, TP, TSS), water level, vegetation), and fish response to habitat enhancement (relative abundance and condition factor). The monitoring project goals include determining if the restoration project is accomplishing the restoration objectives, informing adaptive management needs on the project site, and informing restoration efforts along the Oregon Coast. Project partners: ODFW, Nature Conservancy, Beaver Slough Drainage District, ODEQ, and Coquille Indian Tribe. The Winter Lake Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring Project will evaluate the Winter Lake Restoration Project. Location: floodplain off the mainstem Coquille River (river mile 20/Coquille, OR/Coos County). Originally a freshwater tidal, forested marsh, it was cleared, bermed, and drained for agriculture (seasonal pasture grazing). China Camp Creek was channelized and tide gate infrastructure was installed, reducing habitat diversity and floodplain connectivity and altering thermal regimes. The restoration project addresses these watershed issues by restoring the 407-acre Winter Lake area owned by ODFW and the China Creek Gun Club, and improving the river floodplain connectivity in the remaining 1,300 acres of privately owned pastures. This project is a highly visible, substantial restoration investment and provides significant uplift to a large tract of juvenile coho rearing habitat. Therefore, comprehensive monitoring is essential to document results, inform adaptive management, and disseminate lessons learned. Starting in 2018, the monitoring project will collect data on the changes observed due to the restoration and at a reference location for four years post-

implementation. Parameters include: fish passage (channel depth and connectivity, tide gate velocity), fish habitat quality and quantity (channel complexity, water quality (temperature, DO, TN, TP, TSS), water level, vegetation), and fish response to habitat enhancement (relative abundance and condition factor). The monitoring project goals include determining if the restoration project is accomplishing the restoration objectives, informing adaptive management needs on the project site, and informing restoration efforts along the Oregon Coast. Project partners: ODFW, Nature Conservancy, Beaver Slough Drainage District, ODEQ, and Coquille Indian Tribe.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This proposal will build off of the existing fish data that were collected before the tide gates were replaced to determine if fish passage and habitat has improved.
- The applicant worked with local experts that represent several interested stakeholders to develop the sampling design and will help with the implementation of the project, if funded.
- The collection of continuous dissolved oxygen (DO) and temperature data will be valuable to understand what the water quality conditions are during typically stressful periods of time.
- This information is important to collect given the significant investment in replacing the tide gates and habitat improvement actions.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The OPMT questioned the need for total suspended solids (TSS) and nutrient sampling and did not feel that this is the highest priority data to be collected, given the various monitoring that was proposed and the restoration project's main objectives (fish passage and habitat improvement).
- The OPMT questioned the frequency of visits for the continuous DO loggers and encourage that they are maintained at a monthly interval at a minimum to ensure high-quality data are collected.
- The track record of the applicant, when considering a monitoring project of this magnitude, is unknown. The OPMT was concerned that the management, analysis and reporting of the data will be a huge commitment, given the various data collection efforts and organizations involved over the time period proposed in the application.
- The application lacks details on the methods to follow to calibrate, deploy and maintain the DO loggers.

Monitoring Team Comments

- Remove the TSS and the nutrient monitoring component of the application.
- Monitor DO following DEQ's protocol that was recently developed.

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High

Certainty of Success

Medium

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on past monitoring and restoration activities.
- The project has a DEQ approved quality assurance plan; however it needs to be updated.
- The monitoring plan will provide data that can be used when developing future tidegate projects, tidally influenced riparian restoration, and channel re-construction projects. The resulting data needs to be shared with state agencies for inclusion into their databases, including ODFW and ODEQ.
- The monitoring has potential to be used for outreach by providing information to landowners on the benefits that can be realized from tidegate projects.
- This monitoring will inform adaptive management of the restoration project.

Concerns

- Loggers to be used need frequent visits to ensure debris build up on these devices does not interfere with their sensitivity, weekly visits are recommended.

Concluding Analysis

The China Camp Creek Tidegate Replacement and the upcoming Winter Lake Restoration project are both important projects with a critical need for monitoring their results to inform future tidegate replacement projects as well as those involving channel reconstruction and riparian restoration. Both of these restoration projects represent a large investment and commitment by a multitude of partners, and capturing the impacts of this work on fish use, fish access, habitat improvements, water quality, and land usage is vital. The development of this monitoring involved the right array of partners and implementation has the same degree of involvement so there is a high likelihood of success. It will be important to capture and share the data and results of this work. The work will also be important to informing adaptive management of the restoration projects. Future projects of this scale and a number of partnerships will benefit from the development of a monitoring plan and funding strategy at the design phase.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$282,596

Review Team Conditions

Increase frequency of visits to clean Sondes/DO loggers. Update DEQ QA/QC. Data must be shared with state agencies for inclusion into their databases (including ODFW and ODEQ).

Staff Recommendation**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$282,596

Staff Conditions

Increase frequency of visits to clean Sondes/DO loggers. Update DEQ QA/QC. Data must be shared with state agencies for inclusion into their databases (including ODFW and ODEQ).

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2043-15979

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Using Bird Monitoring to Evaluate Effectiveness of Riparian Restoration in the Rogue Basin

Applicant: Klamath Bird Observatory

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$26,926

Total Cost: \$37,726

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Healthy riparian vegetation provides important ecological services, including critical habitat for a disproportionate number of birds and other terrestrial wildlife, yet a large portion of riparian habitats in the Rogue River Basin have been lost or degraded. Riparian restoration implemented in Jackson and Josephine counties of southwestern Oregon meets rigorous vegetation performance standards, but it is not known whether other important ecological goals are being met: improving riparian areas for wildlife habitat as well as watershed health. Birds are widely recognized as excellent ecological and management indicators, and are relatively easy and cost-effective to monitor. Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) proposes a pilot project partnering with The Freshwater Trust (TFT) that uses avian monitoring data and a focal species approach to evaluate effectiveness of and improve riparian restoration in the Rogue Basin. KBO will adapt existing standardized bird monitoring techniques (e.g. territory mapping, reproductive index, activity budgets), pilot their use for smaller-scale sites restored by TFT, and determine the feasibility of achieving ecologically meaningful results that can be applied to adaptive management. This exciting collaboration will link a science-based conservation organization with an on-the-ground restoration practitioner, create a model of better communication between scientists and land managers that will benefit the Rogue Basin watershed, and advance efforts to quantify benefits of restoration and inform future project design. This pilot project provides a timely opportunity to evaluate avian monitoring data as useful metrics of habitat quality, ecosystem function, and restoration success, as the Rogue Basin Partnership is currently developing a comprehensive basin-wide monitoring strategy. Healthy riparian vegetation provides important ecological services, including critical habitat for a disproportionate number of birds and other terrestrial wildlife, yet a large portion of riparian habitats in the Rogue River Basin have been lost or degraded. Riparian restoration implemented in Jackson and Josephine counties of southwestern Oregon meets rigorous vegetation performance standards, but it is not known whether other important ecological goals are being met: improving riparian areas for wildlife habitat as well as watershed health. Birds are widely recognized as excellent ecological and management indicators, and are relatively easy and cost-effective to monitor. Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) proposes a pilot project partnering with The Freshwater Trust (TFT) that uses avian monitoring data and a focal species approach to evaluate effectiveness of and improve riparian restoration in the Rogue Basin. KBO will adapt existing standardized bird monitoring techniques (e.g. territory mapping, reproductive index, activity budgets), pilot their use for smaller-scale sites restored by TFT, and

determine the feasibility of achieving ecologically meaningful results that can be applied to adaptive management. This exciting collaboration will link a science-based conservation organization with an on-the-ground restoration practitioner, create a model of better communication between scientists and land managers that will benefit the Rogue Basin watershed, and advance efforts to quantify benefits of restoration and inform future project design. This pilot project provides a timely opportunity to evaluate avian monitoring data as useful metrics of habitat quality, ecosystem function, and restoration success, as the Rogue Basin Partnership is currently developing a comprehensive basin-wide monitoring strategy.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- There is value in understanding if riparian plantings designed for water temperature improvements are providing additional ecological outcomes, such as habitat for birds.
- This application proposes to develop a methodology and approach that could be exportable for monitoring smaller riparian planting projects.
- This proposal is a good partnership with The Freshwater Trust to utilize an existing vegetation data set and correlate that to the avian data set.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application was not clear if the first objective (i.e., literature search) has been completed, or if it will be completed prior to the monitoring outlined in the timeline.
- The OPMT questioned the usefulness of the data based on presence of birds or nests. There was discussion related to bird presence equating the presence of high-quality bird habitat.
- The original plantings were not designed with avian-specific objectives in mind. Using bird data to develop adaptive management for riparian plantings, when the primary intent of the plantings is to address water-quality issues, may be misaligned with the original restoration objectives.

Monitoring Team Comments

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-15%, Medium-70%, Low-15%

Certainty of Success

High-29%, Medium-42%, Low-29%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has experience with bird monitoring.

- The process for implementing this project is straight forward because the applicant will be working with one entity that already has established relationships with landowners.
- The project is based on work undertaken in the Klamath, and protocols will be adapted from that work.
- This monitoring is identified in the Rogue Basin Restoration Plan.
- The project will build on monitoring that The Freshwater Trust is implementing in areas that have been planted; and looks at species diversity, survival, and invasive species.

Concerns

- The restoration projects to be monitored were designed for the primary objective of improving water quality (i.e. temperature) and not for increasing native bird populations. While restoring native riparian plant species should benefit birds, monitoring for a bird response at a project not specifically designed for that objective may not be an appropriate comparison.
- The application was not clear on how the work would be extrapolated to different age classes of vegetation.
- The application would benefit from additional discussion on the applicant's first objective: "evaluate the application of standardized avian monitoring methods to small-scale restoration (sites (e.g. 2-6 acres) and determine the feasibility of achieving statistically rigorous and/or ecologically meaningful results that can be applied to adaptive management;" and the possible ramifications to project implementation resulting from different findings.

Concluding Analysis

The use of bird population response to riparian restoration would add another facet to evaluating the effectiveness of riparian restoration. This type of monitoring is currently not utilized in the area and will need some adaption from other work the applicant is involved in. It was not clear from the application whether the current age trees and vegetation in the riparian restoration projects would lend itself well to some of the monitoring parameters. However, this type of approach may make for a viable alternative to other current monitoring approaches for riparian vegetation that focus mainly on plant survival rates.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$26,926

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2044-16041

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Coho Life History and Migrations in
Tide Gated Lowland Coastal Streams 2018-2020

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: \$229,549

Total Cost: \$355,907

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project renews and refines long-term monitoring, initiated in 2004, which examines coho salmon abundance, survival, life histories and habitat use in Palouse and Willanch Creek, two tide gated coastal lowland streams in the Coos Bay estuary. Tidal ecotone habitats are critical for the resiliency and recovery of Coos River and Oregon Coastal coho but largely remain the most altered landscapes across the fishes range. These conditions limit connectivity to off-channel winter refuge habitat and create barriers to movement between habitats, especially for juvenile salmon. This project enhances PIT tag mark-recapture-resight techniques and expands Rotary Screw Trap sampling methods to more effectively monitor coho life cycles, evaluate seasonal tidal habitat use and assess fish passage effectiveness at an upgraded tide gate. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University, United States Forest Service, University of Oregon, UCAN-AmeriCorps, South Western Community College, local high schools, volunteers and riparian landowners partner with Coos Watershed Association management to provide property access, equipment, technical assistance, and survey effort to implement the proposed objectives. OWEB funds will be used to support technical and management personnel and provide necessary materials and equipment. This project renews and refines long-term monitoring, initiated in 2004, which examines coho salmon abundance, survival, life histories and habitat use in Palouse and Willanch Creek, two tide gated coastal lowland streams in the Coos Bay estuary. Tidal ecotone habitats are critical for the resiliency and recovery of Coos River and Oregon Coastal coho but largely remain the most altered landscapes across the fishes range. These conditions limit connectivity to off-channel winter refuge habitat and create barriers to movement between habitats, especially for juvenile salmon. This project enhances PIT tag mark-recapture-resight techniques and expands Rotary Screw Trap sampling methods to more effectively monitor coho life cycles, evaluate seasonal tidal habitat use and assess fish passage effectiveness at an upgraded tide gate. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University, United States Forest Service, University of Oregon, UCAN-AmeriCorps, South Western Community College, local high schools, volunteers and riparian landowners partner with Coos Watershed Association management to provide property access, equipment, technical assistance, and survey effort to implement the proposed objectives. OWEB funds will be used to support technical and management personnel and provide necessary materials and equipment.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This application builds on a large dataset and will help put adult salmon returns in context.
- The applicant is one of the few organizations currently tracking fish response in tide-gated systems over a long period of time.
- The applicant has a good track record and is working with ODFW to leverage the life cycle monitoring site.
- The application proposes to calculate appropriate metrics for survivability and productivity.
- The OPMT liked that the application discussed lessons learned and why they are doing this type of monitoring.
- There have been changes in the tide gate operation and this would inform what is expected when tide gates are operated differently to improve fish passage.
- The applicant does an outstanding job of using the information in identifying areas of restoration, project design, outreach and generating annual reports.
- The results are transferrable to other tide gated streams on the Oregon Coast.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- No concerns were identified.

Monitoring Team Comments

NONE

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High

Certainty of Success

High

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is a well written application.
- The application demonstrates strong partnerships, and the applicant's abilities to implement this type of challenging monitoring effort.
- This monitoring project provides a long-term dataset that is shared. .
- Monitoring data derived from this project is used for informing restoration efforts, tidegate replacement projects, and restoration project design; and provides needed information on Coho life cycle in estuary draining tidegated streams.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

This project is the most recent request from a long term successful monitoring effort designed to better understand the life cycle of juvenile Coho in stream systems that drain directly into an estuary impacted by tidegates. Previous project work has informed tidegate replacements as well as greatly enhancing the understanding of how juvenile Coho use these systems. These long –term monitoring datasets are well distributed, shared, and utilized. The applicant effectively uses the information to identify priority areas for restoration, design projects, implement outreach, and generate annual reports. The project application reflects a strong program built to accomplish this important monitoring work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$229,549

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$229,549

Staff Conditions

NONE

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2045-15954

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Oregon Woodland Owner Engagement Project

Applicant: American Forest Foundation

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$74,782

Total Cost: \$94,782

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Healthy forests play a critical role in providing clean water. Yet, unnaturally large and severe fire threatens water supply to communities, agriculture, and wildlife. Restoration of forests' fire resiliency on non-industrial private forest (NIPF) lands is critical to addressing this cross jurisdictional challenge. Unfortunately, a majority of NIPF landowners are not actively managing their land. Through spatial assessments we have identified targeted sub watersheds across eight sub basins in Oregon where action on NIPF lands is essential to safeguarding water quality and watershed function. In three focal areas that encompass those watersheds, AFF will work with partners to engage landowners who have largely previously not actively managed their lands. We will utilize both direct mail and social media marketing to offer over 5,000 landowners a continuum of services as a way to get them engaged. For landowners ready to act, we will provide direct technical assistance that would qualify the landowner for subsequent financial assistance for management projects. And for landowners not ready to act, we will produce a range of activities, including workshops, field days, and peer learning opportunities that are designed to guide the landowner to eventual action. In both cases, our aim is to build a pipeline of landowners in targeted and critical watersheds who have the willingness and ability to reduce their fire risk. This proposal seeks funding to support that outreach and our work with partners across the three focal areas, including USFS, NRCS, ODF, OSU extension, OFRI, OSWA, Wallowa Resources, and the Klamath Lake Forest Health partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- From Region 5 RRT:
Application strengths identified during review include:
- The goal to reach 5,000 landowners across the state is ambitious.
- The project involves partners.

From Region 4 RRT:
Application strengths identified during review include:

- This effort proposed for the Chiloquin area will support on-going efforts already underway by local partners.
- The project will support "boots on-the-ground" efforts to engage landowners in technical planning and potential future restoration.

- The proposal is using lessons learned and a successful model completed in the Blue Mountains of Oregon as a basis for their approach and technique.

From Region 2 RRT:

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The proposed project is a unique, holistic approach for restoring forest lands with hydrologic form and function.
- This work is important for NRCS priorities.
- There currently are several Forest Collaboratives at work in the Region.
- The application includes letters of support.

Concerns

- From Region 5 RRT:
- NRCS has a CIS in the same area and this project may impact their work, however NRCS in Region 6 has not heard of this proposal.
- There are already other small forestry groups doing similar work across the state.
- It is unclear how the interface with local stakeholders will be managed.
- It is unclear how the proposed project is strategic.

From Region 4 RRT:

- Local, state, and federal partners in the Chiloquin area already working on these efforts were not aware of this grant proposal nor contacted by the applicant. There are existing tools in place by local partners that could benefit the applicant's efforts.
- It was unclear whether the databased mentioned (FLoWs) was necessary in the Chiloquin area.
- It would have been helpful to understand how many technical plans and plans put into action the outreach in the Blue Mountains resulted in.

From Region 2 RRT:

- This work is already occurring and it is unclear whether the applicant is working collaboratively with local partners to avoid redundancy and mixed messages.
- The objectives and deliverables lack specific details.
- The application would benefit from additional specifics on how to accomplish fish and wildlife habitat protection.
- It is not clear how the use of staff from outside Oregon will impact landowner receptiveness and whether project costs would be lowered if staff from within Oregon were utilized.
- Several approaches are identified to reach landowners; however, it is unclear whether the social media component can effectively reach target landowners. Since there is considerable cost associated with this component, the application would be strengthened by additional detail on this approach as well as discussion on its effectiveness in reaching landowners.

Concluding Analysis

The project proposes implementation of strategies to engage landowners in forest health issues. This is important work, however the application needs additional specific detail on project objectives and

approaches and their likelihood to succeed in recruiting landowners in active restoration. Additionally, discussion on how the project will integrate and collaborate with existing efforts would be helpful for evaluating the project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

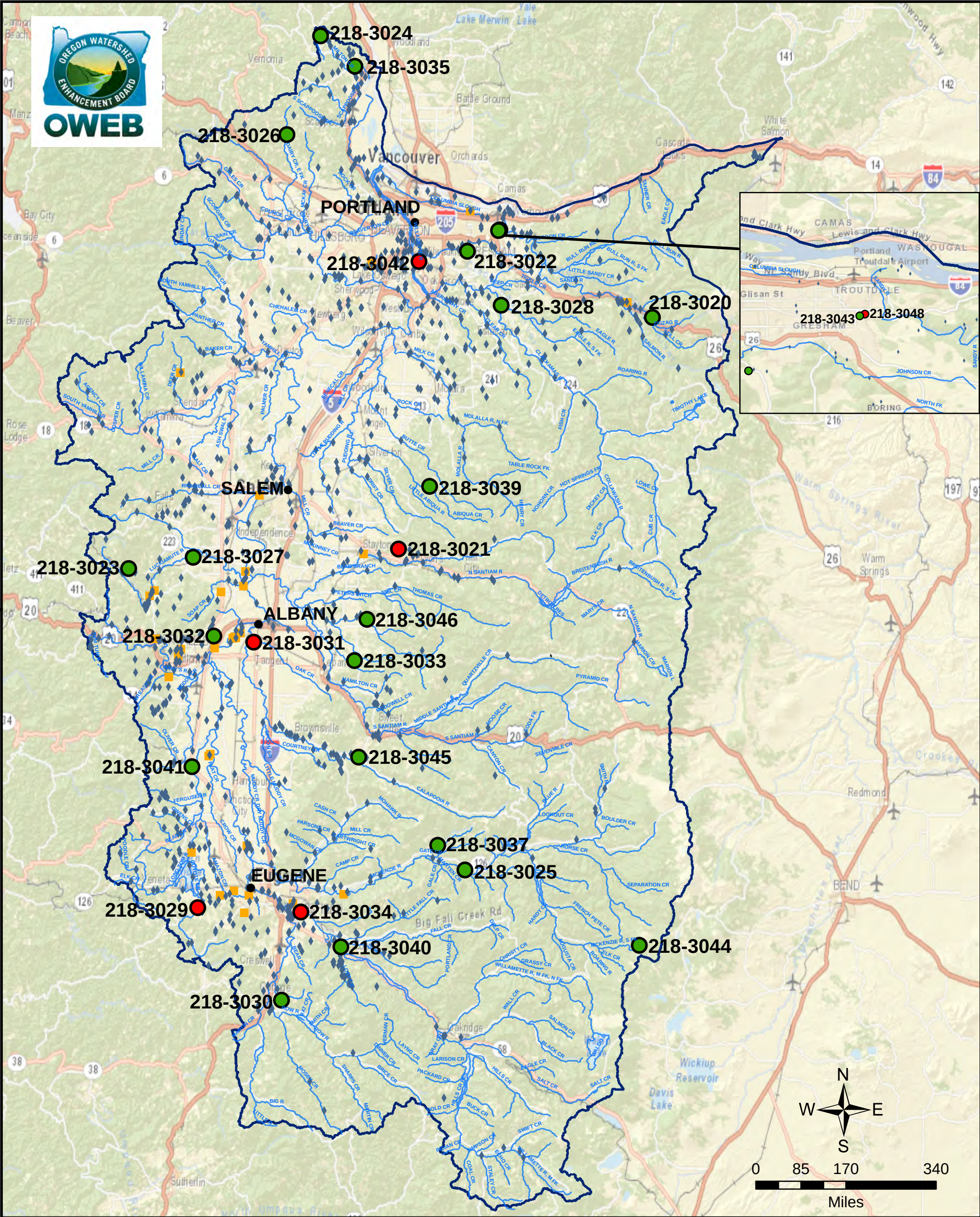
Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NONE

Willamette Basin - Region 3 Fall 2017 Funding Recommendations



Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2017Fall\Cycle\Projects\Region3_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2017Fall.mxd

ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB-PK Wills Fall 20180326

Fall 2017 Applications

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

Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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Salem, OR 97301-1290
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Region 3 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

Region 3 - Willamette Basin**Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order**

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-3024	Scappoose Bay Watershed Council	Upper Milton Creek Large Wood	Proposed restoration will restore fish habitat on 2.5 miles of Upper Milton Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay. This project will install instream large wood structures and plant native conifer trees along the stream to create a significant increase in native fish refuge areas, and future large wood recruitment for the stream. This 2.5 miles combined with a previous 3.5 miles of restoration work will result in a total of 6 miles of restored stream habitat benefiting native salmon and steelhead.	218,798	Columbia
218-3033	South Santiam Watershed Council	Dragonfly Ranch Meadow, Wetland, Oak Savanna and Oak Woodland Restoration Project	Proposed restoration located on One Horse Slough, a tributary of the South Santiam River, will restore and enhance mixed woodland, oak savanna, riparian forest, meadows, springs, seasonal and permanent streams, and several perennial ponds. These habitats will benefit a diversity of native Oregon fish and wildlife species, including western pond turtles, beaver, and red-legged frogs.	159,904	Linn
218-3027	Polk SWCD	Jont Creek Barrier Removal and Off Channel Habitat Improvement	Proposed restoration will replace a culvert that is a fish passage barrier on Jont Creek, a tributary to the Luckiamute River. Removing this barrier will open fish access to over 9 miles of stream habitat and provide opportunity to improve over 45 acres of wetland habitat surrounding the existing culvert.	98,879	Polk
218-3030	Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council	Carnine Upland Prairie and Oak Savanna Restoration	Proposed restoration will occur on a 326-acre property located on the southeastern edge of the City of Cottage Grove in the lower Row River watershed. Restoring this rare but degraded Willamette Valley oak savanna and prairie habitats will benefit priority plant and wildlife species dependent on these habitats.	159,740	Lane
218-3028	Clackamas River Basin Council	Bonnie Lure State Recreation Area	Proposed restoration is in the Bonnie Lure State Recreation Area, an Oregon State Park located at the confluence of Eagle Creek with the Clackamas River. Eradicating invasive species and re-establishing native plant communities, including mixed riparian forest, shrub scrub wetland, and conifer-dominated foothills, will return this priority location to baseline functioning conditions.	133,990	Clackamas
218-3025	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Lower Deer Creek Enhancement Project	Proposed restoration is located on Deer Creek in the McKenzie River watershed east of Eugene, Oregon. Large wood structures will be placed in the active channel and floodplain to improve habitat and stream function for native spring Chinook salmon, rainbow trout, and cutthroat trout.	75,506	Lane

Region 3 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order (Continued)					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-3020	The Freshwater Trust	Upper Sandy River Basin Aquatic Habitat restoration Project	Proposed restoration will increase side channel habitat, floodplain connectivity, and instream large wood abundance on the Salmon River and Lost Creek, which are tributaries to the Sandy River. This will provide habitat for native salmon and steelhead fish.	316,306	Clackamas
218-3031	Benton County Parks Department	Jackson-Frazier Wetland Phase 2: Long Term Habitat Restoration Project	Proposed project will restore wetland habitat and native plant diversity within the 50-acre Jackson-Frazier Wetland, which is a Benton County managed property outside the Corvallis Urban Growth Boundary. Project will restore wetland habitat that supports native and rare plant and wildlife species.	109,908	Benton
218-3023	Luckiamute Watershed Council	Upper Ritner Creek Splash Dam Recovery Project	Proposed restoration on Ritner Creek, located in the upper Luckiamute watershed, will address the legacy effects of splash damming by placing logs instream and planting conifers along the stream. This will result in immediate and long-term benefits to salmonid habitat and key ecological processes throughout the 2.1 mile project reach.	88,121	Polk
218-3026	Tualatin Watershed Council	EF Dairy Large Wood Placement Project	Proposed restoration on East Fork Dairy Creek, located in the Tualatin River watershed, will address the lack of instream large wood required for developing and sustaining off channel connectivity, increase shade for water temperature maintenance, and plant streamside conifers for long term wood recruitment stream. This will provide winter and summer habitat benefits to native salmon.	118,926	Washington
218-3022	Johnson Creek Watershed Council	Mitchell Creek Temperature and Fish Passage Enhancement Resubmittal	Proposed restoration is located on Mitchell Creek in the Johnson Creek Watershed and an unincorporated area of Multnomah County between Gresham and Portland. This project will remove an artificially constructed pond and restore the original stream channel and streamside vegetation, which will result in water temperature and fish passage improvements.	85,893	Multnomah
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				1,565,971	

Region 3 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-3034	Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah	Mt. Pisgah Oak-Pine Woodland, Oak Savanna, and Wet Prairie Restoration: Ponderosa Unit	Proposed restoration is located on the eastern portion of Lane County's 2,218-acre Buford Park near the confluence of the Willamette's Coast and Middle Forks. This project will restore and enhance wetland prairie, upland prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitats across a 110 acre unit. These actions are expected to benefit 17 at-risk species known to occur in the Mt. Pisgah area that depend on these prairie, oak savanna and oak woodland habitats, including the Western	98,879	Lane
218-3021	Cascade Pacific RC&D	North and South Valentine Stream Buffer Improvement	Proposed restoration located on Valentine Creek, a tributary to the North Santiam River, will use the Rapid Riparian Revegetation method to restore a fully-functioning streamside area. This will stabilize soils, decrease sediment from entering the water ways, reestablish native woody vegetation, suppress nonnatives and improve fish and wildlife habitat and water quality throughout the project area.	157,661	Marion
218-3032	Calapooia Watershed Council	Oak Creek Open Space - Phase 1 Restoration Expanded	Proposed restoration site is located on the south side of Albany, Oregon; and is partially bordered by the Calapooia and Oak Creek, the Calapooia's largest tributary. This project will connect and improve fragmented habitats important to grassland and wetland prairie dependent birds, control invasive plant species, and restore refuge habitat for juvenile native fish.	176,096	Linn
218-3029	Long Tom Watershed Council	Coyote-Spencer Wetlands Oak and Prairie Habitat Restoration	Proposed restoration will occur on the 191-acre Coyote-Spencer Wetlands property that sits at the confluence of Coyote and Spencer creeks, which are tributaries to the Long Tom River. This project will restore former wet prairie and oak savanna on the property where intact plant communities remain and hosts dozens of native plant species, including federally listed Bradshaw's lomatium.	113,090	Lane
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				2,111,697	
Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount	County
218-3019	Molalla River Watch Inc.	Molalla Side Channel Restoration		104,494	Clackamas

Region 3 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-3040	Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council	Elijah Bristow State Park Floodplain Restoration Design	Proposed technical assistance is for a 664-acre area within the Elijah Bristow State Park that is located at the confluence of the Middle Fork Willamette River with Lost Creek. Due to its location below three large dams and historic land use practices, the dynamism of this floodplain has been lost and has led to a more static environment. This project will use a stream process-based, interdisciplinary, multi-species approach to floodplain restoration design at the project location to restore floodplain function.	75,000	Lane
218-3039	Pudding River Watershed Council	Abiqua Creek, Salmon and Trout Side-Channel Habitat Enhancement, Large Wood Placement, Design	Proposed technical assistance will identify restoration project site locations and create designs for instream large wood placement on Abiqua Creek, a tributary to the Pudding River. This will address habitat degradation due to the loss of large conifers in the riparian corridor and benefit Upper Willamette steelhead.	24,526	Marion
218-3037	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Gate Creek Enhancement Project Development	Proposed technical assistance on Gate Creek, a tributary to the McKenzie River, will identify and develop aquatic enhancement projects that will address the lack of large wood within stream channels and the floodplain. This has altered natural stream processes and impacted habitat for native fish, including spring Chinook salmon, rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey.	15,180	Lane
218-3035	Scappoose Bay Watershed Council	Milton Creek Technical Restoration Planning	Proposed technical assistance on lower Milton Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay, will provide designs that address poor instream and streamside conditions and disconnected historical side-channels. This will provide stream habitat for native coho and chum salmon, steelhead, and trout.	50,961	Columbia
218-3043	Sandy River Basin Watershed Council	Kelly Creek Dam Removal Feasibility	Proposed technical assistance will investigate the ecological, economic, and social feasibility of removing the Kelly Creek dam, which is located on the Mt. Hood Community College campus. This dam is located in the Beaver Creek drainage, which is a tributary of the Sandy River. Resulting restoration will provide access to spawning and rearing habitat for juvenile coho, chinook, and steelhead; and provide water quality benefits since the pond above the dam is negatively impacting water temperature.	44,880	Multnomah

Region 3 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order (Continued)					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-3041	Long Tom Watershed Council	Lower Long Tom Historic Channel Reconnection Design	Proposed technical assistance is located on the Long Tom River, in the town of Monroe. The lower Long Tom River from Fern Ridge Dam downstream was channelized in 1943 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce flooding, which reduced the total channel length from 36.5 to 23.6 mile. This also reduced the amount of complex off-channel habitat available for native fish and wildlife and floodplain connectivity. The proposed project will develop designs and acquire regulatory permits to reconnect 0.23 miles of off-channel habitat and 6.5 acres of mature floodplain forest to the mainstem Long Tom River.	47,113	Benton
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				257,660	
Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Recommended	County
218-3042	North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council	Resubmit- NCUWC 10-Year Restoration Action Plan	Proposed technical assistance will identify restoration priorities across the four tributaries that drain into the Willamette River between the Clackamas River and Johnson Creek. This area provides rearing habitat, and limited migrating and spawning habitat for threatened and endangered salmonids and other priority species including: steelhead, coho, chinook, pacific lamprey, and cutthroat trout. Resulting technical assistance will be used as a guide to future restoration designs and implementation.	37,794	Clackamas
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				295,454	
Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County	
218-3036	Pudding River WC	Pudding River Turtle Mapping Habitat Assessment- GIS Mapping and Landowner Identification Project	11,935	Clackamas	
218-3038	Pudding River WC	Scotts Mills Dam Assessment and Alternatives Analysis	33,458	Marion	

Region 3 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-3046	South Santiam Watershed Council	South Santiam & North Santiam Focus Project Development	Proposed stakeholder engagement is located in the South Santiam, North Santiam, and Mill Creek Watersheds. This project will continue building on previous successes by developing a strategic recruitment campaign that offers landowners one-on-one individual conservation planning consultations and two three-part land conservation training workshops to develop land management plans.	51,863	Linn
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				51,863	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount	County
218-3048	Sandy River Basin Watershed Council	Beaver Creek Fish Passage and Riparian Vegetation Restoration	Proposed stakeholder engagement is located in the Beaver Creek watershed, the lowest tributary to the Sandy River. This project will secure community support and active involvement in implementing fish passage and riparian vegetation restoration projects that will support recovery of ESA-listed salmon in the watershed and address water temperature concerns impacting water quality.	22,875	Multnomah
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				74,738	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County	
218-3049	Clackamas River Basin Council	Stakeholder Engagement for a Healthy Clackamas Watershed	36,773	Clackamas	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects Deemed <i>Ineligible</i> Prior to Review					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County	
218-3047	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Sandy River Delta Stakeholder Engagement Project	37,872	Multnomah	

Region 3 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-3045	Calapooia Watershed Council	Wild Winter Steelhead - Upper Calapooia Monitoring	Proposed monitoring will occur in the Upper Calapooia River to complete 2 years of winter steelhead redd surveys and collect summer water temperature data. This will provide information on the current status of adult winter steelhead in the mainstem Calapooia and its major tributaries, and the location of suitable water temperatures for native fish summer rearing and migration. This data can be used to create a stream reach wide restoration plan that will focus restoration efforts in areas where they will be the most cost effective.	95,576	Linn
218-3044	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Oregon Spotted Frog Monitoring Project	Proposed monitoring will provide the first data and analysis of Oregon Spotted Frog population response to habitat alteration caused by beaver in the Northwest, and perhaps the first before-after and treatment-control design for amphibians and beaver in the USA. Understanding these dynamics will inform the planning, management, and expectations around wildlife responses to natural beaver expansions and beaver translocations and reintroductions restoration approaches throughout the range of Oregon Spotted Frog.	55,152	Lane
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				150,728	
Monitoring Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount Recommended	County
None		None			
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				150,728	
Monitoring Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount Requested	County
None		None			
Region 3 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				2,026,222	19%
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				10,753,978	

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3019-15922

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Molalla Side Channel Restoration

Applicant: Molalla River Watch Inc

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$104,494

Total Cost: \$157,969

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This mainstem Molalla Side Channel Restoration application is the product of an OWEB funded TA grant that was utilized to identify highly productive side channels for the provision of thermal refuge for rearing salmonids during low summer flow regimes when the mainstem Molalla is 303d listed for temperature. All of the site selection, landowner outreach and preliminary project design was completed by the TA. This submittal is requesting final design and implementation funds for the construction associated with protecting and enhancing 4 unique side channels on 3 different partner properties along the mainstem Molalla River (Schmidt, Sauvageau and Moehnke). The target side channels are between RM 14 and RM 26. This 12 mile segment of the mainstem that extends from the Hwy 213 bridge crossing to the confluence of the NF Molalla was identified in the 2012 RBA Final Report document as the key rearing habitat for the listed spring chinook salmon. The project builds stable point bar log jams in the upstream inlets of these 4 side channels to keep the side channel protected from avulsion by the mainstem during winter flow regimes. The lack of large coniferous wood being recruited from Molalla River riparian corridors has left side channels vulnerable to flood flows and rendered them as ephemeral features on the landscape. There is ample evidence that side channel habitats in the Molalla River historically were much longer lived and capable of providing summer thermal refugia for decades. In addition to inlet protection, edge oriented scour logs will be placed within the side channels to scour deep pockets down to bedrock in an effort to access a very cold hyporheic lens of water disconnected from the summer warm flows of the mainstem Molalla River. A select few reference channels still exist in the basin to guide site selection and design. These reference side channels also contained 61% of all juvenile coho rearing in the basin in 2011 and 21% of all juvenile chinook.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written.
- The proposed restoration will benefit ESA-listed fish by providing rearing habitat.
- The project is based on rapid bio-assessments (RBA) and watershed analysis data that all recommend side-channel restoration as the highest value in the Molalla watershed because 70% of the fish are found in cooler side-channel pools.
- Partner and landowner support is demonstrated by letters of support and match.
- The project is a reasonable cost for the proposed restoration.
- The contractor for the project has extensive experience working in stream restoration.

Concerns

- The project design does not appear to fit the hydrology of the stream reach, which results in uncertainty in how this design will work in achieving expected watershed benefits.
- The project is intended to create side-channel refugia habitat in a high energy system, which will have unpredictable results in which some side-channels will probably function by tapping into hyporheic flow, some will fill with sediment and not scour, and some will scour without tapping into hyporheic flow.
- It is unclear how upland logs will be moved down to the stream without significant damage to riparian habitat since the site is a long distance from the road.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project will test an unusual design approach to side-channels with an initial 4 landowners, and has potential to expand to 17 channels. Selected side-channels target the highest priority channels identified through previous RBA work. The project is designed to address unique challenges occurring in the Molalla watershed, and may be the best effort to achieve lower water temperature in side-channels. Since the mainstem has strong flows, this side-channel approach may be the best opportunity in the basin; however, it is still unclear if the design approach is technically sound and likely to succeed. This project appears to be designed to use apex log jams to cut off portions of a depositional stream environment. Typically in a depositional environment, the natural function is to allow water to move where it wants to go; therefore, the design approach contradicts this natural function. It is also unclear how cutting off a side-channel will increase hyporheic flow. If there is no change to the elevation in the main channel to aggrade the mainstem, there will not be much change in hyporheic flow in the side-channel. The side-channel will get some hyporheic flow; however, it will probably be flow that already existed in the channel. If this application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide additional information on how the design approach is likely to succeed, including examples of this approach working in other locations or other evidence used to inform the design approach.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3020-15931

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Sandy River Basin Aquatic
Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$316,306

Total Cost: \$929,704

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Sandy River salmon and steelhead populations have declined over the last century due to degradation of habitat and other factors. The Sandy River Basin Partners (the Partners) have identified the tributaries Salmon River and Lost Creek as providing high quality anchor habitat for the basin's native fish, and are aligned on a near term goal of restoring these sub-watersheds to advance Sandy basin-scale restoration. On behalf of the Partners, The Freshwater Trust (TFT), US Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are taking the lead on the Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project, which will address primary limiting factors by increasing side channel habitat/floodplain connectivity and large wood abundance on the Salmon River and Lost Creek. Restoration actions include: reactivation of flow to historic side channels and floodplain habitat, construction of large wood habitat structures, and placement of additional large wood in side channels and on stream margins. Proposed work is on public land managed by the USFS and BLM, located near Welches, Oregon in Clackamas County. This project is part of a larger, multi-year watershed scale restoration effort, and builds on similar successful projects completed in the basin by TFT and the Partners since 2008. OWEB funding will support TFT staff time for project design/permitting, project management, construction, travel, administration and reporting. Post-project monitoring will follow construction to establish as-built conditions. Physical habitat surveys will be repeated in summer 2019 and after bankfull events thereafter. Fish surveys will occur seasonally based on time of use.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration is similar to previous work completed in the watershed that has proven successful as demonstrated by evidence from fish return data.
- The project is located in a priority watershed with known use by ESA-listed Chinook, coho, and steelhead.
- Since this project is on public lands, there is reduced risk associated with placing large wood structures because there are no houses in adjacent areas.
- The project team has a proven track record as a successful partnership.

Concerns

- The Lost Creek portion of the project is a lower priority in the Sandy Basin Partnership. The

application is unclear on how this part of the project fits into the restoration puzzle for the Sandy Basin as a timely priority now. Since Lost Creek was chosen because Forest Service had money available to treat the upper watersheds, this portion of the project may be more opportunistic than strategic.

- Some project costs seem high compared to similar projects, such as costs associated with moving equipment.
- Designs cited in the application are based on 2014 and 2015 work; the application would be strengthened by including current project designs.
- The application would benefit from the same level of detailed information such as that provided in previous applications for earlier project phases.

Concluding Analysis

This project is part of a phased approach in the Sandy Basin in 6th field subwatersheds of the upper basin. Restoration strategies for the Still Creek subwatershed are now complete, and this proposal completes restoration strategies in the Salmon River subwatershed. The Upper Sandy has numerous ESA-listed fish species, making it priority area for in-stream restoration. Furthermore, post-project data from previous work demonstrate this stream system typically has an outstanding response to restoration that improves fish run numbers. The project has a high benefit-cost ratio and high likelihood of success for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$316,306

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$316,306

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3021-15942

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North & South Valentine Stream
Buffer Improvement

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Marion

OWEB Request: \$157,661

Total Cost: \$217,761

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Valentine Creek is a direct tributary to the North Santiam River, entering the mainstem just above the town of Stayton and below the City of Salem's water intake facility located at Geren Island. In 2009, the Valentine Creek subbasin was one of three subbasins selected in the Lower North Santiam to be part of the Willamette Model Watershed Program, a regional program designed to help improve and restore watershed health at a subbasin scale. The NSWCC is proposing to restore approximately 25.3 acres of agricultural riparian buffer along the headwaters of the North and South Valentine tributaries, which support native Coastal cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey. Riparian wildlife habitat is degraded in both tributary reaches with invasive weeds prevalent throughout riparian zones. The lack of a fully-functioning riparian area is also having an impact on water quality by allowing excess sediment into the waterways. The NSWCC will utilize the Rapid Riparian Revegetation method to help stabilize the soils, decrease sediment from entering the water ways, reestablish native woody vegetation, suppress nonnatives and improve fish and wildlife habitat throughout the project reaches. The NSWCC will use this project as an example of how a large working farm can be compatible with clean water and high quality fish and wildlife habitat. Project and funding partners include the Beitel Family, Marion County, Marion Soil and Water Conservation District and Meyer Memorial Trust. OWEB funds will be used for project management, contracted services and supplies and materials.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Valentine Creek provides habitat to ESA-listed fish in areas downstream of the project site.
- The proposed project has high potential to recruit interest from neighbors to become involved in voluntary restoration.
- This is a well-designed project to meet restoration objectives described in the application and will benefit water quality by reducing sedimentation and improving water temperature.
- The restoration effort is supported by a committed landowner, which is demonstrated by previous restoration on 11 upstream acres and efforts to maintain that work.
- The project builds on previous efforts completed through the Willamette Model Watershed and is ready to implement.
- Previous Regional Review Team comments are addressed in the application.

Concerns

- The proposed restoration will have limited direct benefit to ESA-listed fish, which limits the cost-benefit for this project.
- While the project can demonstrate how a working farm can be compatible with habitat restoration, land in agricultural production and the presence of a power line limit the potential riparian buffer on one side of the creek.

Concluding Analysis

The project design approach provides a compromise for working with agriculture and retaining economic function for the farmer while restoring habitats. The greatest benefit of this project is the potential social capital that could be gained in recruiting adjacent landowners in this basin to participate in voluntary restoration. There could be a higher ecological return on this project if more landowners were recruited to participate, which would improve the cost-benefit of this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

13 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$157,661

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3022-15991

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mitchell Creek temperature and fish passage enhancement_Resubmital

Applicant: Johnson Creek WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: \$85,893

Total Cost: \$203,601

Project Abstract *(from application)*

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 35-acre property, owned by the Centennial School District, contains an artificially constructed in-line pond (creek flows through pond but is hydraulically disconnected by an earthen racetrack and 2 small, perched culverts) that is both a fish passage barrier and a source of local thermal pollution to Mitchell Creek and downstream Kelley Creek. Monitoring in 2016 showed that water exiting this pond is as much as 14C higher than the water flowing into the pond 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. Proposed work includes a) removing two culverts (and associated fill material) that have created the pond by restricting flow; b) adding large wood and beaver dam analogs for habitat and channel stability; c) adding grade control to both ends of the pond to prevent head cutting; d) restoring wetlands along the historic channel by eliminating the artificial pond and replanting native wetland vegetation, e) replanting riparian and upland area to encourage off-channel wetlands and to restore native grass, herbs, and shrubs, OWEB funds will be used for contracted construction services, revegetation, project management, travel, and indirect costs. Project partners include JCWC, Centennial School District, Metro, DEQ, TNC/PGE, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District and NCCC. What's changed? Project will occur in 2 phases, lower engineering costs, less site manipulation, and budget reduced 15%!

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is likely to have significant benefits to water quality in Mitchell and Kelley Creeks that will provide water temperature improvements in the Johnson Creek watershed, which is on the 303(d) list for water quality impairment.
- Previous review team comments are addressed in this application.
- The need for proposed restoration is well-documented in the Johnson Creek Action Plan and the project steam reach is a priority in that plan.
- The project manager has relevant experience to implement this project.

Concerns

- The landowner does not appear to be an active, engaged project partner even though removing the pond will reduce future liability for the school district.
- Hauling excavated material offsite is a significant project cost that could be reduced if the material is moved to another location on the property. It is unclear from the application why this is not a feasible alternative.
- Project design may have more engineering than is needed to achieve target restoration objectives and associated benefits, which results in a high overall project cost.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed restoration has potential to create significant ecological uplift by providing cooler water that will benefit fish in the Johnson Creek watershed. Since the watershed council is also monitoring stream temperatures, there is opportunity to measure how this restoration will impact stream temperatures. Furthermore, there is potential for this project to serve as a gateway to additional restoration efforts, including a downstream dam removal project that will extend fish access to habitat in this stream system. As a result, the potential ecological benefits for the cost could be significant for the stream while increasing watershed resilience in an area with increasing urbanization.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

11 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$85,893

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$85,893

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3023-15998

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Ritner Creek Splash Dam Recovery Project

Applicant: Luckiamute WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Polk

OWEB Request: \$88,121

Total Cost: \$128,796

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Upper Ritner Creek Splash Dam Recovery project area lies within the timberlands of the upper Luckiamute watershed in the Pedee 6th field hydrologic unit. Ritner Creek drains into the mainstem Luckiamute near the community of Pedee in Polk County. Ritner Creek and the upper Luckiamute were heavily impacted by splash damming in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Historical splash damming and removal of conifers in the riparian area damaged Ritner Creek in several ways. The legacy effects of splash damming persist in this reach and continue to impact salmonid habitat and ecosystem processes. The stream bed is scoured to bedrock, the channel is devoid of instream large wood, riparian conifers are absent in large sections of the reach, there are very few gravel deposits, and there is little channel-floodplain interaction. The Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) used NetMap, a fine-scale watershed based modeling tool, in combination with expert field verification to identify and prioritize restoration reaches for splash dam and steelhead recovery in the Luckiamute basin. The analysis identified the proposed project reach as the best opportunity in the Luckiamute watershed for addressing the legacy impacts of splash damming. Resolving current and future instream large wood deficiencies through log placement, conifer enrichment, and understory enhancement will result in both immediate and long-term benefits to salmonid habitat and key ecological processes throughout the 2.1 mile project reach. The LWC is partnering with Hancock Forest Management (on behalf of the property owners) and the Bureau of Land Management (landowner), for project implementation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Sourcing wood from the Riparian Management Area for instream structures will improve future large wood recruitment watershed functions. Also, the proposed restoration will serve as a non-commercial thin, which will release the stand for long-term growth and create long-term, self-sustaining large wood recruitment.
- The proposed restoration is based on rigorous analysis of the watershed used to determine the best locations for stream restoration, which increases the likelihood for success and cost-benefit of the proposed project.
- Since the stream has minimal channel incision, there is a high likelihood for success in reconnecting the floodplain by a rapid response of the stream system to restoration actions. It seems feasible a 1-year flood event could result in enough captured material to aggrade the stream channel and reconnect the floodplain with the stream.

- The project team has relevant experience and a proven track record with watershed restoration projects.

Concerns

- Tributaries on the west side of the Willamette are not priority strongholds for ESA-listed fish; however, this restoration will likely provide some benefit to steelhead.
- A portion of the riparian area will potentially be available for commercial harvest in 40 years.

Concluding Analysis

The historic practice of splash dams heavily impacted streams like Ritner Creek. The proposed project provides an opportunity to begin restoring watershed process and function that was lost due to splash dams in this creek, and also to inform future restoration in other streams impacted by this historic practice. While the project location has limited benefit to ESA-listed fish, it is expected there will be some benefit to steelhead. The combination of recovering a splash dammed system and providing benefits to steelhead results in a significant benefit for the investment. Also, this project is a technically sound, straight-forward, and cost-effective large wood project that is likely to succeed in achieving expected ecological benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$88,121

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$88,121

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3024-16001

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Milton Creek Large Wood

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$218,798

Total Cost: \$357,718

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Project is located in upper Milton Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay, the Multnomah Channel and Lower Columbia River. Restoration occurs on 2.5 mainstem miles, directly upstream of a project completed in 2015 that added large wood over 3.5 miles. This project addresses key salmon-production limiting factors identified in the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan (ODFW, 2011) and the Milton Creek Limiting Factor Analysis (SBWC, 2012): 1) lack of physical habitat quality and complexity, including low quantity of in-stream large wood and resulting loss of pools and refuge habitat, and loss of floodplain connectivity; and 2) the low numbers of riparian conifers for future wood recruitment. Project will install approximately 63 large wood structures, targeting wood numbers up to ODFW's recommendation of 200 logs/mile; and will plant 3000 native conifer trees at locations selected for efficient riparian infill. Project will create a significant increase in number of pools, fish refuge areas, and side-channel habitats, as well as trap, store and retain gravels. Native vegetation will provide future wood along 2.5 miles of stream; when combined with the 2015 project, this will create nearly 6 miles of upper Milton Creek with high quality habitat. Project outcomes support Lower Columbia River Coho salmon, Winter Steelhead and trout species. Project partners are ODFW, Weyerhaeuser, NORP, and Columbia River Youth Corps.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes clear project objectives.
- The proposed restoration addresses watershed limiting factors in a high value area of the Scappoose Bay watershed for ESA-listed fisheries. The need for this restoration is well-documented in planning documents, including a strategic action plan for the Scappoose Bay watershed.
- The project builds on past restoration work completed in the adjacent 3.5 miles located upstream of the project site.
- The project budget is reasonable for expected watershed benefits.
- The contractor and partners on the project team have experience with similar projects.

Concerns

- The design method is not fully defined in the application; however, the proposal includes plans for final project designs that will include determining how and where large wood structures and conifer plantings will occur.

- One of the letters of support references cabling the log structures upstream of the bridge; however, the application does not provide information on this design element. The application would be strengthened by additional information to better understand the chosen design alternatives.

Concluding Analysis

While the application would be strengthened by additional design information, the design approach was clearly explained on the site visit. This project is ready to be implemented in a priority location for ESA-listed fish, and completes the last 3 stream miles needing restoration in this subwatershed. In addition to expanding connected stream habitat, the project ties together other investments in the Milton Creek drainage that are restoring anchor habitat and addressing primary limiting factors, including limited summer habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$218,798

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$218,798

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3025-16030

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Deer Creek Enhancement Project

Applicant: McKenzie Watershed Alliance

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$75,506

Total Cost: \$166,726

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Lower Deer Creek Enhancement Project (Project) is located on Deer Creek in the McKenzie River Sub-basin at river mile 49 on the McKenzie River, 34 miles east of Eugene and near the unincorporated community of Nimrod. Legacy and current land management has resulted in a lack of large wood within the active channel and floodplain. The lack of large wood has altered natural processes and reduced the quality and quantity of habitat available to native fish. In order to improve habitat and stream function for spring Chinook salmon, rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, and other native species, wood placement will occur on the lower 0.68 miles of Deer Creek in both the active channel and floodplain. The Project will occur on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in partnership with the McKenzie Watershed Alliance (MWA). The Project includes a monitoring component designed to track the progress of habitat enhancement in meeting stated objectives and outreach intended to raise awareness and develop support for complementary projects. OWEB funding will support contracted services, project management, travel, and fiscal administration, and will be matched by in-kind materials and staff time from the BLM.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This well-written application includes clear measurable objectives that are tied to effectiveness monitoring activities described in the application.
- The proposed restoration was identified in watershed analyses, ESA recovery and conservation plans, and a watershed council 10-year action plan.
- This proposal has a technically sound and straightforward large wood project design that is appropriately located to have maximum benefit in the McKenzie watershed. The proposed restoration will jump start natural instream processes and provide habitat to ESA-listed fish.
- The project team has a proven track record with similar stream restoration; therefore, this project has a high likelihood for success.
- Partner support is demonstrated by letters of support and match. The project also uniquely incorporates recreation stakeholders by utilizing riverguides and steelheaders to collect survey data.
- The project is reasonably priced for the expected watershed benefits.

Concerns

- The project design would benefit from keeping the trees to be pushed over from adjacent areas fully intact with root wads instead of bucking these trees before moving them. Whole trees with root wads have proven benefits in these environments.
- Match value for trees provided as in-kind contribution seems high compared to other BLM related projects contributing trees; however, based on the size of the trees seen on the site visit the value may feasibly be different.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed restoration will benefit watershed function and habitat for ESA-listed fish at a reasonable cost. The applicant is encouraged to consider using the contingency budget line item to pay for additional costs associated with keeping trees whole with root wads, and transporting them down to the stream intact to provide additional ecological benefit from this restoration. The project is a technically sound, straight forward cost-effective large wood project that is likely to succeed in achieving expected ecological benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,506

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,506

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3026-16031

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: EF Dairy Large Wood Placement project

Applicant: Tualatin River WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Washington

OWEB Request: \$137,339

Total Cost: \$276,259

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project is located on an East Fork Dairy Creek stream reach between river mile 12.96 and 15.96. East Fork Dairy Creek drains 58.9 square acres and following its confluence with West Fork Dairy and McKay Creeks flows into the Tualatin River at river mile 45. North Plains located in Washington County is the closest town to the project. The 2013-14 Tualatin Basin rapid bio-assessment surveys identified a six mile stream reach located on the main stem of East Fork Dairy Creek as having the large percentage of all salmon documented in the Tualatin Basin. This stream reach lacks floodplain connectivity needed for essential winter habitat refugia, though it provides high quality incubation and summer rearing habitat. The project will address the lack of large wood required for developing and sustaining off channel connectivity; increase the availability of shade for temperature maintenance; and provide conifer for long term wood recruitment to the active channel. The proposed project work will include i) placing large wood debris in main stem, tributary and side channel reaches to increase in stream complexity and floodplain linkage; and ii) treating invasive plant species on and installing native plants on seven project properties that will result in future large wood recruitment and canopy closure. Project partners include seven private landowners and the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project focuses on an area in the Tualatin watershed that has the greatest potential for ecological uplift and treating primary watershed limiting factors affecting ESA-listed fish.
- The project location is based on Rapid Bio-Assessment data and is in an ODA focus area.
- The contractor that will implement proposed restoration has extensive experience working in similar types of stream systems in the Willamette west-side tributaries.

Concerns

- The project design does not include full spanning large wood debris structures and planting plans are limited to conifers, which reduces the potential ecological uplift that could be gained from stream restoration efforts.
- Some project components are unclear from the application; however, these were better understood from discussions at the site visit.

- The bio-revetment project element will use pre-commercial thin logs with a high cost for trees that do not have commercial value.
- Based on the list of permits provided in the application, it is unclear if the permitting pathway is well-defined. The diversity of permits listed indicates that the applicant is going in numerous different permit directions, which might be challenging during implementation.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project will eventually restore a 6-mile stream reach with a high number of ESA-listed fish. This first phase will treat 3 miles while developing relationships with additional landowners to recruit future restoration. This will expand the corridor of restored stream habitat on the East Fork Dairy Creek. Restoration actions will occur in a priority location of the Tualatin basin, which will provide meaningful cost-benefit for this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced

Review Team Priority

10 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$118,926

Review Team Conditions

Fund reduced. Reduce award to remove cost for buying pre-commercial thin trees for bio-revetment and retain the cost to transport these trees. Reduce award by \$16,000 plus associated administration.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced

Staff Recommended Amount

\$118,926

Staff Conditions

Fund reduced. Reduce award to remove cost for buying pre-commercial thin trees for bio-revetment and retain the cost to transport these trees. Reduce award by \$16,000 plus associated administration.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3027-16032

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Jont Creek Barrier Removal and Off channel Habitat Improvement

Applicant: Polk SWCD

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Polk

OWEB Request: \$98,879

Total Cost: \$143,509

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Jont Creek is a tributary to the Luckiamute River in Polk County. This basin harbors ESU Steelhead, ESU Chinook, Oregon chub, Pacific lamprey, and Coastal cutthroat trout. Jont Creek has a single impassible barrier less than 0.75 miles upstream of the Luckiamute. Removal of this barrier would open over 9 miles of fish habitat and the opportunity to improve the over 45 acres of wetland habitat surrounding the culvert. This proposal requests OWEB restoration funds to implement the technical support grant already funded by OWEB in 2015 to address the existing barriers, installation of a fish passable crossing design and restore the surrounding riparian off channel habitats and wetlands. The landowner and USFWS will provide significant cash and in-kind contributions to the project implementation, with support from ODFW and the Luckiamute WC; the Polk SWCD will continue to provide overall project management, contracting and fiscal administration of this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located on a Luckiamute River tributary in a low elevation floodplain valley bottom area.
- The proposed restoration builds on a technical assistance investment and project designs meet ODFW and NOAA fish passage requirements.
- The project will provide multiple benefits, including improving floodplain function, water quality by encouraging cooler water temperatures, and habitats for ESA-listed species, species of concern and Oregon Conservation Strategy species (e.g. Oregon chub, yellow breasted chat, willow flycatcher, Pacific lamprey, red-legged frog, Coastal cutthroat, steelhead).
- The project is supported by partners, and landowner commitment is demonstrated by ongoing plans for habitat restoration on this property that has five miles of river frontage.

Concerns

- The net ecological uplift to ESA-listed fisheries may be more modest compared to other locations in the Willamette; however, the project will provide habitat for Oregon chub.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project takes a holistic cross-habitat floodplain strategy that will benefit watershed function, habitats supporting multiple fish and wildlife species, and water quality. While benefits to ESA-listed fish are somewhat limited, this project has potential for providing significant ecological uplift for the cost. The combination of future plans for riparian and wetland restoration and the potential for adjacent landowners to participate in restoring habitat results in an effective cost-benefit for this investment. Also, this project has potential for social capital gains that is likely to lead to recruiting adjacent landowners to participate in restoration that will further shade and cool stream flow. This project provides a rare opportunity in the Willamette to work on the valley bottom at a stream confluence to benefit a diverse list of fish and wildlife species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$98,879

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$98,879

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3028-16037	Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Bonnie Lure State Recreation Area	
Applicant: Clackamas River Basin Council	
Basin: Willamette Basin	County: Clackamas
OWEB Request: \$133,990	Total Cost: \$399,528

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed restoration project is located in Bonnie Lure State Recreation Area (45°34'97.31N 122°38'24.63W) an Oregon State Park owned property located in Eagle Creek, Oregon. The property includes the confluence of Eagle Creek and the mainstem Clackamas River and can be accessed from SE Dowty Road. This project is designed to return Bonnie Lure to its baseline conditions by eradicating invasive species and re-establishing native plant communities including mixed riparian forest, shrub scrub wetland, and conifer-dominated foothills. Himalayan blackberry, reed canarygrass, English ivy, clematis and false brome dominate the area and negatively impact riparian functioning. Proposed work would consist of site prep, including hand cutting weeds and then treating resprouts with aquatically labeled herbicide. The project would be maintained with matching funds from the US Forest Service's and in-kind match from Oregon State Parks.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located at a high quality site that is protected in perpetuity as a state park.
- Project partner support is demonstrated by match contributions.
- The project team is qualified with a proven track record with similar restoration activities.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by letters of support from both the Clackamas SWCD as a partner in the weed-wise program and the USFS regarding the grant that is critical to maintaining proposed vegetation work.
- The proposed vegetation restoration will have limited direct benefit to ESA-listed fish.

Concluding Analysis

While the current project has limited direct benefits to ESA-fish, the proposed work has potential for leading to a future in-stream project that will have significant benefit to fish. The project is located on Eagle Creek, which is a high value location in the Clackamas River system for ESA-listed fish. The applicant provides a strong case for the need for proposed restoration activities to be completed. Given

the likelihood for success, priority location within the watershed, and potential for expanded benefits with future restoration, this project provides a significant cost-benefit for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$133,990

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$133,990

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3029-16042

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Coyote-Spencer Wetlands Oak and Prairie Habitat Restoration

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$113,090

Total Cost: \$190,669

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The 191-acre Coyote-Spencer Wetlands property, owned by the McKenzie River Trust, sits at the confluence of Coyote and Spencer creeks, tributaries to the Long Tom River (in turn, a tributary of the Willamette). It lies within the West Eugene Conservation Opportunity Area in a corridor prioritized by local land management organizations for its importance to preserving and restoring oak and prairie habitats. These habitats are among the most fragmented and endangered in Oregon. In 1983, GLO surveyors walking the (future) section lines that cross the property described open prairie on the valley bottom intersected by fringes of riparian woodland bordering Coyote and Spencer Creeks. Since then, cessation of fire management has allowed encroachment of woody plants, and weed pressures have surfaced from agricultural site uses. Still, remnant prairie on site hosts dozens of native plant species including federally listed Bradshaw's lomatium, and remarkably intact native prairie plant communities persist in the understory of the encroaching woody cover. This project proposes to: restore former wet prairie and oak savanna on the property where intact plant communities remain, enhance the structure and habitat value of existing prairie and oak woodland, and augment rare plant populations. The project will restore 10 acres of remnant oak savanna, and enhance 30 acres of existing wet and upland prairie and 30 acres of open canopy oak woodland. Partners on the project include McKenzie River Trust, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Institute for Applied Ecology, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, and Department of State Lands.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration builds on previous work completed on this project site.
- Strong partnerships support the project and are demonstrated by letters and match.
- A detailed plan for restoration and clear budget detail is included in the application.
- The project is located in a conservation priority area and is part of a network of sites with conservation related projects along Coyote Creek.
- The project site has important, rare plants located on it, which makes it a priority location for restoration.

Concerns

- The project design is a conservative approach because of concerns related to maintaining restoration work; however, this approach misses opportunities to restore prairie habitat more comprehensively at the site that would increase the project benefit for the investment.
- There is limited information in the application for monitoring activities included in the proposal.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project incorporates technically sound restoration activities; however, the cost-benefit is limited by the narrow scope of the project approach. This conservative approach misses an opportunity for more comprehensive oak and prairie restoration on a project site that is owned and protected by a land trust.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

15 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$113,090

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3030-16046

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Carnine Upland Prairie and Oak Savanna Restoration

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$159,740

Total Cost: \$221,004

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The 326 acre property is located on the southeastern edge of the City of Cottage Grove within Lane County and the lower Row River watershed. This property contains rare but degraded Willamette Valley oak savanna and prairie habitats. Open-grown Oregon white oaks within the project area are threatened by conifer encroachment and overtopping, while the understory and prairie has been heavily invaded by exotic woody vegetation and non- native grasses. This loss of native habitat reduces biodiversity and negatively impacts important species that rely on these open habitats including acorn woodpecker, western bluebird, chipping sparrow, slender-billed nuthatch, and western gray squirrel. The proposed project will implement oak and prairie habitat restoration that includes: (1) thinning small and large-diameter firs and oaks around legacy trees to restore 46.58 acres of oak habitat; (2) enhancing 10.09 acres of prairie that include numerous rare and culturally important plants; and (3) controlling invasive plant species. The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC) will implement this project in partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who will provide technical support and a burn plan for restoration prescriptions. OWEB funds will be used for CFWWC staff, contracted services (tree thinning, weed removal/planting crews), travel, permits, and materials (grasses and forbs).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project site has a number of rare plant species present that could be negatively impacted if the conifers are not addressed soon. Results from a biodiversity survey indicate this site has a high number of rare forbs that will benefit from these restoration activities.
- The project is supported by landowners committed to restoration, which is demonstrated by their participation in voluntary restoration on other properties.
- The project builds on a Willamette Wildlife Management Program investment that provides long-term funding for maintenance.

Concerns

- No major concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project offers an opportunity for partners in the Coast Fork watershed to expand into a priority habitat type for the Willamette Valley. The restoration activities are urgent for continuing work that has already begun to restore native plant communities on the site. The legacy oaks are at risk of being lost if this work is not maintained. As a result, the proposed restoration is both time sensitive and provides a high benefit for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$159,740

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$159,740

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3031-16055

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Jackson-Frazier Wetland
Phase 2: Long Term Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: Benton County Parks Dept

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$109,908

Total Cost: \$218,902

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project area is located in Benton County, outside the Corvallis Urban Growth Boundary near Lancaster Street. The project will occur within 50 acres of the southern portion of the Jackson-Frazier Wetland Natural Area managed by Benton County. The project area hydrology is supplied by Jackson and Frazier creeks. Prior to county protection of Jackson-Frazier Wetland, the property owner created extensive impacts. In 1985, Oregon Division of State Lands gained detailed documentation of these site impacts that are limiting watershed factors: altered habitat, impacts to native species, invasive species, and degradation of downstream salmonid habitat. The watershed continues to urbanize as part of the Corvallis UGB expansion and development plan. The majority of development is occurring within the upper portions of the watershed, placing priority on the restoration of the wetland for high value watershed functions. The restoration components to be implemented within 50 acres at Jackson-Frazier Wetland are: 1. Restore wetland hydrology through surface contouring, upland feature reduction, and increased soil saturation; 2. Restore vegetation diversity through woody plant reduction, invasive weed control, and native vegetation seeding; 3. Increase environmental education and outreach opportunities through habitat restoration demonstration areas, educational signage, and volunteer group stewardship work; 4. Maintain ecological gains through long term management of the priority restoration area. Starting in January 2017, project partners developed Phase 1: Jackson-Frazier Long Term Habitat Restoration Plan. Partners include Benton SWCD, City of Corvallis, Greenbelt Land Trust, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife- Habitat Restoration, and US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The restoration activities will benefit numerous rare and listed plant species located on this prairie habitat project site.
- Partner support is demonstrated by their active involvement and match.
- The project team has relevant experience, which supports a high likelihood for success.
- This project is located adjacent to large conservation projects to the west and north of the site. The resulting increased connectivity of these habitats provides a significant cost-benefit for this project investment compared to investing in isolated parcels.

- The restoration approach will address underlying hydrological issues at the site to ensure the project will be cost-effectively maintained. The altered hydrology is readily apparent when walking the property, which demonstrates the need for reestablishing a more natural hydrology pattern.

Concerns

- Fire is not an option for restoring the prairie because the project is in close proximity to a large urban area. Mowing will be used instead as a surrogate for fire, which is a tradeoff since it is not the most effective approach for prairie restoration.
- The consultant cost seems high compared to other wetland restoration projects.

Concluding Analysis

There are areas on the project site where underlying hydrologic issues have already been addressed and these locations are showing evidence of increased native floral diversity. This is an indicator that the proposed restoration is likely to succeed. The proposed project provides an outreach opportunity in addition to ecological benefits because it is located adjacent to the Corvallis Urban Growth Boundary and has heavy public use. It is uncommon to have this kind of public access to learn about high priority Willamette prairie habitats. The Jackson Frazier project will benefit ESA-listed plants and wet prairie community, a significantly limited habitat in the Willamette Valley, at a location that is permanently protected. As a result, this project is likely to have a high benefit for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$109,908

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$109,908

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3032-16059

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Oak Creek Open Space - Phase 1
Restoration Expanded

Applicant: Calapooia WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$176,096

Total Cost: \$235,615

Project Abstract *(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 and Oak Creek, the Calapooia's largest tributary. The site is less than four miles upstream of the mouth of the Calapooia where it enters the Willamette. 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. Phase 1, includes 5 acres of riparian plant establishment, 12.4 acres of wetland plant establishment, and an additional 35.4 acres of invasive weed control in preparation for future planting. 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 Department. They will contribute in-kind site maintenance and management, and participate in advisory discussions and planning. Other partners include BPA in-kind labor and an OSWB grant.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous review team comments are address in the application, and the applicant has improved the project with each submission.
- The proposed project builds on a previous technical assistance investment.
- Restoration activities will improve upland, floodplain, and riparian habitats, which will provide water quality benefits by addressing water temperature concerns and habitat benefits to ESA-listed fish.
- The project actively engages partners, including the neighborhood association and City of Albany.

Concerns

- The project has limited benefit for the investment and only addresses approximately 26% of a 200-acre property. It is expected this effort will be a multi-phased project in order to achieve expected ecological benefits of the proposed restoration, which will result in an overall high cost for this

watershed benefit.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project provides opportunity for social benefits by offering outreach that engages the Albany community in watershed restoration as the population grows. This project also provides a green space example in which local residents are actively engaged in habitat issues and are committed to seeing work completed. While the project is located in a priority confluence area for the Calapooia River, the high overall cost expected for achieving watershed benefits in the long-term limits the cost-benefit of this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

14 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$176,096

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3033-16071

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Dragonfly Ranch Meadow, Wetland, Oak Savanna and Oak Woodland Restoration Project

Applicant: South Santiam WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$159,904

Total Cost: \$277,626

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Dragonfly Ranch is ~5 miles NE of Lebanon on One Horse Slough (HUC #17090006080), a tributary to the South Santiam River and an identified ODFW conservation opportunity area (COA 083). This unique 200 acre property contains mixed woodland, oak savanna, riparian forest, meadows, springs, seasonal and permanent streams, and several perennial ponds. Willamette Valley Oregon white oak savanna and wet prairie now compose <1% of their historical range with the remaining habitats being critically important. Previous agricultural practices like overgrazing, ditching and tilling have impacted the property. Conifer encroachment is heavy in the remaining woodlands, with English hawthorn and Armenian blackberry invading the oak savanna. The wet meadow has been ditched, planted to pasture grass and is threatened with invasive plants. However, there is ample opportunity to promote ecological uplift on the property. Large legacy oaks exist throughout the property, while the meadow contains remnant native prairie plants. The landowners are strongly committed to restoration and are hands on project participants. Western pond turtles, wood ducks, beavers, red legged frogs and invertebrates, such as dragonflies and Lepidoptera species reside on site. We propose to clear 25 acres of hawthorn and blackberry with chemical and mechanical treatments; pile burn 17 acres of hawthorn; seed the burn pile areas with native seed and increase forb diversity with plug/bulb plantings; restore historical drainage patterns through ditch plugging and berm removal; install up to 22 turtle basking structures and expand nesting habitat; install four vegetation plots to measure meadow enhancement techniques; and supplement 61 acres of site prep, conservation cover and plant establishment activities in the EQIP oak woodland/savanna thin areas. Project partners include landowners Sandre and Dan Nelson, USFWS Partners Program, ODFW and NRCS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project promotes state priorities for ODFW.
- The project approach is a comprehensive ridgetop to river bottom approach to restore severely degraded conditions from previous land uses.
- Proposed actions are clearly documented in the application and maps and include site-specific upslope and downslope restoration activities.
- The landowners are committed to long-term stewardship of the property, which is demonstrated by work already completed on the site.

- Restoration activities will benefit multiple species, including Oregon chub, beaver, and western pond turtle.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional context information on future activities planned for adjacent properties that will improve watershed function. This information would help better evaluate the cost-benefit of the current proposed investment.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project provides a holistic approach to restore habitats for numerous priority fish and wildlife species while also building in opportunities for this work to be expanded into adjacent properties. The proposed restoration is also somewhat time sensitive because the invasive English Hawthorne on site is at a tipping point at which it needs to be knocked down before it becomes a monoculture plant community. The project scale, number of species that will benefit, rare habitats to be restored, and potential for expanded restoration results in a significant benefit for this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$159,904

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$159,904

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3034-16076

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mt. Pisgah Oak-Pine Woodland,
Oak Savanna, & Wet Prairie Restoration:
Ponderosa Unit

Applicant: Friends of Buford Park & Mt Pisgah

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$221,832

Total Cost: \$481,832

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Project is located on the eastern portion of Lane County's 2,218-acre Buford Park (aka Howard Buford Recreation Area) near confluence of Willamette's Coast and Middle Forks, and adjacent to The Nature Conservancy's 1305-acre "Willamette Confluence Preserve." Buford Park contains one of Oregon's largest expanse of publicly-owned "globally endangered" Willamette Valley upland prairie and oak savanna (OWEB priority habitats). Decades of fire suppression have contributed to encroachment by Douglas fir. In addition, invasive species (blackberry, Scot'sbroom, etc) have degraded native botanical diversity and wildlife habitat. This project will restore and enhance wetland prairie, upland prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitats across the 110-acre "Ponderosa" Management Unit on Buford Park. Management actions will thin Douglas fir and exotic trees to achieve desired tree densities to: 1) restore rare oak-pine woodland on 11 acres; 2) restore wetland prairie on 3 acres; 3) restore upland prairie on 7 acres; 4) restore oak woodland on 34 acres; 5) restore oak savanna on 37 acres; 6) enhance conifer forest on 16 acres 7) manage invasive herbaceous and shrub species (blackberry, Scot's broom, etc.); 8) prepare a burn plan and implement an ecological burn; and 9) broadcast site-specific seed mixes of grasses and forbs in areas of invasive control and tree removal to increase botanical diversity, as well as forage and structure for wildlife. These actions are expected to benefit 17 at-risk species known to occur in the Mt. Pisgah area that depend on these prairie, oak savanna and oak woodland habitats, including the Western meadowlark and acorn woodpecker. Effectiveness monitoring is not planned. We will assess pre- and post-project native vegetation and document with photo-monitoring. OWEB funds will be used for salaries and wages, contracted services, mileage, supplies, grant administration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is well planned, builds on a draft management plan, and utilizes appropriate restoration methods.
- The site is a priority for oak and prairie dependent species.
- The project team has relevant experience with this type of restoration.
- The project is well-leveraged with match.

Concerns

- There is limited partner involvement in the project.
- Invasive false brome and shining geranium will remain on site and continue to limit plant diversity for the foreseeable future, which limits the cost-benefit of the proposed restoration investment.
- The application would be strengthened by additional information on project costs; for example, an explanation of staff roles in the project and how they directly relate to the success of the project.

Concluding Analysis

This project will send wood to multiple mills, which will develop unique and different ways to handle difficult-to-market trees and get them into the economy. There is some time sensitivity to the project to align it with a BPA line maintenance project. It is likely the proposed restoration will require a long-term investment of multiple grants over 15 years to achieve ecological objectives for the site. As a result of this, it is difficult to determine the cost-benefit of this whole project investment at one location in comparison to investing in multiple projects across the landscape that benefits the same habitat type.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

12 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$98,079

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3035-15933

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Milton Creek Technical Restoration Planning

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: \$50,961

Total Cost: \$67,941

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located in Milton Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay, the Multnomah Channel and the Lower Columbia River. Historically Milton Creek supported coho and chum salmon, steelhead and trout, but logging and residential management practices has significantly reduced the quality and quantity of instream and riparian natural habitats. The upper half of Milton Creek has low in-stream wood quantities with adjacent large tracks of commercial timber properties; these ecological conditions are being addressed with LWD implementation projects. The lower half of Milton Creek has a mix of poor instream and riparian conditions, plus disconnections for historical side-channels. There are numerous individual landowners along the creek. Addressing these lower ecological issues is the focus of this work. The project will use existing data to assess lower stream segments, identify and assign restoration actions, and prioritize locations and actions to produce implementation proposals that efficiently improve and increase salmon and other species' habitat. Results will be a minimum of four submitted implementation proposals, that when funded, will work within the watershed context to provide the highest ecological uplift at the most critical locations. Partners include CSWCD, ODFW, OSU Extension, and LCEP.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project area is a priority location for ESA-listed fish.
- The design approach is technically sound and straightforward.
- Some landowners have already shown interest in participating in watershed restoration.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional information on what is included in the design process and what the geodatabase will provide that is necessary to the proposed technical assistance.
- Some of the budget details were unclear, including match line items and whether \$16,000 is enough to secure 60% completion on four designs.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance will build on work recently completed to address fish passage barriers in Lower Milton Creek. Since Milton Creek is a priority for ESA-listed fish in the Scappoose Bay, this type of planning should be a priority because of the resulting benefits to these fish.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$50,961

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$50,961

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3036-15989

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Pudding River Turtle Mapping
Habitat Assessment - GIS Mapping and Landowner
Identification Project

Applicant: Pudding River WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$11,935

Total Cost: \$17,277

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project encompassing all low elevation floodplains of the Pudding River watershed will identify habitat and landowners willing to participate in turtle conservation on their properties. Most public land in the watershed has been surveyed for turtles, however much of the watershed is in private ownership. As state and federal agencies are increasingly interested in turtle conservation, understanding the current range of the species is critical. Both native freshwater turtle species, Western painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta bellii*) and Western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*) are identified as Strategy Species (sensitive) in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Additionally, the pond turtle is federally listed as a species of concern. The lower 18 miles of the Pudding river were identified as a Priority Turtle Conservation Area by the Lower Willamette Turtle Working group. While survey efforts have been conducted opportunistically in the watershed, local, state and federal stakeholders need a thorough strategic strategy for identifying landowners willing to participate in turtle conservation on their property. This TA grant will map turtle habitat throughout the watershed to develop and prioritize a strategic plan for habitat enhancement and future monitoring in the watershed. Additionally, it will identify landowners for future outreach and restoration planning. Deliverables of this grant are a map of habitat, a list of landowners, and a GIS model that other agencies can use to identify habitat in their area. Current partners: Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation district, Marion Soil and Water Conservation District, ODFW and the Lower Willamette Turtle Working Group.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Western pond turtle are a high conservation priority and identifying potential locations to enhance turtle habitat could have high ecological value.
- This technical assistance offers an approach to connect with landowners in the Willamette Valley where there is currently limited watershed restoration occurring.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional information on how technical assistance products will lead to priority habitat restoration for turtles.

- By focusing on a single species, this technical assistance project could miss opportunities for benefiting other species with similar life-cycles, such as the red legged frog.
- It is unclear whether the applicant has relevant experience and/or a track record with this type of work to determine likelihood for this project to succeed.
- This project would be strengthened by active engagement with ODFW and the Turtle Working Group as partners.

Concluding Analysis

Building strategies to improve habitat for turtles may be something agricultural landowners are interested in partnering with the applicant to address. However, the opportunities may be limited given the high value of farmlands, which limits the extent to which landowners can reduce agricultural grounds for turtle habitat. This could limit the potential cost-effectiveness of the proposed project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3037-16005

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Gate Creek Enhancement Project Development

Applicant: McKenzie Watershed Alliance

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$15,180

Total Cost: \$48,762

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed technical assistance project will occur on Gate Creek, a tributary to the McKenzie River, located to the northeast of the unincorporated town of Vida at river mile 41. Ownership within the sub-watershed is a mix of public forestland and private working forests in the upper reaches and private residential along the lower main stem. Gate Creek provides habitat for a range of native fish including spring Chinook salmon, rainbow trout, cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey. A variety of current and legacy land management practices including timber harvest, road building, stream cleaning and residential development have altered stream habitat through the removal of large wood from channels and floodplains, and harvest of riparian trees. The lack of large wood within stream channels and the floodplain has altered natural processes and impacted habitat for native fish. Limiting factors for salmonid species include lack of spawning gravel, pools, complex cover and off-channel habitat. The proposed Gate Creek Enhancement Project Development (Project) will work with two primary landowners, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Weyerhaeuser Company (WY) to identify and develop aquatic enhancement projects in Gate Creek and one primary tributary, the North Fork Gate Creek. Additional partners include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the McKenzie Watershed Alliance (MWA). The Project will identify three restoration alternatives, complete a final design and associated report for the preferred alternative, develop a draft referral for proposal, and develop project material source(s).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting technical assistance product will address watershed limiting factors identified in the Upper Willamette Conservation Plan for Chinook and steelhead and the Oregon Conservation Strategy.
- Restoration in the McKenzie watershed has one of the best cost-benefit ratios because it is a relatively pristine watershed. Projects on tributaries, like the one proposed in this application, will benefit the watershed by building on pristine habitat in close proximity to the proposed project site.
- The project team has relevant experience.
- The project is reasonably priced, and cost-effective.
- Partner project support is demonstrated by letters of support and match.

Concerns

- The proposed large wood structures emphasize low risk over best value to habitat; however, it is recognized that this also balances landowner concerns related to instream large wood structure placement.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed technical assistance is timely while there is synergy with BLM and Weyerhaeuser being actively committed to participate in watershed restoration. The proposed technical assistance is likely necessary to successfully move this effort to restoration project implementation. Given this partner and landowner involvement, this proposed project is a cost-effective investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$15,180

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$15,180

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3038-16007

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Scotts Mills Dam Assessment and Alternatives Analysis

Applicant: Pudding River WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Marion

OWEB Request: \$33,458

Total Cost: \$41,823

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Scotts Mills dam is located on Butte Creek, an eastside tributary of the Pudding River within the Molalla-Pudding River subbasin, an eastside drainage to the middle Willamette River. Butte Creek's clear, cold, spring-fed headwaters originate in the Cascade Range in the Santiam State Forest High Lakes Recreation Area, and its confluence with the Pudding River is in the intensive agricultural area of the Willamette Valley lowlands near the community of Hubbard (Map 1). Butte Creek is within the habitat range of both Upper Willamette River Chinook salmon and Upper Willamette River steelhead (Map 2). This project will evaluate the alternatives that will alleviate the anadromous fish passage delay due to the broken dam situated on top of a cascading basalt bedrock waterfall. During the late 1950s, a fishway was constructed while the dam was operated by Portland General Electric, but due to the breach in broken cement dam, it has lost much of its functionality, except during times of very high flow. This technical assistance project is needed to provide information to Marion County and the City of Scotts Mill. The informed community will be better able to make decisions regarding the fate of the dam. The funding requested in this proposal will pay for a hydrologist/engineer, project management and mileage to the site. The initial partners for this project are the Pudding River Watershed Council, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. As a result of this project, additional partnerships will be developed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is of interest to the community and has ODFW involvement.
- Technical assistance will be provided by a consultant well known in dam removal projects statewide.

Concerns

- Since habitat quality above the dam is unclear, it is difficult to determine the cost benefit of this project. The application photos show a stream channel scoured down to bedrock, which is not high quality habitat.
- The consultant costs seem high. The application would be strengthened by additional information on this cost.

- It is unclear whether one of the potential options under consideration is “no action,” which would result in the dam remaining in place. If “no action” became the chosen option, this technical assistance would have no cost-benefit.
- It is unclear whether the county is actively involved in the project as landowner of the property with the dam. The application would be strengthened by a letter of support from the county.

Concluding Analysis

A dam removal project can be significantly effective in restoring watershed process and function; however, it can also be controversial since various stakeholders have different preferences for addressing a dam, ranging from retaining the dam to removing the dam. It is unclear whether this technical assistance project is likely to succeed given the uncertainty of the roles of key stakeholders in this project, including the county, city, community members, regulatory agencies, and more. The applicant may consider a stakeholder engagement application first to work with these stakeholders associated with this dam to secure initial support for removal options over “no action.”

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3039-16008

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Abiqua Creek, Salmon and Trout Side-Channel Habitat Enhancement, Large Wood Placement, Design,

Applicant: Pudding River WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Marion

OWEB Request: \$24,526

Total Cost: \$38,814

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The area of interest for this instream and side-channel salmon and trout habitat enhancement project is located on Abiqua Creek within the Molalla-Pudding River sub-basin, an eastside drainage to the middle Willamette River and is entirely contained within Marion County (Figure 1). Abiqua Creek is one of five major tributaries to the Pudding River. A population of ESA-listed Upper Willamette steelhead trout are present within the Abiqua sub-basin. There is historic evidence of a viable Chinook salmon population (Photo 1). The physical habitat characteristics; cold, clear, spring fed headwaters, if enhanced could, also, support Upper Willamette Chinook salmon. This project location is at the margin between the Willamette Valley floor and the foothills of the Western Cascades. Project assessment activities will occur on three private properties in the lower and middle Abiqua Creek watersheds. The small towns, Silverton and Mount Angel are the largest nearby municipalities. The region is well-known in Oregon for Silver Falls State Park, an outstanding natural area. Abiqua Falls is the upstream limit to the area of interest. The ecological concern addressed in this project is habitat degradation due to the loss of large conifers in the riparian corridor along Abiqua Creek (Photo 3). Without these large trees contributing structural woody debris, physical habitat complexity is impaired and side channel habitat reduced (Photo 4). Defining the scope, identifying the specific project site locations, and creating designs of large wood structures for the purpose of implementation of restoration activities are the expected deliverables from this technical assistance proposal. Project partners include Weyerhaeuser, the Abbey Foundation, Robert and Melinda Qualey, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Pudding River Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Abiqua Creek is a 303(d) listed stream and ODFW priority area that provides important transition habitat for ESA-listed fish between the Cascades and the valley bottom.
- The proposed technical assistance will provide watershed restoration project designs that can move into permitting and implementation project phases.
- This project is supported by ODFW and landowners.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional detail on project goals and objectives, number of designs expected to be produced, and the expected path to restoration implementation.
- The budget would be strengthened by additional break down of consultant costs instead of the lump sum provided.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance project supports local watershed priorities for recovery of ESA-listed fish and water quality improvements. The project is located in an area with potential for significantly benefiting steelhead and coho in the Pudding basin; therefore, it is a high priority for stream restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$24,526

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$24,526

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3040-16044

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Elijah Bristow State Park Floodplain Restoration Design

Applicant: Middle Fork Willamette WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$75,000

Total Cost: \$168,051

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The 664-acre project area is within Elijah Bristow State Park (EBSP) at the confluence of the Middle Fork Willamette River with Lost Creek, below Dexter Dam, and between the Lane County towns of Jasper and Lowell. Historically, a dynamic floodplain existed with multiple, braided channels and sloughs, ephemeral gravel bars and islands, and extensive cottonwood gallery forests. Due to its location below three large dams that have modified flows and altered the natural sediment regime, the dynamism of this floodplain has been lost. Activities such as gravel mining and building berms have also led to a more static environment. Currently, braided channels are no longer dynamic, limited bare ground/gravel bars exist, and side channels and sloughs are filling in with vegetation and sediment due lack of disturbance. Trails and roads within EBSP and the FEMA floodplain provide additional design constraints. Due to the hydrologic, sediment and infrastructure constraints, we seek funding for technical assistance in applying a process-based, interdisciplinary, multi-species approach to floodplain restoration design. MFWWC will retain a contractor experienced in process-based floodplain restoration to provide capacity and expertise in leading the completion of three major deliverables: Feasibility Analysis, Modeling and Alternatives Analysis, and Conceptual Design. Additionally, MFWWC will convene and engage a technical team consisting of experienced professionals from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Forest Service to advise the contractor, review the design, and, ultimately, plan its implementation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Future restoration will benefit multiple fish and wildlife species, including Oregon chub and western pond turtle.
- Oregon Parks as landowner is willing to consider all options for restoration, including adjusting trails and infrastructure, to allow the river to access its floodplain.
- The project cost-benefit is potentially favorable because this site is a large scale area.
- The applicant provided detailed explanation for consultant costs.
- The application demonstrates a carefully thought out project.
- The proposed project is supported by and leverages a strong technical team with relevant experience to think through the design process.

- The applicant recognizes risks associated with the restoration design approach, and demonstrates these risks are worth exploring to gain progress in this type of impacted stream system.

Concerns

- The project site has significant constraints and degradation in areas below the dams, which may limit options for restoration in the mainstem.

Concluding Analysis

The potential benefits are high for this site because the Army Corps has agreed to prioritize ESA-listed fish and consider environmental flows implementation as an option. The site provides opportunity to be highly visible to the public and serve as an example of restoration strategies for areas between headwaters and downstream zones. The project is worth exploring and has a favorable potential cost-benefit because it has all the pieces for success including location, timing, and participants.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$75,000

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3041-16048

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Long Tom Historic Channel
Reconnection Design

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: \$47,113

Total Cost: \$59,113

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project is located at river mile 6.5 on the Long Tom River in Benton County, in the town of Monroe. The lower Long Tom River from Fern Ridge Dam downstream was channelized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce flooding in 1943, reducing total channel length from 36.5 to 23.6 miles. The banks of the channelized river were bermed to keep the river in its banks. These actions reduced the amount of complex off-channel habitat available for native fish and wildlife and reduced floodplain connectivity. The proposed project would develop designs and acquire all required regulatory permits to reconnect 0.23 miles of off-channel habitat and 6.5 acres of mature floodplain forest to the mainstem Long Tom River. The proposed project follows up a successful first phase of community engagement and project development funded by OWEB and a private donor. The first phase of the project helped build community support for improving fish passage on the lower Long Tom River and identified potential floodplain and channel reconnection projects. Project partners include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Monroe School District #1J, a private landowner, and a steering committee made up of stakeholders and community leaders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes a complex project.
- The proposed project is one of the highest priorities for the Long Tom watershed.
- The project context is clearly described by demonstrating the project connections with larger plans for the watershed, including plans by the Army Corps to reconnect the Long Tom with its floodplain.
- The applicant has relevant experience and a proven track record with similar community engagement activities for restoration.

Concerns

- A considerable amount of money will be spent on the consultant to model only 6.5 acres of restoration; however, it may not be avoidable due to the project's proximity to school and community infrastructure. Also, this information is needed for public outreach project elements.

Concluding Analysis

The potential for future dike removal near existing infrastructure holds significant value as a demonstration project. The applicant has completed extensive work to gain momentum and public support for floodplain restoration and the proposed technical assistance will continue this momentum with this first project design product. This first project also needs to be thoughtfully and carefully executed. Therefore, the proposed project makes sense for gaining the necessary social capital for a successful dike removal restoration project. As a result, this project has significant cost benefit potential for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$47,113

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$47,113

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3042-16058

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Resubmit - NCUWC 10-Year Restoration Action Plan

Applicant: North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$37,794

Total Cost: \$48,468

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This proposal is a resubmit for the North Clackamas Urban Watersheds Council's (NCUWC) 10-Year Restoration Action Plan. Not only will the Plan focus on establishing opportunities for fish recovery in the prominent Kellogg/Mt. Scott watershed, but it will allow NCUWC to identify priorities across the four tributaries which drain into the Willamette River, and the Lower Willamette River itself, in Clackamas County between the Clackamas River and Johnson Creek. NCUWC's service area provides rearing habitat and limited migrating and spawning habitat for threatened and endangered salmonids and other priority species including: steelhead, coho, chinook, pacific lamprey, and cutthroat trout. Limiting factors include impaired upstream passage, excessive fine sediment, degraded physical habitat, and impaired water quality. NCUWC currently does not have a framework for the prioritization of location and type of projects to address these limiting factors. Therefore, NCUWC lacks a compass to ensure its efforts are hitting strategic targets. NCUWC proposes to hire a consultant to provide the needed additional capacity and complement organizational assets to create the Plan. The Plan will build off past assessments and monitoring. Project prioritization will be assessed by effects on limiting factors, intrinsic potential of waterways, opportunities for funding, and long-term restoration of watershed function. The Plan will identify priority reaches and projects. These potential projects will then be used to guide future designs and implementation. The Plan will also help NCUWC assess the strategic value of, and adjust, existing activities. Partners include ODFW, OLWS, WES, NCPRD, CSWCD, and ODEQ.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is a well-written and thorough application that provides extensive detail on data management, how information will be used, and a plan for restoration implementation.
- The applicant has staff with skills that can manage the proposed work.
- This technical assistance builds on growing momentum for the applicant, and will provide an action plan product that will lead to strategic watershed restoration projects on the ground.
- The project area contains a number of small tributaries with confluences to the Willamette that provide fish spawning habitat and cooler refugia waters for fish moving up and down the Willamette River. The potential for significant ecological uplift in these tributaries results in a meaningful cost-benefit for the investment.

Concerns

- One of the major tributaries for the project area has a significant partial fish passage barrier at the confluence with the Willamette that is unlikely to be addressed in the near term, which limits the cost-benefit of potential restoration efforts upstream.
- The application would be strengthened by additional partner support.
- The applicant did not respond to previous evaluation comments.

Concluding Analysis

Even though watershed restoration in urban areas often have limited cost benefit for investments because projects tend to have a high cost on a small footprint, there is value in investing in these watersheds since water and fish must move through urban areas. Watershed improvements in urban areas to address toxics and water temperature will support migrating ESA-listed fish as they move towards the ocean. An action plan will assist the applicant in effectively securing funds and leveraging local resources for future project implementation. Also, the proposed technical assistance will provide social value by working with watershed residents to recruit their participation in a restoration strategy.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$37,794

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3043-16064

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Kelly Creek Dam Removal
Feasibility

Applicant: Sandy River Basin WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: \$50,380

Total Cost: \$128,114

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project will investigate the ecological, economic and social feasibility of removing the Kelly Creek dam, which blocks a Sandy River basin tributary on the Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) campus. In a deep ravine, Kelly Creek bisects the 212-acre campus. When the campus was built in the 1960's, the challenge of connecting the campus was solved by building a 300-foot long, 66-foot high dam across the ravine and using the crest of the dam as a path for pedestrians and maintenance vehicles. This imposing dam impounds a small, five-acre pond, with the water surface far below the dam crest. During the summer, the pond significantly warms the water that flows down Kelly Creek to Beaver Creek, which then joins the Sandy River. The Sandy River, a lower Columbia tributary, is the focus of a longstanding restoration effort, including two regionally prominent dam removals in 2007-8. Fourteen federal, state and local agencies, along with non-profits, are actively working on salmon restoration on the main stem Sandy and its tributaries. Federally listed species involved include coho, winter steelhead, spring and fall chinook and eulachon (smelt). Beaver Creek is important to the salmon restoration efforts both as spawning and rearing habitat for juvenile coho, chinook and steelhead. Surveys show that up to nine percent of the Sandy's juvenile coho, as well as juvenile chinook and steelhead, use Beaver Creek for rearing. In addition, several other native fish species, including cutthroat and rainbow trout, use Beaver Creek. SRBWC, MHCC, Gresham, EMSWCD, and Metro are collaborating on a broad clean water retrofit initiative to improve campus habitat and water quality. MHCC adopted a 5-year Salmon Safe certification plan for improvements, including dam removal feasibility by 2018. Proposed actions will assess strategies and costs to remove the dam, deal with sediment, replace the dam's bridge function, and restore habitat and water quality in Kelly Creek.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This technical assistance builds on growing momentum among partners and community members, and offers a public outreach opportunity for watershed restoration because the dam is located on a community college campus.
- The proposed dam removal project builds on other efforts in the sub-basin that will benefit watershed health, including stormwater improvements on the community college campus, the college working towards salmon safe certification, and culvert replacements that will address fish passage issues upstream and downstream of the campus.
- The project is located in a sub-basin that is a major producer of coho and also provides habitat to steelhead.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional information on ODFW involvement in the project and the quality of stream habitat upstream of the dam.
- The expense related to the salmon safe technical team does not seem directly related to the success of the technical assistance product related to dam removal.

Concluding Analysis

Temperature data from upstream and downstream of the five-acre pond behind the dam potentially to be removed shows a 4 degree Celsius increase between the pond inlet to the outlet. This indicates that dam removal could significantly improve water temperature for ESA-listed fish. While there is a chance the cost-benefit of this technical assistance project could be limited if dam removal is determined not to be feasible, information provided by the applicant strongly indicates dam removal is the likely direction of the final restoration project

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Review Team Priority

5 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$44,880

Review Team Conditions

Fund Reduced, remove \$5,500 (includes line item plus associated grant administration) related to salmon safe technical team.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$44,880

Staff Conditions

Fund Reduced, remove \$5,500 (includes line item plus associated grant administration) related to salmon safe technical team.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3044-16003

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Oregon Spotted Frog Monitoring Project

Applicant: McKenzie Watershed Alliance

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$55,152

Total Cost: \$92,306

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed Oregon Spotted Frog Monitoring Project (Project) will provide the first data and analysis of the species population response to habitat alteration caused by beaver in the Northwest, and perhaps the first before-after and treatment-control design for amphibians and beaver in the USA. Understanding these dynamics will inform the planning, management and expectations around wildlife responses to natural beaver expansions and beaver translocations/reintroductions restoration approaches throughout the range of Oregon Spotted Frog (OSF). Monitoring will: (1) determine status of OSF in two populations in Mink Lake basin in the Three Sisters Wilderness using mark-recapture sampling; (2) document changes in habitat associated with beaver establishment; (3) evaluate responses of OSF to beaver establishment in the study area; and (4) characterize responses of introduced game fish to beaver in these sites. The Project will benefit OSF management and restoration planning throughout the state, and increase public awareness and understanding of species conservation. Project partners include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the McKenzie Watershed Alliance (MWA). The proposed Oregon Spotted Frog Monitoring Project (Project) will provide the first data and analysis of the species population response to habitat alteration caused by beaver in the Northwest, and perhaps the first before-after and treatment-control design for amphibians and beaver in the USA. Understanding these dynamics will inform the planning, management and expectations around wildlife responses to natural beaver expansions and beaver translocations/reintroductions restoration approaches throughout the range of Oregon Spotted Frog (OSF). Monitoring will: (1) determine status of OSF in two populations in Mink Lake basin in the Three Sisters Wilderness using mark-recapture sampling; (2) document changes in habitat associated with beaver establishment; (3) evaluate responses of OSF to beaver establishment in the study area; and (4) characterize responses of introduced game fish to beaver in these sites. The Project will benefit OSF management and restoration planning throughout the state, and increase public awareness and understanding of species conservation. Project partners include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the McKenzie Watershed Alliance (MWA).

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The project offers an opportunity to build on the existing data set for an important species that has

limited information.

- The activities proposed in the application will help USFS meet some of their monitoring objectives in this area for OSF.
- The partners that are included in this application are highly qualified and have been monitoring in this area for some time.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The information resulting from this project may not be exportable to other areas to determine what will happen to OSF if beaver are reintroduced.
- It will be challenging to determine what effects the introduced fish have on OSF compared to beaver habitat responses.
- It was unclear whether this funding was needed to wrap up the monitoring effort, or if there is value in adding another year of data.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-14%, Medium-29%, Low-57%

Certainty of Success

High-14%, Medium-57%, Low-29%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- These monitoring efforts benefit a species listed as threatened on the Endangered Species Act by providing information to support management and species recovery planning.
- The proposed monitoring takes advantage of existing data and builds on a natural experiment that could have broader applications in the state.
- The project team has relevant experience with Oregon spotted frog.
- Previous review team comments are addressed in the application
- The monitoring protocols are technically sound.
- Project partner support is demonstrated by match.

Concerns

- No major concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant addressed previous Regional Review Team and Oregon Plan Monitoring Team concerns regarding potential impacts to data that could result from beaver moving into the site. Since there is only one year of monitoring remaining, this will unlikely affect the monitoring results; and if it were to occur, the project model can address it. The resulting monitoring data will provide information on a threatened species that has little information available to support management decisions affecting their recovery. Data will also be collected on a rare habitat type that supports this species, and findings will be exportable to other Oregon spotted frog sites in the state.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$55,152

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$55,152

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3045-16036

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Wild Winter Steelhead - Upper Calapooia Monitoring

Applicant: Calapooia WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$95,576

Total Cost: \$124,801

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project will occur on the Upper Calapooia River, between the Holley Bridge (USGS RM 45.5) and the perceived end of anadromy for salmonids (USGS RM 72.9). Historically the Calapooia River marked the upper end of winter steelhead distribution in the Willamette Basin, and a spawning tributary for spring chinook. These are both DPS/ESU listed species, and little is known about their distribution and life history in the Calapooia River. A Rapid Bioassessment was completed in 2015 as well as winter steelhead redd survey in 2017 to try and establish baseline data including spawning gravel abundance/seeding availability, adult escapement, a foundation for long term trend analysis, as well as identify anchor habitats. The survey was also intended to inform ODFW with vital information regarding the possibility of jump-start seeding the Calapooia with Chinook, as well as guide the Calapooia WC's restoration approach in this vital area. The 2017 return of Winter steelhead over the Willamette Falls (pinch point for all anadromy in the Willamette Valley) was the lowest on record, and the CWC and partners do not feel a proper baseline was established. The CWC proposes to complete 2 years of STW redd Surveys to create a baseline of adult escapement from 2 different cohorts, as well as collect summer water temperature data through the deployment of Hobo temperature loggers. This data can be used to create a reach wide restoration plan that will focus CWC restoration efforts in areas where they will be the most efficient and effective. Partners include ODFW, Weyerhaeuser, US Forest Service, Miners Association, and private residents. The project will occur on the Upper Calapooia River, between the Holley Bridge (USGS RM 45.5) and the perceived end of anadromy for salmonids (USGS RM 72.9). Historically the Calapooia River marked the upper end of winter steelhead distribution in the Willamette Basin, and a spawning tributary for spring chinook. These are both DPS/ESU listed species, and little is known about their distribution and life history in the Calapooia River. A Rapid Bioassessment was completed in 2015 as well as winter steelhead redd survey in 2017 to try and establish baseline data including spawning gravel abundance/seeding availability, adult escapement, a foundation for long term trend analysis, as well as identify anchor habitats. The survey was also intended to inform ODFW with vital information regarding the possibility of jump-start seeding the Calapooia with Chinook, as well as guide the Calapooia WC's restoration approach in this vital area. The 2017 return of Winter steelhead over the Willamette Falls (pinch point for all anadromy in the Willamette Valley) was the lowest on record, and the CWC and partners do not feel a proper baseline was established. The CWC proposes to complete 2 years of STW redd Surveys to create a baseline of adult escapement from 2 different cohorts, as well as collect summer water temperature data through the deployment of Hobo temperature loggers.

This data can be used to create a reach wide restoration plan that will focus CWC restoration efforts in areas where they will be the most efficient and effective. Partners include ODFW, Weyerhaeuser, US Forest Service, Miners Association, and private residents.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application will build on monitoring data from a previously funded monitoring project (i.e., rapid bio-assessment [RBA]) and an existing grant that will result in a restoration plan.
- The information that is being proposed to be collected for winter steelhead is filling a data gap.
- There is an existing technical committee of local stakeholders to help the applicant apply the data in a meaningful way.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The applicant may get more value if they would have increased their temperature monitoring sites to build off of the past RBA information. They could refine their monitoring network over time to fewer sites after they get a good idea of what the temperature conditions are.
- It was unclear what the applicant was trying to learn from the temperature monitoring data. Are they looking for cold water refugia, long term status or trends, or are they looking for data to build a model?
- The value of the monitoring project was unclear given that this basin is a somewhat lower priority for fish recovery efforts for steelhead.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Benefit to Oregon Plan

High-67%, Medium-33%, Low-0%

Certainty of Success

High-17%, Medium-83%, Low-0%

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This monitoring builds on and continues previous efforts that were not completed because poor fish returns prevented data collection.
- The Calapooia watershed is an important basin for understanding the status of steelhead populations in the Willamette basin. Furthermore, with the previous dam removal projects on the Calapooia River, there is an opportunity for this monitoring data to help better understand the effects of dam removal on fish runs.

- Concerns identified by the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team related to the temperature data collection were addressed by the applicant.
- This monitoring project will have connectivity to future restoration work planned on USFS lands in the upper watershed.

Concerns

- No major concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

Even though the Calapooia watershed is not at the same scale as a basin such as the Santiam, it is an important area for steelhead recovery due to the significant number of fish returning to the Calapooia basin. ODFW considers the Calapooia River as a wild river stronghold; genetic analysis of Calapooia native winter steelhead indicates this fish stock is some of the most genetically pure Upper Willamette stocks with minimal contamination from hatchery summer steelhead runs. Since there are no other resources for monitoring steelhead in the project area, similar to investments in the Lower Columbia Recovery area, this proposed monitoring will provide a needed snapshot of steelhead populations over two years.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$95,576

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$95,576

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3046-15943

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: South Santiam & North Santiam
Focus Project Development

Applicant: South Santiam WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: \$51,863

Total Cost: \$70,853

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The South Santiam and North Santiam Watershed Councils (Councils) have actively recruited landowners since 2009 through a unique Regional Landowner Recruitment for Restoration Program in order to restore priority tributaries. The Councils have completed assessments, invasive weed surveys and action plans to guide strategic on-the ground activities such as weed control, riparian revegetation, livestock exclusion fencing and large wood placements. The result of this work is Council-driven ongoing restoration with over 60 landowners on 400 riparian acres buffering 20 miles of stream in the two watersheds. To continue building on previous successes the Councils seek to develop a strategic recruitment campaign with assistance from their regional partners by offering 1) one-on-one individual conservation planning consultations and 2) two three-part land conservation training workshops. The Councils will work with the landowners already enrolled in their restoration program to reach out to neighbors in the community and invite them to participate in the trainings. Over the course of the trainings, landowners will learn to inventory natural resources on their property, identify resource issues, learn about programs available to assist them with those issues and with Council guidance take the next step of conservation implementation. The goal will be to assist with the development of land management plans for a minimum of 5 landowners in the South Santiam and 5 in the North Santiam and 2 in the Upper Mill Creek basin. Through the consultations and trainings, the Councils' goal will be to develop and implement a minimum of 7 restoration projects over 2 years. Project partners include staff from Marion & Linn SWCD, OSU Extension and private landowners. Grant funds will be used for staff time, contracted services, mileage and training supplies and materials.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on previous work and continues a landowner recruitment campaign to increase participation in voluntary watershed restoration.
- The proposed engagement activities are straightforward and are a technically sound approach that previously had proven success for the applicant.
- Landowner recruitment will target priority areas in the basins that are model watersheds and/or a priority for fish and water quality. As a result, future watershed restoration recruited from this stakeholder engagement project will increase habitat connectivity in these basins.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by letters of support from partnering state agencies.

Concluding Analysis

This proposed stakeholder engagement builds on previous momentum and will utilize existing landowners participating in voluntary watershed restoration to reach out to other landowners in their community to join these restoration efforts. There is significant likelihood for success in this project resulting in watershed restoration projects in priority locations. The potential for expanded connectivity with adjacent habitat restoration projects improves the cost-benefit of these efforts.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$51,863

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$51,863

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3047-15980

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Sandy River Delta Stakeholder
Engagement Project

Applicant: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: \$25,743

Total Cost: \$37,872

This application was determined to be ineligible prior to review.

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3048-16000

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Beaver Creek Fish Passage and Riparian Vegetation Restoration

Applicant: Sandy River Basin WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: \$22,875

Total Cost: \$69,655

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) This project will take place in the Beaver Creek watershed, the lowermost tributary to the Sandy River, in and near the Cities of Gresham and Troutdale, in Multnomah County. 2) Two remaining culverts either completely or partially block fish passage on Beaver and Kelly Creeks, home to endangered salmonids. Temperatures in Beaver Creek exceed salmonid rearing standards much of the summer due in part to lack of riparian canopy. Both fish passage and temperature reduction will support recovery of ESA listed salmon in the watershed. The culvert replacement already completed on Beaver Creek at Stark St. was met with consternation from locals over the road closure; due in part to poor communication and lack of awareness that endangered salmon live in the Creek. This outcry has the potential to jeopardize the implementation of two other proposed culvert replacement projects in 2018 and 2019. Habitat in many riparian areas is compromised by invasive vegetation along Beaver Creek. This project will address weed removal and native plant establishment in key riparian areas and provide critical direct stakeholder engagement opportunities in the restoration of the watershed. 3) Stakeholder engagement activities include site tours of fish passage sites (4 tours with a total of 50 participants each year), work parties to restore native vegetation in riparian and sensitive areas (4+ events with 25 participants each) and tabling and other outreach events in the community (10 events reaching 1000 stakeholders) with the outcome of securing community support and active involvement in implementing fish passage and riparian vegetation restoration projects. 4) Project Partners include East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Multnomah County, Metro, Mt. Hood Community College, Cities of Gresham and Troutdale, Job Corps, Gresham Chamber of Commerce, Gresham and Reynolds School Districts, and others.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well written.
- The project builds on a dam removal technical assistance project application, and culvert projects that are fully-funded and underway for implementation.
- Stakeholder engagement will focus on recruiting landowners for riparian restoration and establishing community support for dam removal.

Concerns

- The total project cost seems high for the proposed products.
- Beaver Creek watershed is not the highest priority watershed in the Sandy Basin strategy at number 11. Given the basin size, limited fish numbers, and overall impact to the Sandy Basin, the proposed project will have limited cost-benefit for the investment.

Concluding Analysis

Beaver Creek is a salmon bearing stream supporting chinook rearing habitat and a significant percentage of Sandy Basin Coho populations. This creek is also listed on the 303(d) list for temperature. Given the momentum for watershed restoration in this urban-rural mixed sub-watershed and building interest among community members and partners to participate in watershed restoration, this project is timely.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$22,875

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3049-16072

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Stakeholder Engagement for a Healthy Clackamas Watershed

Applicant: Clackamas River Basin Council

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$36,773

Total Cost: \$85,533

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Stakeholder Engagement for a Healthy Clackamas Watershed will include residents of the lower Clackamas River from its confluence to RM24 & priority tributaries: Clear, Deep, & Eagle Creeks, all located in Clackamas County from Oregon City to Estacada & all communities between. Engaging people & their lands of this area are important for salmon recovery efforts & for improving and protecting the source of drinking water for over 300,000 -- 10% of Oregonians. The Clackamas River provides migration corridor & rearing habitat for ESA-listed Chinook & Coho salmon and steelhead. Because of extensive loss of historic habitats, studies identify the lower Clackamas River as important for habitat protection & restoration. Key limiting factors impacting fish populations in the lower river are channel stability, habitat diversity, sediment loads & water temperatures. TMDLs for the Clackamas River include temperature and bacteria. A suite of engagement programs are proposed: 1) enlisting streamside landowners in future riparian enhancements, 2) engaging students & properties in green infrastructure (GI) projects to limit the effects of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces, 3) enrolling willing landowners for future habitat restoration projects for salmon recovery, & 4) encouraging volunteers in water quality stewardship through Stash the Trash & river clean up activities. Our engagement activities will build on momentum generated through our Shade Our Streams program where direct mailings, fact sheets, 1:1 meetings, workshops & tours enlisted >150 eligible & willing landowners for riparian enhancements & habitat restoration projects. In addition to these methods, GI projects at schools will engage students & parents via native plant volunteer events & promote oppty on private lands in parent newsletters & school website, signs, etc Project partners incl: Clackamas Co Parks, CC Offc of Sustainability, Clackamas River Water Providers, CSWCD, Metro, ODFW & WES.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written and thoughtful with specific goals and objectives.
- The applicant has a proven track record for enlisting landowners in riparian projects.
- The proposed approaches for recruiting landowners is technically sound.
- The project has a reasonable cost.

Concerns

- Only one of the four objectives as described in the application appears eligible according to stakeholder engagement evaluation criteria. Only the riparian restoration landowner recruitment demonstrates clear connection to eligible future watershed restoration.

Concluding Analysis

The Clackamas basin is a priority for addressing ESA-fish recovery and the TMDL plan. Recruiting future landowners to participate in voluntary riparian restoration is timely in this basin that is experiencing rapid population growth; however, some project elements do not have a clear connection to resulting watershed restoration that will benefit fish or wildlife habitat, watershed function, and/or water quality. If this project is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide additional information on how elements such as the green infrastructure, student work, and Stash the Trash will lead to eligible restoration projects and are not primarily outreach opportunities.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

None

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD
OWEB

218-4020
218-4021
218-4019
218-4022
218-4026
218-4016
218-4025
218-4018

MADRAS
REDMOND
BEND
KLAMATH FALLS
MEDFORD

0 5 10 20 30 40
Miles

N
W
E
S

Fall 2017 Applications

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

Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions

~~~~~ Streams

Region 1 Boundary

This product is for information purposes, and may not be suitable for legal, engineering or surveying purposes. This information or data is provided with the understanding that conclusions drawn from such information are the responsibility of the user.





## Region 4 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

**Region 4 - Central Oregon****Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order**

| Project #                                                                       | Grantee                                | Project Title                                   | Brief Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Amount Recommended | County    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 218-4018                                                                        | Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council | Deep Creek- Town Diversion Fish Passage Project | This project will provide fish passage at an irrigation diversion specifically designed for Warner sucker and Redband trout for access to three miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat on Deep Creek located near the town of Adel in the Warner Lakes Basin.     | 393,030            | Lake      |
| 218-4019                                                                        | Upper Deschutes Watershed Council      | Ryan Ranch Riverbank Restoration Project        | Riparian and floodplain habitat will be restored along the Upper Deschutes River through bank reshaping and native plant revegetation. Additionally, hydrologic connectivity will be restored to adjacent wetlands which is critical habitat for the Oregon spotted frog.     | 61,500             | Deschutes |
| 218-4022                                                                        | Upper Deschutes Watershed Council      | Big Marsh Restoration Project                   | This project will restore hydrologic function to Big Marsh located in the Upper Little Deschutes River by removing legacy berms, culverts, and roads while filling in relic ditches to restore wetland connectivity enhancing year round habitat for the Oregon spotted frog. | 68,500             | Klamath   |
| 218-4016                                                                        | Klamath SWCD                           | Gerber Watershed Enhancement Project Fall 2017  | This landscape level approach to watershed restoration will employ forestry treatments on over 3,200 acres of private land by removing Juniper and thinning young Ponderosa pine to improve habitat and facilitate future wildfire.                                           | 332,942            | Klamath   |
| 218-4021                                                                        | Deschutes River Conservancy            | Swalley Piping Project, Rogers Lateral          | Roughly three miles of irrigation ditch will be piped just north of Bend in Swalley's Irrigation District which will permanently conserve and protect 2.3 cfs instream to the Middle Deschutes River.                                                                         | 645,957            | Deschutes |
| <b>Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff</b> |                                        |                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>1,501,929</b>   |           |

**Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order**

| Project #                                                        | Grantee                         | Project Title                          | Brief Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Amount Recommended | County |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| 218-4020                                                         | Crooked River Watershed Council | Big Summit Prairie Restoration Phase 1 | This multi prong approach for restoration of the North Fork Crooked River on Big Summit Prairie will benefit fish and wildlife by employing livestock fencing, off site water developments, riparian plantings, roughened riffles, and providing fish passage at one irrigation diversion. | 391,951            | Crook  |
| <b>Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT</b> |                                 |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>1,893,880</b>   |        |

**Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT**

| Project # | Grantee                 | Project Title                                      | Amount Requested | County     |
|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 218-4017  | DEE Irrigation District | Dee Irrigation District Water Conservation Project | 300,637          | Hood River |

Region 4 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order      |                                        |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                    |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Project #                                                                         | Grantee                                | Project Title                                                                                       | Brief Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Amount Recommended | County  |
| 218-4025                                                                          | Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council | Thomas Creek Fish Passage Amsbaugh Diversion                                                        | This technical assistance will result in construction ready designs to address passage for sucker and lamprey species at an irrigation diversion on Thomas Creek near the inlet to Goose Lake which will open up 32 miles of habitat. | 38,624             | Lake    |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff                   |                                        |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 38,624             |         |
| Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order |                                        |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                    |         |
| Project #                                                                         | Grantee                                | Project Title                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Amount Recommended | County  |
| None                                                                              |                                        | None                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                    |         |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT                                  |                                        |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 38,624             |         |
| Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT       |                                        |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                    |         |
| Project #                                                                         | Grantee                                | Project Title                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Amount Requested   | County  |
| 218-4024                                                                          | Trout Unlimited Inc.                   | Oregon Spotted Frog and Invasive Bullfrogs: Assembling Baseline Data to Guide Restoration Decisions |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 75,000             | Klamath |

Region 4 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order           |                                    |                                                       |                   |                    |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Project #                                                                           | Grantee                            | Project Title                                         | Brief Description | Amount Recommended | County    |
| None                                                                                |                                    | None                                                  |                   |                    |           |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff         |                                    |                                                       |                   | 0                  |           |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order |                                    |                                                       |                   |                    |           |
| Project #                                                                           | Grantee                            | Project Title                                         |                   | Amount Recommended | County    |
| None                                                                                |                                    | None                                                  |                   |                    |           |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT                |                                    |                                                       |                   | 0                  |           |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT           |                                    |                                                       |                   |                    |           |
| Project #                                                                           | Grantee                            | Project Title                                         |                   | Amount Requested   | County    |
| 218-4028                                                                            | Central Oregon Irrigation District | Rural Irrigation Conservation and Efficiency Outreach |                   | 75,000             | Deschutes |

Region 4 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order    |                                  |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                    |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Project #                                                        | Grantee                          | Project Title                                                                                          | Brief Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Amount Recommended | County  |
| 218-4026                                                         | The Klamath Tribes               | Real-Time, High-Frequency Estimates of Nutrient and Sediment Loads in the Williamson and Sprague River | Phosphorus and suspended sediment samples will be collected along with real-time turbidity data near the mouth of the Williamson and Sprague Rivers to develop an understanding of concentrations and loads of suspended sediment and phosphorus to Upper Klamath Lake. | 217,770            | Klamath |
| Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff  |                                  |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 217,770            |         |
| Monitoring Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order |                                  |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                    |         |
| Project #                                                        | Grantee                          | Project Title                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Amount Recommended | County  |
| None                                                             |                                  | None                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                    |         |
| Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT         |                                  |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 217,770            |         |
| Monitoring Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT       |                                  |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                    |         |
| Project #                                                        | Grantee                          | Project Title                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Amount Requested   | County  |
| 218-4027                                                         | OSU Office of Sponsored Programs | Monitoring Beaver Dam Analogs for Restoration of the South Fork of the Crooked River                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 184,820            | Crook   |
| Region 4 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award                |                                  |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 1,758,323          | 16%     |
| Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award       |                                  |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 10,753,978         |         |

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Central Oregon (Region 4)

**Application Number:** 218-4016-15970

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Gerber Watershed Enhancement  
Project Fall 2017

**Applicant:** Klamath SWCD

**Basin:** Central Oregon

**County:** Klamath

**OWEB Request:** \$332,942

**Total Cost:** \$1,436,741

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#### **Project Abstract** *(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) 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 perennial grasses and shrubs. 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 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 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 represents 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, ODF, and others working toward a common vision of improved watershed health.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- This project presents a well-coordinated, landscape level restoration effort in the Gerber area watersheds.
- The project partners providing technical support are well qualified to do this work and these elements were intertwined nicely within the project application.
- The applicant addressed previous review team concerns by including a weed management plan and budget for portions of the treatment area.
- The project partners providing match were diverse and this match is secured.
- The work area for this project is located within a priority watershed for state and federal agencies involved in this type of work.

## Concerns

- There was no forestry management described for road buffers in the project area. Wildlife poaching is a problem in the area, adding buffers along roads to discourage this behavior would be beneficial.
- Site specific plans for cutting units lacked details, as a result it is unclear what percentage of Pine and Juniper removal will be happening within specific units.
- While the addition of a weed management plan is helpful, it is unclear whether planned treatments and budget are enough given the scope and scale of the project. It was noted that a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) is currently in the works for this geography that could help address this in the long term.
- It was a little unclear how OWEB dollars and EQIP dollars overlap and what the distinction will be for treatment on private lands.

## Concluding Analysis

This project is a resubmittal for the third consecutive grant cycle. The project would employ forestry treatments on 3,264 acres and noxious weed mapping and treatment on 1,000 acres within the Gerber Watershed in Klamath County. The applicant did a good job at addressing and answering previous review team comments and questions. The landscape scale approach to this project really showcases the strong level of partnerships and leveraging of resources in the area. The project area is surrounded by previous forestry work, which this project should complement nicely. While the inclusion of a weed management plan in the application is helpful, it is unclear whether planned treatments are enough given the severity and scale of the problem and necessary long term maintenance and monitoring required for success. Without more details around future treatments, it is unclear how the project will be sustainable. The understanding provided by practitioners is its anticipated fire would maintain stand densities, and that this prescribed thinning and removal is setting up the landscape to better handle and move fire as it historically once did. In addition, with an unknown future fire pattern and public perception of fire on the landscape, projecting these is very hard to do. The project details a well described, watershed scale project incorporating a suite of diverse partnerships and match funding.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

## Review Team Priority

4 of 6

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$332,942

## Review Team Conditions

None

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$332,942

**Staff Conditions**

None



## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

**Application Number:** 218-4017-16040

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Dee Irrigation District Water Conservation Project

**Applicant:** DEE Irrigation District

**Basin:** Central Oregon

**County:** Hood River

**OWEB Request:** \$300,637

**Total Cost:** \$3,171,365

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

This project will take place within the 840-acre Dee Irrigation District (DID), located between the West and East Fork of the Hood River in the upper west side of the Hood River Valley. The purposes of this project are to conserve water instream and eliminate sources of pollution to the west and east forks of the Hood River. DID's unpressurized, partially open distribution system is prone to leaks and breaks, and the system includes seven end spills, which result in DID diverting more water than is necessary from the West Fork Hood River. (An 'end spill' occurs when water not utilized for irrigation returns to the river, several miles downstream of the diversion, at the end of each distribution line.) The end spills also cause chemical (nutrients, sediment, bacteria, and pesticides) and thermal pollution to the West Fork and East Fork Hood River. Low flows in the West Fork Hood River are a limiting factor for threatened Chinook, steelhead, and coho populations. In addition, both the West Fork and East Fork have temperature TMDLs. Upgrading DID's distribution system to a pressurized pipeline will save an estimated 2 cfs that DID plans to protect through an "Agreement to not Divert". This will increase instream flows on approximately 6 miles of the West Fork Hood River and will eliminate chemical and thermal pollution of the West and East Fork Hood River from DID's distribution system. Project partners include Dee Irrigation District, Oregon Water Resources Department, and the Hood River Watershed Group.

### **Review Team Evaluation Strengths**

- This project would complement previous water conservation efforts led by the District.
- The grant request to OWEB is cost effective for conserving 2 cfs instream.
- The project would meter all turnouts off the piped delivery line, which opens up opportunities for added on-farm efficiencies and water conservation.
- The project is aimed at restoring low summer stream flows that are critical for ESA listed salmonids utilizing the West Fork Hood River.
- The elimination of ends spills due to piping will remove overland flow into the river that potentially carries sediment and pollutants into the river.

### **Concerns**

- While the "agreement to not divert" appears to be an innovated approach to conserving water instream, there was little detail as to how this agreement would be structured, enforced, and

monitored. A copy of the agreement would have been helpful to better understand how it would function.

- The proposed water quality benefits described are not quantifiable nor based on actual data.
- A large portion of the match is a pending grant, which seems critical for this project to be implemented. It is unclear whether this project could happen if the pending match did not come through.

## **Concluding Analysis**

This project proposes to pipe the existing delivery canals within the Dee Irrigation District, which builds upon previous efforts that piped the main canal and permanently conserved 3 cfs instream. The project is supported by local conservation groups and has received a DEQ state revolving loan to assist in project implementation. However, it is unclear whether the project could still be viable if the OWRD grant is not awarded. The water quality benefits stated in the proposal are not quantifiable as no data exists to understand the benefit to water quality from capping the end spills. A site visit to the location of some of the end points suggest there is water quality benefits to capping these end spills as some of them travel through pastures and steep ravines potentially carrying pollutants and sediment into the river. The East Fork Hood River is a higher priority for fisheries conservation compared to the West Fork Hood River, which has higher summer base flows than the East Fork. The biggest concern with this project was the lack of permanently protecting water instream. The "agreement to not divert" has potential to offer these protections, but the application lacked details on how this agreement would be structured, enforced, and monitored. For this reason, the likelihood for this project to succeed in meeting its ecological objectives and providing a cost-benefit for the investment is unclear. That said, the applicant is encouraged to resubmit and address these key components: 1.) Provide template for "agreement to not divert" and/or details on how this agreement would be structured, enforced, and monitored and by whom, 2.) Describe plan in the event the OWRD grant does not come through, and 3.) Articulate water quality benefit, specifically what issues capping these end spills would resolve.

## **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Do Not Fund

## **Review Team Priority**

None

## **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$0

## **Review Team Conditions**

None

## **Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

**Application Number:** 218-4018-16051

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Deep Creek - Town Diversion Fish Passage Project

**Applicant:** Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

**Basin:** Central Oregon

**County:** Lake

**OWEB Request:** \$393,030

**Total Cost:** \$593,030

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The Deep Creek - Town Diversion project is located in the town of Adel in Lake County, Oregon. The Town Diversion, established prior to the 1921 Warner Lakes Adjudication Survey, provides irrigation and stock water to the Adel Water Improvement District (AWID). The concrete weir diverts water into the AWID diversion canal which then delivers water to down-valley AWID patrons. The diversion is also believed to be a complete fish passage barrier due to the structure's vertical height and high water velocities. Obstructed fish passage affects Warner sucker (Federally-threatened), Warner Lakes redband trout (Oregon-species of concern), and other native species inhabiting the Warner Basin. An alternatives analysis and 75% fish passage design have been completed for the Town Diversion. The proposed fish passage solution includes replacing the existing weir and installing a 250 ft-long rock ramp. The replacement weir will join the existing northern diversion weir crest. Replacing the existing weir is necessary as the weir is being undermined by erosion. The replacement weir will also form a defined vertical boundary which will be simpler for joining the rock ramp. The existing weir's sloping downstream apron would be problematic for joining the rock ramp due to shallow fill depths and poor concrete condition. The existing concrete headwall and associated diversion headgates and forebay (i.e., headworks) to the diversion canal will also be replaced. The existing headworks are degrading due to concrete spalling. Replacing the headworks will improve diversion operation safety and efficiency. Project partners include the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, AWID, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

### **Review Team Evaluation Strengths**

- This project will provide passage to over three miles of high quality habitat for ESA listed Warner sucker and state sensitive Redband trout.
- Fish passage at this diversion dam site is a high priority for the recovery of Warner sucker and is part of a larger strategic plan in the Warner Lakes Basin to address passage and habitat for the species recovery, which is endemic to the Warner Lakes Basin.
- The alternatives analysis was helpful to understand the different approaches considered and provided a strong confidence the correct alternative was chosen.
- The project has a lot of partners contributing both technical and financial resources to the project.
- This project builds off previous technical assistance funding and is at 75% designed.

## Concerns

- The project does not include screening the diversion. It was noted that given the diversion location, ditch, and river dynamics, there were a lot of unknowns on how best to screen the diversion. Accordingly, resources managers support passage and continue to best understand what type of screening would be viable for this particular site.
- While the water users of the Adel Water Improvement District stand to benefit greatly with a new diversion and head gate, there is no contribution from them. It would have been beneficial to see buy in from the local water users beyond general support.

## Concluding Analysis

This project proposes fish passage for ESA listed Warner sucker and State sensitive Redband trout at the Town Diversion on Deep Creek near Adel. The restoration of fish passage will open up over three miles of high quality habitat for spawning and rearing for these species. The proposal included a detailed alternatives analysis that was helpful and informative to understand why the preferred alternative was chosen. The project boasts a long list of partners providing both technical and financial resources. While passage will be very beneficial for targeted fish species, there was a concern about not screening the diversion given the amount of flow that gets diverted and the possibility for fish entrainment in the ditches. This is a shared concern with fisheries managers; however, given the location, ditch and dynamics of the river and landscape, fisheries managers are unsure how to adequately screen the diversion without the screening being cost prohibitive. It would have been great to see more buy in from the local water district whose users will benefit greatly from a new diversion and head gate. Partners in the Warner basin have been working very collaboratively and are strategic in their approach and technique to provide fish passage with hopeful recovery of the Warner sucker.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

## Review Team Priority

1 of 6

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$393,030

## Review Team Conditions

None

## Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$393,030

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Central Oregon (Region 4)

**Application Number:** 218-4019-16053

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Ryan Ranch Riverbank Restoration Project

**Applicant:** Upper Deschutes WC

**Basin:** Central Oregon

**County:** Deschutes

**OWEB Request:** \$61,500

**Total Cost:** \$192,500

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The Ryan Ranch Riverbank Restoration Project is located on the Deschutes River, approximately ten miles upstream from the City of Bend in Deschutes County, Oregon. Ryan Ranch encompasses approximately 70 acres of historic wetland adjacent to the Deschutes River that was cut off from the river by a berm constructed many decades ago. The wetland and adjacent riparian area along the berm is the focus of restoration because it historically supported the largest contiguous area of Oregon spotted frog habitat along the Deschutes River below Wickiup Dam and the area is identified as Critical Habitat by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition to blocking surface water connection between the river and the wetland, the berm is largely devoid of riparian habitat and experiencing active erosion. The erosion is limiting potential Oregon spotted frog habitat along the margins of the river, contributing sediment to the river, and jeopardizing public safety on a primary recreation trail. The Ryan Ranch Riverbank Restoration Project will focus on removing the berm, restoring the riparian area, relocating the trail and permanently restoring hydrologic connection between the Deschutes River and the wetland. Project partners include the Deschutes National Forest, Oregon Department of State Lands, Deschutes Basin Board of Control, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The restoration proposed at Ryan Ranch is a result of years of data collection and monitoring to understand the best approach to improve riparian, floodplain, and wetland conditions while balancing recreation needs.
- The project has a strong list of partners.
- The whole project cost is reasonable given the anticipated ecological uplift to result from this project.
- The project designs are complete, and the graphics and maps provided in the application were helpful. It is encouraging to see the design approach being taken from a functional reference reach directly across the river from this site.
- As designed, the project aims to improve Oregon spotted frog habitat along the floodplain fringes and adjacent wetlands.

##### **Concerns**

- It was unclear from the application and budget how the line item charged to OWEB "forest service

heavy equipment” is broken down. The application would benefit from more clarity on how this line item of \$2,500 per day is broken down into salaries and equipment.

- While the proposal includes 3 ft. tall woven poly mesh fence to protect the newly restored floodplain, it is unclear whether this will be enough to protect the newly restored floodplain given the recreational pressure and dogs brought here by recreationist.
- The application lacks specifics about the types of best management practices (BMP's) to be employed during construction. The project site is located in a sensitive environmental zone and it would have been helpful to understand specifically the types of measures the USFS will take to minimize impacts to natural resources.

## **Concluding Analysis**

The restoration proposed at Ryan Ranch Meadow will restore floodplain and riparian vegetation while also promoting a hydrologic connection between the river and adjacent wetlands. The proposal is a result of various studies conducted over multiple years by the USFS to understand the hydrological impacts and habitat benefits. This area is designated critical habitat for the Oregon spotted frog. Reconnecting the hydrology to these wetlands will provide perennial habitat that is critical for all life stages of the species. The project is well supported by partners, and is the right action to promote floodplain and wetland connectivity and habitat enhancements for fish and wildlife. The applicant and USFS are well suited to do this work and there is high confidence it will be successful. This investment will have significant ecological uplift for floodplain and wetland function of the site. The applicant and USFS are encouraged to keep a close eye on the newly restored area and respond as necessary to protect the created habitat. Detailed BMP's for construction would have been helpful given the sensitive environment that heavy equipment will work in. It's possible this project will require a 401 water quality certification from DEQ.

## **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

## **Review Team Priority**

2 of 6

## **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$61,500

## **Review Team Conditions**

None

## **Staff Recommendation**

### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None



**Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$61,500

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

**Application Number:** 218-4020-16062

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Big Summit Prairie Restoration  
Phase 1

**Applicant:** Crooked River WC

**Basin:** Central Oregon

**County:** Crook

**OWEB Request:** \$391,951

**Total Cost:** \$673,981

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

This project is the first phase of restoration in the North Fork Crooked River watershed on Big Summit Prairie (BSP) and adjacent USFS lands 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 within the project area. 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 USFS lands. 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, 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, Waibel Properties LLC, and USFS funds will be used for all aspects of the project.

### **Review Team Evaluation**

#### **Strengths**

- The applicant provided answers and information to address previous review team comments and concerns.
- The phased approach to watershed restoration of the prairie is well thought out and detailed.
- The proposed fencing and grazing management practices provided were well described in the application.
- The landowner owns additional land throughout the Crooked River basin; this project could spawn interest and opportunities for conservation on those additional lands.
- The landowner match is strong and they are willing and able to contribute to this project through in-kind and cash match.

#### **Concerns**

- The connection between the proposed prairie restoration and the 201 acre forest thinning on adjacent USFS lands was not well articulated. The thinning activities were not discussed in the Goals and Objectives or the Outcomes portion of the application. The forest thinning was not described in the USFS support letter.
- The overall project cost is expensive and the cost -benefit of the ecological uplift is questionable.
- While it was great to see letters of support from USFS and Trout Unlimited, the project still lacks funding partners.
- The project timeline seemed overly ambitious for completing all project elements by 12/31/18, and the applicant may not have capacity to meet this timeline.

## **Concluding Analysis**

This application is a resubmittal for the fourth consecutive grant cycle. The project aims to improve a suite of habitats and functionality along the North Fork Crooked River on Big Summit Prairie. The project was recommended for funding during the last cycle but did not receive funding because of its low priority ranking. The opportunity for restoration of this site has the potential for lasting watershed benefit to the North Crooked River subbasin. The existing and proposed fencing and grazing management the landowner has committed to was very well described and aims for an upward trajectory in resource condition and function. It is great to see the USFS as a partner of this effort, although, the proposed forest thinning on USFS lands was not well described. It was hard to understand the connection of the prairie restoration to this 201 acre forest thinning. The application could have benefited from more detail on this project element. Specifically, it is unclear how the 201 acres would be treated to help justify the per acre cost described in the budget. The overall project budget is expensive, lacks funding partners, and has questionable restoration cost vs. benefit return value. The location of the prairie and proposed restoration of fish passage, floodplain connectivity, and riparian vegetation offer great opportunity for watershed benefit in the North Fork Crooked River subbasin.

## **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

## **Review Team Priority**

6 of 6

## **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$391,951

## **Review Team Conditions**

None

## **Staff Recommendation**

## **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Central Oregon (Region 4)

**Application Number:** 218-4021-16073

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Swalley Piping Project, Rogers Lateral

**Applicant:** Deschutes River Conservancy

**Basin:** Central Oregon

**County:** Deschutes

**OWEB Request:** \$648,957

**Total Cost:** \$2,640,027

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The Swalley Rogers Piping Project will pipe approximately 3 miles of district conveyance canals north of Cooley Road in Bend in Deschutes County, saving up to 2.3 cfs of seepage and evaporation loss. The project will permanently place senior water rights into the Deschutes River, addressing critical streamflow issues that are a major limiting factor for fish and wildlife habitat and water quality in the Deschutes River. Swalley is an irrigation district serving 4,331 acres in the Upper Deschutes Basin. The Rogers Project serves 187 water users with 1899 senior water rights out of the Middle Deschutes River. The project will also eliminate approximately 100 individual irrigation pumps, estimated to save irrigators up to 380,000 kWh a year. Swalley will construct the project in fall-winter 2018-2019. The Deschutes River Conservancy will manage the administrative process through the Oregon Water Resources Department to permanently protect conserved water instream.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- Both the applicant and Swally Irrigation District have a long history in the basin of success in implementing and managing projects that permanently conserve water instream. There is high confidence this project will be successful.
- The applicant and its partners are leveraging a variety of resources to complete this project.
- This is the right action to improve stream flows in the Middle or Upper Deschutes River.
- This project is a result of a previous System Improvement Plan (SIP), which identified this specific project as a high priority.

##### **Concerns**

- The number of landowners, pumps, and turnouts described in the application is unclear. The number of turnouts (187) did not match up with the number of landowners identified (38) or the number of pumps (100) this project would eliminate. Clarity around how all these elements are connected would have been helpful.
- The application budget would benefit from additional information on the staff time budgeted for their role in this project to understand how it is necessary to successfully achieve the proposed objectives. While it's acknowledged administering conserved water allocation takes time, the time and need allotted for the Program Director was not clear.

- A large part of the budget was for 187 turnouts; however there was a lack of description of what these turnouts entail to help justify the budgeted lump sum identified for each.
- The project cost is expensive for the ecological return.

## **Concluding Analysis**

This project proposes to install approximately three miles of irrigation pipe that would allow for permanently conserving instream 2.3 cfs of senior water rights held by Swally Irrigation District. The applicant and District have a long history in the basin of managing and implementing projects to conserve water instream. Based on the application and field visit with project proponents, there is a high level of confidence this project will be successful. There was no justification on why outreach materials identified in the budget were a necessity to achieve the stated instream water conservation. This project is the right action to increase stream flow in the Deschutes basin and both the applicant and Swally Irrigation District are well positioned to do this.

## **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund with Conditions

## **Review Team Priority**

5 of 6

## **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$648,957

## **Review Team Conditions**

OWEB shall pay for project elements related to pipe and construction only.

## **Staff Recommendation**

### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

OWEB staff contacted the Deschutes River Conservancy regarding their staff time and outreach materials necessities and whether these are essential to achieving permanently protected instream water for the Deschutes Basin. Based on this, the line item for Outreach Materials budgeted at \$3,000 will be removed.

## **Staff Recommendation**

Fund with Conditions

## **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$645,957

## **Staff Conditions**

OWEB shall pay for project elements related to pipe and construction only.

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Central Oregon (Region 4)

**Application Number:** 218-4022-16078

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Big Marsh Restoration Project

**Applicant:** Upper Deschutes WC

**Basin:** Central Oregon

**County:** Klamath

**OWEB Request:** \$68,500

**Total Cost:** \$342,500

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The Big Marsh Restoration project focuses on restoring habitat for the Oregon spotted frog in a wetland complex that has been historically altered by grazing and the construction of drainage ditches. The site is located within the Crescent Creek watershed in the southwestern portion of the Crescent Ranger District on the Deschutes National Forest. The area is part of the Deschutes River headwaters southwest of the towns of Crescent and La Pine in Klamath County. Big Marsh is home to the largest population of threatened Oregon spotted frogs in the state, as well other threatened, endangered and sensitive plant and bird species. However, Oregon spotted frog summer and overwintering habitat has been lost through historic draining of the wetland, resulting in the drying of the site and encroachment of lodgepole pine. These changes have reduced the amount of available habitat, putting the frog at greater risk of predation and limiting its population size in the area. Restoration activities will include breaching and filling ditches to restore natural flows into Big Marsh and creating, preserving and connecting high quality Oregon spotted frog overwintering habitat throughout the marsh. Additional activities will include road obliteration and removing seven culverts that impede natural flow into Big Marsh and limit passage for aquatic organisms, lodgepole pine stand thinning, instream wood placement and riparian plantings. Project Partners include the Deschutes National Forest's Crescent Ranger District, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Oregon Hunters Association.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- This proposal builds off a history of successful conservation throughout the Big Marsh area.
- The project has a strong list of partners.
- Big Marsh is a large stronghold for ESA listed Oregon spotted frog, and this project will improve year round habitat for this species by reconnecting surface hydrology.
- The holistic project approach has a relative light touch on the landscape yet will yield big uplift in hydrologic function and habitat availability for aquatic species.
- This project is a priority for the recovery of the Oregon spotted frog.
- The reasonable project cost will have a large ecological benefit for aquatic species and wetland function.

##### **Concerns**



- The proposal lacked details regarding the context of previous Big Marsh work, and specifically how this particular project was prioritized and fits into that bigger picture. It would have been helpful to see more documentation from the USFS regarding this.
- There was not a letter of support from the USFS, or any documentation that project elements have gone through the appropriate approval within the USFS.
- The application states water quality benefits but lacks description of how these benefits will be achieved and measured.
- The application did not include any ground photos of the project elements, which would have been helpful to understand the need for the restoration action proposed.
- The application and budget lacked descriptive detail on how the budget line items for forest service heavy equipment per day costs are broken down.

## **Concluding Analysis**

Restoration proposed at Big Marsh in the Upper Little Deschutes Watershed will improve hydrologic function and year round habitat availability for aquatic species, including the ESA listed Oregon spotted frog. Big Marsh has been a conservation focus for the USFS for some time, including a multitude of restoration actions to date to improve terrestrial and aquatic habitat. The marsh is a stronghold for the Oregon spotted frog and is continually monitored by USGS and USFWS, whom will continue this monitoring post project. The restoration approach is a relative light touch on the landscape yet will provide a large hydrologic benefit to the marsh ecosystem. The application did lack historical context of previous work at Big Marsh and how this project prioritizes into that bigger picture. It was surprising there was not a letter of support from the USFS, given the project is on their land and the grant is paying their employees. The ecological benefit that will result from this project should have lasting improvements to year round habitat for Oregon spotted frog and recover the lost hydrologic function to Big Marsh.

## **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

## **Review Team Priority**

3 of 6

## **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$68,500

## **Review Team Conditions**

None

## **Staff Recommendation**

### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$68,500

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Central Oregon (Region 4)

**Application Number:** 218-4024-16009

**Project Type:** Technical Assistance

**Project Name:** Oregon spotted frog and invasive bullfrogs: assembling base line data to guide restoration decisions

**Applicant:** Trout Unlimited Inc

**Basin:** Central Oregon

**County:** Klamath

**OWEB Request:** \$75,000

**Total Cost:** \$114,719

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

Approaches that are adaptive and built on strong data foundation are particularly needed for restoration of wetland ecosystems. Our collaborative team will gather data needed for managing populations of the declining Oregon spotted frog (OSF) confronted with a harmful invader (American bullfrog, BF). OSF have declined across their range and in the Klamath Basin, and bullfrogs are expanding into key OSF habitats including our study area (Wood River valley around Fort Klamath, Klamath County). We will collect data to quantify abundance, distribution, and habitat use of both species in a large complex of managed wetlands. We will use these data along with information on habitat and landscape attributes to identify and evaluate management alternatives. Work addresses Upper Klamath Lake Opportunity Area and Wood River limiting factors of improving riparian system function and the goal of restoring emergent wetland habitats (ODFW 2006). The team will develop a Restoration/Monitoring proposal to implement management to increase OSF and reduce bullfrogs and monitor results based on sampling established during the Technical Assistance phase. Work will emphasize understanding relationships between both frogs and habitat attributes that can be managed. We include outreach to interested neighbors. This project develops relationships with landowners and capitalizes on an experienced team, matching resources, and a large study area. Ultimately, this project will lead to an adaptive management framework that will help the team navigate an array of management options. Our team includes a private landowner, Trout Unlimited, ODFW, USFWS, and USGS.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The project location is on private land with a very supportive and engaged landowner.
- The project outcome would result in a better understanding of the relationship between Oregon Spotted frog and Bull frogs in similar habitats. This type of data analysis and understanding is limited in Oregon.
- Good letters of support, although there is no letter from USGS who is the primary partner in the grant.
- The applicant has proven success working with landowners in the Upper Wood River valley improving habitat for fish and wildlife.

##### **Concerns**

- The application read more like a monitoring and research project, with very little information regarding how this application was going to translate into future restoration or watershed benefit.
- It was unclear how current land use or management practices will be incorporated into the data collection, analysis, and any future management recommendations.
- The local BLM and USFS offices have technical expertise in this subject; it was unclear why those entities were not listed as potential partners.
- There is a demonstrated need to better understand Oregon spotted frog presence, absence, and habitat availability particularly in light of increasing pressure from Bull frogs. However, there was little evidence provided as to how and why the particular site was chosen and the need for this work at the chosen location.
- The overall project costs seemed expensive with little justification provided, particularly for a relatively small study area (~10 acres). More budget detail regarding USGS and field crews would have been helpful.

## **Concluding Analysis**

The proposed technical assistance would aim to understand Oregon spotted frog presence and habitat availability in relation to increasing pressure from Bull frogs on private property in the Upper Wood River valley. While there is a general lack of data regarding Oregon spotted frog presence and potential impacts from Bull frogs, the application was light on details and lacks a connection to future restoration. The applicant has worked successfully with private landowners in this area, and the project was well supported. That said, there was no letter of support from the USGS who is the lead partner and major recipient of these grant funds. The application read more like a monitoring or research effort, and did not provide a lot of detail as to how and why the particular project site was chosen. The application did not discuss the current land management and use of the private property. Specifically, it would have been helpful to understand these uses and how they will be incorporated into the study and resultant future restoration plan. There was not a lot of budget detail regarding the USGS personnel, or detail regarding their pending match. While there is value to understand some of the proposed elements discussed, there wasn't enough information to demonstrate need and future outcomes for the project site.

## **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Do Not Fund

## **Review Team Priority**

None

## **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$0

## **Review Team Conditions**

None

## **Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

**Application Number:** 218-4025-16079

**Project Type:** Technical Assistance

**Project Name:** Thomas Creek Fish Passage -  
Amsbaugh Diversion

**Applicant:** Lake County Umbrella Watershed  
Council

**Basin:** Central Oregon

**County:** Lake

**OWEB Request:** \$38,624

**Total Cost:** \$48,624

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### Project Abstract *(from application)*

Restoring fish passage for the 9 native Goose Lake Fish species in the Goose Lake Watershed is the focus of this project. Thomas Creek, the largest tributary to Goose Lake is a high priority for area resource managers as 8 native fish species reside, spawn and rear in this system. This project will address passage at the Amsbaugh Diversion located within the first 5 miles of stream. This project is a priority for the following reasons: 1) The Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council and partners have implemented multiple restoration - fish passage projects throughout the 40-mile stream, 2) All artificial barriers located upstream of this project have been re-designed to provide passage. This high priority project will provide data collection, 3 design alternatives, cost estimates, and a final design to determine the optimal choice for fish passage at this site. Project partners include: USFWS, ODFW, Amsbaugh Ranch, River Design Group, Inc.

### Review Team Evaluation

#### Strengths

- All barriers upstream of this project have been addressed with passage for all native species. Correcting passage at this project site will allow full access for aquatic species from Goose Lake into the entire Thomas Creek watershed.
- Passage design guidance for sucker species has grown significantly over the years, this project will benefit from past design and project monitoring to ensure success of this design.
- While final restoration actions are unknown, the technical assistance approach should be cost effective given the past investment and current structure in place.

#### Concerns

- There was no letter of support from the landowner.
- The engineer cost and time amounts seem high when there is potential for a quick fix, although the passage solution is unknown.
- It was unclear if or how previous project data and designs from project locations upstream could be incorporated, seems like this could provide some cost savings.
- The application did not mention accessing any project data from Ducks Unlimited who designed and constructed the previous project, there might be some cost savings in reviewing and utilizing as-builts, designs, or project data.

- There was no fish monitoring data to suggest suckers and lamprey cannot pass at this diversion.

## **Concluding Analysis**

The technical assistance proposed for Thomas Creek is to develop passage designs for a current barrier to sucker and lamprey species. The project location is a few miles upstream from Goose Lake and the project will open up 32 miles of habitat for all native species. A significant amount of work has occurred upstream on Thomas Creek including passage at all diversions. This diversion was a focus for restoration by Ducks Unlimited in the early 2000's, however at the time the technology and science did not take into account the needs for sucker and lamprey species, and subsequently the structure does not provide passage for these species. The potential restoration actions to correct passage at this diversion are unknown, but there is thought it may be a relatively cheap correction. While it wasn't mentioned in the application, it's hopeful the applicant and its design team can look at previous projects on Thomas Creek and look for lessons learned and/or use existing data that's already been collected. Similarly, given the project site was constructed not too long ago, perhaps Ducks Unlimited can share project data and designs to assist in this effort. To provide full access from Goose Lake up through the entire Thomas Creek basin will be very beneficial for native species. Recent monitoring near the project site indicated a strong abundance and age class of Redband trout.

## **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

## **Review Team Priority**

1 of 1

## **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$38,624

## **Review Team Conditions**

None

## **Staff Recommendation**

### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

## **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

## **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$38,624

**Staff Conditions**

None



## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

**Application Number:** 218-4026-15978

**Project Type:** Monitoring

**Project Name:** Real-Time, High-Frequency  
Estimates of Nutrient and Sediment Loads in the  
Williamson and Sprague Riv

**Applicant:** The Klamath Tribes

**Basin:** Central Oregon

**County:** Klamath

**OWEB Request:** \$217,770

**Total Cost:** \$352,620

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

1) Project Location: The Upper Klamath Basin, including the Williamson, and Sprague sub-basins, encompassing approximately 4,600 square miles. 2) Project Need: Poor water quality in Upper Klamath lake is partly attributed to phosphorus loads from tributaries to the lake. Reduction of loads to the lake is a requirement of the 2002 TMDL, which requires a 40 percent reduction of phosphorus from external sources. Because phosphorus is transported with suspended sediment, long-term, accurate assessments of phosphorus and sediment loads are needed to determine if reductions are occurring, and which of the two sub-basins (Sprague or Williamson) are contributing more or less phosphorus and sediment to the lake. An understanding of the temporal trends in phosphorus and sediment loads to the lake is important to resource managers in the Upper Klamath Basin, and for restoration practitioners attempting to improve stream health and habitat conditions for aquatic species. With the goals of sediment and phosphorus reduction at the watershed scale in mind, advanced techniques to monitor temporal variations in loads will be necessary to track the combined efficacy of restoration efforts in the Upper Klamath Basin and to determine if the TMDL targeted reductions are being met. 3) Proposed Work: Using surrogate regression models developed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), concentrations and loads of suspended sediment and phosphorus to Upper Klamath Lake can be computed in near real-time from the monitoring sites proposed in this application. To achieve this, phosphorus and suspended-sediment samples are collected along with real-time turbidity data. Phosphorus and suspended-sediment loads computed using these techniques can then be reported on multiple time scales, including hours, weeks, months, and years. 4) The primary project partner will be the United States Geological Survey. 1) Project Location: The Upper Klamath Basin, including the Williamson, and Sprague sub-basins, encompassing approximately 4,600 square miles. 2) Project Need: Poor water quality in Upper Klamath lake is partly attributed to phosphorus loads from tributaries to the lake. Reduction of loads to the lake is a requirement of the 2002 TMDL, which requires a 40 percent reduction of phosphorus from external sources. Because phosphorus is transported with suspended sediment, long-term, accurate assessments of phosphorus and sediment loads are needed to determine if reductions are occurring, and which of the two sub-basins (Sprague or Williamson) are contributing more or less phosphorus and sediment to the lake. An understanding of the temporal trends in phosphorus and sediment loads to the lake is important to resource managers in the Upper Klamath Basin, and for restoration practitioners attempting to improve stream health and habitat conditions for aquatic species. With the goals of

sediment and phosphorus reduction at the watershed scale in mind, advanced techniques to monitor temporal variations in loads will be necessary to track the combined efficacy of restoration efforts in the Upper Klamath Basin and to determine if the TMDL targeted reductions are being met.3) Proposed Work: Using surrogate regression models developed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), concentrations and loads of suspended sediment and phosphorus to Upper Klamath Lake can be computed in near real-time from the monitoring sites proposed in this application. To achieve this, phosphorus and suspended-sediment samples are collected along with real-time turbidity data. Phosphorus and suspended-sediment loads computed using these techniques can then be reported on multiple time scales, including hours, weeks, months, and years. 4) The primary project partner will be the United States Geological Survey.

## **Monitoring Team Evaluation**

### **Monitoring Team Strengths**

- This project will contribute to TMDL implementation tracking efforts, as well as other monitoring and restoration efforts in the basin.
- The data will be made available and used in a meaningful way helping project partners reach out to landowners to implement future restoration.
- The application proposes to follow protocols and methods that are technically sound and widely acceptable.
- The partners on the application are highly qualified to complete the project as proposed, leading to a high certainty of success.
- The Klamath Tribes have their own lab for water sample analysis; the lab is geographically close to the sampling sites, which results in a cost savings.
- The project report will publish sediment load data for multiple years, including this project data at both sites, as well as using data from past years.

### **Monitoring Team Concerns**

- There are lump sums in the budget for salaries for USGS positions for three years, and the budget details were inadequate to understand why the applicant is requesting this amount.
- There were no letters of support from restoration practitioners or DEQ.
- It was not clear who the applicant would work with to communicate the results to interested stakeholders.

### **Monitoring Team Comments**

None

### **Benefit to Oregon Plan**

High-75%, Medium-13%, Low-13%

## **Certainty of Success**

High-75%, Medium-25%, Low-0%

## **Review Team Evaluation**

### **Strengths**

- The data to be collected, analyzed, and reported will be high quality and founded upon vigorous QA/QC standards completed by the Tribes and USGS.
- The applicant and its partners addressed previous review team comments specifically about project clarity and budgets.
- The need to understand the severity, timing, and abundance of nutrient loading to the Upper Klamath Lake from the Williamson and Sprague rivers systems are incredibly important given that nutrient loading, specifically Phosphorus, is a limiting factor to the biological productivity of species inhabiting the lake, most notably two ESA listed suckers species.
- The lab at which the data will be analyzed is certified and located very close to the collection sites. The project also has the benefit of utilizing past data collected to further the understanding of nutrient loading to the Upper Klamath Lake.

### **Concerns**

- There appears to be a disconnect between the information to be learned from this monitoring effort and restoration practitioners, there were no letters of support from watershed partners or other stakeholders in the basin.
- It is unclear why other agencies are not involved in this work, specifically ODEQ and ODA.
- One monitoring site per basin for data capturing poses challenges in deciphering where to focus restoration efforts to reduce sediment loads given both basins are very large in size.
- It is unclear why data collection design is different from the baseline that generated the 2002 TMDL. Application would benefit from an explanation on how data would be cross walked to determine confidence in the data comparisons.

## **Concluding Analysis**

This monitoring project is a resubmittal from November 2016. The applicant and its partners did a good job at addressing previous review team comments. The data need is well justified given the significant impacts Phosphorus loading has on the biological productivity of Upper Klamath Lake, specifically for two ESA listed sucker species. Both the Tribes and USGS have a long history of water quality monitoring and data analysis in the area, they are well suited to provide a high quality product. The Tribes certified laboratory is located close to collection sites and the project will have the benefit of utilizing past data collected to better their understanding of the problem. As with the first grant submission, there still is a lack of support from watershed practitioners and other agency stakeholders. Additionally, the application failed to make connections between the data analysis guiding future restoration, given the size of the watersheds and the sampling location at the bottom of the watershed. The overall need for this project is great, the data collection and analysis will be high quality, and the resulting data will be useful.

**Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

**Review Team Priority**

1 of 1

**Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$217,770

**Review Team Conditions**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$217,770

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

**Application Number:** 218-4027-15994

**Project Type:** Monitoring

**Project Name:** Monitoring beaver dam analogs for restoration of the South Fork of the Crooked River

**Applicant:** OSU Office of Sponsored Programs

**Basin:** Central Oregon

**County:** Crook

**OWEB Request:** \$184,820

**Total Cost:** \$382,899

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The South Fork of the Crooked River, near Paulina, Oregon, has unstable trout populations and flows, is disconnected from portions of its floodplain, and has entirely lost its historic woody riparian vegetation. Here we propose to monitor five beaver dam analogs for three years that we installed on the South Fork at the Jake Place in July 2016. In a collaboration involving OSU-Cascades, CREP-Crook SWCD, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, we will use flow stations, groundwater wells, sondes, hobsos, RTK GPS, fluvial audits, PIT tagging, drone flights, and vegetation measurements to monitor the effects of BDAs on seasonal surface water flows, groundwater storage, surface water pollutants, stream temperatures, sediment capture, fish, and the response of woody riparian vegetation planted for restoration. Our study is needed to help watershed managers to better understand the effectiveness of BDAs in creating the ecological uplift needed to help return the South Fork and similar streams to predisturbance conditions, thus supporting fish populations, water quality, water availability, and riparian forests. Our study is also needed to learn more about the effects of BDAs on fish movement, and it may help to refine and identify key parameters for monitoring of BDAs as their popularity increases as a restoration tool in Oregon.

The South Fork of the Crooked River, near Paulina, Oregon, has unstable trout populations and flows, is disconnected from portions of its floodplain, and has entirely lost its historic woody riparian vegetation. Here we propose to monitor five beaver dam analogs for three years that we installed on the South Fork at the Jake Place in July 2016. In a collaboration involving OSU-Cascades, CREP-Crook SWCD, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, we will use flow stations, groundwater wells, sondes, hobsos, RTK GPS, fluvial audits, PIT tagging, drone flights, and vegetation measurements to monitor the effects of BDAs on seasonal surface water flows, groundwater storage, surface water pollutants, stream temperatures, sediment capture, fish, and the response of woody riparian vegetation planted for restoration. Our study is needed to help watershed managers to better understand the effectiveness of BDAs in creating the ecological uplift needed to help return the South Fork and similar streams to predisturbance conditions, thus supporting fish populations, water quality, water availability, and riparian forests. Our study is also needed to learn more about the effects of BDAs on fish movement, and it may help to refine and identify key parameters for monitoring of BDAs as their popularity increases as a restoration tool in Oregon.

### **Monitoring Team Evaluation**

#### **Monitoring Team Strengths**

- This restoration technique is now being implemented more widely and it is important to monitor the effects outside of Bridge Creek, from which the majority of information currently available is coming.
- The OPMT liked that the application proposed collecting imagery using drone flights to track vegetation changes over time and space.
- The SF Crooked River is over appropriated and understanding the effects to surface and ground water would be very valuable to landowners who might be interested in implementing BDAs in the future.
- This application offers strong outreach opportunities with local citizens and participating landowners.

### **Monitoring Team Concerns**

- The application was not clear if there were beavers in the area that would leverage development of the BDAs, or if the BDAs are intended to mimic dams in the absence of beaver.
- It would have been helpful to know if landowners in the area are interested in increasing the beaver population in the area.
- The applicant is relying on monitoring the presence and movement of fish with the use of mobile antennas as opposed to fixed antennae arrays. This will offer limited information based on frequency of site visits.
- The applicant proposes to tag hatchery fish and place them in low quality habitat areas, making the information obtained from this project limited in terms of exportability.
- The application did not have a thorough description or citation of the various monitoring proposed and the associated quality assurance/quality control measures needed to ensure a successful project over the period of time (in particular, given the heavy involvement and cycling through of students in this project).

### **Monitoring Team Comments**

None

### **Benefit to Oregon Plan**

High-24%, Medium-63%, Low-13%

### **Certainty of Success**

High-13%, Medium-63%, Low-24%

### **Review Team Evaluation**

#### **Strengths**

- There is a local need to understand fish passage effectiveness of these structures, this application will seek to address this.
- The approach of looking at the effectiveness of these structures relating to the on-going CREP plantings should provide good information on revegetation targets and effectiveness.
- The landowner is supportive of the ongoing restoration and monitoring occurring on the property.

## Concerns

- There was concern that the beavers present on the site are bank beavers (given their food source of cattails and sagebrush) and question the reasoning behind beaver dam analogue placement in this location given the low amount of woody vegetation in the area. Reviewers question if this is the right location to intensively study the effectiveness of beaver dam analogues (BDA).
- A lot of the monitoring questions being asked in the application are ones that have been answered through a recent publication in a neighboring watershed. One key question not being asked was structural stability of these structures, which has been an issue on this site.
- Since not everything is transferrable, monitoring only five structures may not be enough to have a real impact.
- The proposal stated there would be water quality benefits but did not offer how this would be achieved.
- The overall cost is high compared to the usefulness of the information for a relatively cheap restoration action.

## Concluding Analysis

This monitoring project will evaluate a number of different physical and biological parameters to understand the effectiveness of five Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA's) along the South Fork Crooked River. The site also has ongoing and future CREP plantings that are being strategically implemented with the BDA placement. While understanding the effectiveness of these structures has merit, there were a lot of unanswered questions to understand the justification for the location to conduct this work. The lack of monitoring protocols and citations make it difficult to determine the applicability of this information. It was unclear whether the groundwater wells were permitted, and how they were installed. The water quality component did not have any justification as to how water quality improvements would be achieved. Understanding fish passage and use around BDA's is a strong local need, but utilizing hatchery fish will have limited exportability to other locations. The South Fork Crooked River is unlikely to have a lot of beaver presence given the lack of woody vegetation on site (floodplains seem more dominant in sedge/rush communities) and documented herbivory on-site is cattails and sagebrush. BDA use is on the rise and there is a lack of monitoring data. There is a recent publication from a neighboring watershed that has answered a lot of the questions being asked in this application. The exportability of the proposed monitoring data has too many limitations.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

## Review Team Priority

None

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

**Review Team Conditions**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

None



## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Central Oregon (Region 4)

**Application Number:** 218-4028-16065

**Project Type:** Stakeholder Engagement

**Project Name:** Rural Irrigation Conservation and Efficiency Outreach

**Applicant:** Central Oregon Irrigation District

**Basin:** Central Oregon

**County:** Deschutes

**OWEB Request:** \$75,000

**Total Cost:** \$132,658

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The project location: The upper Deschutes Basin - targeting Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook Counties .The project need: The need is critical as the Deschutes River is over-allocated. Over-allocation causes low flows, resulting in poor water quality in the middle Deschutes and impacts to reintroduced anadromous fish, resident redband trout and the Oregon spotted frog, a listed threatened species. This program will provide benefits beyond larger conservation projects and planning that are ongoing, support the goals of the nearly complete Basin Study and Habitat Conservation plan and help ensuring the sustainable use of this important water resource for farms, fish and families. The mission of the Rural Irrigation Conservation and Efficiency (RICE) program is to engage and recruit water-users and provide technical assistance to improve irrigation efficiency and management practices. The goal is to: create a program that will raise water-user awareness and understanding of how to improve management of water quantity and quality by providing resources and affordable tools to these water-users; resulting in improved irrigation efficiency and reducing the quantity of water needed to irrigate basin-wide. This outreach will also inform about the instream lease program while inspiring social-behavioral change that promotes conservation and efficient water use and can result in water protected instream. The project partners are: Oregon Department of Agriculture Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District OSU Extension Service Central Oregon Ag Research Center Farmers Conservation Alliance Natural Resource Conservation Service Deschutes River Conservancy Deschutes Basin Board of Control OSU Cascades Oregon Water Resources Department Oregon Water Resources Congress

### **Review Team Evaluation**

#### **Strengths**

- The justification for this project was well documented, water conservation is an ever increasing need and direct communication with water users is very important.
- The project is well supported by partners and stakeholders in the basin.
- The District and partners have been working on this for a long while and are well suited for project success.
- The project will result in a “boots-on-the-ground” effort of direct engagement with water users which can create a lot of opportunities for water conservation.

## Concerns

- The scale of the project is large (three Counties). With such a wide distribution and large number of patrons, the impact would be very hard to quantify. It is unclear as to why this effort was not directly focused in areas targeted for conservation (e.g. PL 566, ongoing piping projects, etc.). Directly linking on-farm engagement in areas with existing and/or future conservation work would have more value, the application failed to articulate those connections.
- It was unclear what the conservation efficiencies and targets would be, more definitive outcomes would have been helpful (for example, 75 soil moisture probes will be installed/monitored). The application lacked details on quantifying the types and value the irrigation efficiencies will have for instream water conservation.
- It was unclear how these on-farm efficiencies would equate to quantified conserved water instream, more detail on how these projects would translate to conserve water instream would have been helpful.
- While the project need is clear, it appears a lot of this work is already happening throughout the basin.
- Engagement with landowners takes time and nurturing, there was no plan for how this work would be carried out after the life cycle of this grant

## Concluding Analysis

This stakeholder engagement proposal will target water users across three Counties in the Deschutes Basin to strike partnerships in employing on farm irrigation efficiencies directly related to water conservation. However, the application lacked in details and failed to articulate the measurable outcomes to be gained through these on-farm efficiencies. There was concern spreading the effort this thin it would be very hard to discern the impact of the effort. A more narrow focus directly tied to an existing or on-going effort may have more measurable and quantitative impacts for on-farm efficiencies and water conservation. While the application identified numbers of people for outreach, the specific outcomes of what those on-farm efficiencies would be were not provided, so it's hard to understand the water conservation value without knowing what users would employ on-farm. It was unclear how these efficiencies would translate into conserved water instream; more detail on how the District would approach this would have been helpful. The need for engaging the many water users in the Deschutes Basin is greatly needed. The applicant is encouraged to resubmit an application considering a strategic focus area tied to other efforts to make the outreach impact more meaningful, while clearly articulating what success looks like and quantifying measurable on-farm efficiencies relating to conserved water instream.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

## Review Team Priority

None

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

**Review Team Conditions**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

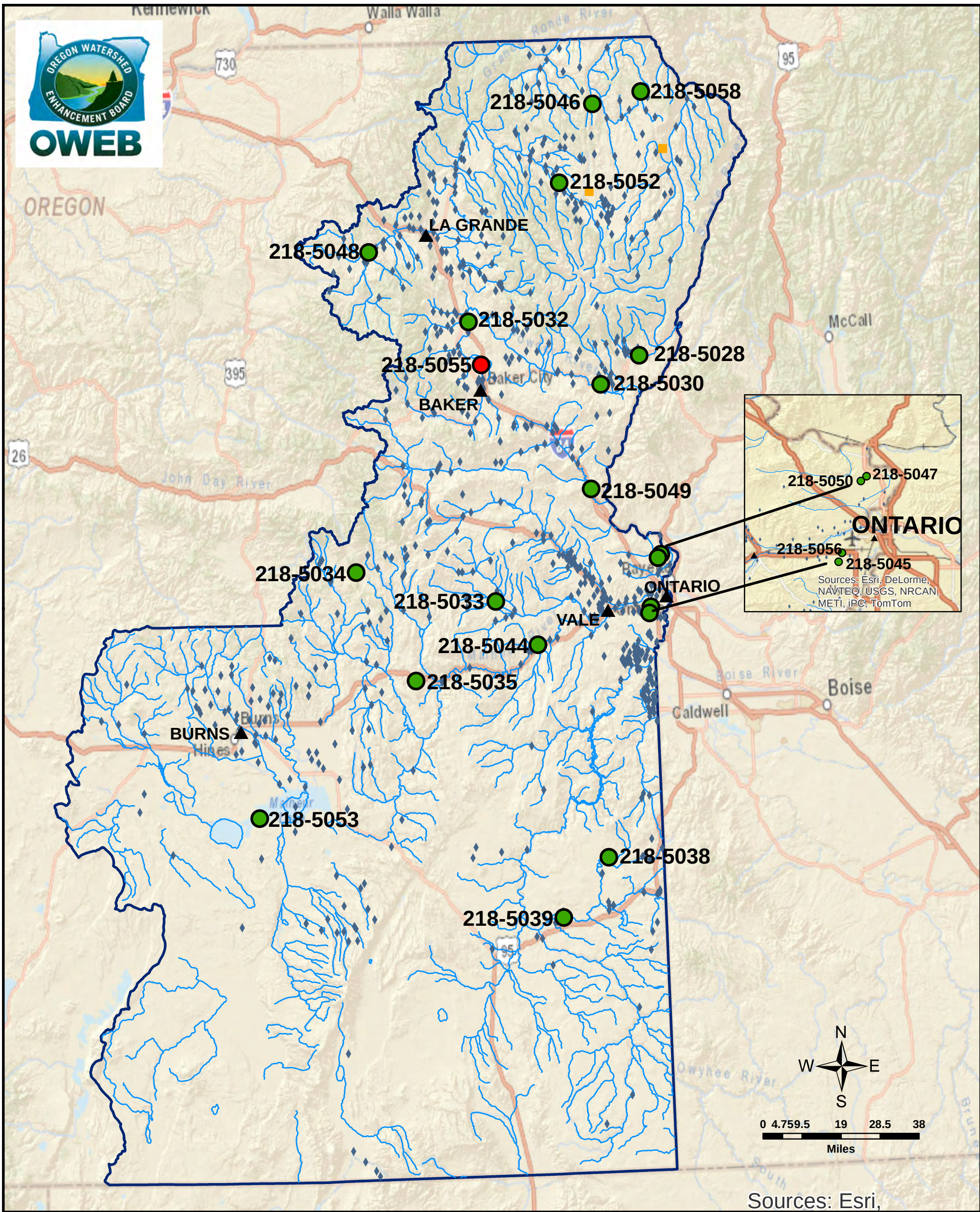
\$0

**Staff Conditions**

None



# Eastern Oregon - Region 5 Fall 2017 Funding Recommendations



Document Path: Z:\web\Technical\_Services\Information\_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2017Fall\Cycle\Projects\Region5\_AppFundingStatus\_11x17\_2017Fall.mxd  
 ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wills Fall 20180327

## Fall 2017 Applications

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

### ***Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 2017***

- 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 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

**Region 5 - Eastern Oregon****Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order**

| <b>Project #</b> | <b>Grantee</b>                 | <b>Project Title</b>                                                   | <b>Brief Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Amount Recommended</b> | <b>County</b> |
|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 218-5028         | Eagle Valley SWCD              | East Pine Fish Passage                                                 | A push-up dam on East Pine Creek near Halfway will be replaced with a permanent fish-friendly diversion structure to provide passage and improve habitat for ESA-listed bull trout. In addition, 75 acres will be converted from flood to sprinkler irrigation to improve water quality and 85 trees and shrubs planted near the existing point-of-diversion.             | 51,851                    | Baker         |
| 218-5033         | Malheur Watershed Council      | Seeking Justus on Bully Creek                                          | An existing 3,500-foot downcut channel on Bully Creek near Westfall will be improved by installing 5 riffles, 12 vertical-post structures, 1,000 willow whips, 1,000 feet of root wads and woody debris. Implementation will benefit redband trout, Columbia spotted frog and water quality.                                                                              | 47,654                    | Malheur       |
| 218-5034         | Malheur Watershed Council      | Crane Prairie: Forest Health, Aspen Restoration and Grazing Management | A comprehensive upland project located south of Prairie City will improve aspen stands; fence the headwaters of Crane Creek; thin overstocked lodgepole stands; develop a spring and improve wet-meadow habitat. The project improves grazing management and enhances perennial bunchgrass community and bull trout spawning habitat.                                     | 117,875                   | Grant         |
| 218-5032         | Powder Basin Watershed Council | Makin' Things Better on the Powder River                               | A point-of-diversion (POD) near North Powder will be moved downstream leaving 5 cfs in the Powder River for 4.3 miles. In addition, 150 feet of root wads and rock will stabilize the bank at the diversion site; 3,500 feet of exclusion fencing will be constructed and two pivots installed to improve water quality by converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation. | 171,565                   | Baker         |
| 218-5046         | Wallowa Resources              | Lower Grande Ronde Watershed Noxious Weed Management                   | Selected herbicides will be used on 400 acres of yellow starthistle, rush skeletonweed and other targeted weeds in steep canyonlands of Wallowa County. The project also includes surveying 121,500 acres to locate satellite weed populations; seeding 50 acres and developing a management plan.                                                                        | 48,864                    | Wallowa       |
| 218-5048         | Tri-City Coop Weed Mgmt. Area  | Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase III                     | Tri-County CWMA will target 26 miles of riparian areas of the upper Grande Ronde basin to treat leafy spurge, spotted knapweed and meadow hawkweed. This is an on-going effort that treats 8 acres in the riparian area and 135 acres in the uplands.                                                                                                                     | 25,500                    | Union         |
| 218-5035         | Malheur Watershed Council      | Crippling Juniper                                                      | A comprehensive upland project near Drewsey will cut 1,300 acres of Stage 1 and Stage II juniper; install a cistern and 10,500 feet of cross-fence, and plant 480 willows along the riparian areas of Cripple and Chimney Creeks. The project complements extensive work done on this property to improve upland and riparian conditions.                                 | 146,040                   | Malheur       |

Region 5 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

|                                                                                 |                           |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| 218-5045                                                                        | Malheur SWCD              | Vista View Phase II                              | Costs increased for an existing Owyhee Irrigation District project on Vista View Avenue in Ontario that will pipe 10,500 feet of an earthen irrigation conveyance lateral for 640 acres. This project will provide the 21% increase needed for pipe.                                                         | 38,965           | Malheur |
| 218-5030                                                                        | Eagle Valley SWCD         | Dance Hall Stockwater                            | An upland project near Richland will develop off-stream water to eliminate livestock watering from perennial streams and ditches. Project components include installing four troughs, a cistern and will help implement rotation grazing on five pastures and improve perennial bunchgrass health and vigor. | 48,012           | Baker   |
| 218-5050                                                                        | Malheur SWCD              | Hunting Water Quality in Sheperd Gulch           | This project will install two pivots in the Hyline Bench Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) to convert from flood to sprinkler irrigation on 38 acres near Ontario. Implementation eliminates runoff into Coyote Gulch and water quality will improve.                                               | 44,889           | Malheur |
| 218-5047                                                                        | Malheur SWCD              | Circling Above the Hyline                        | Owyhee Irrigation District and the landowner will convert 72 acres from flood irrigation to sprinkler and pipe 3,590 feet of open ditch. Water quality in the Hyline Bench CIS near Ontario will improve.                                                                                                    | 60,608           | Malheur |
| 218-5039                                                                        | Owyhee WC                 | West Nile Mile Water Quality Improvement         | Partnering with NRCS and Trout Unlimited, this project located near Arock will convert 112 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation. Direct runoff to Jordan Creek will be eliminated and water quality will be improved.                                                                                    | 149,236          | Malheur |
| 218-5049                                                                        | Malheur SWCD              | Lime-Aid-Remix                                   | 1,500 acres of uplands affected in 2015 by the Lime Hill fire near Lime on I-84 will be enhanced. Project components include installing 13,687 feet of fencing, two troughs and a spring development to facilitate rotational grazing, improve upland vegetation and protect the Burnt River riparian area.  | 52,064           | Baker   |
| 218-5044                                                                        | Malheur Watershed Council | Mockingbird One                                  | Located directly on the Malheur River near Harper, this project will convert 31 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation. This is the first of three phases that will significantly improve water quality to address goals in the Malheur TMDL.                                                              | 78,286           | Malheur |
| 218-5038                                                                        | Owyhee Watershed Council  | Destination Desolation Water Quality Improvement | Located near Jordan Craters north of Jordan Valley, this project is the first phase of a 374-acre plan and converts 86 acres from flood to border irrigation. Water quality to Cow Creek and Upper Cow Lake will be improved.                                                                                | 157,877          | Malheur |
| <b>Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff</b> |                           |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>1,239,286</b> |         |

Region 5 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| <b>Restoration Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order</b> |                |                      |                          |                           |               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Project #</b>                                                                | <b>Grantee</b> | <b>Project Title</b> | <b>Brief Description</b> | <b>Amount Recommended</b> | <b>County</b> |
| None                                                                            |                | None                 |                          |                           |               |
| <b>Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT</b>                |                |                      |                          | <b>1,239,286</b>          |               |

**Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT**

| <b>Project #</b> | <b>Grantee</b>                          | <b>Project Title</b>                                 | <b>Amount Requested</b> | <b>County</b> |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| 218-5040         | Owyhee WC                               | Charbonneaus Revenge Medusahead Wipeout              | 152,484                 | Malheur       |
| 218-5042         | Malheur SWCD                            | Island in the Stream                                 | 92,854                  | Malheur       |
| 218-5051         | Farmers Conservation Alliance           | North Prairie Pipeline - Phase 1                     | 262,105                 | Wallowa       |
| 218-5037         | Harney SWCD                             | Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Implementation HC18 | 58,391                  | Harney        |
| 218-5027         | Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation | Wallowa-Baker Fish Habitat Restoration Project       | 182,824                 | Wallowa       |
| 218-5029         | Eagle Valley SWCD                       | Foresee Erosion                                      | 92,854                  | Baker         |
| 218-5031         | Powder Basin WC                         | Lower Clear Creek Restoration (Phase 1)              | 72,014                  | Baker         |
| 218-5036         | Malheur SWCD                            | Protecting Redband on the Middle Willow Creek        | 123,102                 | Malheur       |
| 218-5041         | Wallowa Resources                       | Upper Willowa River Restoration Project              | 225,000                 | Wallowa       |

**Restoration Applications *Deemed* Ineligible Prior to Review**

| <b>Project #</b> | <b>Grantee</b> | <b>Project Title</b>                               | <b>Amount</b> | <b>Malheur</b> |
|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 218-5043         | Owyhee         | Three Fingers Fuels Reduction and Grazing Research | 88,951        | Grant          |

Region 5 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order      |                                         |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Project #                                                                         | Grantee                                 | Project Title                                            | Brief Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Amount Recommended | County  |
| 218-5052                                                                          | Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation | Wallowa River- McDaniel Phase 3 Technical Design         | Designs are sought for Phase 3 of a restoration project located near Enterprise to benefit ESA-listed spring Chinook salmon and steelhead. The resulting restoration project will provide a new side channel, floodplain connectivity, alcove and swale complexes.                                            | 49,987             | Wallowa |
| 218-5053                                                                          | The Nature Conservancy                  | Harney Basin Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems- Nov. 2017 | TNC will provide analyses to identify ecosystems and species dependent on groundwater discharge; current ecological conditions and how groundwater supply has changed over the last two decades. This effort dovetails into the Placed-based Planning that will help plan for future water management plants. | 48,976             | Harney  |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff                   |                                         |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 98,963             |         |
| Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order |                                         |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |         |
| Project #                                                                         | Grantee                                 | Project Title                                            | Brief Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Amount Recommended | County  |
| None                                                                              |                                         |                                                          | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                    |         |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT                                  |                                         |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 98,963             |         |
| Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT       |                                         |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |         |
| Project #                                                                         | Grantee                                 | Project Title                                            | Amount                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | County             |         |
| 218-5054                                                                          | Powder Basin WC                         | Lower Clear Creek Diversion & Restoration Designs        | 74,109                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Baker              |         |



Region 5 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order           |              |                                                   |                   |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Project #                                                                           | Grantee      | Project Title                                     | Brief Description | Amount Recommended |
| None                                                                                |              |                                                   |                   |                    |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff         |              |                                                   |                   | 0                  |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order |              |                                                   |                   |                    |
| Project #                                                                           | Grantee      | Project Title                                     | Amount            | County             |
| None                                                                                |              | None                                              |                   |                    |
| Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT                |              |                                                   |                   | 0                  |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT           |              |                                                   |                   |                    |
| Project #                                                                           | Grantee      | Project Title                                     | Amount            | County             |
| 218-5059                                                                            | Baker County | Baker County Invasive Species Program Coordinator | 16,848            | Baker              |

Region 5 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order    |                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                    |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Project #                                                        | Grantee                        | Project Title                                                        | Brief Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Amount Recommended | County  |
| 218-5056                                                         | Malheur Watershed Council      | No Mo Flo Without Info: Installing and Maintaining Gauges in Malheur | The Malheur Watershed Council will install an additional 7 flow-measuring weirs to compute streamflow records to calculate pollutant load estimates. Collected data will provide more accurate water quality information resulting from many implemented water quality enhancement projects in the Owyhee and Malheur basins.           | 136,500            | Malheur |
| 218-5058                                                         | Wallowa Resources              | Monitoring the Effects of Management on Stream                       | Wallowa Resources and partners will help initiate a collaborative range monitoring initiative that generates information on levels of annual use and resulting conditions. Goals are to provide baseline data to inform management decisions and activities that will move streams toward desired conditions to improve riparian vigor. | 22,000             | Wallowa |
| Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff  |                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 158,500            |         |
| Monitoring Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order |                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                    |         |
| Project #                                                        | Grantee                        | Project Title                                                        | Brief Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Amount             | County  |
| 218-5055                                                         | Powder Basin Watershed Council | Powder Basin Long-term Water Quality Monitoring                      | The Powder Basin Watershed Council will continue to collect water quality data at 29 sites throughout the Powder and Burnt River basins. Parameters monitored include temperature , pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen and turbidity to help determine long-term trends and engage landowners and the public.                           | 30,975             | Baker   |
| Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT         |                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 189,475            |         |
| Monitoring Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT       |                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                    |         |
| Project #                                                        | Grantee                        | Project Title                                                        | Amount Requested                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | County             |         |
| 218-5057                                                         | Harney County                  | Harney Groundwater Mgmt. - Filling the Evapotranspiration (ET) Gap   | 311,174                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Harney             |         |
| Region 5 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award                |                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 1,496,749          | 14%     |
| Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award       |                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 10,753,978         |         |

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5028-15924

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** East Pine Fish Passage

**Applicant:** Eagle Valley SWCD

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Baker

**OWEB Request:** \$51,851

**Total Cost:** \$268,859

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

Located on East Pine Creek in Halfway, this project proposes to move the non-fish friendly Buck and Anderson push up diversion downstream ½ mile where a permanent fish friendly diversion structure and screened pumping unit will be installed. The new diversion and pump will convert 75 acres of previously flooded pasture to sprinkler irrigation under pivot and pod lines. A planting plan will be put into place to install both containerized and pole plantings in a designated, fenced riparian area near the current point of diversion (POD) as well as containerized plantings protected with livestock panels near the new POD. The Buck and Anderson diversion is one of nine diversions located on East Pine Creek that present passage barriers. The current push up diversion is constructed in May and removed in October once irrigation season is complete. During fall irrigation, when flows decrease in East Pine Creek, this gravel pushup dam results in a complete diversion of remaining stream flows, creating a mitigation barrier to native fish. The ditch gradient on this diversion is relatively low, requiring excessive water to push water across the flood irrigated field resulting in an inefficient use of irrigation water in addition to instream blockages for migratory fish. Project partners in both design and implementation include; Armacost/DelCurto (landowners, operators), Idaho Power Company (partnership funding, design, construction planning and oversight, permitting support), OWRD (design, water right transfer support), USFWS (partners for fish and wildlife funding, design), ODFW (project design), Anderson Perry (permitting support and design/implementation survey).

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The application is comprehensive and well-written, and the budget has excellent detail.
- The project will remove a push-up dam and change the point-of-diversion (POD) downstream one-half mile.
- East Pine Creek is critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout.
- This diversion addresses one of nine passage issues on East Pine Creek. The diversions are prioritized with this being the second highest priority.
- Implementation has water quality benefits by reducing sediment, nutrients, and bacterial inputs. There are also water quantity benefits as less irrigation water will be diverted to the two proposed pivots.
- Partner support is demonstrated by project match.

## Concerns

- The planting plan would be strengthened by additional detail given the amount of disturbance in the area.

## Concluding Analysis

East Pine Creek is critical bull trout habitat. The project site was selected as part of a prioritization process and addresses water quality and water quantity concerns. Diversions with a minimum of 4 cfs are prioritized for replacement. The permanent fish-friendly rock structure will allow passage at all flows and addresses connectivity. By moving the POD downstream, water stays longer in East Pine Creek adding to benefits for bull trout. Fish entrainment in the ditch will be eliminated. The applicant estimated that irrigation consumption will be 1.5 cfs, a significant reduction from the 4 cfs currently needed. In addition to providing fish passage, 75 acres will be converted from flood to sprinkler irrigation. The project has excellent ecological uplift.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

## Review Team Priority

1 of 15

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$51,851

## Review Team Conditions

None

## Staff Recommendation

### Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

## Staff Recommendation

Fund

## Staff Recommended Amount

\$51,851

## Staff Conditions

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5029-15926

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Foresee Erosion

**Applicant:** Eagle Valley SWCD

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Baker

**OWEB Request:** \$92,854

**Total Cost:** \$118,074

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The project site is located in Baker County near Richland, Oregon on Eagle Creek, 2.5 miles from the point it enters into the Powder River. The landscape of this project consists of enclosed riparian areas along the banks of Eagle Creek and irrigated pasture. The entire project site is located in critical bull trout habitat (Map 5, USFW Critical Habitat Maps) within the Powder River Basin Unit and is thought to contain 10 local populations of bull trout. The landowner has four sites of eroding bank totaling 1,100 feet that will be addressed through this project. Located only 2.5 miles from the Powder River and 1 mile from Brownlee Reservoir, reducing the amount of sediment and debris entering into the watershed will benefit water quality and fish habitat. This project will resolve watershed issues of erosion, sedimentation, degrading fish habitat and flood risk to surrounding landowners. This project will address primary threats to bull trout through; Upland/Riparian Land Management, Instream Impacts and Water quality listed in the USFWS Habitat Recovery Plan. The landowner came to the Eagle Valley SWCD proposing to anchor native tree revetments to the bank, install root wads and riparian plantings to restore proper bank stabilization. The Eagle Valley SWCD has been in contact with Idaho Power Company and the West Eagle Valley Water Control District to ensure their support of this project (see attached letters of support).

### **Review Team Evaluation**

#### **Strengths**

- The application is well-written and provided detail.
- The high- and low-flow photos in the application provide an understanding of the project area and issues. These photos depict a significant shift in Eagle Creek's channel resulting from the 2010 high-flow event.
- Eagle Creek is most likely bull trout habitat.
- Restoration design emphasizes a "softer" approach with vegetative bioengineering.
- The channel is wide at the project site and energy transfer from water flow should have sufficient room before creating a problem.

#### **Concerns**

- It is unclear whether the stream will scour around constructed bank structures and then create additional erosion and channel movement.

- Additional design information is needed to determine the extent to which instream structures will extend into the channel.
- Applicant will likely need additional time in the budget for permitting.
- Eagle Creek is very flashy, and other implemented projects have blown out during storm events.

### **Concluding Analysis**

Eagle Creek is a very flashy, high velocity stream with its headwaters in the Eagle Cap wilderness. The system has large cobbles and boulders. Previously implemented projects on Eagle Creek experienced significant damage after the 2010 rain-on-snow event. The need for the project was demonstrated at the site visit as well as from the provided photos. The application includes preliminary designs and requests funding for the final design. Due to the flashy nature of Eagle Creek as well as experience from previously implemented projects, a more thorough design is needed to determine the likelihood for success. The applicant should consider submitting a technical assistance application to obtain thorough and detailed project designs.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Do Not Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

N/A

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Review Team Conditions**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Staff Conditions**

None





## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5030-15930

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Dance Hall Stockwater

**Applicant:** Eagle Valley SWCD

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Baker

**OWEB Request:** \$48,012

**Total Cost:** \$62,049

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

Currently there is no available livestock water on the property, except for one intermittent stream and one irrigation ditch that drains 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 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 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 pumping station from an unused existing domestic well producing 12 gallons per minute, the well will be hooked up directly to power from the landowners house. This will provide water to two 5,000 gallon storage cisterns that will gravity feed four troughs, evenly distributed throughout five pastures on 204 acres of his property, serving roughly 60 cow calf pairs.

### **Review Team Evaluation**

#### **Strengths**

- The application improved from the previous submission and is very clear.
- The applicant included the well-log and road crossing information, which was very useful.
- This revised application added additional acreage and a trough to further improve upland vegetation, which will also aid in developing a larger grazing management plan.
- The project cost is reasonable.
- Runoff from this area contributes to sediment and poor water quality via small tributaries directly flowing to the Powder. Implementation reduces that runoff.
- The project provides off-stream water for livestock currently utilizing riparian areas of perennial streams that flow into the Powder River. Implementation will protect and improve riparian vegetation and condition.
- The landowner will be able to implement a rotational grazing system to improve upland vegetation and decrease pressure on the riparian area as a result of this project.
- The landowner previously fenced 12 acres to protect riparian habitat.

- The application is well-written with detailed descriptions and complete maps.

### **Concerns**

- No significant concerns were identified.

### **Concluding Analysis**

The project includes upland water development and a grazing plan to implement rest-rotation, which has a positive impact on upland and riparian vegetation. The application improved from the last submission. There is a beneficial explanation of alternatives regarding solar and electrical power. The landowner previously fenced 12 acres of riparian habitat to provide a wildlife refuge especially for mule deer. Implementation will improve rangeland health by implementing rotational grazing. Livestock will no longer have access to the stream and irrigation ditch that transports runoff to the Powder River. 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 would greatly benefit from improved water quality. There is significant ecological merit to warrant funding this grant cycle.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

9 of 15

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$48,012

### **Review Team Conditions**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$48,012

## **Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5031-15951

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Lower Clear Creek Restoration  
(Phase 1)

**Applicant:** Powder Basin WC

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Baker

**OWEB Request:** \$72,014

**Total Cost:** \$115,014

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

Clear Creek is located in eastern Baker County, near the town of Halfway in Pine Valley and is a tributary of Pine Creek, which flows to the Snake River. Clear Creek has been designated as critical bull trout migratory habitat and also hosts a resident population of redband trout. Lower Clear Creek has been subjected to considerable modifications, including: loss of riparian vegetation, channel straightening, barriers to fish passage and excessive sedimentation. During a 30-year flood event in 2010 it became very clear to landowners that the health of their stream system was not adequate to handle these events and improvements were needed. PBWC has been working with six landowners on lower Clear Creek, near the confluence with Pine Creek, to develop restoration designs that improve conditions for native fish and address landowner concerns. This proposal is for improvements to stream health on two properties within the larger six-property project. Elements of the project include: fencing to protect riparian vegetation from livestock browsing, stabilization of failing banks, revegetation of bare banks and placement of fish habitat structures. Partners on the project include two landowners, the Oregon Wildlife Foundation and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

### **Review Team Evaluation** **Strengths**

- Clear Creek is a migration corridor and critical habitat for bull trout.
- The proposed project is located on a part of Clear Creek that will benefit from restoration.
- Vegetation is naturally reestablishing on one of the project properties through natural recruitment.

### **Concerns**

- The application is difficult to understand and seems to have incomplete elements, as a result it is difficult to determine what is being proposed.
- Since there are plenty of old cottonwoods and other vegetation that could be recruited for instream structures, adding habitat structures is not needed.
- Proposed actions do not appear to be the solution to the problem and concerns of the landowners related to Clear Creek flooding.
- Debris removal on the one property is not considered an appropriate cost-share.

## **Concluding Analysis**

It was unclear why the two project properties were combined into one application. The property with riparian fencing and off-stream water elements is likely to respond well with the natural recruitment of trees and shrubs already occurring. This will protect current and potential future vegetation, and have the highest ecological benefit. Installing instream structures on the other project property does not seem to be needed. If application is resubmitted, the applicant is highly encouraged to separate the landowner projects and resubmit with fencing and livestock watering. The landowner could also consider CREP or an OWEB small grant.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Do Not Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

N/A

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Review Team Conditions**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5032-15958

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Makin' Things Better on The Powder River

**Applicant:** Powder Basin WC

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Baker

**OWEB Request:** \$171,565

**Total Cost:** \$341,415

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

1) The project is on the Powder River, about 2.5 road miles from the town of North Powder. 2) The Powder River is water quality limited for bacteria, DO, temperature, and nutrients. Keeping more water in the river will help with many of the problems. Redband trout use this reach of the Powder for many stages of their life history. Having more water in the river will help them as well. Cattle have unrestricted access to the river. We plan to correct this with a fence. 3) We are moving the point of diversion 4.3 miles downstream, which will automatically leave 5 cfs in the river for that length. We plan to install a fish friendly diversion, and 7040 feet of pipe of various sizes to convert 116 acres of flood irrigation to pivots. The landowner will use the conserved water statutes to put a portion of the saved water as an instream right. We will build 3,500 feet of fence to restrict cattle access to the river. 4) Partners are Curt Martin, Gabe Williams RSI, Ken Diebel Diebel Contracting, and the Powder Basin Watershed Council

### **Review Team Evaluation**

#### **Strengths**

- The point of diversion (POD) will move 4.3 miles downstream leaving 5 cfs in that section for a significant amount of time.
- The water savings is not just the 4.3 miles mentioned, but closer to 25 miles because there is no other POD after this water user for 21+ miles. This is a significant benefit to fisheries and other aquatic habitat.
- The landowner is willing to pursue the allocation of conserved water statute with Oregon Water Resources Department.
- The process to modify the water rights has started.
- The fish screen will meet ODFW specifications.
- Implementation has significant water quantity benefits.
- This section of the Powder River has high potential to provide habitat because of its sinuosity.
- Outreach potential to the community and local producers is very high.

#### **Concerns**

- The ditch will still be used for reasons other than irrigation.

- More detail regarding the length of time in a grazing plan is needed.

## **Concluding Analysis**

The project is located on the Powder River near North Powder. This section of the Powder is water quality limited for bacteria, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and nutrients. Leaving additional water in the Powder will dilute those pollutants. Leaving 5 cfs in the river for 25 miles is a significant watershed benefit. The project will change the POD; install a mainline for the pivots; and leave additional water in the Powder for longer periods of time. A livestock exclusion fence will also be installed to restrict cattle from the river. This project will provide multiple watershed benefits, and will be a positive demonstration for outreach once the project is implemented. This project has significant ecological uplift and the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

## **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund with Conditions

## **Review Team Priority**

4 of 15

## **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$171,565

## **Review Team Conditions**

The project completion report must include a grazing plan.

## **Staff Recommendation**

### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

## **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

## **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$171,565

## **Staff Conditions**

The project completion report must include a grazing plan.

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5033-15959

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Seeking Justus on Bully Creek

**Applicant:** Malheur WC

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Malheur

**OWEB Request:** \$47,654

**Total Cost:** \$62,654

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

1) The project is on Bully Creek, a tributary of the Malheur River. It is 5 air miles from the Westfall airport, and 42 air miles to Ontario. 2) The stream has down cut 8-10 feet and has no connection to its flood plain. The meadow is dry and the vegetation consists of pasture grasses and weedy species. This contributes to problems with redband trout, spotted frogs, and water quality. DEQ considers Bully Creek to be in the "very poor" water quality category. The agency lists the following parameters as being of concern:-- chlorophyll a-- bacteria-- nutrients-- sediment-- temperature. Functioning stream side vegetation is key to solving many water quality problems. 3) We plan to stabilize 3,500 feet of the existing channel, control bank erosion, gradually raise the water table, improve water quality, and provide aquatic habitat by installing:-- 5 riffles,-- 12 Vertical Post Structures (VPS),-- plant more than 1,000 willow whips with the VPS, and riffles,-- 1,000 feet of rootwads and woody debris. If implemented the project will: • Gradually improve connectivity to the flood plain, • Maintain and improve riparian vegetation, • Enhance aquatic and wildlife habitat, • Capture, store and safely release flood waters, which will, o Reduce erosion, o Return cooler water to the stream, o Filter sediment and nutrients. This is Phase I of a multi-phased project. We are treating the upper end of the property first to stabilize the situation. Then we will work down the stream to remove some berms, slope banks, more woody debris, and install many more riffles and VPS's. 4) Project partners are the landowner, Malheur SWCD and Malheur WSC, and Gabe Williams of Resource Specialists Inc.

### **Review Team Evaluation**

#### **Strengths**

- A new landowner wants to improve riparian condition and function in an area of Bully Creek that was severely downcut during a high-flow event many years ago.
- Proposed actions are relatively inexpensive ways to increase the water table and improve vegetative conditions. The ecological benefit is high for the cost.
- Restoration is planned as a phased approach. This phase I does not need bank sloping but future phases further downstream will.
- Once phase I is completed enrollment in CREP is a possibility, which will add protective measures to OWEB's investment.
- Projects implemented in similar systems and conditions have shown improvement to the floodplain.
- Access to the project would enable agencies to survey for redd counts or other data collection.
- Water quality benefits from proposed restoration are significant.



- A wider riparian area will allow for greater fire mitigation.

### **Concerns**

- More information is needed regarding future grazing after the two season of rest are implemented.

### **Concluding Analysis**

The project will improve stream function in Bully Creek and reconnect the floodplain. The stream downcut 8 to 10 feet from a high-flow event and is now a dry meadow. This project is the first phase of planned restoration for Bully Creek. Implementation will gradually improve floodplain connectivity, riparian vegetation and aquatic, and wildlife habitat. Stabilizing the downcut area and improving riparian conditions will enhance habitat for redband trout and Columbia spotted frog. Project implementation will expand the wetted width of the riparian area and provide water quality benefits.

Access to upper Bully Creek on private property has been challenging in the past, and this new landowner provides a potential opportunity to access to the creek for redband surveys, water quality monitoring or other collected data. The project has many watershed benefits with significant ecological merit.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund with Conditions

### **Review Team Priority**

2 of 15

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$47,654

### **Review Team Conditions**

A grazing management plan must be included with the project completion report.

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund with Conditions

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$47,654

**Staff Conditions**

A grazing management plan must be included with the project completion report.

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5034-15961

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Crane Prairie: Forest Health, Aspen Restoration and Grazing Management

**Applicant:** Malheur WC

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$117,875

**Total Cost:** \$198,166

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### Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Project is located in Crane Prairie on private property that covers the headwaters of Crane Creek in Grant County. It is about 24 miles as the crow flies from downtown Prairie City. 2) Lodge pole pine is invading 60 acres of aspen stands and 90 acres of forest stands. The invasion is degrading forest health, wildlife habitat, and could foster insect and disease and disastrous wildfire. 2a) Livestock grazing is damaging the riparian area adjacent to the headwaters of Crane Creek.

### Review Team Evaluation

#### Strengths

- The project addresses multiple resource concerns, including aspen, wet meadow, conifer invasion, and grazing enhancement.
- Conifer invasion from lodgepole and juniper into aspen stands is being addressed as well as conifer encroachment to the wet meadow.
- The lodgepole thinning will generate material for the buck-and-pole fence and debris fence.
- The meadow is the headwaters for Crane Creek and is bull trout habitat.
- There is great diversity with all the proposed restoration actions. The landowner is willing to address various resource concerns.
- Aspen protection is needed in this area. Unit costs for all the various project components seem reasonable.
- The grazing management will also include developing a spring, trough and cross fencing. There are multiple resource benefits in the proposed actions.

#### Concerns

- The proposed 8-foot buck-and-pole fence is quite large and it is unclear whether it is truly needed. However, while a wire fence may be an alternative, it would most likely not deter elk.

### Concluding Analysis

The project is located south of Prairie City in Crane Prairie. The landowner recently purchased the property, which was previously overgrazed and had no grazing management. The proposed actions are

comprehensive by treating aspen, providing grazing enhancement, and improving the wet-meadow complex and upland forest health issues. Grazing management will be improved and perennial bunchgrasses should benefit from this. The lodgepole thinning will generate significant material to use for aspen stand protection. Debris fencing near the wet meadow and other areas can also be implemented since it is cost-prohibitive to fence all of the stands. The project will result in improved watershed and upland health. This proposal has numerous watershed benefits and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

**Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

**Review Team Priority**

3 of 15

**Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$117,875

**Review Team Conditions**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$117,875

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5035-15963

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Crippling Juniper

**Applicant:** Malheur WC

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Malheur

**OWEB Request:** \$146,040

**Total Cost:** \$187,165

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

1) Our project is about 6 miles from Juntura Oregon., and encompasses the majority of Cripple Creek Gulch. 2) This is Phase III of an ongoing effort to improve range health, combat weeds (juniper and other species), improve sage grouse habitat, and improve riparian vegetation. 3) We propose to remove juniper from 1,300 acres with chainsaws. Approximately 1,080 acres are low density (Stage I) and 220 acres are medium density (Late Stage I/early Stage II). The slash will be cut to below 4 feet and the debris from 220 medium density acres will be machine piled and burned at the appropriate time. We plan to accelerate riparian recovery by strategically planting willow whips on Cripple Creek and Chimney Creek. We will focus our planting on 1.25 acres of wetter areas, and plant around 480 plants. The plantings will be protected from browsing by placing juniper carcasses around them and cages where appropriate. While grazing management on this property is excellent, there is room for improvement. The problem is distribution. The cattle graze the bottoms and level areas too hard and under use the steeper areas at the top of the property. The owner dug a well and uses solar power to pump water to a trough. The goal was to attract cattle to the top of the pasture. This has worked, but they need to install a cistern for storage. We propose to install a storage tank, add 4,000 feet of pipe to feed more troughs to supply water to other pastures. Even with the water trough, cattle still congregate on the lower slopes. The second solution the landowner is implementing is building 10,500 feet of pasture cross-fence. 4) Project partners are the landowner, Linda Bentz, and the Malheur WSC.

### **Review Team Evaluation**

#### **Strengths**

- This project complements other restoration implemented on this property.
- The landowner has been very proactive in improving rangeland health and riparian enhancement on both the North and South Fork of the Malheur River, and removed thousands of acres of juniper.
- Removing the juniper will aid in recharging the streams and help improve the wetted areas of the riparian zone. This will aid late-season sage-grouse brood-rearing.
- In addition to juniper removal on 1,300 acres, the applicant will be planting willows and cottonwoods along Chimney and Cripple Creek.
- This is critical mule deer habitat and this restoration benefits that habitat.
- The well has been utilized in a positive manner for livestock watering.

## Concerns

- The application does not mention reseeding the burn piles, which needs to be included in the project design.

## Concluding Analysis

Proposed project builds on previous restoration investment on this property. The landowner has done extensive improvements over thousands of acres and also along the Malheur River. This willing landowner has a significant amount of acres and demonstrates a stewardship ethics. They are clearly demonstrating that they want watershed improvements throughout their property. Planting willows and cottonwoods will help accelerate riparian recovery. The project is comprehensive by including juniper removal, riparian enhancement and grazing management enhancement with the addition of cross fencing and water storage. There is significant ecological uplift in this project.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

## Review Team Priority

7 of 15

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$146,040

## Review Team Conditions

Seed the area underneath machine burn piles, and provide a juniper management plan.

## Staff Recommendation

### Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

## Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

## Staff Recommended Amount

\$146,040

## Staff Conditions

Seed the area underneath machine burn piles, and provide a juniper management plan.



# Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

## Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5036-15968

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Protecting Redband on the Middle Willow Creek

**Applicant:** Malheur SWCD

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Malheur

**OWEB Request:** \$123,102

**Total Cost:** \$173,882

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### Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Nestled between the community of Ironside and the Malheur Reservoir along Willow Creek is the headquarters for Wilks Oregon ranch. On this portion of the ranch, 2 miles of Willow Creek flows through the property. There are 525 irrigated acres irrigated by four centerpivots supplied by Willow Creek providing a zero-runoff irrigation practice. 2) The lack of fish screens on the Willow Creek system has contributed to the degrading fish habitat, making the recovery of the limited Redband trout population increasingly difficult. ODFW has determined that a fish screen is needed. 3) We will install an ODFW approved fish screen to reduce fish mortality in the creek. This will happen on the landowners' property by insertion into an existing irrigation water supply pipe. Part of the reason for the in-line location is the fact that the stream diversion is actually on a neighbor's property. To avoid any potential future legal or OWRD issues, the site was chosen to construct the fish screen on Wilks property. 4) Partners in this project are the Malheur SWCD, Wilks Ranch and ODFW (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife).

### Review Team Evaluation

#### Strengths

- Redband trout are present in this section of the Middle Fork of the Malheur and will benefit from this project.
- Four cleanouts were added to the previous design and are needed because the bypass is over 400 feet. Cleanouts have worked in other similar locations.

#### Concerns

- The project expense seems high for an intermittent need, which limits the potential cost benefit of this investment. The fish screen is designed for 14 cfs, however the flow during the irrigation season is significantly less.
- The location of the fish screen results in an extremely long bypass.
- Application would benefit from more information to understand the story about actual redband population numbers in the stream.
- The watershed benefit is not commensurate with the overall project cost.

### Concluding Analysis



The project was previously submitted and not recommended for funding. Currently there are no fish screens in this section of Willow Creek above the Malheur Reservoir. The previous landowner began a channel modification project on this property and the current landowner completed that effort. As a result of that channel redesign, a new consolidated point-of-diversion was installed that triggered the need to for a fish screen. However, the fish screen is only needed for approximately five weeks each year. As a result, it is difficult to determine cost benefit for this watershed investment. This would be the only proposed fish screen in this system, so there is benefit to providing potential outreach to other irrigators. This installation could lead to future implementation on other diversions. While the application highlights positive benefits for proposed restoration, there are insufficient watershed benefits for the investment.

**Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Do Not Fund

**Review Team Priority**

N/A

**Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Review Team Conditions**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5037-15975

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation  
Implementation HC18

**Applicant:** Harney SWCD

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Harney

**OWEB Request:** \$58,391

**Total Cost:** \$73,668

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The proposed project is located on a 640 acre field of private land in Harney County that has a letter of intent to enroll in the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) to protect sage-grouse. The enrollee (HC-18) has a Site Specific plan that is in the process of being developed by the Harney Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD). The location has been identified as Preliminary General Habitat for sage-grouse and lies within an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) focal area habitat for sage-grouse. This project involves implementation of 2 conservation measures included in the CCAA site specific plan, addressing threats to sage-grouse. The threats to sage-grouse include: loss of sagebrush habitat due to lack of fire and associated conifer encroachment and unmanaged and/or improper grazing occurring in the riparian areas. To address the loss of sagebrush habitat due to conifer encroachment, conservation measures include cutting the conifers using hand tools. Heavily invaded (Phase II) conifer infestations will require slash piling, using large equipment such as excavators, and the slash piles will need to be burned. To address the improper grazing in the riparian areas, an off-stream watering facility will be installed. The water will be pumped from the creek and piped from the creek to a tire trough. The availability of water outside of the riparian area will encourage more even and efficient utilization of forage in the uplands. Project partners include: HSWCD, the private landowner, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The site visit indicated that the creek channel is in good condition and has adequate vegetation.
- Removing the juniper will improve the opportunity for sage-grouse brood-rearing in the riparian area.

##### **Concerns**

- The application has inconsistent acreage for phase I and II juniper listed between the objectives, application narrative, and budget.
- The application needs to provide a better context of the overall watershed, drainages, and complementary efforts.
- The budget is unclear. The requested cost per-acre for phase 1 juniper seems too high while the requested amount for phase II juniper removal seems too low.

- The application would be strengthened by additional explanation of the spring development and trough, and inclusion of maps depicting topography, slope, and vegetation.
- It is unclear if the spring would be protected by fencing.

### **Concluding Analysis**

This is potentially a good project. However, the application is unclear and difficult to understand. The landowner has a letter of intent for the CCAA. If the project is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to provide a clear map, more detail on the spring development, explanation on project costs to understand and how they were determined, and consistent information on acreage. While the project will improve sage-grouse habitat and potentially has very positive benefits, 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

### **Review Team Conditions**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5038-15982

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Destination Desolation Water Quality Improvement

**Applicant:** Owyhee WC

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Malheur

**OWEB Request:** \$157,877

**Total Cost:** \$286,930

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

This project is located approximately 22 miles northwest of Jordan Valley, Oregon, near Jordan Craters, and consists of 86 acres of flood irrigated meadow cropland that directly borders both Cow Creek and Upper Cow Lakes. The Cow Lakes area is considered an important Shrub-Steppe Avian Conservation area; home to several thousand waterfowl and over one hundred shorebirds seasonally. This project is the first phase in an irrigation management plan on 374 acres to improve water quality, late summer sage-grouse habitat, as well as habitat area for several thousand other avian species. Current irrigative practices expend tailwater runoff containing excess sediment, nutrients, and bacteria directly into Cow Creek and Cow Lakes. Varying topography within the fields also gives rise to pooling/ponding, creating stagnant water areas which encourage mosquito breeding and thus increase the risk for West Nile. In addition, livestock are also fed and pastured on the project site during the late fall and winter months, which further increases the bacteria inputs into Cow Creek and Cow Lakes with the first spring flood irrigation. The proposed solution for this first phase is to convert 86 acres of flood irrigated meadow cropland to border irrigation. Border Irrigation is designed to flush water over a near level field in a short period of time. The borders are raised beds constructed in the direction of the field's slope, releasing water from the field's high end, and guided down slope as a shallow sheet that spreads uniformly.<sup>1</sup> Water flow is turned off mid to three-quarters way down the field as to allow water to reach fields end and no further; thus, eliminating tailwater runoff into surrounding water bodies. Project partners for this project include NRCS and Trout Unlimited.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- Border irrigation is an efficient way to irrigate. There is a high water quality benefit by reducing or eliminating runoff caused by flood irrigation.
- Border irrigation was successfully implemented on a previously funded OWEB project in the Jordan Valley area.
- The project site is adjacent to Cow Lake, which is an important flyway for waterfowl and shorebirds. It is also surrounded by core sage-grouse habitat.
- Eliminating ponding and pooling of water caused by flood irrigation benefits water quality and decreases the potential for West Nile virus, which previously caused mortality in sage-grouse in the Jordan Valley area. This is important since the project is located in core sage-grouse habitat.
- Landowner and partner support is demonstrated by cost-share

## Concerns

- The project has a high per-acre cost, but is the best method to improve irrigation and avian habitat. The field configuration makes it unsuitable for pivots or wheel line sprinkler irrigation, and leveling the field is very labor intensive.
- It is not clear if livestock have access to Cow Lake.

## Concluding Analysis

This project is located on 86 acres near Jordan Craters, bordering Cow Creek and upper Cow Lake near Jordan Craters. This very sparsely populated area has had few restoration projects. Implementation will result in improved water quality and habitat for sage-grouse. Cow Lakes is located in the Shrub-Steppe Avian Conservation Area and is an important flyway for waterfowl and shore birds. The project is surrounded by core sage-grouse habitat. Current flood irrigation results in ponding that creates mosquito habitat. In 2006 there was an outbreak of West Nile virus with confirmed mortality to sage-grouse. Border irrigation eliminates ponding caused by flood irrigation. The field configuration is not conducive to sprinkler irrigation and, therefore, border irrigation is the most optimal method. This project is phase 1 of a 374-acre management plan to improve water quality. The project has significant benefit to sage-grouse and avian habitat.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

## Review Team Priority

15 of 15

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$157,877

## Review Team Conditions

None

## Staff Recommendation

### Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

## Staff Recommendation

Fund

## Staff Recommended Amount

\$157,877

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5039-15983

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** West Nile Mile Water Quality Improvement

**Applicant:** Owyhee WC

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Malheur

**OWEB Request:** \$162,084

**Total Cost:** \$339,939

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

1) The West Nile Mile project site is located approximately 29 miles southwest of Jordan Valley, Oregon in the community of Arock, with project boundaries lying directly on Jordan Creek. 2) This project site contains approximately 112 acres of flood irrigated cropland which expends tailwater runoff containing excess sediment, nutrients, and bacteria directly into Jordan Creek. The fields within this project also contain several low spots; creating pooling/ponding and generating stagnant water areas, which elicit mosquito breeding and thus increase the risk for West Nile virus. Water conveyance to this project site is done through a series of open canals which flow from the headgates approximately 135 feet above the fields, down a steep hill to its deliverance points. This steep gradient creates a significant amount of washout, increasing the amount of sediment in the canal system, as well as creating ponding at its base. Livestock are also fed and pastured on the project area during the late fall and winter months, which increases bacteria inputs to Jordan Creek with the first spring flood irrigation. 3) The proposed solution for this project is to convert 112 acres of flood irrigated meadow cropland to gravity fed sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 4200 feet of 10-inch pipe, one Zimmatic Pivot system, and 240 magpie sprinklers. The project will also abandon existing open canals, and reroute water conveyance through 1900 feet of 15-inch pipe from the headgates to a central diversion station, which will supply both the pivot and magpie sprinklers. The conversion from flood to sprinkler irrigation will eliminate tailwater runoff into Jordan Creek, and eliminate pooling/ponding in the low areas throughout each field. Rerouting and piping the canals will eliminate washout and pooling occurring near deliverance points at the base of surrounding hillsides. 4) Partners for this project include NRCS and Trout Unlimited

### **Review Team Evaluation** **Strengths**

- The project location adjacent to Jordan Creek will have significant water quality benefits.
- The proposed irrigation method is the most optimal for the field configuration.
- In addition to water quality benefits, the project is surrounded by core sage-grouse habitat that will benefit from the project.
- Converting to sprinkler irrigation will eliminate ponding caused by flood irrigation that promotes mosquito habitat, which will reduce the potential for West Nile virus mortality in sage-grouse.
- Piping the ditch will have significant water quality benefits.

## Concerns

- Since the irrigation configuration will be modified, the applicant needs to contact OWRD to ensure that there are sufficient water rights.
- If the point of diversion is changed, ODFW may require fish passage requirements.

## Concluding Analysis

The project will have significant water quality benefits since it is located on Jordan Creek. Ponding will be eliminated by converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation. Sage-grouse mortality caused by West Nile virus occurred in Jordan Valley in 2006. Traditional flood irrigation resulted in ponding, which created optimal mosquito habitat. Project implementation will improve water quality and sage-grouse habitat. Sprinkler irrigation will reduce runoff, which is estimated at 20 to 30 tons per acre or 2,340 to 3,520 annual tons from this 112-acre field. Piping the ditch also eliminates sediment transport to Jordan Creek. It was also suggested that OWEB not fund some of the smaller diameter pipe that accesses the individual sprinklers as this is more appropriate funding for the landowner. Overall, this project has significant ecological merit.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions

## Review Team Priority

12 of 15

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$149,236

## Review Team Conditions

Verify water rights.

Remove the 2 and 3-inch pipe costs from OWEB budget.

## Staff Recommendation

### Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

## Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced with Conditions

## Staff Recommended Amount

\$149,236



## **Staff Conditions**

Verify water rights.

Remove the 2 and 3-inch pipe costs from OWEB budget.

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5040-15984

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Charbonneaus Revenge  
Medusahead wipeout

**Applicant:** Owyhee WC

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Malheur

**OWEB Request:** \$152,484

**Total Cost:** \$205,065

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

1) The Charbonneau's Revenge Medusahead Wipeout project is located approximately 20 miles southwest of Jordan Valley in the community of Danner, and consists of 2,128 acres of sagebrush steppe rangeland that is bordered by both Jordan Creek and Cow Creeks. The site profile includes elevations ranging from 4200-4400 feet, with average precipitation of 8-12 inches per year. Terrain is very rocky, comprised with dense basalt formations, and soils in the range of silty-loam. The project site, located within a 2 HUC priority area, with Greater sage-grouse and Redband trout being the species of concern, is the first phase of a rangeland management plan on 6,729 acres to restore plant communities, and improve habitat and forage quality for a number of species. 2) Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) and Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) have extensively invaded this project site and now dominate the plant community, both within project bounds and on bordering BLM lands. Annual grass invasion has placed considerable strain on this section of sagebrush steppe rangeland, and in some sections, has created thatches so dense that all other vegetation has been eradicated. 3) The work proposed for this project includes aerial application of herbicide in the fall of 2018, followed by broadcast seeding of a drought tolerant, introduced seed mix in fall of 2019. A grazing management plan has also been included to allow for proper rest rotations and establishment of plant seedlings. 4) Project partners include Jordan Valley CWMA, NRCS, and Trout Unlimited.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The project is located in a winter grazing pasture and, therefore, would not need to be deferred once the area is sprayed.
- Since this is a winter-grazed pasture, this BLM pasture would not be utilized during a busy season.

##### **Concerns**

- It is unclear if *Pseudomonas* is approved for use in Oregon by ODA. If it is not approved by ODA, it should be removed from the project.
- The application only proposes one application of Plateau herbicide to be sprayed. In order to effectively treat medusahead, two aerial spray applications would most likely be needed, especially given the severity of medusahead infestation noted at the site visit.

- Given the density of the medusahead, there is no certainty that Plateau can penetrate the heavy thatch.
- The proposal recommends using 10 gallons of water per application. Given the density of the medusahead thatch layer, it is likely 20 gallons is needed to penetrate the thatch.
- It is not clear how much of the seeding will be aerial broadcast or ground broadcast, and how much will be applied with a rangeland drill.
- Seed costs appear to be on the low side, and seeding rate is inconsistent. The applicant may not be calculating for the application cost.
- A more holistic approach to treating the site would include developing upland water to improve vegetation and a rotational grazing system.
- The grazing plan lacked essential detail.
- The proposed timeline was unclear.

### **Concluding Analysis**

While the site visit confirmed the need for treatment, the application does not seem well thought-out and is premature. Proposed actions were not technically sound. The proposed treatment of spraying and seeding may not be successful without also incorporating a management change. The applicant may want to consider including upland watering and improving the rotational grazing for a more holistic outcome. If application is resubmitted, it should include a grazing plan; and the seed and seed application needs to be clarified. The applicant should consider partnering with BLM if this is a priority area.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Do Not Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

N/A

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Review Team Conditions**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5041-15986

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Upper Wallowa River Restoration Project

**Applicant:** Wallowa Resources

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Wallowa

**OWEB Request:** \$225,000

**Total Cost:** \$845,104

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The Upper Wallowa River project area encompasses approximately 11/2 miles of the Wallowa River and West Fork Wallowa River, beginning near the confluence of BC Creek and flowing into Wallowa Lake. This section of the river is primarily managed for recreation with a mix of small property ownership, private houses and cabins, public and private camping areas, small businesses, and Wallowa Lake State Park. This area is a large attraction for tourists during summer months and important to the Wallowa County economy. The project area provides important spawning and rearing area for salmonid species, as a direct input to Wallowa Lake, including Kokanee salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) and Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*). Natural floodplain function along the reach has been degraded by anthropogenic encroachment and development, thereby reducing the habitat quality and quantity. This restoration project aims to enhance and restore habitat for kokanee salmon spawning and all life stages of bull trout while protecting private and public property from the effects of catastrophic flooding by maintaining or improving bank stability. Additionally the project aims to capitalize on its location to create significant opportunities for outreach to the general public; the project location hosts nearly 500,000 people per year. Project partners include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, the Nez Perce Tribe, Wallowa Resources, and several private parties. This particular consortium of stakeholders creates an opportunity for significant outreach to a diverse group of Oregonians.

### **Review Team Evaluation**

#### **Strengths**

- Implementation will improve kokanee and bull trout habitat. Kokanee may use this new channel for spawning. The channel will be restored to its natural condition from prior to the construction of the state park and surrounding infrastructure.
- The design team is engaging stakeholders.
- The project will be highly visible and has potential for positive outreach.
- Two previous OWEB-funded technical assistance projects provided funding for this design.

#### **Concerns**

- Nez Perce Tribe is inaccurately listed as a partner.

- The budget lacks essential detail and is just one lump sum for the OWEB request. There are no bids or documentation to better understand the requested \$225,000 from OWEB.
- It is unclear whether proposed activities benefit recreation facilities management more than providing a habitat improvement project.
- Bull trout spawning near the bridge has not been documented.
- Match listed in application has unclear connections to the success of the proposed project.
- Application would benefit from detailed project design information.

## **Concluding Analysis**

There could be watershed benefits to bull trout and kokanee habitat from this project; however, based on the application the watershed benefit for the cost is unclear. If this application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to expand project partnership support; provide a detailed budget with unit costs including anticipated hours, and equipment time; and a more complete description of proposed work to better understand the project. Also, additional detail on bull trout habitat and spawning will be beneficial. Implementation could have a very positive outreach message due the project's location at Wallowa Lake State Park.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Do Not Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

N/A

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Review Team Conditions**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5042-15987

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Island In The Stream

**Applicant:** Malheur SWCD

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Malheur

**OWEB Request:** \$94,993

**Total Cost:** \$235,702

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

1) Island In The Stream is .26 miles north of Owyhee Junction, 19 miles from Ontario, in the North Alkali Creek-Snake River Watershed (1705010311). 2) Furrow irrigation on 182 acres with 4 different fields draining directly into Bishop Drain (Owy 301), which enters the Owyhee River, then the Snake River resulting in excess irrigation water that is sediment laden with nutrients. The Malheur SWCD calls this drain Owyhee 301 drain and has been sampling the drain since 2008.3) Proposed solution is to convert Fields: 1, 2, and 3 143 acres of furrow irrigation to a 133 acre center pivot with a swing arm and to have zero runoff on 3 fields, with field 3 having 3 acres left for wildlife. Field 4, will have 2 acres converted to sprinkle, with 29.4 acres remaining in furrow.4) Project partners include landowner, Malheur SWCD, DEQ 319 monitoring, and Owyhee Irrigation District.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- This project will be complementary to the recently funded project also on the Bishop Drain.
- Implementation will have significant water quality benefits in the Owyhee and Snake Rivers.
- Data provided with the application indicates that the amount of phosphorus and total suspended sediment decreased as a result of prior project implementation in the Bishop Drain drainshed.

##### **Concerns**

- The application includes two pumps and does not clearly describe how the pumps were to function.
- There are two ponds and it is unclear which pond will have an installed pump.
- It unclear whether irrigating over the lateral is necessary or if there is an alternative method. The sprinkler should be programmed to shut off over the lateral.
- The application references a lift pump for field 3 and a lift pump for fields 1 and 2. It is unclear why this is needed because all of these fields are on the same pivot.
- Since this project is adjacent to the Bishop Drain project, it is possible that the design for this project may need to be altered. As a result, the Bishop Drain sediment retention pond should be implemented prior to this project to ensure likelihood for success.

#### **Concluding Analysis**



The project has significant potential to improve water quality in the Bishop Drain and the Owyhee River. Bishop Drain is one of the drains contributing large amounts of sediment and runoff to the Owyhee River. This application, however, lacks critical detail and appears incomplete. It is difficult to understand the proposed design and to follow the application. If this application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide comprehensive project detail and alternative designs.

**Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Do Not Fund

**Review Team Priority**

**Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Review Team Conditions**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5043-15990

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Three Fingers Fuels Reduction and  
Grazing Research

**Applicant:** Owyhee WC

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Malheur

**OWEB Request:** \$88,951

**Total Cost:** \$360,210

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Application was determined to be ineligible prior to review.

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5044-15993

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Mockingbird One

**Applicant:** Malheur WC

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Malheur

**OWEB Request:** \$79,423

**Total Cost:** \$163,636

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

1. The Mockingbird One project is located in Harper, Oregon along the Malheur River. 2. Water quality improvement in the Malheur Basin is one of the top restoration priorities. Water quality improvement is achieved through on-farm irrigation infrastructure improvements and management. Malheur Watershed Council in cooperation with irrigation districts and private landowners has been systematically improving water quality through irrigation system conversions over the past 17 years across the Malheur Basin. 3. The Mockingbird One project is the first phase in a three phase project to convert 206 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation. This proposal (phase I) will convert 31 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 2 pivot systems, solid set sprinklers, and related irrigation infrastructure. 4. Project partners include Vale Irrigation District, landowner and Malheur Watershed Council.

### **Review Team Evaluation**

#### **Strengths**

- The project is located in the Harper area where there are few previously implemented water quality projects. Expanding projects here is a positive step to improve water quality in this area of the Malheur River.
- Landowner support is demonstrated by match for the project. The project is well leveraged.
- Budget has reasonable costs.
- Implementation will provide very high water quality benefits.
- Application addresses previous review team comments.
- The application is easy to read and the maps were very helpful.

#### **Concerns**

- No significant concerns were identified.

### **Concluding Analysis**

The application was previously submitted and included six pivots. It was not recommended for funding and the applicant was encouraged to consider a smaller project with the next submission. The

landowner made the decision on which pivots to include in Phase 1, and these pivots were selected based on the challenges with irrigation at this location. The resulting water quality benefits are significant due to the project's location directly on the Malheur River. 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. Implementation will have positive landowner outreach to other irrigators who may be considering converting their irrigation systems. The 3-inch pipe that will irrigate the 3-acre corner should be the landowner's responsibility, since this is small acreage. The proposed project has substantial water quality benefits.

**Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund Reduced with Conditions

**Review Team Priority**

14 of 15

**Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$78,286

**Review Team Conditions**

Remove the cost of the 3-inch lines to the corners plus the associated grant administration.

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Fund Reduced with Conditions

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$78,286

**Staff Conditions**

Remove the cost of the 3-inch lines to the corners plus the associated grant administration.

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5045-15996

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Vista View Phase II

**Applicant:** Malheur SWCD

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Malheur

**OWEB Request:** \$78,327

**Total Cost:** \$98,578

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

1) 6 miles west of Ontario, at the top of the North Canal next to the irrigation siphon that runs across the valley.2) Vista View Phase 2: Additional 1380 feet of 24 inch pipe, and a pressure reducing /sustaining valve station with OID installation, plus cost increase of pipe is needed to bury lateral 38.7 to Morgan Avenue. Vista View 217-5045: OID will install 10,500 feet of various lengths of 12, 21, and 24-inch pipe to bury 38.7 lateral from Morgan Avenue to the Shoestring Canal with 7 turnouts with 7 flowmeters, 1 - 12-inch emergency spill valve, 1 automated cleaning screen that will have a sensor monitor built in that will be able to measure the water height in existing earthen canal that will be connected to the automation network at the irrigation office in case of power outage or storm events. A employee of the irrigation district will open the emergency spillway into the lower Shoestring in case of storm events. An automated cleaning screen will reduce sediment from entering the pressurized system.3) With the change in design of the pipeline to handle storm events, we need an additional 1380 feet of 24 inch pipe that will take the pipeline from Morgan Avenue to the top of the North Canal. We also need a pressure reducing/sustaining valve station when we added the additional slope and length added into the pressure system, along with increase of pipe cost due to the hurricanes down south damaging the manufacturing plant for pipe. The cost of pipe has jumped in price 18% to date.4) Owyhee Irrigation District

### **Review Team Evaluation** **Strengths**

- Owyhee Irrigation District (OID) has a proven track record and there is confidence in their ability to implement this project.
- The project cost is reasonable. The applicant is requesting funds to cover the increased cost of pipe and the addition of a pressure-reducing valve. Price increases are a result of recent hurricanes and an increase in petroleum-based products.
- Landowners served by this lateral will have the opportunity to upgrade their irrigation systems. Converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation will result in improved water quality benefits.
- Since the Vista View lateral ends at the Malheur Experiment Station, there is opportunity for positive outreach.
- The requested pressure-reducing valve will enable OID to turn off water and better control the system in the event of emergencies. OID needs a way to control the system, which is why OID should be responsible for the pressure reducing valve.

## Concerns

- Application would be strengthened by complete design and budget information.
- The pressure-reducing valve should not be charged to OWEB because this is an operational or maintenance component and that cost should be the responsibility of OID.

## Concluding Analysis

The Vista View Pipeline project is located six miles west of Ontario. Owyhee Irrigation District's (OID) earthen lateral 38.7 currently supplies 16 cfs of irrigation water to 640 contiguous acres of highly erodible soils. The project will enable landowners to convert from flood to sprinkler or drip irrigation. Once the pipeline is installed, NRCS will provide cost-share for on-farm irrigation efficiencies. The current irrigation is furrow-flood utilizing open-earthen and concrete delivery systems. Erosion rates are 10 to 14 tons per-acre (TPA) or 6,400 to 8,960 total annual tons.

The project was submitted in the fall 2016 grant cycle and was scheduled for implementation in 2017. However, the price of pipe increased by 18 to 20% due to hurricanes in the South and reduced refinery capacity. The cost increase resulted in an unexpected budget shortfall. The increased cost of pipe could not be anticipated. The takeout from Morgan Avenue was changed to the North Canal because of concerns to regulate emergency spillway at the bottom of the pipeline. OID needs a better way to control the system, and should be responsible for the pressure-reducing valve and the 1,380 feet of increased pipe due to the take out change. Overall, this project has significant water quality merit and should be funded this grant cycle.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions

## Review Team Priority

8 of 15

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$38,965

## Review Team Conditions

Remove the 1,380 feet of pipe and pressure-reducing valve from the OWEB budget plus the associated grant administration.

## Staff Recommendation

### Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff discussed the project with the applicant. It was determined that pipe prices increased further since

the application was submitted. Staff agreed to an increase of 21% for the cost of pipe.

**Staff Recommendation**

Fund Reduced with Conditions

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$38,965

**Staff Conditions**

Remove the 1,380 feet of pipe and pressure-reducing valve from the OWEB budget plus the associated grant administration.

# Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

## Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5046-15997

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Lower Grande Ronde Watershed  
Noxious Weed Management

**Applicant:** Wallowa Resources

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Wallowa

**OWEB Request:** \$48,864

**Total Cost:** \$130,364

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### Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership uses integrated weed management strategies to reduce the impact of noxious weeds in Northeast Oregon. In this project we will reduce the size and density of yellow starthistle, rush skeletonweed and other high priority weeds in the Lower Grande Ronde River watershed, located in Wallowa County. Project partners include private landowners, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, and Bureau of Land Management.

### Review Team Evaluation

#### Strengths

- This is a well-written proposal that provides significant detail.
- Coordination between private landowners and federal partners is evident.
- A ground inventory for yellow starthistle and rush skeletonweed will provide valuable information on satellite populations.
- The 120,000-acre aerial inventory will enable satellite populations of skeletonweed and yellow starthistle in inaccessible steep, canyonlands to be located and targeted for treatment.
- There are three different seed mixes provided for various treatment scenarios.
- Herbicide rates are provided for the targeted weed along with approximate acreage to be treated. The application also described prevention methods.

#### Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by information on whether past grant objectives were met, and additional information on the results of these previous investments.
- Since TordonTM is a persistent chemical, the application would benefit from some explanation on why it was chosen and whether alternatives were considered. However, it was also noted that TordonTM is very effective and appropriate for use on spurge.

### Concluding Analysis

The project involves multiple landowners and public partners, and targets weed sites in remote locations with very steep canyonlands that are difficult to access. Some of the treatment area is extremely remote



and requires significant effort and expense on a per-acre basis to successfully locate and treat weeds. This application from Wallowa Resources continues an ongoing effort to target and treat noxious weeds in a remote landscape. Wallowa Resources has successfully coordinated this effort with private landowners, Forest Service, and the BLM for the last several years. In addition, there is coordination with the State of Washington to limit cross-state infestations, which occurred with starthistle some years ago. Treating the targeted noxious weeds will help maintain native plant communities and prevent the establishment of invasive annuals. Protecting the native bunchgrass plant community will maintain wildlife habitat and prevent shallow-rooted non-native annuals from establishing. This on-going work by Wallowa Resources has proven to be successfully implemented.

**Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

**Review Team Priority**

5 of 15

**Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$48,864

**Review Team Conditions**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$48,864

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5047-16011

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Circling Above the Hyline

**Applicant:** Malheur SWCD

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Malheur

**OWEB Request:** \$60,608

**Total Cost:** \$208,076

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

1. The Circling Above the Hyline project is located about 12 miles north of Ontario, Oregon and consists of approximately 72.5 acres of irrigable cropland. Circling Above the Hyline drains into the Hyline Canal (which drains into Sheperd Gulch) to be used by other farmers or spilled into Sheperd Gulch and into the Snake River. Sediments and nutrients that wash off fields are passed onto the downstream users and contribute to overall water quality impairments. The Hyline Bench Watershed is located from about 12 miles north of Ontario, Oregon, west of OR Highway 201 almost to Weiser, Idaho and consists of approximately 3500 acres of irrigable cropland. The entire area is in Malheur County. 2. Most of the sediment, nutrients, and bacteria in Sheperd Gulch come from polluted irrigation return flows or livestock access to surface water. Historically farmers in the area fertilize their land and a residual amount of chemicals, e-coli and nutrients can be carried off the field with the runoff from flood irrigation. This farm is fairly typical and currently using 100% surface irrigation. 3. By installing two (2) partial swipe center pivots with the accompanying bubbler, pipeline, pumps and flowmeters the landowner will be able to achieve a zero water runoff practice that will enhance the downstream water quality. 4. The partners for this project are the landowner, Malheur County SWCD, NRCS and Owyhee Irrigation District.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The project is located in a priority focus area for ODA and NRCS.
- This project site has slopes that are steep and contribute to high sediment and nutrient runoff flowing directly into a feedlot.
- Converting from flood irrigation to two pivots will have significant water quality improvement.
- Implementation will eliminate runoff and erosion, which will improve water quality.
- Owyhee Irrigation District (OID) will also pipe 3,590 feet of irrigation lateral adding positive water quality benefits.
- Project is well leveraged by match.

##### **Concerns**

- It is unclear whether the water rights are sufficient to cover the configuration of the new irrigation.

## **Concluding Analysis**

The application was previously submitted and not recommended for funding. This application provides clearer detail. The project is located in the Hyline Bench Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) priority area. Runoff from this area eventually flows into Shepard's Gulch and onto the Snake River nearby. 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 on-going agricultural drain monitoring by Malheur SWCD funded by OWEB and DEQ. The project site has steep slopes and runoff can be significant. OID will also be piping the lateral where the takeout is adding to the water quality benefits. The main concern with the project is whether there are sufficient water rights to cover the new irrigation system covered by the pivots, which will need to be verified with OWRD. There are significant water quality benefits from this project.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund with Conditions

### **Review Team Priority**

11 of 15

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$60,608

### **Review Team Conditions**

Prior to the release of funds, the Grantee must verify with WRD that there are sufficient water rights to cover the area under the pivots.

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund with Conditions

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$60,608

### **Staff Conditions**

Prior to the release of funds, the Grantee must verify with WRD that there are sufficient water rights to cover the area under the pivots.



## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5048-16012

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase III

**Applicant:** Tri-Cnty Coop Weed Mgmt Area

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Union

**OWEB Request:** \$25,500

**Total Cost:** \$65,500

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board has supported Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area's Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control project for several years. This project is an ongoing treatment control of leafy spurge in the riparian and upland areas of the Upper Grande Ronde located in Union County. Noxious weeds adversely affect watershed function by decreasing native plant diversity, increasing sedimentation, and decreasing water quality. The detrimental impacts of noxious weeds in the Upper Grande Ronde has motivated Tri-County CWMA to lead the coordinated effort in managing invasive species within the river corridor. The main species of concern are leafy spurge and spotted knapweed, due to their limited abundance in Union County and the negative impacts on local ranching communities. Control of these species will take several years of continuous treatments. Looking over recent photo points, Tri-County has seen remarkable progress in the area. Phase III of the Upper Grande Ronde project will reinforce the progress made in the previous years as well as achieve at least 60% of target species within the project area controlled after fall of 2018 with help from landowners, Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), and the United States Forest Service. The proposed work to take place is surveying of over 26,000 acres and treating leafy spurge and spotted knapweed with herbicides to prepare the land for the extensive re-channeling that will take place in 2018 as part of a project conducted by CTUIR and Grande Ronde Model Watershed.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The application provides before-and-after pictures that document previous success.
- The applicant has a proven track record implementing projects in this geographic area over a long period of time.
- The project is trying to address specific noxious weeds before they spread further in the riparian corridor.
- This effort is complementary to other restoration projects nearby. Future in-stream projects will have significant ground disturbance that will result in the probability for future weed establishment. Therefore, treating the targeted weeds before they reach those sites is important.
- This is a proactive approach to help contain infestations. It is providing a critical service in a difficult topography.
- This is a long-standing project with a significant cost-benefit for the investment.

## Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified for this project.

## Concluding Analysis

Tri-County CWMA previously received several OWEB grants. OWEB funding is targeting weed treatment in riparian areas of the upper Grande Ronde. Without OWEB funding, Tri-County CWMA would be unable to treat these sites adjacent to anadromous fish habitat. The Bird Track Springs Rechannelization project will disturb significant amount of streambank and increase the potential for weed infestation. This application provides clear goals and is part of an on-going programmatic effort treating spurge, spotted knapweed, and meadow hawkweed. Controlling weeds along the riparian areas of the upper Grande Ronde is positive from wildlife and fisheries perspectives. While weeds are never eradicated, it is important to keep infestations in check. The ecological benefits are to maintain native plant communities by preventing invasive annuals infestations. This is a positive partnership with the USFS. The project has significant ecological merit and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

## Review Team Priority

6 of 15

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$25,500

## Review Team Conditions

None

## Staff Recommendation

### Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

## Staff Recommendation

Fund

## Staff Recommended Amount

\$25,500

## Staff Conditions

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5049-16016

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Lime-Aid-Remix

**Applicant:** Malheur SWCD

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Baker

**OWEB Request:** \$51,630

**Total Cost:** \$69,784

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The Lime-Aid-Remix 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, 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 application was resubmitted with additional detail and an improved budget with clear units and unit costs provided.
- Snake River goldenweed, a special status plant, is present in this area. Improving the grazing system and upland vegetation will help protect this plant.
- Core sage-grouse habitat surrounds the project site.
- The proposed fencing by the springs will help ensure this spring site is protected.
- This whole property is enrolled in CCAA.
- Since there is vegetation in the area, planting may not be needed if grazing pressure is light.
- The new landowner has a strong commitment to improve upland conditions on a previously heavily overgrazed property along I-84.
- The proposed fencing will be helpful when future restoration projects are implemented. The project has very high potential to improve rangeland resources.



## **Concerns**

- It is difficult to determine the fencing locations on the map.

## **Concluding Analysis**

The project location is highly visible from Interstate 84 near Lime. This section of the Interstate was adversely impacted by a rangeland fire in 2015 affecting both sides of the highway. The previous landowners severely overgrazed the range with excessive numbers of livestock and horses. 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 grazing plan should encourage willow regrowth. The project has high potential to improve upland conditions and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

## **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund Reduced with Conditions

## **Review Team Priority**

13 of 15

## **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$33,836

## **Review Team Conditions**

Remove fence removal component from the budget.

## **Staff Recommendation**

### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

Staff discussed the review team recommendation with the applicant subsequent to project review. The applicant erroneously included fence removal in the OWEB-request instead of installation. Staff removed the fence removal cost from the OWEB amount and then included needed fence installation.

## **Staff Recommendation**

Fund Increased

## **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$52,064

## **Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5050-16052

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Hunting WQ in Sheperd Gulch

**Applicant:** Malheur SWCD

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Malheur

**OWEB Request:** \$44,889

**Total Cost:** \$132,976

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

1. This project is in the Coyote Gulch Priority area with ODA and NRCS Hyline D area where Shepherd Gulch divides D & E area. Eleven miles North from Ontario.2. Water Quality in the Snake River and the 303 listing. Most of the sediment, nutrients, and bacteria in Sheperd Gulch come from polluted irrigation return flows or livestock access to surface water. Historically farmers in the area fertilize their land and a residual amount of chemicals, e-coli and nutrients can be carried off the field with the runoff from flood irrigation. This farm is fairly typical for the area and currently using 100% surface irrigation.3. By installing two (2) partial swipecenter pivots with the accompanying bubbler, pipeline, pump and flowmeter the landowner will be able to achieve a zero water runoff practice that will enhance the downstream water quality on a 43.7 acre farm from entering into Sheperd Gulch4. The partners for this project are the landowner, Malheur County SWCD, NRCS and Owyhee Irrigation District.

### **Review Team Evaluation**

#### **Strengths**

- The project is located in the Hyline Bench priority focus area for ODA and NRCS.
- Steep slopes contribute to high sediment and nutrient runoff.
- Converting from flood irrigation to two pivots will have significant water quality improvement.
- Implementation will eliminate runoff and erosion, which will improve water quality.
- Portions of the field that cannot be irrigated under the pivot will be seeded to dry grain and maintained for bird habitat.

#### **Concerns**

- No significant concerns were identified.

### **Concluding Analysis**

This project is in the Hyline Bench Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS). Coyote Gulch is a 6th field HUC with a 15,300-acre watershed drained by Coyote Gulch and Shepherd Gulch. Runoff from this area eventually flows into Shepard's Gulch and onto the Snake River nearby. 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 on-going agricultural drain monitoring by Malheur SWCD funded by OWEB and DEQ. Implementation will provide substantial water quality benefits due to slope consideration and highly erodible soils. The installed pivots will be programmed to produce zero runoff and installed per NRCS recommendations. Proposed project will provide significant water quality benefits.

**Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

**Review Team Priority**

10 of 15

**Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$44,889

**Review Team Conditions**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$44,889

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5051-16069

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** North Prairie Pipeline - Phase 1

**Applicant:** Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA)

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Wallowa

**OWEB Request:** \$262,105

**Total Cost:** \$1,776,085

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The North Prairie Pipeline will improve conditions in Prairie Creek and the Wallowa River, a tributary to the Grande Ronde River. The project will occur near Joseph, OR in Wallowa County. Irrigators currently divert water from the Wallowa River into the Farmers Ditch, which carries water to farms across 18.7 miles before spilling into North Prairie Creek. The spilled water, known as tailwater, flows through Prairie Creek before entering the Wallowa River. The open ditch captures agricultural runoff and flow in the ditch increases sediment load by erodes the ditch banks, reducing the quality of the tailwater entering these waterways. This tailwater contributes to Prairie Creek and the Wallowa River being included on Oregon's 303(d) list for collectively not meeting water quality standards for sediment, turbidity, fecal coli, E. coli, dissolved oxygen, pH, and other parameters. These water quality impairments limit Chinook salmon and steelhead trout populations in the Wallowa River. The proposed project will construct Phase 1 of a pipeline that, when fully completed, will provide irrigation water to approximately 1,483 acres and will eliminate the need to use approximately 7.9 miles of open ditch to deliver water. The full pipeline will reduce the volume of and improve the quality of irrigation water returning to Prairie Creek. Phase 1 will enable Phase 2, and Phase 2 will realize the water quality benefits achieved from the pipeline. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be providing technical and financial assistance to the project. Wallowa Lake Irrigation District's patrons will be providing technical assistance and project management throughout the life of the project.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The completed pipeline will result in improved water quality in Prairie Creek because the irrigation conveyance will be through a pipeline instead of open-earthen ditches.
- The irrigation conveyance efficiency will be improved due to improved delivery. Piping the ditch will eliminate water lost to evaporation and seepage. In addition, piping will reduce the amount of tailwater transported to Prairie Creek.
- Landowners will be able to irrigate using significantly less power, which will reduce overall cost of the operations.
- There is significant cost-share from NRCS.

##### **Concerns**

- There does not appear to be local participation and coordination from the community.

- The overall project costs are unreasonably high on all budget elements compared to similar projects. The application would be strengthened by an explanation on these project costs, how they were determined, and how they are necessary for successful project implementation. For example, it is unclear why construction oversight is needed by the applicant when NRCS should be doing the construction oversight.
- Mobilization costs are unreasonably high.
- It is unclear why the budget included costs for topsoil when previously funded lateral projects typically used the soil and material that was previously dug from the trenching.
- It is unclear why the 8 miles of ditch would not be filled-in. A better justification for the flood relief and explanation is needed.

## **Concluding Analysis**

The project is located in upper Prairie Creek where OWEB previously funded several spur ditch piping projects. Prairie Creek was also the site of water quality monitoring 20 years ago that was repeated recently, and this data indicated an improvement in water quality. Prairie Creek has significant amounts of tailwater as a result of the amount of water needed to be conveyed down spur ditches to run irrigation pumps. Prairie Creek has spring Chinook, steelhead, and introduced sockeye.

The project has very high potential for future water quality improvements. However, this application seems premature. There does not appear to be local support or coordination with the local NRCS office. While the application was well-written and detailed, the overall project cost is very high compared to similar projects. Overall, future implementation will have significant water quality benefits. If application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to demonstrate local partner participation and support, provide justification for leaving 8 miles of the ditch open for flood control, explain the location of the pipeline endpoint, and include detail on project costs that were higher compared to similar previously implemented projects. NRCS' role also needs to be articulated. 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

## **Review Team Conditions**

None

## **Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5052-15865

**Project Type:** Technical Assistance

**Project Name:** Wallowa River - McDaniel Phase 3  
Technical Design

**Applicant:** Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Wallowa

**OWEB Request:** \$49,987

**Total Cost:** \$117,503

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The Wallowa River-McDaniel Project is located in Tier 1 habitat at RM 32 of the Wallowa River, tributary to the Grand Ronde River, near Lostine, Oregon. Summer steelhead and spring Chinook salmon spawning and rearing occurs in the project reach. Reaches 1 and 2 of the Wallowa River-McDaniel Channel Reconstruction Project were implemented in 2004 and 2007, respectively. These projects created a mile of new river channel that increased sinuosity, accessible floodplain, habitat complexity, suitable spawning substrate, and pool quantity and quality benefiting ESA listed salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. The landowner, Doug McDaniel, has requested that additional measures be implemented on his property to benefit salmon and steelhead. Additional opportunities exist in this important Tier 1 reach of the Wallowa River to address limiting factors for ESA listed salmon and steelhead and to enhance measures implemented in 2004-2007. This project will focus on increasing and improving available spawning and rearing habitat. Project design is expected to include 1) floodplain creation and connection, 2) wood augmentation to existing wood structures, 3) additional mainstem wood habitat structures, 4) off-channel habitat such as swales, side-channels, and alcoves, and 5) riparian planting and protection. Project partners include the landowners, ODFW, NPT, and GRMW.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The project will provide designs for the third phase of a river restoration project. Phases I and II were constructed in 2004 and 2007. Phase III will build on the success of the previous two phases.
- The previously implemented phases were very effective. This next phase will expand that benefit.
- Snorkel surveys indicate Chinook are spawning in the recently constructed side channels from phases I and II.
- The project site is located in Tier1 of the Atlas prioritization process for BPA indicating this is a high priority area for the proposed habitat.
- Future construction of the side channel will provide significant benefit to anadromous fish habitat.
- The landowner has a stewardship ethic, is willing to assist with the project, and is motivated.
- This type of project has been deemed to be effective for aquatic resources.

##### **Concerns**



- The project is likely located in redband habitat, but there is not enough data to determine this.
- Contractor mileage was included in the OWEB travel budget category of the request and should be included in the contracted services budget category as part of their total bid.
- The application should include detail regarding redd counts, spawning surveys, or other information collected.
- The applicant should have provided lessons learned and other monitoring that indicates previous success.
- It is unclear from the application what the anticipated survival rate of 23,756 plants is, and whether this number of plants is needed in a future design.
- The number of hours, hourly rates, and bids for overall costs was not provided with the application. The budget's lump sum approach made it difficult to understand anticipated costs.

## **Concluding Analysis**

This technical assistance project will provide essential designs for the third phase of a river restoration effort. The future restoration project will lead to construction of essential side channel habitat that benefits ESA-listed steelhead, Chinook salmon, bull trout, and also redband trout and lamprey. Improving lamprey habitat is an important objective for the Nez Perce Tribe. Designs are needed to provide future floodplain connectivity, a new side channel, alcove, and swale. This technical assistance is essential to provide those designs. It is unclear why a conservation easement will only be for 15 years, given the amount of funding spent on the previous projects as well as the amount anticipated for the third phase. The future restoration project will have significant merit to targeted species, and therefore, this design is essential to implement Phase III.

## **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

## **Review Team Priority**

1 of 2

## **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$49,780

## **Review Team Conditions**

None

## **Staff Recommendation**

### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

## **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$49,780

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5053-15949

**Project Type:** Technical Assistance

**Project Name:** Harney Basin Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems\_Nov2017

**Applicant:** The Nature Conservancy

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Harney

**OWEB Request:** \$48,976

**Total Cost:** \$66,491

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

This project will take place in the Malheur Lakes Basin (also known as the Harney Basin), located principally in Harney County, which includes the towns of Hines, Burns, Frenchglen, and Crane. This watershed is a closed basin and drains major tributaries (Silvies, Blitzen, Silver) and well as minor ones (e.g., Poison, Prater, Rattlesnake, Cow). Increased pumping over the last decades has resulted in groundwater declines, potentially causing harm to senior water users and rivers, wetlands, and springs. Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) has initiated two projects to address these declines and develop solutions for sustainable water management: a U.S. Geological Survey-OWRD collaborative groundwater study, and a place-based planning grant to the community. Something needed for both of these studies to be successful is a quantification of how groundwater declines have affected freshwater ecosystems and species, and a determination of what actions can be taken to protect them. However, neither project has a plan for how to do this. This project will fill this critical gap by funding analyses to identify which ecosystems and species are dependent on groundwater discharge, what their current ecological condition is, and how their groundwater supply has changed over the two decades of increased groundwater pumping. Final deliverables will include maps of groundwater-dependent ecosystems, a report assessing their current condition, and an analysis of how their condition has changed over time as compared to increased pumping and/or climatic changes. Key project partners include the Harney County Watershed Council, Harney County Court, USGS, OWRD, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative (HBWI) has an on-going OWEB FIP that incorporates LiDAR data for fish analysis. Data collected from this project is complementary to that effort and other monitoring in the basin.
- Collected data will help focus future efforts. Additional data can then be added to the groundwater survey.
- The applicant has a high likelihood of success because of their community involvement.
- Positive letters of support were provided, including one from USGS.
- The application removed the use of drones, which are no longer part of the proposal.
- Waiting for landowner outreach is beneficial until final analysis of the collected data is completed.

- After identifying and contacting landowners in the future, drones can then be utilized.
- The methodology was well described.

### **Concerns**

- It is unclear whether this project is somewhat premature and duplicative of other agency work.
- The budget needs additional detail as it has lump sums and there is no detail provided regarding how costs were determined.
- It is unclear why the remote sensing analysis is necessary, perhaps a vegetation study can be done instead to meet this need.

### **Concluding Analysis**

The application was submitted in the last grant cycle, but was not recommended. It was previously unclear if coordination among the various groups was occurring. With this application submission, it appears this coordination is happening. Ecological services are missing from the larger planning group because it is mostly irrigation-outcome based. The project will dovetail well into both USGS' work and OWRD's placed-based planning. This technical assistance will fund analysis to ascertain which ecosystems and species are dependent on groundwater discharge, map this information, and determine change over time.

The revised application provides a higher likelihood of success since there is a direct correlation to the USGS groundwater study as well as OWRD's placed-based planning effort. Neither of those studies will incorporate ecological values into the final water management plans and this effort fills that void. The project is essential to understand the effects of irrigation groundwater pumping on freshwater ecosystems. Technical assistance will help inform how groundwater declines affect freshwater ecosystems. Since the Harney Basin's water rights are over-allocated, understanding the adverse effects on senior water rights, rivers and wetland systems is essential.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

2 of 2

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$48,976

### **Review Team Conditions**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$48,976

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5054-15952

**Project Type:** Technical Assistance

**Project Name:** Lower Clear Creek Diversion and Restoration Designs

**Applicant:** Powder Basin WC

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Baker

**OWEB Request:** \$74,109

**Total Cost:** \$98,269

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

Clear Creek is located in eastern Baker County and is critical bull trout migratory habitat, and supports a population of resident redband trout. PBWC has been working with six landowners on lower Clear Creek, near the confluence with Pine Creek, to improve conditions for native fish. Preliminary engineering designs identified three agricultural diversions within the project area that were recommended for replacement. This Technical Assistance proposal will fund further engineering work on the three diversions within the project area to remove fish passage barriers, prevent fish entrainment within irrigation systems, provide better control of diverted flow and remove in-stream disturbance from diversion maintenance. These improvements would remove two of the six current barriers to fish passage on Clear Creek, making the goal of achieving a fish passable Clear Creek within reach. Funds are also included in the proposal to advance preliminary restoration designs that have been developed for four properties near the diversion structures. Advancing the designs from 30% conceptual designs to 60% designs will provide the necessary detail to allow us to apply for funding to implement the restoration component. We are currently partnering with four landowners and have applied for matching funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- Clear Creek is a high-risk creek that experienced significant flooding in 2006 and 2010.
- Two of the three irrigation users are willing to have a fish screen on their diversion, which is a positive step to maintain fish passage.
- Replacing the proposed diversions and fencing are positive future restoration.
- 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.
- Powder Watershed Council's initial contact with the landowners was a positive start.

##### **Concerns**

- The budget has some lump sums that made reviewing the actual costs difficult.
- Combining a request for three fish screens for a 100% design and 60% design for instream restoration is confusing.

- This seems to be a piecemeal approach to obtaining designs. This incremental approach will take significant time and could add costs. This is a flashy system and it is constantly moving. If a high-flow event occurs, the previously collected survey data will be irrelevant. This is a questionable approach to obtaining designs and seems inefficient. A better approach is to do one diversion at a time, complete that design, and move on to the next diversion.
- These three preliminary designs have not been tested.

## **Concluding Analysis**

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 section of Creek. OWEB previously funded that initial technical assistance.

This request to advance the 30% designs was submitted previously and not recommended. This proposal is requesting designs for Clear Creek, a tributary of Pine Creek near Halfway, which has critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout. This application requests technical assistance to advance three irrigation diversion designs to the 100% design. The Peer, Pollock and Wilmarth diversions were previously funded to the 30% design. Advancing restoration designs on Clear Creek from previously funded 30% design to 60% design is also requested.

Combining diversion designs to 100% and restoration designs to 60% is confusing. The applicant should consider splitting the project into separate applications, with one landowner per application for each of the diversions. The restoration needs to also be a separate application. This requested technical assistance is a piecemeal approach and very time consuming. While this section of Clear Creek will greatly benefit from future restoration work, 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

## **Review Team Conditions**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

None



## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5055-15953

**Project Type:** Monitoring

**Project Name:** Powder Basin Long-term Water  
Quality Monitoring

**Applicant:** Powder Basin WC

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Baker

**OWEB Request:** \$30,975

**Total Cost:** \$65,651

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

For the past five years PBWC has been conducting detailed water quality monitoring at 72 sites throughout the Powder Basin to establish baseline conditions related to temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen and turbidity. As this effort comes to a close, we would like to continue monitoring at 29 of those sites in order to develop long-term trends and continue monitoring conditions. Continuing the program at a smaller scale would still allow us to detect small changes near sampling sites and large changes at a broad scale which could be used to determine if more detailed sampling was needed. In addition, the program has served as a way to engage the public and foster involvement in watershed stewardship. There is considerable support within the community for continuing the volunteer water quality monitoring program, including from the landowners who have granted us permission to sample from their properties, from three high schools who have integrated sampling into their curriculum and from community members who have dedicated themselves to the program. Continuing to utilize the community network we have established and the momentum we have built would be an efficient use of resources.

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### **Monitoring Team Evaluation**

#### **Monitoring Team Strengths**

- The applicant is using volunteers to help collect the data, so there is a strong community outreach component that the OPMT acknowledged.

- The applicant has good experience collecting similar data and is capable of collecting the grab data.
- The applicant reviewed the data they have collected over the last five years to refine their sampling network in this proposal.
- The continuous temperature data collection is a good addition to this proposal.

### **Monitoring Team Concerns**

- The OPMT noted that several of the monitoring sites are in the headwaters and there was concern related to the limited distribution of sites where active land management activities are occurring.
- It is unclear if the data will be used to inform USFS and landowners to target locations with poor water quality, given that letters of support were not provided by them.
- The basic field parameters that are proposed to be collected once a month have a limited application. It would be more beneficial to collect continuous dissolved oxygen monitors at fewer sites than grabs at a high number of sites.
- The application did not discuss the methods to operate the continuous water temperature loggers, QA/QC the data and manage it for all 29 sites over three years.

### **Monitoring Team Comments**

- Work with ODA and the SWCD to review the Agriculture Water Quality Management Plan to reflect on the available data and consider different parameters and sites to sample in the future.
- Communicate with the DEQ basin coordinator to better understand what parameters they could collect to contribute to the TMDL development effort.

### **Benefit to Oregon Plan**

High-0%, Medium-75%, Low-25%

### **Certainty of Success**

High-38%, Medium-38%, Low-25%

### **Review Team Evaluation**

#### **Strengths**

- The project has strong support from the community and volunteers. The monitoring effort has been a positive activity for the Powder Watershed Council and is part of their outreach
- Obtaining an additional three years of monitoring would be positive for the dataset.
- The Powder Watershed Council's monitoring is the only way DEQ can obtain water quality information on private lands. This is a local dataset and is viewed with less suspicion than if DEQ were to produce this data.
- The community and volunteers are engaged in the project.
- This is complementary to temperature monitoring that Idaho Power collects.

## Concerns

- About half of the sites are on Forest Service lands, sites lower in the basin are needed to obtain data on agricultural lands.
- Application would benefit from information on how the data collection sites were selected and how the monitoring data is being communicated to the agricultural community. This may have contributed to the lack of sites in the lower basin.
- The data collection sites are not in the Ag Water Quality Management Plan area.

## Concluding Analysis

The Powder Basin Watershed Council (PBWC) has been collecting this data for the past five years. Previous funding for the monitoring was from OWEB and DEQ's 319 Program. PBWC's objectives are to determine if there are any large-scale changes in water quality parameters affecting the Powder, Burnt or Pine Creek basins. They also want to determine if small-scale changes are occurring where sampling clusters are located. PBWC's monitoring program has engaged many volunteers and collected data at 72 sites. With this application PBWC plans to reduce the number of monitoring sites to 29, which will enable them to still detect changes in water quality. There is considerable support from landowners, local schools and volunteers for this effort. Collected data on private land is beneficial to DEQ's TMDL effort in the Powder Basin. The data will also help to detect long-term trends and sudden changes.

Data collection sites are concentrated on public lands in the upper basin, however, data collection is needed on private lands where restoration efforts are occurring or planned. This will also help to re-engage landowners. This project has merit in engaging local partners and landowners.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

## Review Team Priority

3 of 3

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$30,975

## Review Team Conditions

Include more sites lower in the basin on private ground to better understand management activities; coordinate with local partners and other agencies.

## Staff Recommendation

### Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5056-15960

**Project Type:** Monitoring

**Project Name:** No Mo Flo Without Info: Installing and Maintaining Gauges in the Malheur

**Applicant:** Malheur WC

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Malheur

**OWEB Request:** \$136,500

**Total Cost:** \$171,572

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

1) Project Location: Northern Malheur County. 11 drains emptying into the Malheur, Owyhee, and the Snake Rivers. One site on a creek, Willow Creek. 2) The Malheur Soil and Water Conservation District and Malheur Watershed Council have been monitoring the irrigated Ag portion of the County intensively for years. We are constantly refining our sampling designs and the monitoring programs. A continuous measurement of flow to calculate pollutant load is an important refinement we need. We need to consider that restoration could be changing what we are measuring. Especially in our focus areas. Concentrations maybe increasing or remaining the same because there is less tail water. 3) OWEB funds will be used to purchase and install 7 new flow measuring weirs, and various water level measuring devices to compute a continuous stream flow record that will eventually be used to calculate a pollutant load estimate for each site. The funds will also be used to maintain the 5 previously funded gauges, conduct data analysis, and collect water samples for one year. We have funds from 319 program to cover sampling for the second year. 4) Malheur SWCD, Malheur WSC, BOR, DEQ 319 program, Owyhee Irrigation District 1) Project Location: Northern Malheur County. 11 drains emptying into the Malheur, Owyhee, and the Snake Rivers. One site on a creek, Willow Creek. 2) The Malheur Soil and Water Conservation District and Malheur Watershed Council have been monitoring the irrigated Ag portion of the County intensively for years. We are constantly refining our sampling designs and the monitoring programs. A continuous measurement of flow to calculate pollutant load is an important refinement we need. We need to consider that restoration could be changing what we are measuring. Especially in our focus areas. Concentrations maybe increasing or remaining the same because there is less tail water. 3) OWEB funds will be used to purchase and install 7 new flow measuring weirs, and various water level measuring devices to compute a continuous stream flow record that will eventually be used to calculate a pollutant load estimate for each site. The funds will also be used to maintain the 5 previously funded gauges, conduct data analysis, and collect water samples for one year. We have funds from 319 program to cover sampling for the second year. 4) Malheur SWCD, Malheur WSC, BOR, DEQ 319 program, Owyhee Irrigation District

#### **Monitoring Team Evaluation**

##### **Monitoring Team Strengths**

- This application proposes to collect flow data that is needed in this area as part of the TMDL implementation tracking process.

- The flow data will help interpret the water quality grab sample data to develop loads and track the effectiveness of restoration efforts.
- The locations of the gages are very well placed and the data being obtained are needed. It will provide useful and shareable data, if analyzed.
- The applicant is working with an experienced contractor that has good knowledge of gaging station installation and maintenance.

### **Monitoring Team Concerns**

- The OPMT was concerned that the application states that the stage data from many sites will be managed and rating curves developed in spreadsheets. The large amount of time-series data and various rating curves for all of the sites would be better done with specialized software/database to effectively manage and report these data.
- The application lacked a level of detail related to the intricacies of collecting high quality data using the acoustic Doppler sensors in the canals. This equipment is challenging to calibrate to collect high quality data.
- It was not obvious if all of the data could be collected using wadeable methods and there was no discussion about how to accurately measure flows if non-wadeable conditions existed.
- The application did not explain how OWRD and USGS are involved with this project to better understand how their expertise could be leveraged and/or data could be shared with them.
- The application cites older USGS methods for taking a flow measurement, and there was no citation for methods to install a gaging station and generate a rating curve to develop and QA/QC discharge records.
- The previous stream gaging grant awarded in 2015 was to install 8 gages and the grant application states the grantee has installed only 5 gages to date. It is unclear if they will be able to maintain the previous gages and install an additional 7 gages.

### **Monitoring Team Comments**

Utilize the following resources and cite these methods for installing and operating stream gages:

- General guidance on operations and installation of stage-discharge gaging stations. Sauer, V.B., and Turnipseed, D.P., 2010, Stage measurement at gaging stations: U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods book 3, chap. A7, 45 p. (Also available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/tm3-a7/>)
- Guidance on operations and installation of velocity index gaging stations. Levesque, V.A., and Oberg, K.A., 2012, Computing discharge using the index velocity method: U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods 3–A23, 148 p. (Also available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/3a23/>)
- Levels-How, when, and where to measure elevation at gage stations. Kenney, T.A., 2010, Levels at gaging stations: U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods book 3, chapter A19, 60 p. (Also available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/tm3A19/>)
- Guidance on the use of pressure transducers as recording gages. Freeman, L.A., Carpenter, M.C., Rosenberry, D.O., Rousseau, J.P., Unger, R., and J. McLean, 2004, Use of Submersible Pressure Transducers: U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods book 8, chapter A, 65 p. (Also available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/twri/twri8a3/pdf/twri8-a3.pdf>)
- General guidance on taking discharge measurements including best measurement practices,

descriptions of various current meters, and directions on ratings. Turnipseed, D.P., and Sauer, V.B., 2010, Discharge measurements at gaging stations: U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods book 3, chap. A8, 87 p. (Also available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/tm3-a8/>)

### **Benefit to Oregon Plan**

High-63%, Medium-25%, Low-13%

### **Certainty of Success**

High-0%, Medium-75%, Low-25%

### **Review Team Evaluation**

#### **Strengths**

- Flow monitoring will help to determine if progress is being made in the focus areas designated by ODA, NRCS or where the watershed council and SWCD are concentrating efforts.
- Data will be beneficial to DEQ's Malheur TMDL. The proposed gauges will help cover several areas that are contributing to the TMDL and provide flow data needed by DEQ.
- Monitoring sites are located in DEQ priority areas.
- Continuous flow monitoring will lead to better management in the future and improved water quality.
- Long term monitoring is needed in this area.
- This monitoring helps on a larger scale to document restoration improvement, and this project takes the burden of monitoring off the restoration project and puts it into a special program.
- There is confidence in the contractor and the previous monitoring they have done.
- With the addition of these 7 new flow-measuring weirs, there will be a total of 12 gauging stations strategically located in the basin.

#### **Concerns**

- No significant concerns were identified.

### **Concluding Analysis**

The applicant proposes to purchase and install 7 additional flow-measuring weirs, which are water-level measuring devices that compute the continuous streamflow record. The continuous measurement of flow to calculate pollutant load is an important refinement as a single instantaneous measurement of flow is not useful. Flow data will aid in evaluating agricultural projects that promote the reduction of tailwater and runoff. Flow data will provide a more accurate depiction of the water quality improvement as a result of the numerous projects implemented in the Owyhee and Malheur basins. Providing additional gauges to monitor flow is very important to the TMDL process. The data is also crucial to be able to more accurately evaluate water quality as a result of implementing many projects over the last 20 years.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

**Review Team Priority**

1 of 3

**Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$136,500

**Review Team Conditions**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$136,500

**Staff Conditions**

None



## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5057-16033

**Project Type:** Monitoring

**Project Name:** Harney Groundwater Management -  
Filling the evapotranspiration (ET) gap

**Applicant:** Harney County Watershed Council

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Harney

**OWEB Request:** \$311,174

**Total Cost:** \$497,597

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

This project will take place in the Harney Basin, located in Harney County. This watershed is a closed basin that drains three major tributaries. In parts of the Harney Basin groundwater levels have been in decline for the past several years. OWRD placed a moratorium on new and pending groundwater applications that will be in place until they complete a five year groundwater study to better characterize the groundwater system. One of the most important outcomes of the groundwater study is a water budget that estimates the recharge, discharge, and change in underground storage. In the Harney Basin most of the recharge is discharged by bare soil evaporation and evapotranspiration (ET) from native groundwater dependent plants (phreatophytes) and irrigated crops (via groundwater pumping). Estimating recharge from precipitation for a basin is difficult and often has significant uncertainty, and is therefore typically quantified by estimating natural discharge. There is currently an information gap around discharge or water loss in the basin from ET, which is presumed to be the largest source of discharge. The crucial gap in local actual ET, potential ET, and precipitation data can be addressed by deploying eddy covariance flux towers that take local measurements of ET both from irrigated agriculture and native groundwater dependent plants (phreatophyte plant communities). This data will be processed and compared to satellite-based estimates of ET to develop a baseline of basin-wide ET under current conditions. Groundwater systems are complex systems and many partners (USGS, Desert Research Institute, OWRD, DOGAMI, The Harney County Watershed Council, and The Nature Conservancy) are all working to gather data that will be used to understand the hydrogeology, flow paths, and water budget. The proposed work is taking place in the context of a much larger monitoring and watershed planning effort, and would fill a crucial gap in funding for a very important dataset. This project will take place in the Harney Basin, located in Harney County. This watershed is a closed basin that drains three major tributaries. In parts of the Harney Basin groundwater levels have been in decline for the past several years. OWRD placed a moratorium on new and pending groundwater applications that will be in place until they complete a five year groundwater study to better characterize the groundwater system. One of the most important outcomes of the groundwater study is a water budget that estimates the recharge, discharge, and change in underground storage. In the Harney Basin most of the recharge is discharged by bare soil evaporation and evapotranspiration (ET) from native groundwater dependent plants (phreatophytes) and irrigated crops (via groundwater pumping). Estimating recharge from precipitation for a basin is difficult and often has significant uncertainty, and is therefore typically quantified by estimating natural discharge. There is currently an information gap around discharge or

water loss in the basin from ET, which is presumed to be the largest source of discharge. The crucial gap in local actual ET, potential ET, and precipitation data can be addressed by deploying eddy covariance flux towers that take local measurements of ET both from irrigated agriculture and native groundwater dependent plants (phreatophyte plant communities). This data will be processed and compared to satellite-based estimates of ET to develop a baseline of basin-wide ET under current conditions. Groundwater systems are complex systems and many partners (USGS, Desert Research Institute, OWRD, DOGAMI, The Harney County Watershed Council, and The Nature Conservancy) are all working to gather data that will be used to understand the hydrogeology, flow paths, and water budget. The proposed work is taking place in the context of a much larger monitoring and watershed planning effort, and would fill a crucial gap in funding for a very important dataset.

## **Monitoring Team Evaluation**

### **Monitoring Team Strengths**

- The applicant has worked diligently during the last ten years to address groundwater issues in the basin.
- This project is important for the place-based planning effort and the OWRD/USGS groundwater study that is ongoing.
- The information generated will also benefit the irrigators to improve crop production and conserve water.
- The expertise of the contractor is needed due to the technical complexity of the monitoring and analysis of the data.
- The contractor has a good amount of match contributing to this project.

### **Monitoring Team Concerns**

- It was not stated in this proposal that this project has a connection to the previous OWEB monitoring grant that was funded last year to collect groundwater levels.
- The OPMT discussed that the contracting services were very high. However, they recognized that the scientific expertise of the contractor is important to completing high-quality data collection and analysis.
- The OPMT questioned how the two site locations were established and were unclear about if this number of sites was adequate to establish the ET values and the relationship with the remote sensing data. Additional information about if there are micro-climates that could affect these data exist, or if this issue was considered in site selection, would have been helpful.

### **Monitoring Team Comments**

- Consider one year of funding to reduce costs to continue this monitoring and submit another application with a refined budget after one year of work is completed.

### **Benefit to Oregon Plan**

High-75%, Medium-13%, Low-13%

## **Certainty of Success**

High-100%

## **Review Team Evaluation**

### **Strengths**

- The applicant proposes to collect evapotranspiration (ET) data in conjunction with an ongoing groundwater study.
- The data will be beneficial if it will be used by local users and to help inform the groundwater study.

### **Concerns**

- The budget has high costs and could benefit from additional explanation on how these costs were determined.
- The application read more like a research project and did not demonstrate a clear connection to the watershed benefit.
- There may already be alfalfa ET rates data available for Harney County that could be used for comparison.
- It is unclear what the value added is for this ET data because some data has already been published.
- The logic of installing the eddy covariance flux tower at a pivot point is unclear. Conditions occurring at the pivot point can be very different and additional water could accumulate and give an inaccurate reading.

## **Concluding Analysis**

OWRD and USGS are participating in an ongoing groundwater study in the Harney basin. The study will produce a water budget to estimate recharge, discharge, and change in storage. The data gap needed to inform the groundwater study is actual ET, potential ET and precipitation data, which would be collected by employing two eddy covariance flux towers. The information will also help inform OWRD's ongoing placed-based planning. This project's goal is to accurately quantify baseline groundwater losses to ET, which causes the greatest loss of water from the basin. Understanding its dynamics is crucial for water resource management. This project may fill in gaps in data; however, some of this information may already exist or AgriMet stations could be used for comparative purposes. As a result, the cost-benefit for the investment is unclear for the high costs.

## **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Do Not Fund

## **Review Team Priority**

N/A

## **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Review Team Conditions**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

None

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5058-16068

**Project Type:** Monitoring

**Project Name:** Monitoring the Effects of Management on Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation (MIM)

**Applicant:** Wallowa Resources

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Wallowa

**OWEB Request:** \$22,000

**Total Cost:** \$29,976

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The USFS, Wallowa Resources and Eastern Oregon University initiated the Eagle Cap Partnership to achieve the common goal of stewardship, and enable a larger and growing body of partners to participate in the social and scientific mission of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The Partnership seeks, amongst other objectives, to target civic engagement in natural resources management. Toward that end, the WWNF and WR are developing a collaborative range monitoring initiative. Other partners will include grazing permittees, the Soil and Water Conservation District, and Eastern Oregon University. The WWNF has identified 142 pastures (across 33 allotments) with 182 streams that host ESA listed fish. The partners want to establish approximately 182 MIM sites (over three field seasons) - mostly representative sites of the larger pasture area, with a few reference sites to understand potential condition. The interest in riparian status and trend data by range managers, wildlife, aquatic and fisheries biologist and ecologist continues to increase and outpace the ability of the Forest Service Range program to collect the data. This OWEB Grant is seeking funding for the first field season (2018) to establish the first 50 MIM sites. Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) provides information for managers and landowners to adaptively manage riparian resources. The MIM protocol is designed to be objective, efficient, and effective for monitoring streambanks, stream channels, and streamside riparian vegetation. Indicators and procedures monitor impacts of livestock and other large herbivores on wadable streams (usually less than 10 m wide). The USFS, Wallowa Resources and Eastern Oregon University initiated the Eagle Cap Partnership to achieve the common goal of stewardship, and enable a larger and growing body of partners to participate in the social and scientific mission of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The Partnership seeks, amongst other objectives, to target civic engagement in natural resources management. Toward that end, the WWNF and WR are developing a collaborative range monitoring initiative. Other partners will include grazing permittees, the Soil and Water Conservation District, and Eastern Oregon University. The WWNF has identified 142 pastures (across 33 allotments) with 182 streams that host ESA listed fish. The partners want to establish approximately 182 MIM sites (over three field seasons) - mostly representative sites of the larger pasture area, with a few reference sites to understand potential condition. The interest in riparian status and trend data by range managers, wildlife, aquatic and fisheries biologist and ecologist continues to increase and outpace the ability of the Forest Service Range program to collect the data. This OWEB Grant is seeking funding for the first field season (2018) to establish the first 50 MIM sites. Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) provides information

for managers and landowners to adaptively manage riparian resources. The MIM protocol is designed to be objective, efficient, and effective for monitoring streambanks, stream channels, and streamside riparian vegetation. Indicators and procedures monitor impacts of livestock and other large herbivores on wadable streams (usually less than 10 m wide).

## **Monitoring Team Evaluation**

### **Monitoring Team Strengths**

- The OPMT felt the MIM methods are suitable for measuring grazing impacts to riparian areas. This method has a good combination of technical and numerical measurements that are straightforward and repeatable.
- The OPMT liked the participation with USFS and that there will be 15% QA/QC of the sites by USFS.
- Grazing permittees are listed as partners on the project.
- The costs are very low and have potential to contribute valuable information to the adaptive management process.

### **Monitoring Team Concerns**

- There was some concern raised that wild ungulate browsing could make interpretation of the results challenging. No information was provided in the application that described if/how the monitoring protocol addresses this potential issue.
- The grantee is seeking very specific data for a very specific area, so questions about transferability of the data were raised.

### **Monitoring Team Comments**

None

### **Benefit to Oregon Plan**

High-50%, Medium-50%

### **Certainty of Success**

High-63%, Medium-38%

## **Review Team Evaluation**

### **Strengths**

- Project includes a technically sound method to ascertain riparian vigor after grazing.
- The criteria are what the US Forest Service (USFS) needs for NOAA monitoring.
- Collected data is valuable and will be used by outside agencies.
- Applicant is trying to establish trends, and collected data could be used for longer term monitoring and not just short term.

- Data will help establish stubble height requirements so that the grazing requirements are suitable for all the solutions.
- The project provides a significant cost-benefit for the investment.

### **Concerns**

- Collecting the data is labor-intensive.

### **Concluding Analysis**

The project will provide status-and-trend monitoring to help guide land management. Long-term stream and riparian monitoring will prove quantitative evaluation for functioning conditions of streams' physical condition. The goal is to provide baseline data to inform management decisions and activities that move streams to desired future conditions. The data will be used for NOAA monitoring on streams containing ESA-listed aquatic species. The proposed project is a cost-effective method to collect data. It is important information to collect to ascertain riparian vigor after ungulate browsing. Collected data will help the USFS work with permittees on land management.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

2 of 3

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$22,000

### **Review Team Conditions**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$22,000

### **Staff Conditions**

None



## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Number:** 218-5059-15945

**Project Type:** Stakeholder Engagement

**Project Name:** Baker County Invasive Species  
Program Coordinator

**Applicant:** Baker County

**Basin:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Baker

**OWEB Request:** \$16,848

**Total Cost:** \$21,848

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The Baker County Invasive Species Program is dedicated to the management and control of invasive species and noxious weeds within the boundaries of Baker County, Oregon. Invasive species, including noxious weeds are impacting sage grouse and other wildlife habitat and have a detrimental effect on the economy. The Invasive Species Program has been developed by the County to address local invasive species issues by a County employee dedicated to the Program. The current system for invasive species control through public/private partnership is not working as there is no local staff dedicated solely to Baker County for its citizens to access. Simply, communication and engagement is not occurring at the Baker County level and local citizens are requesting a staffed office to which they can go and receive help. This OWEB application is for partial funding of a Coordinator position for the development of stakeholder relationships, partnerships on projects, increasing public awareness through outreach. The Coordinator will work to develop partnerships between public and private land managers to address invasive species on a landscape scale and increase public awareness. The remainder of the position funding will be submitted through the Oregon State Weed Board application process as it includes multiple, developed projects on public and private land. Project partners include federal, state, and local government agencies, private land managers, and non-governmental organizations.

### **Review Team Evaluation**

#### **Strengths**

- There is currently no outreach coordinator in Baker County.
- The proposed project is a needed role and the work is especially important for having an indirect effect on water quality.

#### **Concerns**

- It is unclear if this proposed coordination is lacking in Baker County.
- Some weed districts are not mentioned in the application.
- It is unclear whether the applicant has a related track record for the proposed work or whether an existing entity already doing this work would be better suited instead of starting another program.
- Application would be strengthened by letters of support to provide evidence of partner support from other entities.

## **Concluding Analysis**

The Invasive Species program developed by Baker County is seeking to address local invasive species issues. The application seeks partial funding to develop a partnership between public and private on a landscape scale. Workshops, herbicide give-aways, and media outreach will be part of the project. It is unclear from the application whether the Baker County weed department is involved and there is no evidence of coordination with Tri-County CWMA, Baker County, and federal personnel currently addressing noxious weeds issues on public land. It is unclear if any coordination is occurring or if this effort is being conducted independent of other entities. If application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide information on the roles of Baker County Weed Department and Tri-County CWMA; and explanation on the project need or gap that is being filled in addressing weeds in the region.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Do Not Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

N/A

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Review Team Conditions**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

None

### **Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

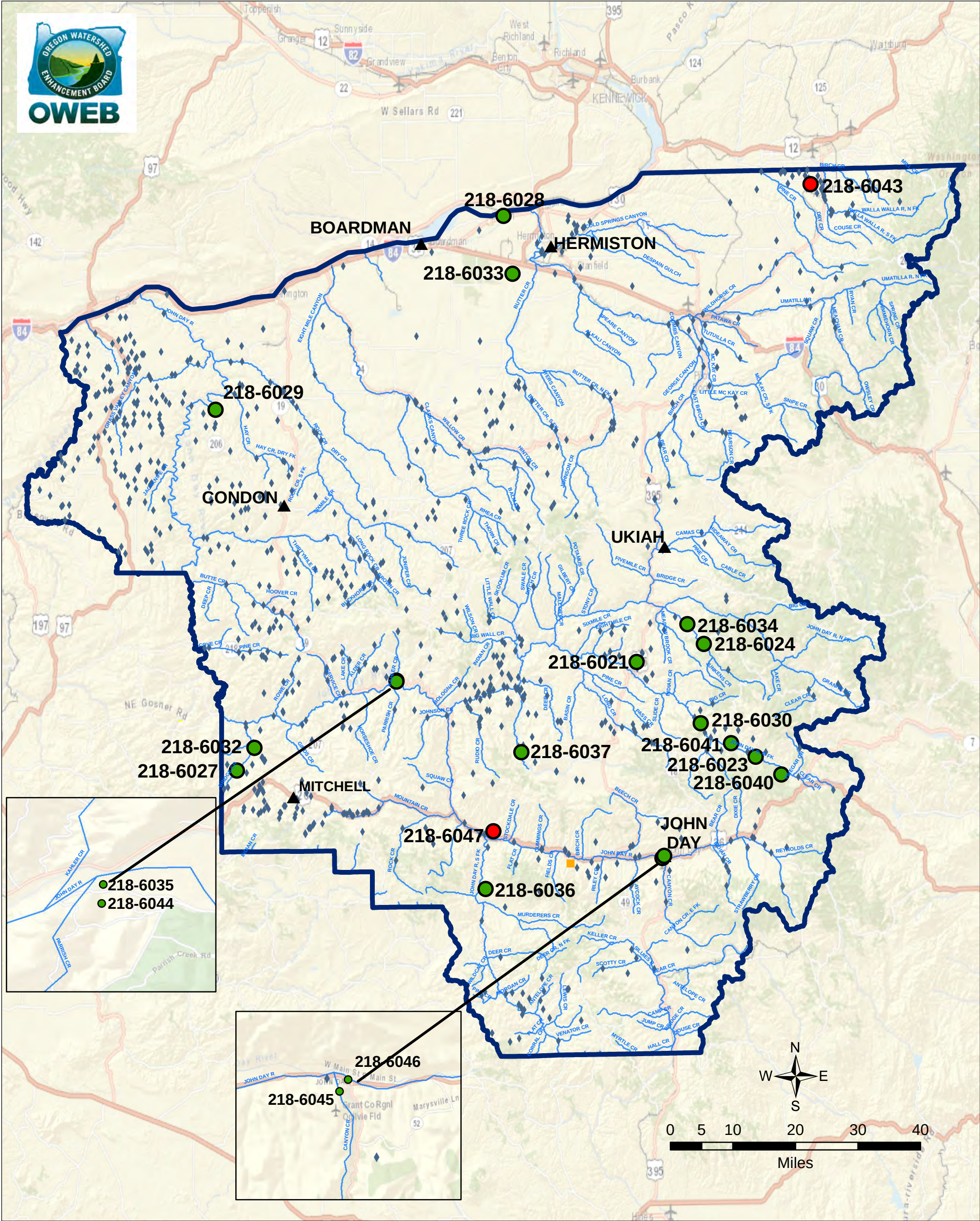
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### **Staff Conditions**

None



# Mid-Columbia - Region 6 Fall 2017 Funding Recommendations



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Software: ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1 NAD 83 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl OWEB- PK Wills Fall 20180327

## Fall 2017 Applications

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

## Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- ~ Streams
- Region 1 Boundary

## Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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## Region 6 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

**Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin****Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order**

| <b>Project #</b> | <b>Grantee</b>                                  | <b>Project Title</b>                              | <b>Brief Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Amount Recommended</b> | <b>County</b> |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 218-6032         | Wheeler SWCD                                    | Bridge Bear Phase 4                               | This project on Bridge Creek will add various types of wood structures to encourage high flows out onto the floodplain within a protected buffer, increasing quality habitat for both fish and wildlife.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 71,368                    | Wheeler       |
| 218-6024         | Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation | Desolation Creek Upper Reach 6 Implementation     | This project will restore a mile of Desolation Creek's important fish and wildlife habitat by improving the river's ability to allow high flows onto floodplains and into side channels, reducing the damage caused by storm floodwaters.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 190,176                   | Grant         |
| 218-6035         | Bridge Creek WC                                 | Lower Parrish Creek Restoration                   | This holistic proposal will restore 1/2 mile where Parrish Creek enters the John Day River by fencing a large part of the floodplain and creek to keep livestock out, developing a livestock water source outside the protected area, constructing wood structures that mimic beaver dams to catch sediment and direct high flows out onto the floodplain, establish trees and shrubs along the creek, and removing and using juniper branches and logs from 131 acres directly adjacent to the creek. As a part of the project, the landowner is also fencing over a mile of the John Day River to keep livestock off the river. | 106,733                   | Wheeler       |
| 218-6034         | North Fork John Day Watershed Council           | Desolation Creek Wet Meadow Restoration-Phase III | Critical to the flows of Desolation Creek, this project will fence and protect over 25 acres of high-elevation wet meadows from livestock - meadows that serve as important areas for catching and storing rain and snow, later to release into the creek through groundwater connections.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 73,233                    | Grant         |
| 218-6027         | Wheeler SWCD                                    | Middle Bear Creek BDA Restoration Phase 2         | This project will install wood structures that mimic beaver dams along Bear Creek and Spring Creek to help slow down and encourage high flows out into the floodplains. Those floodwaters will leave mud and be absorbed into the soil, helping to grow more trees and shrubs along the creeks and store water that will increase cooler flows later in the season.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 104,785                   | Wheeler       |
| 218-6030         | North Fork John Day Watershed Council           | Bear Creek Restoration                            | Prior to reconnection with the Middle Fork John Day River planned for next year, this project will enhance over four miles of Bear Creek by adding large wood, installing structures that mimic beaver dams and removing berms and levees that keep Bear Creek from meandering and behaving like a healthy stream.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 81,200                    | Grant         |
| 218-6023         | Grant SWCD                                      | Butte Pasture Fish Habitat Project                | This project will build over six miles of fence to protect 3,100 acres and almost 5 miles of fish habitat on the Malheur National Forest on streams that flow into the Middle Fork John Day River.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 36,376                    | Grant         |
| 218-6028         | Morrow SWCD                                     | Kingery-Cottonwood Wetland Enhancement Phase II   | This project will help restore 240 acres of important wetland mosaic for migratory waterfowl and wildlife along the Columbia River.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 150,000                   | Morrow        |

Region 6 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

|                                                                          |                                       |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                    |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| 218-6029                                                                 | Oregon Natural Desert Association     | Hay Creek Restoration in Cottonwood Canyon State Park | This project on the north end of the Cottonwood Canyon State Park will use volunteers to help install wood structures mimicing beaver dams to help slow down and store water in the floodplains, helping planted trees and shrubs to grown and shade this important tributary to the John Day River.                                                                                     | 54,302             | Gilliam  |
| 218-6033                                                                 | Umatilla County Weed Control          | UCWD Russian Olive 2018                               | This project will improve habitat for wildlife and migratating bird by removing 260 acres of invasive Russian olive trees that have overtaken a pond and surrounding wetland.                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 95,584             | Umatilla |
| 218-6021                                                                 | North Fork John Day Watershed Council | Walton: RLMT Granite Creek Restoration                | This project adds the final two miles of riparian fencing that will completely keep livestock from accessing Granite Creek, an important tributary of the Middle Fork John Day River. Because livestock can't water out of Granite Creek any more, four springs will be developed flowing into seven troughs; and 100 acres of thirsty juniper will be removed around the springs sites. | 103,687            | Grant    |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff |                                       |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 1,067,444          |          |
|                                                                          |                                       |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                    |          |
| Restoration Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order |                                       |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                    |          |
| Project #                                                                | Grantee                               | Project Title                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Amount Recommended | County   |
| None                                                                     |                                       | None                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                    |          |
| Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT                |                                       |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 1,067,444          |          |

Region 6 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| <b>Restoration Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT</b>     |                                       |                                          |               |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Project #</b>                                                              | <b>Grantee</b>                        | <b>Project Title</b>                     | <b>Amount</b> | <b>County</b> |
| 218-6020                                                                      | Cascade Pacific RC&D                  | Widows Creek Pipeline                    | 123,617       | Grant         |
| 218-6026                                                                      | Umatilla Basin Watershed Foundation   | Wildhorse Creek Fish Passage             | 308,892       | Umatilla      |
| 218-6022                                                                      | North Fork John Day Watershed Council | Burnette: RLMT Granite Creek Restoration | 50,074        | Grant         |
| 218-6018                                                                      | Cascade Pacific RC&D                  | Murderers Creek Upland Water             | 50,989        | Grant         |
| 218-6019                                                                      | Cascade Pacific RC&D                  | Caribou Forest Health Treatments         | 124,384       | Grant         |
| <b>Restoration Applications <i>Withdrawn</i> by Applicant Prior to Review</b> |                                       |                                          |               |               |
| <b>Project #</b>                                                              | <b>Grantee</b>                        | <b>Project Title</b>                     | <b>Amount</b> | <b>County</b> |
| 218-6025                                                                      | Confed Tribes Warm Springs            | Fox Creek Mid Reach 10 Restoration       | 115,247       | Grant         |
| 218-6031                                                                      | Wheeler SWCD                          | Heflin Creek Restoration                 | 68,270        | Wheeler       |

Region 6 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order      |                                    |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                    |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Project #                                                                         | Grantee                            | Project Title                                    | Brief Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Amount Recommended | County  |
| 218-6037                                                                          | Monument SWCD                      | Cole-Engle Passage and Instream Habitat Design   | This technical assistance grant will result in 100% designs to correct an irrigation diversion that is quickly becoming a barrier to fish moving upstream on Cottonwood Creek, an important tributary to the North Fork John Day River. | 58,056             | Grant   |
| 218-6036                                                                          | Cascade Pacific RC&D               | Upper John Day Basin Collaborative LiDAR Flight  | This proposal will help fund a LiDAR flight over 60.5 square miles of the South Fork John Day River watershed. LiDAR is an important tool in land management as well as planning and developing restoration projects.                   | 60,498             | Grant   |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff                   |                                    |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 118,554            |         |
| Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order |                                    |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                    |         |
| Project #                                                                         | Grantee                            | Project Title                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Amount Recommended | County  |
| None                                                                              |                                    | None                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                    |         |
| Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT                                  |                                    |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 118,554            |         |
| Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT       |                                    |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                    |         |
| Project #                                                                         | Grantee                            | Project Title                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Amount             | County  |
| 218-6038                                                                          | Wheeler SWCD                       | Twickenham Wetland Enhancement                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 27,896             | Wheeler |
| 218-6048                                                                          | Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership | Middle Mainstem Columbia Restoration Action Plan |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 74,939             | Gilliam |

Region 6 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order           |                                       |                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                    |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Project #                                                                           | Grantee                               | Project Title                                              | Brief Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Amount Recommended | County |
| 218-6045                                                                            | Cascade Pacific RC&D                  | Beaver Dam Analogue Workshop                               | This proposal will fund a three-day workshop related to the restoration tool known as beaver dam analogs and inform about beaver habitat. The funds will help offset the cost to those folks attending.                                                                                      | 17,436             | Grant  |
| 218-6046                                                                            | Blue Mountain Land Trust              | Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement in the John Day Basin  | Working with local SWCDs, watershed councils, state, federal and tribal agencies, this proposal will help fund a liaison position in the John Day Basin to inform landowners on the various tools available to protect quality habitat and keep legacy farm and ranches from being sold off. | 69,479             | Grant  |
| <b>Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff</b>  |                                       |                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>86,915</b>      |        |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order |                                       |                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                    |        |
| Project #                                                                           | Grantee                               | Project Title                                              | Brief Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Amount             | County |
| 218-6047                                                                            | North Fork John Day Watershed Council | Communications Campaign for the John Day Basin Partnership | This proposal will fund the creation of a media toolkit to be used by the John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP) to inform landowners and the general public about the JDBP Action Plan and the related restoration opportunities.                                                                | 32,323             | Grant  |
| <b>Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT</b>         |                                       |                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>119,238</b>     |        |
| Stakeholder Engagement Projects <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT           |                                       |                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                    |        |
| Project #                                                                           | Grantee                               | Project Title                                              | Amount                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | County             |        |
| None                                                                                |                                       | None                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                    |        |



Region 6 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering - November 1, 2017

| <b>Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order</b>           |                                        |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                           |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Project #</b>                                                               | <b>Grantee</b>                         | <b>Project Title</b>                                                                             | <b>Brief Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Amount Recommended</b> | <b>County</b> |
| 218-6041                                                                       | Confed Tribes Warm Springs             | Long-Term Ecological Effects of Passive Restoration in the Middle Fork John Day Watershed        | Using scientists that did the work and the monitoring data collected 20 years ago, this proposal will replicate the monitoring protocols on same sites, resulting in a long-term analysis of changes from restoration activities done along the Middle Fork John Day River.                                      | 182,089                   | Grant         |
| 218-6044                                                                       | Bridge Creek Watershed Council         | Beaver Dam Analog Monitoring Protocol Development                                                | This proposal will fund the development of standardized monitoring protocols and tools useful on beaver dam analog restoration projects. Part of the proposal is the creation of a steering committee of state and federal agencies who are involved in permitting and installation of these type of structures. | 106,961                   | Wheeler       |
| 218-6040                                                                       | The Freshwater Trust                   | Middle Fork John Day River Basin Water Temperature Monitoring and Forecasting Tool               | Modeled on a successful program on Fifteenmile Creek, this proposal will develop a program model that will eventually help area irrigators manage their water use when high water temperature event is likely to occur.                                                                                          | 24,516                    | Grant         |
| <b>Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff</b>         |                                        |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>313,566</b>            |               |
| <b>Monitoring Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order</b> |                                        |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                           |               |
| <b>Project #</b>                                                               | <b>Grantee</b>                         | <b>Project Title</b>                                                                             | <b>Brief Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Amount</b>             | <b>County</b> |
| 218-6043                                                                       | Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation | Walla Walla Hydrological Enhancement and Aquifer Recharge Effectiveness Monitoring               | This proposal will efforts in the Walla Walla watershed to monitor stream temperature and ground water levels and quality adding to 17 years of existing data; and a new tracer study to evaluate the connectivity between aquifer recharge site and surface flow.                                               | 134,387                   | Umatilla      |
| <b>Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT</b>                |                                        |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>447,953</b>            |               |
| <b>Monitoring Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT</b>       |                                        |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                           |               |
| <b>Project #</b>                                                               | <b>Grantee</b>                         | <b>Project Title</b>                                                                             | <b>Amount</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>County</b>             |               |
| 218-6039                                                                       | Cascade Pacific RC&D                   | South Fork John Day River Rapid Riparian Revegetation Monitoring                                 | 25,392                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Grant                     |               |
| 218-6042                                                                       | Cascade Pacific RC&D                   | Long-Term Population Impacts of Beaver Restoration: Bridge Creek Intensively Monitored Watershed | 387,611                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Wheeler                   |               |
| <b>Region 6 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award</b>                       |                                        |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>1,586,479</b>          | <b>15%</b>    |
| <b>Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award</b>              |                                        |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>10,753,978</b>         |               |

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6018-15917

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Murderers Creek Upland Water

**Applicant:** Cascade Pacific RC&D

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$50,989

**Total Cost:** \$87,239

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

This project is located on the Malheur National Forest Service, Blue Mountain Ranger District's, grazing allotments within the South Fork John Day Watershed. More specifically the Murderers creek allotment, which is broken into 12 pastures. The project is also located within the Murderers Creek Mule Deer Initiative area. The permittee is working with ODFW and the Forest Service to fence the critical habitat within the allotment, to assist the distribution of livestock use away from sensitive areas. This will limit the water supply for wildlife as well as livestock. We are proposing to develop 17 off-channel water sources, strategically placed throughout 2 of the allotment pastures, across 14,000 acres. The permittee will develop 5, and we are requesting assistance from OWEB to develop the remaining 12. This upland water will assist in better utilization of the uplands, attracting livestock away from critical habitat, and provide additional water for wildlife in an arid environment. Partners included in the project include the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, Malheur National Forest Service Range Department, and Grazing allotment permittee. OWEB funds will be used for contracted services to install the developments, some materials, and project management.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- Ecological benefits are realized from getting livestock to move into the uplands.
- The project complements riparian exclusion fencing on 6½ miles of steelhead streams.
- The project will help reduce degradation caused by the feral horse herd that occupies this forest.
- The permittee will provide significant match by building fences and installing five of the 17 proposed spring developments.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Murderer's Creek as a high priority area for restoration with the project components ranked as medium ranked priority actions.

##### **Concerns**

- Information on the role of watershed council staff would have helped to justify staff time, especially since project management was listed as in-kind match from the USFS.
- The application would have been stronger if there had been more detail about spring development design specifications and an explanation of how spring sources would be protected.

- It was unclear whether each of the 17 spring sites had the same level of difficulty and associated costs. The application section describing water development specifications had all 17 sites lumped into one generic comment, rather than providing details on each site.
- No costs for spring boxes were included in the budget – it was unclear whether some boxes needed replacing and some did not. There was an upload of the spring site inventory but it did not provide a map keying those sites with the information or relate back to the costs in the budget.

### **Concluding Analysis**

The project would provide not only good ecological benefit, but also complement the proposed riparian fencing project that will exclude livestock from watering on 6.5 miles of steelhead stream. The review team suggested resubmitting this proposal and address all of the concerns noted in this evaluation.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Do Not Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

N/A

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Review Team Conditions**

NONE

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

### **Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6019-15918

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Caribou Forest Health Treatments

**Applicant:** Cascade Pacific RC&D

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$124,384

**Total Cost:** \$154,984

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The Caribou Forest area is located at the headwaters of the South Fork John Day River, at the base of Snow Mountain. Caribou is currently owned by the Izee Ranch, who purchased the property 15 years ago after it had been heavily logged. The re-generating forest consists of overly stocked young Ponderosa Pine, Douglas Fir, White Fir, Juniper, Lodgepole, and Aspen. Caribou is bordered on 2 sides by the Utley Roadless area, of the Malheur National Forest, which has not been managed and is posing the threat of extreme catastrophic wildfire. In the first Phase of restoring forest health we have requested Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation support to strategically fall and remove conifer from around 150 acres of Aspen. We have requested assistance from the Jubitz Family Foundation to develop 2 upland watering sites. We are requesting support from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to perform forest health treatments for approximately 250 acres along the Utley Roadless Area boundary of Caribou. We are proposing to intensively thin a 100 foot (50 acres) fire buffer on the boundary of Forest and Private, and perform forest health treatments on 200 additional acres. This will be a multi-phased project, in order to address the entire Caribou Forest, over the next 5 years.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- There were no strengths noted.

##### **Concerns**

- Because of the way the topography is on this site, the 100' buffer would be ineffective for fire protection.
- Fire buffers, to be effective, need to be bare ground and maintained;. simply thinning will not stop a fire.
- The application did not provide any studies validating that 100' buffers prevent disease transmission between trees.
- Spring developments proposed as match were not relevant to the project, and without that component the required 25% match was not met.
- The project provides little ecological benefit for the cost and lacks landowner contribution.

## **Concluding Analysis**

The proposal did not provide enough justification for why this would be a good investment of state funds. It was presented as a fire prevention tool but did not include documentation or studies explaining how these prescribed actions would stop or even slow a fire.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Do Not Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

N/A

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Review Team Conditions**

NONE

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

### **Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6020-15925

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Widows Creek Pipeline

**Applicant:** Cascade Pacific RC&D

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$123,617

**Total Cost:** \$154,817

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

Widows Creek is a critical habitat tributary of the John Day River, approximately 15 miles west of Mt. Vernon, and 9 miles east of Dayville. Widows Creek provides important juvenile rearing and winter holding for summer steelhead. We are requesting support in order to update an outdated point of diversion, pipe an existing ditch, and provide gravity-fed sprinkler irrigation system, and also place large wood in Widows Creek. Our goals are to increase habitat complexity, improve fish habitat, and increase the water quantity/quality in Widows Creek. Project partners include; South Fork John Day Watershed Council, OWEB, and the Landowner.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- Widow's Creek is identified as having good potential for steelhead habitat.

##### **Concerns**

- The application didn't make it clear whether fish passage was open all the way to the confluence with the John Day River.
- Review was made more difficult because the application did not include any designs for the wood placement or the diversion.
- Because the field serviced by this diversion was very steep and drained directly into Widow's Creek, there were concerns about water quality being degraded by irrigation tail water or erosion.
- On the site visit, the point of diversion site could not be located and it appeared that the irrigation ditch hadn't been used for some time.
- The ecological benefit was low compared to the requested investment.
- The water right associated with this site is junior to downstream users, making viable use and regulation challenging on this over-allocated stream.
- The budget contained lump sums and lacked detail, making review more difficult.
- It was unclear why ODFW was not involved with the fish screen installation; \$6,000 requested for said screen appeared to be insufficient.

#### **Concluding Analysis**

There were too many questions and concerns to warrant funding this project.

**Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Do Not Fund

**Review Team Priority**

N/A

**Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Review Team Conditions**

NONE

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

**Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6021-15940

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Walton: RLMT Granite Creek Restoration

**Applicant:** North Fork John Day WC

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$103,687

**Total Cost:** \$133,406

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

This restoration proposal is located along Granite Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County. The landowners have undertaken many conservation efforts, some including successful OWEB-funded riparian fencing, feed bunk relocation, and off-channel water developments to improve Granite Creek (205-082 and 206-141). This proposal builds on those efforts by fencing the remainder of Granite Creek; developing upland spring sites to provide water for livestock in pastures that will be excluded from the creek; cutting juniper on 100 acres of the ranch and spraying 50 acres of the invasive Scotch Thistle. Eliminating livestock access to Granite Creek will result in increased vegetation health, vigor, diversity, and density; and will mitigate sediment inputs and livestock waste inputs to the creek. Additionally, weed treatments and juniper removal will improve upland and riparian conditions across the property.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- This is a straightforward project involving a landowner with a good history of conservation.
- The project extends an existing riparian fence and provides a good buffer width.
- Working with the Ritter Land Management Team, this slate of projects was the result of their "discovery tool" which helps determine resource concerns and ecological improvements.
- Improvements will benefit steelhead as they travel upstream. No fish barriers were known to be above or below the site.
- This is a resubmittal and the applicant removed the rock ford components and improved the detail provided in the application.
- Costs appear to be reasonable.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan ranks Granite Creek as a moderate priority area for restoration and the project components are ranked as medium priority actions.

##### **Concerns**

- The application would have been stronger if it had provided more detail on spring developments and better maps.
- The spring sources and associated collection boxes are not being fenced to protect from livestock.



- The application was unclear about scotch thistle treatment, whether the treatment area is just within the project footprint, and if there is landowner commitment to continue future weed management on the entire ranch.

## **Concluding Analysis**

This is a resubmittal from the previous OWEB grant cycle. The applicant responded well to the previous evaluation comments and improved the application; however, concerns remain relative to weed treatment. Overall, the benefit realized from fencing off Granite Creek was significant enough to warrant funding at this time.

## **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund with Conditions

## **Review Team Priority**

11 of 11

## **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$103,687

## **Review Team Conditions**

All spring sources will be required to be protected from livestock by fencing or other approved method.

## **Staff Recommendation**

### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

## **Staff Recommendation**

Fund with Conditions

## **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$103,687

## **Staff Conditions**

All spring sources will be required to be protected from livestock by fencing or other approved method.

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6022-15962

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Burnette: RLMT Granite Creek Restoration

**Applicant:** North Fork John Day WC

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$50,074

**Total Cost:** \$63,258

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

This restoration proposal is located along Lick Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County. Lick Creek is a perennial stream that provides 2.7 miles of spawning and rearing steelhead habitat and historically provided the majority of livestock water on the Burnette Family Ranches. The landowners have been actively working to fence off Lick Creek and provide alternative upland water sources for livestock, to both manage grazing more effectively and preserve water quality. This project builds on those efforts by fencing riparian areas on upper Lick Creek and developing springs to provide upland water sources for livestock. This project will build 5174 ft of riparian fence along upper Lick Creek, and develop 4 springs with troughs for upland livestock watering.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The landowner has a history of implementing good restoration projects on his ranch and continues to be interested in making improvements.
- The fence and two spring developments would improve livestock management in the riparian pasture.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identified Lick Creek as a moderate priority for restoration and the project components as medium priority actions.

##### **Concerns**

- The application appeared to be rushed and lacked important technical details, especially related to the spring developments and protecting the spring sources and associated seeps.
- No details were provided on what the proposed effectiveness monitoring or outreach funds would accomplish.
- The budget was confusing and the spring development costs seemed high.
- The photos included several road crossing sites; however, that element had been removed from this application. The photos provided did not match with the locations on the site visit.
- It was unclear how grazing management would protect the riparian pasture. Even though the application did include the number of animals and the grazing duration, it would have been helpful to also have the pasture acreage noted on the map.

## **Concluding Analysis**

The landowner has a good reputation as a steward of the land; however, this application lacked enough critical information, making the review difficult. If resubmitted, the review team would like to see a better map showing acreage of relevant pastures and photo point locations; a map showing proximity to past restoration actions and the status of those past projects; more details on the technical aspects of the spring developments and an explanation of costs; and more information related to how the spring source and associated wetland would be protected from livestock.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Do Not Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

N/A

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Review Team Conditions**

NONE

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

### **Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6023-15966

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Butte Pasture Fish Habitat Project

**Applicant:** Grant SWCD

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$36,376

**Total Cost:** \$73,384

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The subject allotment is located in the Middle Fork John Day River basin between Camp Creek and Hwy 26. Federal and Private livestock managers have a continuous need for grazing management tools to protect sensitive riparian areas and improve habitat conditions for ESA-listed summer steelhead and spring Chinook salmon. A 6.2 mile fence will be installed dividing the existing Butte Pasture into the Upper and Lower Butte Pastures. The proposed Lower Butte Pasture will contain areas designated by the Forest as "Most Sensitive Riparian Areas" (MSRA) and be managed primarily for fish and wildlife with very limited livestock grazing. Project partners include Grant SWCD, the Malheur National Forest Blue Mountain Ranger District and the Permittee.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- This was a well-written application detailing clear benefits for steelhead and spring Chinook.
- The project is a good investment -- low cost resulting in high ecological benefit on two streams.
- The project site is in a high priority area identified by the Malheur National Forest, ODFW and the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan.
- The cross fence design was chosen because other restoration efforts are planned for the near future along the streams, and would be hampered by a riparian fence. Those improvements include removing berms and rock barbs, abandoning roads and thinning conifers to enhance the riparian hardwood component.
- The pasture will only be used four days a year for a gathering/holding place when moving cattle.
- The permittee provided cash match and was supportive of the project during the site visit.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan ranks Bear Creek as a high priority area for restoration with the project components ranked as highest priority action.

##### **Concerns**

- There were no significant concerns.

##### **Concluding Analysis**

This project will enhance two important tributaries of the Middle Fork John Day River, providing cool water refugia for steelhead and juvenile Chinook when stream temperatures elevate on the Middle Fork in late summer. This first phase of restoration provides a way to exclude livestock but does not impede the future planned stream restoration activities. The permittee, a participant in the Blue Mountain Forest Partners Collaborative, was enthusiastic during the site visit about the project and future restoration on his allotment.

**Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

**Review Team Priority**

7 of 11

**Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$36,376

**Review Team Conditions**

N/A

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

**Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$36,376

**Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6024-15967

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Desolation Creek Upper Reach 6 Implementation

**Applicant:** Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$190,176

**Total Cost:** \$429,136

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

This application supports the Desolation Creek Upper Reach 6 Implementation effort located between River Miles 10.6 - 11.5 under which 38 large wood structures will be developed, two side channels reconnected, one alcove developed, 3.47 acres of floodplain enhanced, and 0.5 miles of road obliterated on land owned by Ecotrust Forest Management and managed by Desolation Creek LLC. Desolation Creek is a high value tributary of the North Fork John Day River with their confluence near Dale, Oregon in Grant County. In 2015 the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Ecotrust Forest Management entered into a 15 year conservation agreement to benefit land management strategies, listed bull trout and Mid-Columbia steelhead, and unlisted spring Chinook salmon, lamprey, and resident populations through habitat enhancement and restoration. To support and prioritize future restoration efforts throughout the Desolation Creek basin the Desolation Creek Geomorphic Assessment and Action Plan was collaboratively developed by the Umatilla National Forest, Desolation Creek LLC, Confederated Warm Springs Tribes, North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the CTUIR. The Desolation Creek Geomorphic Assessment and Action Plan identified Reach 6 (RM 9.5 – 11.8) as the highest priority for restoration with design work beginning after the priority was identified. A potential road relocation between RM 9.5 and 10.6 and a portion of the attached restoration design implemented in 2017 reduced our 2018 efforts to RM 10.6 – 11.5. The selected design addresses large wood recruitment, side channel and wetland conditions, floodplain condition, bed and channel form, in-stream structural complexity, and temperature limiting factors through active restoration actions and natural processes.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The project addresses multiple limiting factors along a priority reach of Desolation Creek, an important habitat for steelhead, Chinook and bull trout.
- The applicant has a proven track record of successful implementation of complex restoration projects.
- The BPA Restoration Review team provided input and technical review on designs at 15, 30 and 60%.
- Comprehensive designs were submitted along with the application, and a link to the Desolation Creek Geomorphic Assessment and Action Plan, which ranked reach six as a high priority.

- The project is supported by numerous stakeholders and partners, indicating strong project engagement.
- ESA consultation has been completed – the project is shovel-ready.
- Builds on restoration done directly upstream, multiplying significant ecological benefits; fits into future restoration plans that will decommission a road and reengage a major floodplain just downstream of the project site.
- There are plans to fence this last section of riparian area, excluding livestock access from the entire ten miles on the Desolation Creek LLC property.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Desolation Creek as moderate priority restoration area with the various project components ranked medium priority actions. The North Fork John Day is the only highly viable Mid-C steelhead population in the entire Distinct Population Segment (OR & WA) and a designated Salmon Stronghold Watershed. Proposed project actions would likely benefit Mid-Columbia spring Chinook [culturally important species to the Tribes and an Oregon “potentially at risk” species (per ODFW 2005 Oregon Native Fish Status Report)] and ESA listed bull trout.

### **Concerns**

- It was unclear whether the Desolation Creek headwaters have similar restoration needs.
- From the designs provided, there was some concern the large wood structures are over-engineered and not designed specifically to fit in with the natural environment.

### **Concluding Analysis**

There has been a lot of planning, analysis and design resulting in restoration implemented by multiple partners on this large landholding. This early phase of significant riparian restoration builds on recently completed restoration; and will fit into future phases to improve this significant and important cold-water tributary to the North Fork John Day River – identified as a salmon stronghold.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

2 of 11

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$190,176

### **Review Team Conditions**

N/A

### **Staff Recommendation**

### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

**Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$190,176

**Staff Conditions**

NONE



## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6025-15969

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Fox Creek Mid Reach 10  
Restoration

**Applicant:** Confed Tribes Warm Springs

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$115,247

**Total Cost:** \$803,269

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This application was withdrawn prior to review.

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

|                                                   |                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Application Number:</b> 218-6026-15992         | <b>Project Type:</b> Restoration |
| <b>Project Name:</b> Wildhorse Creek Fish Passage |                                  |
| <b>Applicant:</b> Umatilla Basin WS Foundation    |                                  |
| <b>Basin:</b> Mid Columbia                        | <b>County:</b> Umatilla          |
| <b>OWEB Request:</b> \$308,892                    | <b>Total Cost:</b> \$790,892     |

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The Umatilla Basin Watershed Council (UBWC) and partners are collaborating with the City of Athena and Umatilla County Public Works to address fish passage and habitat in Wildhorse Creek near Athena, Oregon. Wildhorse Creek (HUC 17070103), a tributary of the Umatilla River originates in temperate forest at an elevation of 3,760 feet and flows 34 miles to the Umatilla River at an elevation of 1,100 feet near Pendleton, Oregon. ODFW & CTUIR biologist have identified a passage obstruction for steelhead along with resident rainbow trout, Pacific Lamprey, Coho Salmon, and several other non-salmonid fish species at the South 3rd Street Bridge in Athena, Oregon. Replacing the bridge was chosen because it was the only alternative from the feasibility study that would allow fish passage at all flows and would also accommodate a 100-year flood event. The existing bridge structure is a concrete box with winged buttress walls and a concrete floor. A channel spanning, concrete grade control wall located 10 feet upstream of the bridge creates a 4-foot drop in water surface elevation. These structures limit flow conveyance and passage during peak flows due to increased water velocity, and also contributes to habitat degradation. This project intends to remove the passage obstruction, replace the bridge with a larger structure that meets NMFS and ODFW fish passage criteria, meets FEMA no-rise requirements, and stabilize channel bed gradient by creating a 160-foot roughened channel. Restoring fish passage at the South 3rd Street Bridge will provide access to an additional 15.4 miles of usable habitat for salmonid rearing and spawning. Project partners include the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, Umatilla Soil & Water Conservation District, Trout Unlimited, City of Athena, Umatilla County Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Athena Chamber of Commerce & Main Street Committee, Oregon Water Resources Department, and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The project addresses a fish passage barrier on Wildhorse Creek that blocks access of steelhead, coho, and lamprey to upstream habitat.
- 90% designs were provided with the application, resulting from an OWEB-funded feasibility study on alternatives.
- The project is responsive to local needs and shows a lot of stakeholder support.
- There has been good collaboration with key partners, and good community outreach to date.

## Concerns

- It was unclear whether high quality habitat exists, or if there are fish passage barriers, in the 15 miles upstream from the bridge. Wildhorse Creek appears to go dry six miles upstream from Athena. The application would have been stronger if it had provided documentation of upstream habitat, including photos, any information on barrier assessments, temperature or water quality, and/or stream habitat inventories, including where and when flows go subsurface.
- It was unclear whether there are any barriers below Athena that could impede fish movement.
- Fish use data for Wildhorse Creek would also have been useful in the course of the review.
- Some of the infrastructure related to city use, such as guardrails, handrail, sidewalks, safety fence and lights, seem more appropriate to be funded by other entities, rather than OWEB.
- The application would have been stronger with more funding partners to offset high cost.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies this bridge as a specific action, but Wildhorse Creek ranked as a low/very low priority steelhead restoration area..

## Concluding Analysis

This project follows an OWEB technical assistance grant that funded a feasibility study on alternatives to correct this fish passage barrier. The partners have effectively engaged various partners, including the City of Athena, Umatilla County and local landowners, but finding funding partners has been challenging. There were too many questions about the habitat upstream to warrant funding at this time.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

### Review Team Priority

N/A

### Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

### Review Team Conditions

NONE

### Staff Recommendation

#### Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

### Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

### Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6027-16015

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Middle Bear Creek BDA Restoration  
Phase 2

**Applicant:** Wheeler SWCD

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Wheeler

**OWEB Request:** \$104,785

**Total Cost:** \$169,003

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

1) The project is located on Bear Creek a tributary to Bridge Creek in Wheeler County, Oregon. 2) Many portions of Bear Creek have been channelized, straightened, and confined to valley margins in order to increase the amount of area that is agriculturally viable. In these locations, high-stream power has resulted in a deeply incised stream channel that lacks complexity. This has degraded the habitat quantity and quality of this important spawning tributary for the summer run steelhead in the John Day Basin. Additionally, certain reaches within the project area experience low baseflow and intermittency. 3) The proposed work includes: Construction of 20 beaver dam analog (BDA) structures on 600 meters of Bear Creek that dewater annually. Construct 25 BDAs on 300 meters of Spring Gulch, a tributary to Bear Creek, with the intent of increasing surface flow duration both in the tributary and in downstream portions of Bear Creek. Install 20 BDAs on 400 meters of Bear Creek to increase the development of inset floodplains and facilitate the formation of scour pools and lateral and mid-channel bars. 4) The proposed restoration actions will be a collaborative effort between Wheeler SWCD, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the landowner.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- Bear Creek provides good steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.
- 21 BDAs previously installed downstream on this ranch are successfully addressing several limiting factors, including floodplain disconnection and impaired stream connectivity.
- The tribes have committed ongoing funding to monitor these structures into the future.
- The Project will provide high ecological benefit by improving instream habitat, water quality, surface flow, and increased riparian vegetation establishment.
- Applicant has a good track record of successful implementation.
- The project involves multiple partners, who are invested in the outcome.
- This project is located on a ranch that is currently pursuing a conservation easement to protect habitat and restoration investments in perpetuity.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan ranks Bear Creek as a high priority area and project components rank as high priority restoration actions.

## Concerns

- The elements in the budget were lump sums, making the review difficult.
- The application did not clearly explain why extensive consulting services were required for this type of project.
- The application would have been clearer with more detail on the three-year adaptive management process and how the costs were calculated.

## Concluding Analysis

This proposal follows a similar project successfully implemented downstream on Bear Creek and multiplies the ecological benefits resulting from extensive restoration done on this ranch and in the Bear and Bridge Creek watersheds. Steelhead production and rearing in this stream will benefit from sustained and cooler flows resulting from improved floodplain function and from added instream habitat complexity.

### Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

### Review Team Priority

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### Review Team Recommended Amount

\$104,785

### Review Team Conditions

N/A

### Staff Recommendation

#### Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

### Staff Recommendation

Fund

### Staff Recommended Amount

\$104,785

### Staff Conditions

NONE



## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6028-16018

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Kingery-Cottonwood Wetland Enhancement Phase II

**Applicant:** Morrow SWCD

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Morrow

**OWEB Request:** \$150,000

**Total Cost:** \$307,880

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

OWEB and partner funds will be used to perform earthwork and installation of water control infrastructure on a large project in Irrigon, Morrow County, OR. The proposed work will benefit 240 acres of a mosaic of wetlands, uplands, and riparian habitats, on properties adjacent to the Columbia River. Work will take place on the Irrigon Wildlife Management Area (IWMA) and an adjacent private property (Kingerys), within the Columbia Plateau Ecoregion, Umatilla-Willow Subbasin. Watershed issues of concern addressed by this project are water quality and quantity, invasive species, soil erosion, and habitat fragmentation. Specific problems at this site include: 1) degraded wetland and pond habitats which limits wildlife and recreation opportunities; 2) lack of water control which has resulted in flood threats to a nearby residence; 3) Lack of ability to manage water allows invasive species to thrive, causes excess water in some locations, and lack of water in other locations. Restoration components include treating invasive species, improving water management infrastructure, and improving road access for management activities. These activities will reduce flood threat, allow the use of excess water to improve habitat management for wetlands on the IWMA, better management capabilities for control of invasive species, recharge groundwater aquifers through wetlands, and improve water quality through wetland processes, including sequestering sediments. Current partners include Morrow SWCD, Oregon Fish and Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, Kingery family, Oregon Duck Hunters Association, and the USFWS. This project is Phase 2 of a two phase project. OWEB and partner funds were used in Phase 1 to perform preliminary feasibility and engineering design work. If funded, this phase will implement this important work. Also, this project is a good investment. OWEB funding will be highly leveraged, as partner match far exceeds the 25% minimum. We proposed a 1: 1 match to grant ratio.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- This project is a result of an OWEB Technical Assistance grant that funded the 100% design.
- The right partners are involved and are contributing significant match, indicating the importance of the project.
- There is good watershed benefit – important wildlife and migratory bird habitat located in a chain of wetlands along the Columbia River.
- The involved landowners are good conservation stewards and have shown interest in protecting their property with a permanent conservation easement.



- The location along a highway would be a good site for an outreach sign about conservation and the importance of wetland habitats and wildlife use.

### **Concerns**

- It was unclear what was being done to keep Russian olive and other invasive weeds on the property from reestablishing.

### **Concluding Analysis**

This project is collaboration between ODFW Irrigon Wildlife Management Area and a neighboring landowner with the intent to restore important wetland habitat along the Columbia River. Wetland habitats are important for both migrating and resident waterfowl, as well as terrestrial wildlife. On the site visit, over 50 wood ducks were seen using one of the wetland ponds. The need is apparent from heavy cattail infestation, closing open water access for waterfowl and impeding surface flow.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

8 of 11

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$150,000

### **Review Team Conditions**

N/A

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$150,000

### **Staff Conditions**

NONE



## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6029-16025

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Hay Creek Restoration in Cottonwood Canyon State Park

**Applicant:** Oregon Natural Desert Association

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Gilliam

**OWEB Request:** \$54,302

**Total Cost:** \$177,933

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

Located approximately 25 miles northwest of Condon, Oregon in Gilliam County, the project site is a section of Hay Creek located in Cottonwood Canyon State Park. A tributary of the John Day River, Hay Creek is deeply incised, lacks diverse and woody native riparian vegetation, and has diminished fish and wildlife habitat. And, critically from a long-term ecological functionality perspective, the creek has seen a reduction in the presence of beaver and conditions offer an opportunity to encourage increased beaver residency. ONDA's project design emphasizes the use of native riparian plants, supported by weed management, exclosures and Beaver Dam Analogues to return critical water and vegetation to Hay Creek, serving as a kick-start to reengage the watershed's natural processes, reverse the impacts of grazing, fire and flood, and enhance ecological functioning. The resulting diverse vegetation community will improve the habitat of a number of notable fish species and will provide conditions that will support a resident beaver population. Project partners include Oregon State Parks, Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Gilliam County Weed Management Department.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- Hay Creek is listed as a steelhead stream and has high potential for lower John Day Basin fish productivity, once limiting factors are addressed.
- The phased approach implements adaptive management by installing BDAs and incorporating lessons learned on the following year's installations.
- The strategy takes advantage of past fire activity by catching any resulting sediment movement to help speed up improved channel form.
- The applicant was responsive to the pre-application site visit comments, incorporating more detail in the application.
- The monitoring component will inform future restoration efforts.
- The project had secured funds from numerous stakeholders, helping offset the cost of implementation and showing support for the project.
- The applicant has a good reputation of organizing an efficient volunteer force for construction that does great work.
- While the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan notes that Hay Creek is a low priority area the project components are medium to high priority restoration actions.

## Concerns

- The site has a serious need for weed treatment prior to planting. If weed treatment is not done as a part of initial and follow-up site prep, the likelihood of successful riparian planting will significantly decrease.
- The application would have been stronger with more detail on how the weed problem would be addressed, including the number and timing of herbicide treatments, the type of herbicide to be used, and any planned follow-up maintenance.
- The application would have been stronger with more detail on designs, at minimum a schematic showing the specific location of each structure and the associated objectives.
- BDAs may be unnecessary as Hay Creek is a low-gradient stream with an existing beaver community and extensive cattails already catching sediment and aggrading.
- A five-foot tall fence is unlikely to keep the deer population out of the riparian plantings.

## Concluding Analysis

The project takes advantage of a major fire that went through this area two years ago. Hay Creek is a highly incised stream, listed as steelhead spawning and rearing habitat in the lower John Day Basin and located on the north end of the Cottonwood State Park. Over the years of excluding livestock and riparian planting, the stream has begun to heal, creating an inset floodplain and showing some beaver colonies establishing. This project will help speed up the healing process of the stream and create additional anchor points and food sources for beaver.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

## Review Team Priority

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## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$54,302

## Review Team Conditions

N/A

## Staff Recommendation

### Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff will confer with applicant on justification for the five-foot height of protection fencing.

## Staff Recommendation

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$54,302

**Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6030-16035

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Bear Creek Restoration

**Applicant:** North Fork John Day WC

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$81,200

**Total Cost:** \$145,742

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

Bear Creek is a perennial stream which flows into the Middle Fork John Day River (MFJDR) roughly a mile downstream of Galena, OR. During the 1930s dredge mining occurred on the MFJDR including its confluence with Bear Creek, altering the creek's base elevation and accessibility to anadromous fish. In all but the highest water years, Bear Creek is completely inaccessible to anadromous fishes. In addition to mining at the confluence, extensive placer mining occurred within Bear Creek itself. Mining, past timber harvest, and road building have left Bear Creek in an over-simplified, channelized state characterized by long, shallow riffles with little deep pool habitat. Bear Creek is heavily influenced by landslide related ground water which maintains perennial flow and low water temperature throughout the low flow period (typical 7DADM = 65F). A planned project (Galena Tailings Aquatic Restoration Project) which is expected to begin implementation in 2019 will restore connectivity at the confluence of Bear Creek and the MFJDR, restoring unimpeded access to over 4 miles of Bear Creek by native fishes including adult steelhead and Chinook salmon. To maximize the impact of the Galena Tailings project, the North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), partnering with the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO), will place large wood, install beaver dam analogues (BDAs) and remove valley constraining berms and levees to enhance geomorphic and ecohydrologic processes and functions to support limited over-summer rearing habitat for steelhead and Chinook salmon.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The project will enhance four miles of identified priority habitat for steelhead and juvenile Chinook. Bear Creek is known for cool water temperatures and sustained flows.
- There is high ecological value for the requested investment, with substantial partner involvement and secured funding that indicates strong support for the project.
- Strategic planning is shown by timing the habitat improvement project on Bear Creek prior to the reconnection to the Middle Fork John Day River and the Galena Tailings and Aquatic Restoration project.
- OYCC youth participation in some of the restoration work provides rural youth a chance to see the benefits of restoration, be mentored by natural resource professionals, and gain a new appreciation for the wilderness.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Bear Creek as a moderate priority steelhead area with various project components identified as high/medium high priority actions.

## Concerns

- Snow melt and high water may negatively impact the beaver dam analogs (BDAs) lower in the system.
- It was unclear whether it was appropriate to use berm material to seal the BDAs.
- It was unclear whether there were any indications of lead in the mine tailings.

## Concluding Analysis

Restoration on Bear Creek, tributary to the Middle Fork John Day River, is a high priority for the Malheur National Forest. By improving habitat on Bear Creek prior to the implementation of the Galena Tailings Project (2019), four miles of high quality, cold-water habitat will be made available. This cold water tributary is critical as refuge for ESA listed fish when high stream temperatures hit the Middle Fork during late summer/early fall.

### Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

### Review Team Priority

6 of 11

### Review Team Recommended Amount

\$81,200

### Review Team Conditions

N/A

### Staff Recommendation

#### Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

### Staff Recommendation

Fund

### Staff Recommended Amount

\$81,200

### Staff Conditions

NONE





**Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering**  
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6031-16060

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Heflin Creek Restoration

**Applicant:** Wheeler SWCD

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Wheeler

**OWEB Request:** \$68,270

**Total Cost:** \$175,219

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This application was withdrawn prior to review.

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6032-16061

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Bridge Bear Phase 4

**Applicant:** Wheeler SWCD

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Wheeler

**OWEB Request:** \$71,368

**Total Cost:** \$108,293

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

1) The project is located on Bridge Creek at the confluence of Bridge Creek and Bear Creek. This is one of only two private in-holdings in the predominantly publicly owned lower reaches of Bridge Creek. The area of interest contains 1 mile of Bridge Creek and 0.25 miles of Bear Creek. 2) The other phases of the Bridge-Bear project were very successful. The Vertical Posts Structures (VPSs) performed well and showed good agreement with the HEC-RAS simulations. Even with this improvement there is still much work to do to improve floodplain connectivity and fish habitat. Bear Creek in particular needs additional improvement to floodplain connectivity. There is also still a Russian Olive presence which is still above what can be addressed with standard maintenance. 3) Phase #4 will address a mile of the Bridge Creek corridor above and below the confluence with Bear Creek and will focus on the very lower end of Bear Creek. The project will repair two of the previously installed VPSs and install 21 additional VPSs. The new VPSs will build on the success of the existing VPSs and LWD and serve to activate the floodplain. 51 pieces of large wood will be installed to provide fish habitat. These pieces of large wood are significantly larger than previous phases and will be extended into the stream channel to promote habit complexity. 4) The project partners are Bridge Creek Ranch LLC, Wheeler SWCD, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and RSI.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The application provided good designs and modeling.
- The budget provided good detail and clear information.
- Bridge Creek and Bear Creek provide both spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead and rearing habitat for Chinook juveniles, critical in the lower John Day Basin.
- Including large wood structures in the design added ecological benefit.
- The “willow whip” feature of the vertical post structures has resulted in successful establishment of riparian vegetation, adding more complexity and longevity to the structure.
- Prior phases have been successful and are meeting original objectives.
- Bridge/Bear Creeks are identified as high priority areas in the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan, with restoration components noted as high/highest priority actions.

##### **Concerns**

- Continued treatment of Russian olive should be the responsibility of the landowners.
- There was no monitoring component included in this proposal.
- The merits and/or disturbance levels of installations using hand-held hydraulic post pounder vs. excavator with a plate compactor were unclear.

### **Concluding Analysis**

The previously implemented projects on this reach are achieving original objectives and this proposal will add additional features to increase ecological benefit by increasing instream complexity, reconnecting to the floodplain, increasing connectivity of the alluvial fan of Bear Creek confluence, and continuing to reduce the Russian olive population to a manageable level.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

1 of 11

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$71,368

### **Review Team Conditions**

N/A

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$71,368

### **Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6033-16066

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** UCWD Russian Olive 2018

**Applicant:** Umatilla County Weed Control

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Umatilla

**OWEB Request:** \$95,584

**Total Cost:** \$121,959

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The project is located in Umatilla County West of Hermiston Oregon on Col Jordon road. The property is overrun with russian olive trees. The landowner has made numerous attempts to remove the trees with little success. Our goal is remove the russian olive via mechanical and chemical means and replant with native shrubs and trees. The scope of the work will be spread out over a three year process. The first year will include mechanical removal of the trees. The second year will consist of chemical treatments to remove the new russian olive shoots. It will also include the first of the plantings. The third year will be spot treatment of new shoots and the final planting. Volunteers will be used for the majority of the planting. Partners include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Soil Water and Conservation District, CTUIR plant nursery, Tyler Hansel, and Umatilla County Weed Department.

### **Review Team Evaluation**

#### **Strengths**

- In this resubmittal, the applicant responded well to most of the prior evaluation comments.
- Russian olive is a significant issue in Umatilla County and this project would be a good model project about treatment methods.
- Preserving and enhancing wetland habitat is critical in this area, and this project will result in high ecological benefit to wildlife and migrating birds.
- The landowner is committed to the project success and will preserve the project area for wildlife.
- The outreach component to share lessons learned and successes was well explained in the application.
- Multiple partners are involved in the project, indicating strong support.

#### **Concerns**

- The planting plan included both riparian and upland zone plantings; on the site visit, it was clarified the budget only requested funding for the riparian zone.
- Prior evaluation questions not answered include: 1) overall Russian olive infestation county-wide; 2) wildlife species use; and 3) the water source connected to the pond.
- It was unclear whether the pond was fed with irrigation tail water and if future irrigation district conveyance efficiencies could dry up the site.
- It would have been helpful to have the budget provide more detail rather than lump sums; including the two estimates used for creating the budget as an attachment may have provided clarity.

- The budget will require revision to correct an erroneous contingency amount.

### **Concluding Analysis**

This is a resubmittal from the previous OWEB grant cycle. The applicant did a better job explaining the phases of the three-year proposal and provided more detail relating to the planting component. Umatilla County does have issues with Russian olive infestation but no known county-wide inventory has been done. Although somewhat opportunistic, paired with the large pond and located in a strategic area of migratory waterfowl patterns, this project would serve as a good model for future successful wetland restoration.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

10 of 11

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$95,584

### **Review Team Conditions**

NONE

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

Budget requires revision to reduce contingency by \$6,500, plus indirect costs, to the maximum allowable 10%.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund Reduced

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$88,433

### **Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6034-16074

**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:** \$73,233

**Total Cost:** \$102,433

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

1) 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 river mile 1.8 through river mile 12.3 of Desolation Creek (HUC #1707020304) before flowing in to the North Fork John Day River (HUC # 17070202). Desolation Creek originates in the Southern Blue Mountains, drains 69,643 acres, and consists of 230 stream miles. It provides critical spawning and rearing habitat for Mid-Columbia Spring run Chinook as well as ESA listed Mid-Columbia Steelhead and ESA listed Bull Trout.2) Historic and current land use practices have left valuable wet meadow ecosystems on DCLLC degraded. This is a result of livestock's preference for these resource-rich but sensitive systems. Lingering cattle compact the soil with deep hoof prints, leaving the meadows hummocked and burdened with soils impermeable to water. This over-utilization has negative impacts on the ecosystems structure and function. The limiting factors this project addresses are degraded water quality, impaired fish passage, degraded channel structure and complexity, and altered hydrologic processes.3) This project will install a total of 3.56 miles of NRCS guided livestock exclusion fence on four priority wet meadows-protecting a total of 25.5 acres. Meadow gullies will also be plugged with small woody debris.4) Partners for this proposed project are Ecotrust Forest Management (EFM), Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), and OWEB.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- Protecting wet meadows will provide both improved water quality and wildlife habitat.
- The fencing fits into a grazing management plan being collaboratively developed by the landowners and USFW.
- The project multiplies benefits realized by the extensive riparian fencing done on this large property, as well as other OWEB projects that funded fencing on other wet meadows.
- The land manager has a good record of successfully completing restoration projects that have been identified and prioritized in their ranch plan for the highest ecological value.
- Fences will be maintained by the ranch manager to offset any damage from large, local elk herds.

- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Desolation Creek as a moderate priority area for restoration and project components appear consistent with the highest priority, population-wide strategy of protecting/conserving ecological processes. The North Fork John Day is the only highly viable Mid-C steelhead population in the entire Distinct Population Segment (OR & WA) and a designated Salmon Stronghold Watershed.

## **Concerns**

- The value and outcomes of the effectiveness monitoring component are unclear.
- The future of this ranch appears uncertain; protection of the restoration investment by an easement or acquisition would secure the long-term benefits.

## **Concluding Analysis**

This project adds to several successful OWEB projects implemented on the property. The likelihood of success is high for the project -- the land manager has a good track record of getting projects done well, on time, and within budget. The drainage where this property is located has an abundance of springs and seeps -- most of them in a highly degraded state. By prioritizing and methodically protecting these wet meadows, cooler flows to Desolation Creek will likely result, improving critical habitat for Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout.

## **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

## **Review Team Priority**

4 of 11

## **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$73,233

## **Review Team Conditions**

N/A

## **Staff Recommendation**

### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

## **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

## **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$73,233

**Staff Conditions**

NONE



## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6035-16002

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Name:** Lower Parrish Creek Restoration

**Applicant:** Bridge Creek WC

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Wheeler

**OWEB Request:** \$106,733

**Total Cost:** \$160,017

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

This application provides an overview of channel and riparian restoration plans for a severely degraded portion of Parrish Creek, a tributary of the lower John Day River in Wheeler County, Oregon. The contemporary hydrologic and riparian impairments on Parrish Creek stem from a combination of human impacts including fire suppression, intensive grazing, and the eradication of beaver. Upland fire suppression has resulted in expansion of juniper (*Juniperus* spp.) and altered hydrologic function. In addition, grazing has resulted in reduction of riparian vegetation, which may be slow to reestablish on degraded streams such as Parrish Creek where water table elevations have been decreased and baseflow discharge is low and often intermittent. The proposed work includes: 1. ODFW installation of 4,700' fencing to prevent livestock grazing within the riparian area of Parrish Creek. Landowner match installation of 6300' of fence along the main stem John Day River to exclude livestock access. 2. Planting of approximately 1,000 riparian plants over approximately 5.5 acres within the riparian exclusion fenced section of Parrish Creek. 3. Construction of 50 beaver dam analog (BDA) structures throughout the approximately 1/2 mile of intermittent stream channel on Parrish Creek. 4. Removal of 131 acres of Phase 2 juniper, (32 acres are along the floodplain upstream of the riparian treatment area, 99 acres are in the uplands.) 5. Development of one spring with two troughs to provide off channel water sites. 6. Treating 10 acres of Scotch thistle and annual weeds. 7. Monitor BDA structures for two years according to adaptive management plan. The proposed restoration actions will be executed as a collaborative effort between the Mid John Day – Bridge Creek Watershed Council, the Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and the landowner.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The project is located on a highly visible and severely degraded tributary to the lower John Day River.
- Parrish Creek has a history of steelhead spawning and once this low-gradient, confluence reach is restored with surface flow and stable riparian vegetation, steelhead can again use this tributary to access cooler upstream habitat.
- The land manager is a local community leader engaging with partners on restoration for the first time; this could result in additional projects on this ranch as well as other nearby properties.
- The applicant has a good record of successful restoration implementation.
- The project addresses multiple limiting factors by improving water quality, floodplain connection, riparian vegetation, instream habitat, and connectivity.

- The fenced buffer includes a majority of the floodplain so channel can adjust and move.
- The applicant's approach growing native stock and installing plants with an auger to assure root access to moisture will increase plant viability.
- Besides fencing off Parrish Creek, the land manager is also fencing off a significant reach of the John Day River adjacent to the project site, which will remove livestock access.
- The application melded together various restoration components for a holistic scope of work, increasing efficiencies of project implementation: juniper will be removed and then used in beaver dam analog (BDA) construction, a spring site will be developed so Parrish Creek can be fenced off from livestock use, and weed treatment will assist in planting site prep.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan aligns with several high/highest priority recovery actions with Parrish Creek noted as a moderate priority area for restoration.

## Concerns

- Consulting costs were not well explained in the budget or narrative. This gave an appearance of inflated costs associated with BDAs by using consultants to install rather than local contractors or volunteers.
- Because this is an intermittent stream, there was an initial concern that the plantings would not survive when flow goes subsurface; using older stock planted deep mitigated that concern.
- With the scoured out and highly degraded floodplain, there was concern 1,000 plants were not enough and no funds were requested to seed grass on the floodplain.
- The design lacked BDAs further upstream above the dry reach, which would help increase surface flows.

## Concluding Analysis

This historic steelhead stream has long been a highly visible eyesore to both travelers on Highway 19 and rafters on the John Day River. Restoring this lower section of Parrish Creek to fully functioning health will result in not only ecological benefits but will serve to further the understanding of how beaver dam analogs can impact various channel types and situations.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

## Review Team Priority

3 of 11

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$106,733

## Review Team Conditions

N/A

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

**Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$106,733

**Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6036-15934

**Project Type:** Technical Assistance

**Project Name:** Upper John Day Basin  
Collaborative LiDAR Flight

**Applicant:** Cascade Pacific RC&D

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$60,498

**Total Cost:** \$759,273

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC) is requesting \$60,498 to fund 60.5 square miles of a 1082 square mile collaborative Light Detection and Ranging (lidar) data collection in the upper John Day basin of Oregon. Funds will also allow SFJDWC staff to attend 80 training hours in lidar mapping and spatial analysis techniques that they will use for upcoming watershed assessment, strategic planning, project design, collaborative implementation, and post-project monitoring. State and federal partners have secured lidar data on National Forest and private lands to the North, East, and West of SFJDWC's acquisition area, but federal and state agencies are unable to fund collection on the land in between because of the checkerboard of ownerships. Closing this data gap will equip SFJDWC and the Murderers Creek Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) group with vital topographical and vegetation data to plan, perform, and monitor landscape-scale restoration work that is scheduled for the watershed in 2020. SFJDWC's acquisition area includes over 40 square miles of designated big game winter range and 40 anadromous stream miles that SFJDWC and our partners are committed to protecting in the lower South Fork watershed. These are important natural and cultural resources that we can enhanced, preserved, and managed more effectively with standardized lidar data and subsequent cross-ownership project work. Project partners include Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), US Geological Survey (USGS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), US Forest Service (USFS), and Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI).

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The application was well-written and presented a good plan for using the data, especially with the re-establishment of the local Coordinated Resource Management Plan group (CRMP) in the South Fork John Day River Watershed.
- The project increases local technical expertise in using LiDAR in restoration planning.
- The area identified for the flight is important because of accelerated restoration in priority areas.
- The cost of the LiDAR is reasonable. It was good to see coordination with other state and federal agencies that are also funding LiDAR flights in the basin.
- The project fills an identified data gap.
- Data will be broadly shared with the conservation community.

- The Upper John Day Basin is the 5th highest priority for LiDAR flights in the state.

### **Concerns**

- The application map could have provided more detail, identifying where the 60.5 sq. miles covered by this proposal fit in with other flights, and whether the other flights are planned for the future or if and when they have been already flown.
- The budget was unclear relative to the proposed training.
- The application would have been stronger with letters of support from both DOGAMI and USGS, as they are noted as important partners in this proposal.

### **Concluding Analysis**

The watershed council has successfully increased restoration in the South Fork John Day River watershed. This proposal will fill a known data gap and be used by multiple stakeholders for planning and conceptualizing additional restoration projects in the area. The timing of the proposal is important, coordinating with USGS and DOGAMI to assure efficiencies of the flights and with the re-initiation of the CRMP. Adding council technical expertise will increase the success and depth of future restoration proposals.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

2 of 2

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$60,498

### **Review Team Conditions**

N/A

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$60,498

**Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6037-15977

**Project Type:** Technical Assistance

**Project Name:** Cole-Engle Passage and Instream Habitat Design

**Applicant:** Monument SWCD

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$58,056

**Total Cost:** \$78,684

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

This project is located in Grant County, Oregon approximately 15 miles south of the town of Monument. The site is located on Cottonwood Creek, a significant tributary of the North Fork John Day River that provides critical spawning and rearing habitat to Middle-Columbia River steelhead (ESA Threatened) and other aquatic species. Streambed erosion is occurring at an irrigation point of diversion (POD) at stream mile 12.75 that services water rights for two adjacent landowners. The existing diversion structure consists of channel spanning sheet pilings, a fish passage box, and headgate that diverts water into an irrigation pipeline with an ODFW fish screen. The diversion was designed to withstand a 50-year flow event. Less than a year later after it was installed, the third highest flow event on the North Fork John Day River was recorded. Over three feet of the 4-foot sheet pilings are now exposed, threatening the long-term integrity of the structure and function of the fish passage. The landowners approached the Monument SWCD to develop a solution to the erosion that maintains fish passage over the structure and eliminates their need to conduct future instream maintenance on the diversion. This project will fund a thorough site evaluation and alternatives analysis leading to a final design for restoration measures modeled to withstand a 100-year flow event. Permit applications will also be sought during this technical assistance project. Partners include the landowners, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, USFWS Partners Program, and Monument SWCD.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- Cottonwood Creek is an important steelhead stream; assuring connectivity to upstream Fox Creek will multiply restoration benefits on both streams.
- The landowners are good stewards; they have successfully mitigated erosion around the diversion site.
- Although at this time the diversion is only a barrier to juvenile passage, without some correction it will eventually become a full fish barrier and block access to quality upstream habitat.
- The creek, from this site all the way to the confluence with the North Fork John Day River, is barrier free.
- Cottonwood Creek is identified as a high-priority area and removing fish passage barriers are high priority actions in the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan.

## Concerns

- The estimate for engineering was high; the completion report should include cost-effective alternatives, including retrofitting the existing structure.
- It was unclear whether designs from diversions done downstream could be used as a starting point to help reduce design expense.
- There was no landowner contribution for the design costs; however, match was secured from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.
- There was disappointment the original structure didn't hold; engineering should include consideration of extreme (>100 year) flow events.

## Concluding Analysis

Cottonwood Creek is an important steelhead spawning and rearing stream. This project will incorporate lessons learned from both the original design that didn't last, as well as numerous diversions corrected downstream. The stream corridor at this location is enrolled in CREP and appears to be in great shape. The project builds on numerous restoration projects and monitoring done in the watershed.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

## Review Team Priority

1 of 2

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$58,056

## Review Team Conditions

N/A

## Staff Recommendation

### Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

The grant agreement will include requirements for discussion of alternative designs, including one that would retrofit the existing structure for added stability and fish passage, in the Project Completion Report.

## Staff Recommendation

Fund

## Staff Recommended Amount

\$58,056



**Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6038-16054

**Project Type:** Technical Assistance

**Project Name:** Twickenham Wetland Enhancement

**Applicant:** Wheeler SWCD

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Wheeler

**OWEB Request:** \$27,896

**Total Cost:** \$48,171

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### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

1) The project is located along the John Day River at river mile 143.2 near Twickenham. 2) There is an existing wetland area that is currently cut off from the river. The wetland and levee was created after the 1964 flood to protect agricultural infrastructure in the valley. Due to the widespread practice of dike and levee construction in this area there is a lack of floodplain engagement and high quality riparian habitat. 3) This project seeks to develop construction ready designs that would remove the berm and restore approximately three acres of land into high quality wetland/riparian area. 4) The project partners would include the Wheeler SWCD, OWEB, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Resource Specialists Inc. (RSI). The owner of RSI is also the landowner of the project site; a large portion of the in-kind is in the form of survey and design time of the project.

### **Review Team Evaluation**

#### **Strengths**

- The review team liked the addition of Showy Milkweed as one of the pollinators planted.
- Removing berms and increasing floodplain connection generally provides ecological benefits.

#### **Concerns**

- The proposal addresses an artificial wetland, as it appeared to have been excavated, and could actually provide more benefit serving as a filter zone for irrigation tail water coming off the adjacent crop field.
- The main stem John Day River along this reach has been identified as a very low priority area for restoration in the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan.
- The proposed three-acre project will be expensive to implement for small ecological benefit.
- The proposal does not build on any existing restoration – this section of the John Day River is highly armored and serves mainly as a migration corridor for fish.
- There was concern that if resulting restoration was implemented, it could negatively affect and flood downstream neighbor's fields.

### **Concluding Analysis**

The review team did not feel this technical assistance proposal would result in a restoration project that would warrant funding.

**Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Do Not Fund

**Review Team Priority**

N/A

**Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Review Team Conditions**

NONE

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

**Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6039-15919

**Project Type:** Monitoring

**Project Name:** South Fork John Day River Rapid  
Riparian Revegetation Monitoring

**Applicant:** Cascade Pacific RC&D

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$25,392

**Total Cost:** \$35,392

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

Monitoring of instream and riparian conditions in the upper South Fork John Day River occurred between the mid 1990s and mid 2000s in association with instream and riparian enhancement projects voluntarily implemented by landowners. In 2000, the Grant SWCD initiated an instream habitat and biomonitoring program in eleven stream and river reaches throughout the watershed. This program was intended to evaluate the effects of instream and riparian restoration efforts on the St. Clair and Keerins' ranches. In 2004 and 2006 the monitoring program was expanded to include seven additional instream monitoring reaches, and upland vegetation monitoring was included in 2004 to examine the effects of juniper removal and noxious weed control efforts (Cole et al. 2005, Lemke and Cole 2006). Until 2017, no instream assessment or monitoring work had occurred in the upper South Fork since 2006. In 2017, the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, with the consultation of Kendra Smith, implemented a rapid riparian revegetation (R3) project (planting up to 2500 stems/acre) on the St. Clair ranch along several miles of the South Fork John Day River (OWEB grant #:217-6021). In concert with this project, the Charlotte Martin Foundation provided \$10,000 to perform an instream riparian assessment to establish a new baseline immediately prior to the implementation of this project and to determine the extent to which conditions have changed since the last assessment was performed over a decade ago. The 2017 assessment occurred in three previously assessed reaches on the St. Clair ranch, where the R3 project is occurring. Project partners include, The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, The St. Clair & Izee Ranches, the Charlotte Martin Foundation, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Mike Cole, Kendra Smith, and OWEB.

Monitoring of instream and riparian conditions in the upper South Fork John Day River occurred between the mid 1990s and mid 2000s in association with instream and riparian enhancement projects voluntarily implemented by landowners. In 2000, the Grant SWCD initiated an instream habitat and biomonitoring program in eleven stream and river reaches throughout the watershed. This program was intended to evaluate the effects of instream and riparian restoration efforts on the St. Clair and Keerins' ranches. In 2004 and 2006 the monitoring program was expanded to include seven additional instream monitoring reaches, and upland vegetation monitoring was included in 2004 to examine the effects of juniper removal and noxious weed control efforts (Cole et al. 2005, Lemke and Cole 2006). Until 2017, no instream assessment or monitoring work had occurred in the upper South Fork since 2006. In 2017, the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, with the consultation of Kendra Smith, implemented a rapid riparian revegetation (R3) project (planting up to 2500 stems/acre) on the St. Clair ranch along several miles of the South Fork John Day River (OWEB grant #:217-6021).

In concert with this project, the Charlotte Martin Foundation provided \$10,000 to perform an instream riparian assessment to establish a new baseline immediately prior to the implementation of this project and to determine the extent to which conditions have changed since the last assessment was performed over a decade ago. The 2017 assessment occurred in three previously assessed reaches on the St. Clair ranch, where the R3 project is occurring. Project partners include, The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, The St. Clair & Izee Ranches, the Charlotte Martin Foundation, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Mike Cole, Kendra Smith, and OWEB.

## **Monitoring Team Evaluation**

### **Monitoring Team Strengths**

- This application will add to existing macroinvertebrate and physical habitat data collected over the years.
- The application proposes to monitor a riparian revegetation technique that is typically not implemented on the eastside of the cascades.
- The OPMT is interested in understanding if this riparian revegetation technique is successful given that past revegetation efforts using different techniques have failed in this area. This information could be exported to other areas in the John Day Basin.

### **Monitoring Team Concerns**

- The application did not show how close the plantings were to the stream channel to understand if the vegetation would influence the riparian measurements that are taken with the protocol that was identified.
- It was unclear whether or not the macroinvertebrate community would respond to the revegetation efforts in a year. The macroinvertebrate data would be more helpful later in tracking the effects of the restoration. There is more value at this time in collecting the riparian physical habitat.
- There could be value in establishing a "sliding baseline" of macroinvertebrate data in 2018 and 2019, but the applicant should temper their expectations. The OPMT cautions the applicant from attributing any trends in the data to the restoration actions as there are other variables, such as streamflow, that affect macroinvertebrate communities over short periods of time.

### **Monitoring Team Comments**

- Work with DEQ and Xerces Society to develop a Sampling and Analysis Plan and get assistance interpreting the data.

### **Benefit to Oregon Plan**

High (63%), Medium (37%)

### **Certainty of Success**

High (63%), Medium (37%)

## **Review Team Evaluation**

### **Strengths**

- The project complements an experimental (on the eastside) high-density riparian planting and could provide valuable data for similar projects in the future.
- The project utilizes historic data for comparison on the same sites.
- This is a low-cost project on private land with a landowner excited about monitoring.

### **Concerns**

- Macroinvertebrate monitoring one year after the last data collection seemed too soon to get any relevant data.
- The application would have been stronger if it had included information and protocols relating to the aspects of monitoring proposed other than the macroinvertebrates.
- The monitoring questions were broad and not specific to the riparian planting and/or the beaver dam analogs.
- The maps needed more detail and spatial information relating to the two types of restoration.

### **Concluding Analysis**

There was insufficient information to determine what this monitoring would deliver. Because of the slow changes resulting from planting, there were concerns this monitoring proposal may be premature. Even changes from beaver dam analogs may take more time to effectively sort gravels and aggrade the channel. The application did not expand on additional monitoring, beside the macro invertebrate component. If resubmitted, it was suggested the applicant provide a comprehensive monitoring plan that clearly provides the questions they seek to answer, where the various restoration components are located, and where the related monitoring would be done.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Do Not Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

N/A

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Review Team Conditions**

NONE

### **Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

**Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6040-15947

**Project Type:** Monitoring

**Project Name:** Middle Fork John Day River Basin  
Water Temperature Monitoring and Forecasting  
Tool

**Applicant:** The Freshwater Trust

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$24,516

**Total Cost:** \$29,016

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The Middle Fork John Day River (MFJDR) is home to significant populations of spring Chinook salmon, as well as federally threatened Mid-Columbia steelhead and bull trout. Primary limiting factors in the watershed for these species include low summer stream flows and high-water temperatures. Lethally warm water temperatures have on occasion resulted in large adult Chinook and juvenile steelhead mortality events. A variety of public and private partners have been working for years to improve instream habitat and water quantity/quality conditions in the MFJDR. The majority of water rights in the upper basin (roughly from the town of Galena upstream) have either been entirely transferred instream or are managed such that diversions cease in late July. Instream habitat work in this area has in part aimed to address water temperatures, and significant additional work is planned for the decade to come. However, issues currently persist during mid-summer. Funding from OWEB will enable The Freshwater Trust (TFT) and area partners to develop a program that will alert area irrigators when a high water temperature event is occurring or likely to occur. This project will require the purchase, installation and operation of a real-time telemetered water temperature sensor, as well as the development of a water temperature prediction model. This project will be modeled on a similar, successful program in the Fifteenmile Creek watershed, and is viewed as a necessary, but ultimately temporary, program to prevent lethal water temperature conditions until additional instream and riparian projects are completed.

The Middle Fork John Day River (MFJDR) is home to significant populations of spring Chinook salmon, as well as federally threatened Mid-Columbia steelhead and bull trout. Primary limiting factors in the watershed for these species include low summer stream flows and high-water temperatures. Lethally warm water temperatures have on occasion resulted in large adult Chinook and juvenile steelhead mortality events. A variety of public and private partners have been working for years to improve instream habitat and water quantity/quality conditions in the MFJDR. The majority of water rights in the upper basin (roughly from the town of Galena upstream) have either been entirely transferred instream or are managed such that diversions cease in late July. Instream habitat work in this area has in part aimed to address water temperatures, and significant additional work is planned for the decade to come. However, issues currently persist during mid-summer. Funding from OWEB will enable The Freshwater Trust (TFT) and area partners to develop a program that will alert area irrigators when a high water temperature event is occurring or likely to occur. This project will require the purchase, installation and operation of a real-time telemetered water temperature sensor, as well as the development of a water temperature prediction



model. This project will be modeled on a similar, successful program in the Fifteenmile Creek watershed, and is viewed as a necessary, but ultimately temporary, program to prevent lethal water temperature conditions until additional instream and riparian projects are completed.

## **Monitoring Team Evaluation**

### **Monitoring Team Strengths**

- This monitoring and modeling effort will build on past restoration efforts to address the recent fish kill events.
- The application will leverage the existing comprehensive monitoring network in the area.
- There are good working relationships in this basin and there were good letters of support.
- There is confidence that the applicant has the abilities to complete the work as proposed.
- This project has good potential as a similar approach is working well in Fifteenmile Creek.

### **Monitoring Team Concerns**

- It was not clear if the applicant had the primary irrigators on board to apply the information once a model is developed.
- The application would have been stronger with a preliminary assessment of the existing water withdrawals to determine whether if irrigation is reduced, an increase in streamflow would result where the fish are likely to be located.

### **Monitoring Team Comments**

NONE

### **Benefit to Oregon Plan**

High (88%), Medium (12%)

### **Certainty of Success**

High (50%), Medium (50%)

## **Review Team Evaluation**

### **Strengths**

- The project is located in a high priority area for spring Chinook and other ESA-listed fish.
- The project could help in understanding and reducing fish kills on the Middle Fork John Day River.
- Freshwater Trust has the technical staff with experience in this type of modeling.
- The project is modeled after similar monitoring on 15-Mile and Cottonwood Creeks.
- The modeling is somewhat time sensitive because of dire predictions for the 2021 fish runs.
- The proposal will provide good value for minimal cost.

## Concerns

- The application would have been stronger if it had included more data on where and when the fish kills have occurred relative to where the water rights are located.
- It was unclear how long it would take water from the identified points of diversion (POD) to reach locations where the fish need it.
- Because of the isolated nature of the PODs, it was unclear whether water shut-offs would be done timely enough to offset lethal stream temperatures.
- More detail was needed on the map submitted with the application, such as water rights (CFS) and POD locations, locations of past fish kills, and some reference to stream miles.
- It would have been helpful to have more information on the 15-Mile Creek situation, including discussion on the similarities and differences.

## Concluding Analysis

This modeling data will have value, especially if some analysis is included related to the fish kill locations on the Middle Fork John Day River. Fifteenmile Creek has had a lot of success with a similar program; however, there are significant differences in the number and proximity of irrigators, size of the creek, and lower elevations.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

## Review Team Priority

3 of 4

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$24,516

## Review Team Conditions

The Project Completion Report will include an analysis of fish kill events and the likelihood of stream temperature resulting from the added water on those sites and any other identified critical reaches.

## Staff Recommendation

### Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

## Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

## Staff Recommended Amount

\$24,516

### **Staff Conditions**

The Project Completion Report will include an analysis of fish kill events and the likelihood of stream temperature resulting from the added water on those sites and any other identified critical reaches.

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6041-16019

**Project Type:** Monitoring

**Project Name:** Long-term ecological effects of passive restoration in the Middle Fork John Day watershed

**Applicant:** Confed Tribes Warm Springs

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$182,089

**Total Cost:** \$260,706

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The Middle Fork John Day River (MFJDR) in Grant County, OR, historically incurred significant degradation due to human land use activities. Over the past several decades, landowners and resource managers have initiated activities to restore this area, including both active (i.e. riparian plantings, channel re-configuration, in-stream structures, etc.) and passive restoration (change in land management, i.e. change in grazing management). While active restoration projects typically have ongoing monitoring, the impacts of passive restoration activities are rarely quantified due to the long-term nature of recovery. In this project, we have the opportunity to re-visit sites where passive restoration was initiated over 20 years ago to quantify the impact that restoration type (passive restoration alone, and the additive effects of active-with-passive restoration) has had on overall system recovery. We will take advantage of and build upon existing historical data sets collected prior restoration initiation on vegetation structure and composition and channel morphology. We will remeasure stream reaches that have experienced only passive restoration, reaches with a combination of active and passive restoration, and reaches with ongoing livestock grazing. This project represents an active and on-going partnership with original researchers from Oregon State University and the University of Oregon, land managers at the US Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy, private landowners along the MFJDR, and current scientists from the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. The Middle Fork John Day River (MFJDR) in Grant County, OR, historically incurred significant degradation due to human land use activities. Over the past several decades, landowners and resource managers have initiated activities to restore this area, including both active (i.e. riparian plantings, channel re-configuration, in-stream structures, etc.) and passive restoration (change in land management, i.e. change in grazing management). While active restoration projects typically have ongoing monitoring, the impacts of passive restoration activities are rarely quantified due to the long-term nature of recovery. In this project, we have the opportunity to re-visit sites where passive restoration was initiated over 20 years ago to quantify the impact that restoration type (passive restoration alone, and the additive effects of active-with-passive restoration) has had on overall system recovery. We will take advantage of and build upon existing historical data sets collected prior restoration initiation on vegetation structure and composition and channel morphology. We will remeasure stream reaches that have experienced only passive restoration, reaches with a combination of active and passive restoration, and reaches with ongoing livestock grazing. This project represents an

active and on-going partnership with original researchers from Oregon State University and the University of Oregon, land managers at the US Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy, private landowners along the MFJDR, and current scientists from the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon.

## **Monitoring Team Evaluation**

### **Monitoring Team Strengths**

- There is good collaboration between the universities and the tribes on monitoring in this area.
- The application builds on past data collection efforts to revisit a 20+ year-old study.
- The original professors who helped collect the data in the '90s are participating to ensure the original sites are resampled and the same methods are followed to collect the data so that comparison is appropriate and possible.
- This monitoring effort is a complement to the MF John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) that just completed a ten-year summary report.
- The applicant incorporated revisions from the last review and clearly defined the objectives for comparing the active vs passive restoration sites.

### **Monitoring Team Concerns**

- There is uncertainty on who is going to manage this project because the project manager has moved on from the applicant organization.

### **Monitoring Team Comments**

NONE

### **Benefit to Oregon Plan**

High (100%)

### **Certainty of Success**

High (75%), Medium (25%)

## **Review Team Evaluation**

### **Strengths**

- The resubmittal responded well to all the previous concerns and questions addressed in the evaluation.
- The proposal is a unique opportunity to replicate monitoring from over 20 years ago, especially since it involves the same scientists that did the original collection and analysis.
- The data will be useful to many stakeholders involved in restoration as they plan projects in the John Day Basin.
- The cost is reasonable for the level of academic involvement and analysis.

## Concerns

- There were no significant concerns.

## Concluding Analysis

This proposal is a resubmittal and the applicant responded well to the previous evaluation's comments. It is truly a unique opportunity to replicate and analyze data on restoration done at watershed scale. The right people are involved and the monitoring is being done where numerous restoration projects have been implemented over the years.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

## Review Team Priority

1 of 4

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$182,089

## Review Team Conditions

N/A

## Staff Recommendation

### Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NONE

## Staff Recommendation

Fund

## Staff Recommended Amount

\$182,089

## Staff Conditions

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6042-16034

**Project Type:** Monitoring

**Project Name:** Long-term Population Impacts of Beaver Restoration: Bridge Creek Intensively Monitored Watershed

**Applicant:** Utah State University Office of Sponsored Programs

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Wheeler

**OWEB Request:** \$387,611

**Total Cost:** \$626,679

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The consequences of channel incision, a ubiquitous problem throughout the world, include a lowering of the water table and reduced morphological complexity leading to a substantial loss of riparian vegetation, simplified fish habitat, and declines in fish populations. Incised channels can take millennia to recover; however, previous work in Bridge Creek, tributary to the John Day River, Mitchell OR, demonstrated that beaver dams or BDAs greatly accelerated the incision recovery process by reconnecting the channel to inset floodplains, relative to a control watershed. These changes quickly led to a damping of extreme water temperatures, an increase in water storage, riparian extent, fish habitat complexity, and the abundance, growth, survival and production of juvenile steelhead; one of the only experiments demonstrating a population level response following restoration. While we demonstrated large short-term responses to this restoration strategy, the longer-term responses as massive beaver dam complexes mature into more wetland meadow type habitat still need to be evaluated. This project would provide the only long-term information as to the impacts of these changes to steelhead and salmon, including the response of native non-target and non-native fish populations, and native and non-native vegetation. This grant would continue the collaboration between, NOAA, ODFW, Utah State University, and Eco Logical Research, to monitor the response of fishes and other biota to gradual shifts in conditions, whereby current infrastructure and 10 years of previous detailed monitoring, would aid in evaluating whether this inexpensive approach to assist beavers still provide benefits to listed salmonids. Given the rapid and abundant adoption of this restoration approach from the lessons learned in Bridge Creek, the longer-term evaluation is critical for further guidance. The consequences of channel incision, a ubiquitous problem throughout the world, include a lowering of the water table and reduced morphological complexity leading to a substantial loss of riparian vegetation, simplified fish habitat, and declines in fish populations. Incised channels can take millennia to recover; however, previous work in Bridge Creek, tributary to the John Day River, Mitchell OR, demonstrated that beaver dams or BDAs greatly accelerated the incision recovery process by reconnecting the channel to inset floodplains, relative to a control watershed. These changes quickly led to a damping of extreme water temperatures, an increase in water storage, riparian extent, fish habitat complexity, and the abundance, growth, survival and production of juvenile steelhead; one of the only experiments demonstrating a population level response following restoration. While we demonstrated large short-term responses to this restoration strategy, the longer-term responses as massive beaver dam complexes mature into more wetland meadow type habitat still need to be

evaluated. This project would provide the only long-term information as to the impacts of these changes to steelhead and salmon, including the response of native non-target and non-native fish populations, and native and non-native vegetation. This grant would continue the collaboration between, NOAA, ODFW, Utah State University, and Eco Logical Research, to monitor the response of fishes and other biota to gradual shifts in conditions, whereby current infrastructure and 10 years of previous detailed monitoring, would aid in evaluating whether this inexpensive approach to assist beavers still provide benefits to listed salmonids. Given the rapid and abundant adoption of this restoration approach from the lessons learned in Bridge Creek, the longer-term evaluation is critical for further guidance.

## **Monitoring Team Evaluation**

### **Monitoring Team Strengths**

- The applicant has a good track record collecting and reporting this information in the past.
- The application proposes to collect data that will build on existing efforts to better understand how beaver restoration efforts affect the stream and fish after 10 years of initial results.
- The study design is sufficient to track fish growth and survival in addition to fish passage.
- The information learned will contribute to outreach efforts in which the applicant is already engaged.
- The data will be widely distributed and is exportable to other Mid-Columbia watersheds of a similar size.

### **Monitoring Team Concerns**

- The application lacked detail to explain how the project would link the extensive habitat data with aerial imagery collected with a drone to track trends over time and space.
- The application did not describe the sampling methods or cite the protocols for the habitat, groundwater, and water quality monitoring components.
- There was not sufficient detail to understand how the budget was developed.
- There were no letters of support from the restoration community or regulatory agencies communicating a strong desire for this information.

### **Monitoring Team Comments**

NONE

### **Benefit to Oregon Plan**

High (88%), Medium (12%)

### **Certainty of Success**

High (50%), Medium (50%)

### **Review Team Evaluation**



## Strengths

- The project would assess the long-term impact of BDA-type installations on both fish populations and the changes in the landscape – from incised and straightened channels to more sinuous streams that are connected to the floodplains and emerging wetlands.
- The proposal included a good study design with the right people involved in the monitoring.
- It is important to know fish movement in this system, along with their abundance and growth. ODFW will not be able to cover this fish monitoring on Bridge Creek.

## Concerns

- Because using drones is relatively new to monitoring, more information on how data will be analyzed would have been helpful to the review.
- The budget needed more detailed line items and no lump sums. The description in the budget identified the majority of funds going toward fish data collection. It was unclear what would fund the collection of ground water well and temperature data, aerial imagery, inventorying beaver dam distribution, and any related analysis.
- The application would have been stronger if it had included rationale for monitoring every year on those components other than fish data (it was understood that annual fish and temperature data are critical.)
- A chart, referenced in the application, was included in the design packet describing the monitoring components, spatial and temporal design; however, it was buried at the end of the uploaded document and not easily found. It would have been better to upload it as a separate document, as was done with the map.

## Concluding Analysis

The monitoring done on the Bridge Creek IMW has been instrumental in the advancement of using beaver dam analogs in restoration and answered important concerns about fish passage and overall benefits. Continuing the monitoring into the future as the stream system evolves could provide useful information; however, the overall benefit is low when balanced against the high investment.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

## Review Team Priority

N/A

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

## Review Team Conditions

NONE

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

**Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6043-16067

**Project Type:** Monitoring

**Project Name:** Walla Walla Hydrological Enhancement and Aquifer Recharge Effectiveness Monitoring

**Applicant:** Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Umatilla

**OWEB Request:** \$134,387

**Total Cost:** \$272,334

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The project is located throughout the Oregon portion of the Walla Walla Watershed in Umatilla County, near Milton-Freewater, assessing the Walla Walla River, its tributaries and distributaries, and the shallow alluvial aquifer. Monitoring will evaluate, at different spatial scales, the effectiveness of restoration projects intended to improve hydrological conditions which directly or indirectly influence fish habitat. Stream flow monitoring is needed to ensure migratory passage has been maintained for ESA-listed Steelhead and Bull trout, and reintroduced Spring Chinook salmon. Streamflow and temperature monitoring will assess the effectiveness of basin-wide streamflow and rearing habitat enhancement projects that have been implemented over the last 17 years by WWBWC. Data will be obtained for one year at varying frequencies for key parameters such as water temperature, discharge, and groundwater elevations. The effectiveness of restoration projects on a landscape scale will be based on evaluating changes over time (relying on WWBWC's robust dataset of past conditions) in groundwater elevations, mainstem Walla Walla River flow and temperature, and hydraulic gradients between water elevations in surface waters and nearby groundwater. The effectiveness of aquifer recharge projects will be assessed by comparison of conditions before and after operations, and, at one site, a tracer study. Deliverables include a report of the results of the hypotheses tested relating to basin-wide hydrology and another report of the results of the hypotheses tested relating to the effectiveness of the managed aquifer recharge sites. Sources of match include ODA, and (tentatively) the CTUIR, USBR and ODEQ. The project is located throughout the Oregon portion of the Walla Walla Watershed in Umatilla County, near Milton-Freewater, assessing the Walla Walla River, its tributaries and distributaries, and the shallow alluvial aquifer. Monitoring will evaluate, at different spatial scales, the effectiveness of restoration projects intended to improve hydrological conditions which directly or indirectly influence fish habitat. Stream flow monitoring is needed to ensure migratory passage has been maintained for ESA-listed Steelhead and Bull trout, and reintroduced Spring Chinook salmon. Streamflow and temperature monitoring will assess the effectiveness of basin-wide streamflow and rearing habitat enhancement projects that have been implemented over the last 17 years by WWBWC. Data will be obtained for one year at varying frequencies for key parameters such as water temperature, discharge, and groundwater elevations. The effectiveness of restoration projects on a landscape scale will be based on evaluating changes over time (relying on WWBWC's robust dataset of past conditions) in groundwater elevations, mainstem Walla Walla River flow and temperature, and hydraulic gradients between water elevations in

surface waters and nearby groundwater. The effectiveness of aquifer recharge projects will be assessed by comparison of conditions before and after operations, and, at one site, a tracer study. Deliverables include a report of the results of the hypotheses tested relating to basin-wide hydrology and another report of the results of the hypotheses tested relating to the effectiveness of the managed aquifer recharge sites. Sources of match include ODA, and (tentatively) the CTUIR, USBR and ODEQ.

## **Monitoring Team Evaluation**

### **Monitoring Team Strengths**

- The applicant has a good track record for performing similar efforts on past monitoring grants.
- The applicant is working with agencies in Oregon and Washington in an ongoing bi-state effort.
- This type of data is needed in the basin because of the complexity of the system.
- The applicant is working with consultants to incorporate the surface water and aquifer data to better understand the effects of the aquifer recharge projects.

### **Monitoring Team Concerns**

- The application was challenging to follow (e.g., which monitoring efforts were linked to their hypotheses).
- The objectives and methods associated with the evapotranspiration component of the monitoring project were not fully explained.
- The tracer study seemed to be added on to address the Tribe's concerns, but it was unclear if legal protection of water is possible if the data show the effectiveness of the aquifer recharge project.
- Some components of the application should be broken out and/or phased in order to focus the work.
- It was not clear how the various partners utilize the information they have collected in the past to demonstrate a need to continue the monitoring efforts.
- It was not clear if one year of data was sufficient to answer their questions given the variability in the hydrologic regime.
- The applicant cited outdated USGS methods to operate and manage the gaging stations..

### **Monitoring Team Comments**

NONE

### **Benefit to Oregon Plan**

High (43%), Medium (57%)

### **Certainty of Success**

Medium (71%), Low (29%)

## **Review Team Evaluation**

## Strengths

- The need for monitoring is clear in this unique ecosystem.
- The data is made available and used by a variety of stakeholders.
- Water temperature and flow data is valuable and integral to monitoring effectiveness of the aquifer recharge program.
- Good protocols are used and the applicant has a reputation for collecting and reporting useful data.
- Bromide used in the tracer study is effective, cheap, and safe when interacting with drinking water and wells. The applicant consulted with DEQ and USGS to determine the best methodology for doing a tracer study.
- Although funding only one year of data collection was questioned, it was determined this would build on the existing 10 years of data collected, and hopefully bridge monitoring funding until BPA contracts are secured.

## Concerns

- The application was hard to follow with multiple monitoring components not clearly linked to the hypothesis.
- More detail would have been helpful relative to the evapotranspiration monitoring.
- Some of the hypotheses were fairly general and already have supporting data, for example increased levels in 25% of wells. However, the information relating to well levels lacked a scientific assessment of cause and effect.
- The review team questioned why flow trackers were being rented rather than purchased.

## Concluding Analysis

This proposal will provide funding to continue an extensive monitoring program, integral to the aquifer recharge program in the Milton Freewater area. The data is used by multiple stakeholders and will help guide future restoration.

## Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

## Review Team Priority

4 of 4

## Review Team Recommended Amount

\$134,387

## Review Team Conditions

N/A

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

**Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

**Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6044-16077

**Project Type:** Monitoring

**Project Name:** Beaver Dam Analog Monitoring  
Protocol Development

**Applicant:** Bridge Creek WC

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Wheeler

**OWEB Request:** \$106,961

**Total Cost:** \$144,659

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

This project is proposed to occur in Gilliam, Grant, Wheeler, and Crook Counties. The use of beaver dam analogs (BDAs) to aid in stream restoration has gained huge popularity in the past 5 years. Like other restoration practices coupled with their rapid adoption, BDAs must meet the monitoring requirements by OWEB, ODFW fish passage, and DSL. Despite the widespread use of BDAs by multiple parties, common monitoring protocols do not currently exist. Further, a standardized program to cover all three monitoring requirements also has not been developed. Here we propose to 1) develop a BDA monitoring protocol that fulfills all monitoring requirements that includes the added flexibility to cover project-specific objectives 2) develop a user-friendly monitoring app to collect the relevant data and encourage articulation of project objectives 3) monitor structures to progressively improve the protocol 4) develop a database for data storage from data collected from the app 5) and develop a website to allow access to all data and derived metrics to promote broad scale learning and aid in reporting. This process would occur with the oversight of personnel from federal, state and tribal agencies, watershed councils, SWCDs, and OWEB. This process would be applied to structures in Region 6 and surrounding areas with the expectation that this would be adopted as a statewide approach the following year once approved by the oversight committee. Funding for full implementation would be sought after this development and pilot year monitoring through another proposal. Project partners include Mid John Day Bridge Creek Watershed Council, Wheeler SWCD, EcoLogical Research, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Department of State Lands, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA, South Fork John Day Watershed Council, and NRCS. This project is proposed to occur in Gilliam, Grant, Wheeler, and Crook Counties. The use of beaver dam analogs (BDAs) to aid in stream restoration has gained huge popularity in the past 5 years. Like other restoration practices coupled with their rapid adoption, BDAs must meet the monitoring requirements by OWEB, ODFW fish passage, and DSL. Despite the widespread use of BDAs by multiple parties, common monitoring protocols do not currently exist. Further, a standardized program to cover all three monitoring requirements also has not been developed. Here we propose to 1) develop a BDA monitoring protocol that fulfills all monitoring requirements that includes the added flexibility to cover project-specific objectives 2) develop a user-friendly monitoring app to collect the relevant data and encourage articulation of project objectives 3) monitor structures to progressively improve the protocol 4) develop a database for data storage from data collected from the app 5) and develop a website to allow access to all data and derived metrics to promote broad scale learning and aid in reporting. This process would occur with the oversight of personnel from federal, state

and tribal agencies, watershed councils, SWCDs, and OWEB. This process would be applied to structures in Region 6 and surrounding areas with the expectation that this would be adopted as a statewide approach the following year once approved by the oversight committee. Funding for full implementation would be sought after this development and pilot year monitoring through another proposal. Project partners include Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council, Wheeler SWCD, EcoLogical Research, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Department of State Lands, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA, South Fork John Day Watershed Council, and NRCS.

## **Monitoring Team Evaluation**

### **Monitoring Team Strengths**

- The application explained well the different types of beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and how they are applied in different areas.
- Aligning reporting/monitoring requirements is important to improve efficiencies among the restoration practitioners.
- It is important to identify the high-priority data to use while developing a data management system that is flexible to collect additional data.
- The applicant is inviting individuals who are well-versed on this topic to participate on the steering committee.

### **Monitoring Team Concerns**

- It is unclear how the steering committee will play into this. Will the steering committee help define the objectives, or will they be defining the protocol and requirements?
- The timeframe for the protocol and data collection is quite short to develop a comprehensive protocol and a well-structured and robust data management system.
- There is no letter of support from the OSU web developer, yet his role in the project is critical and the application incorporates his contribution as match in the budget.
- It may be appropriate to fund the first two components, but delay the web application development piece. Value exists in convening the steering committee and combining the agency monitoring requirements to be addressed by a comprehensive protocol.

### **Monitoring Team Comments**

- The applicant should think about having a facilitator for the steering committee process to ensure effective engagement and the capture of meaningful feedback on this important topic.

### **Benefit to Oregon Plan**

High (57%), Medium (43%)

### **Certainty of Success**

Medium (100%)



## **Review Team Evaluation**

### **Strengths**

- Developing standard and consistent protocols for monitoring BDA-type restoration structures is a good idea because of the increase in this type of restoration being implemented on the eastside of the state.
- The breadth of the technical steering committee will help to assure that protocols incorporate various agencies' monitoring requirements and considerations.
- The deliverable will be a good tool for stakeholders as they develop and describe future BDA projects.
- Because DSL is still working on developing permitting requirements for BDA type structures, it is critical they participate on the steering committee.
- By assessing 100 different BDA structures around the region, the applicant will cover a variety of land forms and stream types where BDAs have been installed, so the resulting protocols will be useful across a broad and varied landscape.
- The right people are involved and support this proposal, either as developers or serving on the steering committee.

### **Concerns**

- The application was unclear on who would be responsible for maintaining, updating, and inputting data into the web application.
- Because state funds were being used, there was a concern on how to maintain access for all stakeholders; the applicant should provide assurance that the website and web app will not be patented or become propriety software.

### **Concluding Analysis**

Over the past ten years, BDAs have gained in popularity on the eastside of the state. This has caused more scrutiny from both permitting agencies and watershed professionals. This proposal will help key in on the conversation of designing structures to meet specific desired objectives and the related monitoring protocols that will deliver the data to gauge the changes and success of those desired objectives.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

2 of 4

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$106,961

### **Review Team Conditions**

N/A

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

**Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$106,961

**Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6045-15941

**Project Type:** Stakeholder Engagement

**Project Name:** Beaver Dam Analogue Workshop

**Applicant:** Cascade Pacific RC&D

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$17,436

**Total Cost:** \$28,034

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP) has prepared a 3-day workshop in Grant and Wheeler counties that will teach participants to design, install, and adaptively manage beaver dam analogue (BDA) structures as a tool for channel restoration. There will be two classroom days in John Day and one field day at existing BDA project sites on Bridge and Bear Creeks near Mitchell. While relatively new, BDAs provide a cost-efficient and effective approach for restoring channel and riparian function to degraded stream systems. Due to the accessibility, low-cost, and low-risk, BDA-based approaches are becoming widespread, and this workshop will ensure that land managers and restoration professionals have the skills and knowledge to design, implement, and maintain successful BDA projects throughout the basin. The workshop will take place in mid-July, at the start of the 2018 instream work window, so participants can attend the class before beginning their 2018 BDA installations. Leading project partners include the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, Eco Logical Research, Utah State University, Wheeler SWCD, NOAA fisheries, Malheur National Forest and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. OWEB dollars will be used to purchase workshop supplies, rent a conference room at the Grant County Regional Airport, and pay for the time and travel of experienced workshop instructors from Eco Logical Research and Utah State University. OWEB's contribution will reduce program costs and make the registration fee more affordable for participants.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- This proposal is timely with the increased use of this type of structure in restoration.
- The OWEB funding will reduce the cost of workshops, likely increasing the number of attendees.
- Other similar workshops have been well received, over-booked, and very successful.
- There is good diversity in the targeted audience, including restoration professionals, landowners, and contractors.

##### **Concerns**

- Initially it was unclear why the budget did not include field supplies. It was determined that the field sessions will dovetail with existing restoration projects so supplies were not necessary.

## **Concluding Analysis**

This proposal is modeled after a successful workshop partially funded by OWEB as part of a previous BDA restoration project. That workshop had 35 attendees with a long waiting list. The technical team that presents has been involved in similar workshops all across the Northwest region. The proposed workshop agenda is comprehensive and includes information not only on construction of these type structures but also the history and philosophy of beaver dams and BDA restoration; permitting and design considerations; the tools available to analyze where structures are appropriate and where they are not; field visits showing a variety of stream systems where BDAs have been installed; and finally a field construction day where hands-on learning is provided.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

1 of 3

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$17,436

### **Review Team Conditions**

N/A

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$17,436

### **Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6046-15957

**Project Type:** Stakeholder Engagement

**Project Name:** Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement in the John Day Basin

**Applicant:** Blue Mountain Land Trust

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$69,479

**Total Cost:** \$98,079

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

Blue Mountain Land Trust (BMLT) will work with local SWCDs, watershed councils, and state, federal, and tribal agencies to advance land protection efforts in the John Day Basin in eastern Oregon. Elements of this project will include outreach to conservation partners, community leaders, and landowners to identify, develop, and build public support for acquisition projects in the area. This project is a continuation of work performed by BMLT and funded by OWEB under a Technical Assistance - Landowner Recruitment grant in 2017. That project was extremely successful in developing acquisition projects, and we are seeking additional funding to build on the momentum we have created and maintain the pace of land protection in the John Day.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- The proposal continues work funded by a previous OWEB technical assistance landowner recruitment grant.
- There is a need for continued outreach related to conservation easements, working lands easements and acquisitions.
- The proposal builds on existing momentum in the conservation communities of the John Day Basin.
- The person hired to work in the basin is the right person for the task. She has done well coordinating with local partners and relates with landowners.
- The applicant is a participant in the John Day Basin Partnership which will aid in identifying high priority areas for protection.

##### **Concerns**

- The application would have been stronger if it had provided more detail and clear metrics relating to project goals.
- It was unclear how the position will be supported into the future.
- It was unclear if there was a prioritization process for potential easement sites. Since potential easements are all voluntary, the program must be opportunistic.

#### **Concluding Analysis**

Conservation easements and acquisitions are relatively new to the John Day Basin. The Blue Mountain Land Trust joined with conservation partners from the John Day Basin and filled that void by opening a satellite office in John Day with appropriate staff to help provide expertise to both partners and interested landowners. This stakeholder engagement proposal will help inform and collaborate with landowners interested in easements as a tool to protect their lands from development and fragmentation.

**Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

**Review Team Priority**

2 of 3

**Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$69,479

**Review Team Conditions**

N/A

**Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

**Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$69,479

**Staff Conditions**

NONE

## Open Solicitation-2017 Fall Offering

### Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Number:** 218-6047-16070

**Project Type:** Stakeholder Engagement

**Project Name:** Communications Campaign for the John Day Basin Partnership

**Applicant:** North Fork John Day WC

**Basin:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$32,323

**Total Cost:** \$47,832

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#### **Project Abstract** *(from application)*

The John Day Basin Partnership consists of 28 organizations who have come together to accelerate the pace, scale, and impact of restoration throughout the watershed. The first goal of the Partnership was to develop a basin-wide action plan that would attract additional funding, enable it to deploy funds in a more effective manner, and ultimately make greater strides towards meeting ecological goals. Over the course of three years of collaborative effort, the Partnership has become a high-functioning joint venture. It has forged new and strengthened existing relationships, developed internal communication protocols, and established operating norms. The monumental task of developing a basin-wide “ridge to ridge” action plan is nearing completion. The Partnership anticipates finalizing this Strategic Action Plan (SAP) in summer 2018. The SAP identifies and prioritizes restoration activities “from ridge-to-ridge”, and sets forth appropriate monitoring in parallel with efforts. Once the SAP is finalized, the Partnership will set its sights on OWEB’s FIP program and other sources of funding for implementation. The Partnership recognizes that landowner and public support and involvement are critical to continued effectiveness and ultimate success. As we put finishing touches on our SAP, the time has come for more dedicated and deliberate efforts towards public relations. As a component catalyzing forward movement of the John Day Basin Partnership, we respectfully submit a request for support for a strategic communications campaign. This Stakeholder Engagement project will enable the Partnership to develop a “media toolkit”, deliver targeted messaging to constituents, and receive and respond to community input.

#### **Review Team Evaluation**

##### **Strengths**

- There is a clear strategic plan for outreach.
- Partners all participate in the John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP), a collaboration to develop an action plan to increase and accelerate restoration in the John Day Basin. This outreach toolkit is critical to the JDBP as it begins reaching out to the public.
- The communication strategy is broad and headed in the right direction.

##### **Concerns**

- The application was hard to understand and needed more detail about various tools.
- The proposal is several steps from actual restoration.

- The budget has a line item for some of the NFJDWC executive director's salary, which may already be paid for by OWEB council capacity funding.

## **Concluding Analysis**

Starting in 2014, the John Day Basin Partnership has been collaboratively working toward the development of a basin-wide action plan to help accelerate strategic restoration in the John Day Basin. This communication proposal will aid in reaching that goal by informing a variety of stakeholders in the basin about the partnership and the action plan, and will help seek and guide restoration opportunities in the basin.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

3 of 3

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$32,323

### **Review Team Conditions**

N/A

### **Staff Recommendation**

#### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NONE

### **Staff Recommendation**

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$0

### **Staff Conditions**

NONE





# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
**FROM:** Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager  
Miriam Hulst, Acquisitions Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item H– October 2017 Land Acquisition Grant Offering Awards  
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

### I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the October 19, 2017 land acquisition grant offering and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards.

### II. Land Acquisitions – October 2017 Offering Background and Summary

#### A. Applications Submitted

The October 2017 grant offering is the first of two annual land acquisition grant cycles for the 2017-2019 biennium. The land and water acquisition budget is \$7.5 million for the biennium, including \$600,000 reserved for funding land acquisition technical assistance applications.

Eight land acquisition grant applications were received, requesting approximately \$5.2 million. One land acquisition TA application was received, requesting \$149,985. The applications are summarized in Attachment A. Application evaluations are included as Attachment B.

Following technical reviews, land acquisition applications 218-9902, 218-9903, 218-9905, 218-9906, 218-9908, and 218-9909 are recommended for funding with conditions. Land acquisition applications 218-9904 and 218-9907 are not recommended for funding. The land acquisition TA application, 218-9910 is recommended for funding. Staff recommend the board award funding for all projects that were recommended for funding through the technical review.

#### B. Review Process

The land acquisition applications were reviewed in accordance with the process adopted by the board at its January 2013 meeting and refined by the board in 2015. The process utilizes technical experts to evaluate ecological outcomes, project soundness, organizational capacity, and community benefits and impacts. It also includes a public hearing and submission of public comment by interested parties.

Site visits were conducted by staff and teams of ecological reviewers consisting of subject matter experts selected by the applicant and chosen by staff from Regional

Review Teams. Each ecological reviewer completed a project evaluation form, and the input of all ecological reviewers was summarized by staff.

Project soundness reviews were conducted by a team consisting of staff, the land acquisition program's due-diligence technical assistance contractor, and the Oregon Department of Justice. The reviews included identifying project soundness concerns, and whether reviewers think concerns are resolvable in the 18-month timeframe allowed for closing transactions after the board awards funding.

Staff reviewed organizational capacity and community benefits and impacts. Public comment was solicited through notices and a public hearing held by staff for each of the applications received this cycle.

Staff summarized the review outcomes for each project. After evaluations were completed, they were provided to the applicants.

Using the revised review process approved by the board in 2015, the board Land Acquisition Subcommittee met with staff during the evaluation process for the October 2017 applications. The purpose of the meeting was for subcommittee members to understand the content of the applications and the information used for evaluation that was gathered up to the time of the meeting, and to ask for additional information to help the board make sound funding decisions.

### **III. Staff Funding Recommendations**

Staff recommend the board award funding for land acquisition grants as specified in Attachment A, with the project-specific conditions detailed in Attachment C. The land acquisition grant funding recommendations total \$4,821,752

Staff recommend the board award funding for land acquisition technical assistance grants as specified in Attachment A. The land acquisition technical assistance grant funding recommendation totals \$149,985.

### **IV. Attachments**

Attachment A: Summary of Land Acquisition Applications and Recommended Awards, October 2017 Grant Offering

Attachment B: Land Acquisition Project Evaluations

Attachment C: Project-specific Conditions (to be provided at the April board meeting)

**Land Acquisition and Land Acquisition Technical Assistance Applications**  
**October 19, 2018 Grant Offering**

| Land Acquisition Applications |        |                                                 |                    |                          |                                        |                              |
|-------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Application #                 | Region | Project Name                                    | Total OWEB Request | Total Amount Recommended | Ecological and Capacity Score (60 max) | Transaction Soundness Flags* |
| 218-9909                      | 5      | Bennett Ranch Sage-grouse Conservation Easement | \$ 819,240         | \$ 879,626               | 54                                     | green/yellow                 |
| 218-9902                      | 1      | Shangrila Forest                                | \$ 347,900         | \$ 347,900               | 49                                     | green/yellow                 |
| 218-9906                      | 6      | Canyon Creek Ranch Conservation Easement        | \$ 1,400,064       | \$ 1,422,574             | 48                                     | green/yellow                 |
| 218-9903                      | 1      | Tillamook River Wetlands                        | \$ 227,180         | \$ 254,680               | 45                                     | yellow/green                 |
| 218-9908                      | 4      | Caledonia Woodlands                             | \$ 1,573,965       | \$ 1,584,892             | 43                                     | green/yellow                 |
| 218-9905                      | 1      | Columbia River Estuary - South Tongue Point     | \$ 332,334         | \$ 332,080               | 43                                     | yellow/green                 |
| 218-9904                      | 1      | Circle Creek Expansion                          | \$ 117,400         | \$ -                     | 24                                     | green/yellow                 |
| 218-9907                      | 1      | Yachats Habitat Preserve                        | \$ 400,000         | \$ -                     | 19                                     | yellow/green                 |
| <b>Total Requested</b>        |        |                                                 | \$ 5,218,083       |                          |                                        |                              |
| <b>Total Recommended</b>      |        |                                                 |                    | \$ 4,821,752             |                                        |                              |

| Land Acquisition Technical Assistance Applications |   |                                            |            |            |
|----------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 218-9910                                           | 1 | Tillamook River Wetlands Feasibility Study | \$ 149,985 | \$ 149,985 |
| <b>Total Requested</b>                             |   |                                            | \$ 149,985 |            |
| <b>Total Recommended</b>                           |   |                                            |            | \$ 149,985 |

\*Green = no concerns; Yellow = concerns likely resolvable in OWEB's granting timeframe; Red = concerns insurmountable in OWEB's granting timeframe

# October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

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## Land Acquisition Application

**Application No.:** 218-9902

**Project Name:** Shangrila Forest

**Applicant:** North Coast Land Conservancy

**Region:** North Coast

**Basin:** North Coast

**County:** Clatsop

**OWEB Request:** \$347,900

**Total Cost:** \$481,190

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### Application Description [provided by the Applicant]

The Shangrila Forest project is a unique opportunity to protect 100 acres of forested and emergent wetlands and coastal temperate rainforest buffering nearly one mile of streams upstream of two existing OWEB investments in the Necanicum watershed: the Shangrila Wetland and Circle Creek habitat reserves. The Oregon Conservation Strategy highlights the Necanicum River watershed as a Conservation Opportunity Area. With the Shangrila Forest project, NCLC is seeking to advance this conservation priority by protecting in perpetuity 100 acres of coastal wetland, forest, and salmon-bearing streams. Chances to protect 100 acres of quality habitat within this watershed, more than 90% of which is owned by industrial timber companies, are infrequent. Large stream-side trees, complex riparian wetlands enhanced by beaver activity, and pocket sphagnum wetlands make this project truly distinctive.

## Review

### Project Soundness

The acquisition component of this project is relatively uncomplicated and appears it can be soundly implemented. Given this, the budget's line item for a due diligence contractor may be unnecessary. A yellow book appraisal also may not be necessary if no federal funds are involved. However, the budget does not include sufficient funds for stewardship of the property. While NCLC's effective use of volunteers may offset this deficiency somewhat, the proposed stewardship endowment of \$15,000 is unlikely to earn a return that is adequate for management of the property's invasive species, public use, and trespass use that challenge urban properties of this nature. Accordingly, NCLC should be requested to provide a plan for achieving its long-term stewardship endowment and property management intentions. NCLC should also confirm that its Terra Firma insurance policy will cover this property. Additionally, the OWEB-approved management plan should clearly address all matters of concern for the property, including public and trespass use, to ensure the long-term soundness of the project.

## **Ecological Outcomes**

Reviewers agree that the acquisition of the Shangrila Forest will expand on an already significant network of conserved land to protect a wide variety of unique and rare habitats and benefit a wide range of fish, birds, mammals, and other wildlife. Though portions of the site have been logged in the last 25 years, the forest stand conditions are notably healthy with a diverse age structure and species composition. The 100-acre property contains forested and emergent wetlands and coastal temperate rainforests that provide excellent ecological function for priority species, habitats, and plant communities in its current condition. Without permanent protection reviewers noted that the property will likely be extensively logged. This would destroy much of the site's current ecological benefits and limit future benefits association with succession to a seral forest. Reviewers agreed that restoration is not required to achieve or sustain meaningful ecological outcomes for the property. The acquisition alone will protect a well-functioning ecosystem and contribute significantly to the conservation of chum salmon, coho salmon, and winter steelhead habitat. Reviewers noted that the acquisition will protect both sides of ~1 mile of creek and found the riparian areas along the creek to be in good condition and currently providing a diverse range of habitat types.

While the reviewers noted that timber harvesting has impacted the site, they agreed that if the rotational logging conducted by the current ownership were stopped, the site would be on a trajectory toward providing excellent ecological function for priority species. They noted that future restoration and long-term maintenance are minimal for this site, but that tree thinning could increase diversity and provide additional habitat benefits. Reviewers encouraged the applicant to pursue thinning as part of their management strategy.

- Needs and Opportunities: 13 points out of 15 possible points.
- Results and Benefits: 20 points out of 25 possible points.
- Condition and Function: 9 points out of 10 possible points.

## **Community Benefits and Impacts**

The project is in an ecological network of strategically conserved lands protected by NCLC in the Necanicum watershed. It is upstream of two prior OWEB investments – Shangrila Wetland and Mill Ponds Park. This network provides spawning and rearing habitat for salmon as well as important habitat for many resident and migratory bird species. While NCLC habitat reserves are not normally open to the public, the property includes easy access to the streams from a public parking lot and NCLS plans to conduct outings with volunteer naturalists who offer guided outings on unique lands through the On the Land event series. These outings are designed to engage the public and broaden understanding of sensitive habitat reserves.

## **Organizational Capacity**

The North Coast Land Conservancy has successfully completed previous OWEB acquisition transaction and reporting requirements and is currently managing other properties in this area. The proposed acquisition aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy. The project

team is well suited to complete this uncomplicated transaction. However, the application lacked details how the applicant will apply its current principles and practices of conservation to this site or how it will take into account site specific considerations, specifically public access and invasive species.

The North Coast Land Conservancy relies heavily on volunteers for long-term property management and stewardship. This can prove challenging depending on the extent of invasive species and other management issues. If funded the grant conditions should require the management plan to address invasive species management on the property as well as authorized and unauthorized public access.

7 points awarded out of 10 possible points.

### **Public Review**

A public hearing was held January 9, 2018 at Seaside City Hall. The project team and one member of the public attended. There were no public comments.

### **Summary**

Total Score: 49 points out of 60 points possible. The proposed project presents a good opportunity to protect important aquatic habitat and connect to other conservation properties in the watershed. While the transaction is relatively uncomplicated, the applicant should address long-term capacity for stewardship, and the management plan should provide clarity on how public access will be controlled with respect to maintaining habitat integrity.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommend the Board award NCLC \$347,900 in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with NCLC to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2018 meeting.

# October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

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## Land Acquisition Application

**Application No.:** 218-9903

**Project Name:** Tillamook River Wetlands

**Applicant:** North Coast Land Conservancy

**Region:** North Coast

**Basin:** North Coast

**County:** Tillamook

**OWEB Request:** \$227,180

**Total Cost:** \$289,130

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### **Application Description [provided by the Applicant]**

The vision for the property is to restore function and return the Tillamook River to a large area of its historic floodplain. The proposed Tillamook River Wetlands project (TRW), is a significant opportunity to improve tidal wetland function, habitat complexity, species diversity, and water quality in the Tillamook Bay estuary. Working together, TEP and NCLC will acquire and restore the 73-acre property to ensure all of its ecosystem services are realized. Tidal wetland protection, hydrologic reconnection, and restoration of habitat complexity are critical needs that must be addressed to recover salmonids and other sensitive wetland-dependent species. The Tillamook River Wetlands project will provide critical habitat for 15 federal or state listed species of concern and 14 priority species for the North Coast Basin. In Addition, five OWEB priority ecological systems will be addressed by the Tillamook River Wetlands project. These include lowland non-linear forested wetlands, lowland riparian woodland and shrubland, mesic herbaceous wetlands, Sitka spruce forest, and tidally-influenced freshwater wetlands.

## **Review**

### **Project Soundness**

The application requests approximately 85 percent of the estimated purchase price of the property. However, OWEB can contribute only up to 75 percent of the purchase price. Accordingly, NCLC's match will need to be increased, depending on the outcome of the appraisal.

The acquisition component of this project is complicated, requiring the release of a mineral reservation and completion of a partition plat and associated land use approval. The OWEB board should consider providing grant funds for NCLC to hire a due diligence contractor for the project.

While the restoration strategy for the property is unclear at this time, NCLC's project partner, the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP), has applied for OWEB acquisition technical assistance funds to determine the property's restoration possibilities, constraints, and costs. The application states that NCLC will be responsible for long-term stewardship, but TEP's role is unclear. The application states that NCLC maintains stewardship funds for its portfolio as a whole, but no stewardship fund for this property is specified. It is

unknown when the Tillamook County Senate Bill 1517 process will be complete, and what recommendations will result from that approval, if given. Since the investment would be fulfilled by restoration of tidal wetlands, OWEB will recommend conditioning funding on county approval through the pilot process being established through implementation of Senate Bill 1517.

If the Board awards funds for this project, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) may help to clarify the roles and responsibilities of NCLC and TEP regarding restoration and long-term stewardship. This could be particularly beneficial, given the complex, costly nature of the project.

### **Ecological Outcomes**

Reviewers agreed that this project presents a unique and limited opportunity to protect and restore high value habitat types in the Tillamook River Basin with apparent support from landowners and key decision-makers in the agricultural community. Given the intensive agricultural uses and development in most other former tidal habitats, projects of this nature are important and have the greatest potential to provide habitat benefits for estuarine-dependent fish and wildlife resources. In particular, at 73 acres with 0.71 miles of Tillamook River frontage, the project provides the opportunity to connect spring-fed, cool-water rearing wetlands to the tidal portion of the Tillamook River and could directly provide rearing and foraging habitat for listed juvenile Coho salmon. This would address a key life history limiting factor for this ESA-listed species and would also benefit lamprey and northern red-legged frog. The intact ecotone of forest-wetland habitat is uncommon in this basin and the opportunity to restore spruce swamp forested habitat would address an extremely rare (and nationally declining) habitat type in this area. In its current condition, the site is cut off from tidal influence with primarily freshwater vegetation rather than salt-tolerant species. If hydrology is restored through tide gate removal and road modifications, meaningful ecological outcomes are expected. Further, reviewers felt that, in addition to the benefits on this site, the project could serve as a catalyst to inspire additional wetland restoration in the Tillamook River basin.

While this project will significantly contribute to the area's conservation goals, reviewers noted that this acquisition project includes restoration in a future phase and until restoration occurs, the project will not result in the expected ecological outcomes. Restoring natural hydrology is the key to providing highly functioning habitat at this site. As noted above, the restoration approach is under development. Fraser Road lies between the site and the river, which means that restoring tidal flow has the potential for significant infrastructure improvements. Reviewers felt that habitat for spotted owl and marbled murrelet are likely on the adjacent parcel of spruce swamp and not on the property itself. Reviewers noted that the County Conditional Use Process and SB 1517 as well as the need to secure future funding for restoration actions could present barriers to achieving the project's stated ecological outcomes. They also noted that the applicant should consider obtaining clarification and commitment from the seller on a number of items: that lead bullets will not be utilized in shooting range activities that are near the wetlands, clarification on the potential access road options, and a management agreement that NCLC can work with the seller to treat invasive species as needed along the property boundary and buffer.

- Needs and Opportunities: 12 points out of 15 possible points.
- Results and Benefits: 20 points out of 25 possible points.
- Condition and Function: 6 points out of 10 possible points.



## **Community Benefits and Impacts**

The application states that the project would benefit the community by providing an opportunity to establish a controlled firearm safety range, increasing neighboring landowner outreach, and the potential for recreational access, including youth hunting. Through contacts with neighbors and community organizations, the applicant has established broad support for the project. Due to the current condition of the property, the community would benefit from responsible conservation and restoration activities.

## **Organizational Capacity**

The North Coast Land Conservancy has successfully completed previous OWEB acquisition transaction and reporting requirements and is currently managing other properties in the North Coast. However, this project is located at the edge of the applicant's current geography, which might cause challenges for long-term management. The proposed acquisition aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy. The project team is well suited to complete this uncomplicated transaction. The applicant also has sufficient staff and volunteers to develop the management plan and complete long-term management of the site. However, the application lacked details about how the applicant will apply its current principles and practices of conservation to this site or how it will take into account site specific considerations, including public access, invasive species, and current and future impacts of the road on the property.

- 7 points awarded out of 10 possible points.

## **Public Review**

A public hearing was held at Tillamook City Hall on January 8, 2018 with 9 people in attendance. The hearing focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

### **Benefits:**

- Provides bald eagle habitat.
- It is a special place that should be protected.
- Provides great fish and waterfowl habitat.
- Provides salmon rearing habitat.
- Opportunity to continue restoration work on the property.
- Entices land trust interest in the Tillamook community.

### **Concerns:**

- If the project is not funded, then the community loses the benefits of the property for conservation.
- The project will need to keep water off of two adjacent parcels on Frazier Road.
- Potential impacts to the paved part of the County road.

### **Messages for the Board:**

- If the property is not conserved, it may be subject to grazing in the future. The property is poorly suited to agricultural use.

- The Watershed Council's strategic plan focuses on the Tillamook River; this project is a perfect fit for restoring habitat.
- The project addresses key limiting factors: loss of wetlands and improved floodplain access.

### **Summary**

Total Score: 45 points out of 60 points possible. Should restoration prove feasible, the project is a good opportunity to conserve important tidal wetlands and associated critical habitat. The project is managed by partners experienced in conservation and restoration. Given that the acquisition component of this project is complicated, requiring the release of a mineral reservation and completion of a partition plat and associated land use approval, staff recommend that the OWEB board provide an additional \$25,000 in grant funds for NCLC to hire a due diligence contractor for the project.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommend the Board provide \$227,180 plus \$25,000 and associated indirect costs for project-specific due diligence, for a total grant of \$254,680, in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with NCLC to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2018 meeting.

# October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

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## Land Acquisition Application

**Application No.:** 218-9904

**Project Name:** Circle Creek Expansion

**Applicant:** North Coast Land Conservancy

**Region:** North Coast

**Basin:** North Coast

**County:** Clatsop

**OWEB Request:** \$117,400

**Total Cost:** \$150,440

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### **Application Description [provided by the Applicant]**

The Oregon Conservation Strategy highlights the Necanicum River watershed as a Conservation Opportunity Area. With the Circle Creek expansion proposal, NCLC is seeking to advance this conservation priority by protecting in perpetuity an additional 3,000 feet of the Necanicum River and 8.5 acres of floodplain, wetland, and riparian habitat for multiple OWEB priority salmon species. It will augment the 1.7 miles of Necanicum River frontage and 704 adjoining acres protected by the existing Circle Creek and Boneyard Ridge habitat reserves, both OWEB investments. The Circle Creek expansion is the next step in completing a conservation corridor between the Pacific Ocean at Tillamook Head and the east bank of the Necanicum River. As the owner of the land along the opposite bank of the river, NCLC has long viewed this property as a logical expansion of Circle Creek. Intimately connected by the river, the condition of this parcel affects and is effected by the Circle Creek habitat reserve.

## **Review**

### **Project Soundness**

The application requests 100 percent of the estimated purchase price of the property. However, OWEB can contribute only up to 75 percent of the purchase price. Accordingly, NCLC will be required to provide a minimum of 25 percent of the purchase price as match.

The acquisition component of this project is relatively uncomplicated, although NCLC would need to confirm sufficient access for its intended purposes and provide the title review referenced in the application, among other due diligence tasks. The budget does not include sufficient funds for stewardship of the property. While NCLC's effective use of volunteers may offset this apparent deficiency somewhat, the proposed stewardship endowment of \$10,000 is unlikely to earn a return that is adequate for management of the property's high level of invasive species and public use. Accordingly, NCLC should be requested to provide a plan for its long-term stewardship endowment and property management intentions. NCLC should also confirm that its Terra Firma insurance policy will cover this property. Additionally, the OWEB-approved management plan should clearly address all matters of concern for the property, including safe access and public use, to ensure the long-term soundness of the project.

## **Ecological Outcomes**

Reviewers recognized that the Circle Creek Habitat Reserve acquisition project presents an opportunity to add acreage to the existing ecological network of the adjacent Circle Creek Reserve. While it does not necessarily connect additional habitat, it does expand the boundary of the existing conserved area to the east and contributes to the overall health of the watershed by ensuring that the 9-acre addition will remain in a natural state. NCLC has a good track record of providing stewardship in the Necanicum watershed and the acquisition would provide an opportunity for them to more easily manage both sides of the river for invasive species and natural hydrology. Reviewers noted that there is no guarantee that natural processes will be allowed to prevail as long as the 9-acre site remains in private ownership. Reviewers noted that the dynamic nature of Necanicum River will continue to increase as climate change alters seasonal water flows. Securing both sides of the river in the section proposed by this project could help alleviate channel migration if NCLC was able to actively restore and manage the site. It was further noted that, under the stewardship of NCLC, the condition of the native riparian plant communities would be enhanced. They agreed that NCLC ownership would guarantee responsible stewardship in perpetuity and could facilitate restoration opportunities.

Reviewers agreed that the Circle Creek Habitat Reserve is an important conservation property that fulfills multiple ecological targets; however, the size and location of the parcel proposed for addition were reasons for hesitancy. Development is currently prevented on the property due to zoning which protects the parcel in much the same way that an acquisition would. Reviewers stated that the small size of the site and currently degraded habitat condition makes it challenging to adequately address the conservation principles of connectivity and complementing existing ecological networks proposed in the application. It was noted that this 3,000' stretch of the Necanicum River is already zoned upland natural and that the river will undergo channel migration regardless of ownership without active restoration. Acquiring the property will not likely have an impact on the conservation of fish species in the Necanicum and reviewers ranked the property low in benefits to at-risk species.

- Needs and Opportunities: 4 points out of 15 possible points.
- Results and Benefits: 8 points out of 25 possible points.
- Condition and Function: 5 points out of 10 possible points.

## **Community Benefits and Impacts**

The application notes that the property includes a popular fishing hole on the Necanicum River that is accessed from Highway 101, and that NCLC would continue to allow public access for fishing. NCLC also notes that the project would help to continue the ongoing community conversation about conservation of the Necanicum River.

## **Organizational Capacity**

The North Coast Land Conservancy has successfully completed previous OWEB acquisition transaction and reporting requirements and is currently managing other properties in this area. The proposed acquisition aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy. The project

team is well suited to complete this uncomplicated transaction. However, the application lacked details how the applicant will apply its current principles and practices of conservation to this site or how it will take into account site specific considerations, specifically public access and invasive species. Because of these issues the development of the management plan and the long-term site management will be more complex and likely require additional effort above and beyond the organizations other properties.

7 points awarded out of 10 possible points.

### **Public Review**

A public hearing was held at Seaside City Hall on January 9, 2018 with 5 people in attendance. The hearing focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

#### **Project Benefits:**

- NCLC can manage the property in a similar manner to the adjacent preserve.
- Provides walk-in fishing access.
- Guarantees access in perpetuity.
- Keeps the river navigable.
- Provides important habitat in the Necanicum, particularly floodplain habitat during low flow periods.
- Keeps a shaded stretch of river in its natural state.
- The Oregon Conservation Strategy identifies the Necanicum as an Opportunity Area; there are not many places to permanently protect good salmon habitat.

#### **Concerns:**

- There is uncertainty over how the existing log jam at the bend in the river will be managed and whether the boundary will be marked in that area. Project partners noted that the boundary will be marked with GPS.

### **Summary**

Total Score: 24 points out of 60 points possible. While the adjacent Circle Creek Preserve is an important conservation property, reviewers felt that the purchase of the additional preserve was not necessary to secure or add to those benefits. The current zoning, configuration of the parcel, and lack of development potential reflect a low risk that conservation values on the site will be lost. The existing preserve provides both conservation value and fishing access to the Necanicum River, without the addition of this parcel.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Based on the evaluation above, staff do not recommend the Board award funding for the Circle Creek Expansion.

# October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

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## Land Acquisition Application

**Application No.:** 218-9905

**Project Name:** Columbia River Estuary – South Tongue Point

**Applicant:** Columbia Land Trust

**Region:** North Coast

**Basin:** Lower Columbia

**County:** Clatsop

**OWEB Request:** \$332,334

**Total Cost:** \$1,252,080

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### Application Description [provided by the Applicant]

The Columbia River Estuary - South Tongue Point Conservation Project will conserve 90 acres of wildlife habitat on the lower Columbia River Estuary near Astoria, Oregon. The property contains critical wildlife habitat, including 3/4 mile of Columbia River shoreline, 1-1/4 miles of tidal sloughs, 60 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands, and additional forested riparian areas. The project will support 19 federally listed species, including 16 federally threatened and endangered fish stocks, numerous migratory waterfowl and shorebirds, and many other wildlife species. The Project is a collaboration between Columbia Land Trust, Clatsop Community College and Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST). The College's Marine & Environmental Research & Training Station (MERTS) is adjacent to the property and the College will be the landowner. The Land Trust and CREST will support the acquisition, management planning, habitat restoration, monitoring, and stewardship of the site. Beyond its habitat and wildlife benefits, it will provide educational benefits to college students and community members.

## Review

### Project Soundness

The application states that a larger parcel will need to be partitioned in order for the property to be conveyable to CLT, who will then convey the property to Clatsop Community College (CCC). As outlined in the application, the transaction's framework is unclear. The intended partition process, including specific outcomes, timing, and responsible party should be established, since the transaction appears to hinge on the creation of a legally conveyable parcel for purchase by CLT. OWEB would need to be consulted throughout the partition process, to ensure that the final outcome is consistent with OWEB's requirements. If it can be clarified in a revised title report that the railroad right-of-way is not part of the property, then the title circumstances of the property are relatively uncomplicated. The revised title report should pertain only to the parcel CLT intends to purchase. Some survey work may be needed to accurately locate the eastern boundary of the railroad right-of-way to confirm that dredge fill material was deposited to the west of that boundary. An environmental site assessment is necessary to ensure that prior dredge deposits did not result in contamination on the property. CLT would need to ensure that the deed by which it takes title

is not subject to a mineral reservation or other encumbrances that are inconsistent with OWEB funding. A conveyance agreement, used by OWEB for similar projects, would be necessary for soundly transferring roles and responsibilities from CLT, the buyer, to the proposed long-term owner, Clatsop Community College.

The application states that CCC will own and operate adjacent land as a college campus, and manage the subject property for conservation. While the application notes that CCC currently owns undeveloped natural areas and manages them with a staff of 11 plus contractors, CCC does not currently own or manage conservation property. The draft MOU provided with the application describes very general partner roles in managing the property and, as an MOU, will be non-binding. The application provides that College resources will be used for long-term management; however, this does not provide the long-term assurance that a stewardship endowment would provide. The stewardship endowment mentioned in the application may adequately address this problem, but, there are not sufficient details about the likelihood of securing the intended endowment, the funding objective, and the endowment manager. Given the significant amount of grant funds being requested, the OWEB board should consider including a grant condition that requires a provision in the deed that facilitates a smooth transfer of ownership to CLT or a qualified entity approved by OWEB in the event that it becomes apparent that the CCC is not the appropriate long-term manager of the property.

### **Ecological Outcomes**

Reviewers agree that acquisition of this 90-acre property would provide habitat benefits to threatened and endangered fish and would provide long-term conservation stability to this project area within the lower Columbia watershed. Without permanent protection, the property would remain under threat of industrial development due to its zoning. Reviewers noted that the site is strategically located in an important part of the estuary where freshwater transitions to saltwater. Its location also complements the existing network of preserved areas. Numerous state and federal salmon recovery plans identify floodplain and tidal wetlands in the Columbia River as critical to recovery efforts. Lack of off-channel rearing habitat has been identified as a critical limiting factor to salmon recovery. In addition to salmon, the project has the potential to benefit other species, specifically eulachon, sturgeon, and Columbia white-tailed deer. Reviewers agreed that the existing property provides benefits to fish and wildlife species from the habitat that is currently available. The intact nature of the site, along with the wetlands, tidal sloughs, and other habitat features are important attributes of the property.

While the acquisition is a benefit in and of itself, reviewers noted that the acquisition alone does not necessarily restore function to the site. Many of the benefits stated in the application are related more to the future proposed enhancement work than to the proposed acquisition. Specifically, they felt that the biodiversity value of the property in its current state is overstated, but that it has exceptional biodiversity potential after restoration actions are taken. Reviewers did note that the acquisition is important to maintain the current habitat that does exist, and to provide an opportunity for enhancement, management, and maintenance of habitat values over the long term. It was noted that funding for the restoration could be challenging to secure because of the specific cost/benefit ratio necessary for BPA restoration funding. Specifically, previous restoration proposals at the site have not achieved fundable cost/benefit ratios due, in part, to the high cost of excavating dredge materials on the site.

- Needs and Opportunities: 13 points out of 15 possible points.

- Results and Benefits: 17 points out of 25 possible points.
- Condition and Function: 7 points out of 10 possible points.

### **Community Benefits and Impacts**

The application describes the project as integral to a network of interconnected conservation lands in the lower Columbia Estuary that supports a healthy natural environment that is foundational to local rural communities' well-being. As part of the MERTS campus, there is great potential for educational opportunities in a "living laboratory" setting. The property will provide opportunities for CLT's robust volunteer program, furthering a conservation ethic in the community. Due to the proximity of the property to a college campus, hunting by land is unlikely; however, hunting will continue on adjacent public waters.

### **Organizational Capacity**

CLT is the applicant and will complete the acquisition process. CLT is accredited by the National Land Trust Alliance, has successfully completed previous OWEB acquisition transaction and reporting requirements, and is well suited to complete this transaction.

CCC is intended to be the long-term land manager for the site. Though the college owns property, they do not manage any property with conservation easements and do not have staff with relevant expertise. The college is proposing to address this lack of expertise through partnering with CLT for the development of the conservation easement and baseline and management plan development. The college will also partner with CREST for design and implementation of restoration action on the site. However, the application does not address how the college will ensure long-term management and protection or how it will ensure adequate financial resources for the long-term management and monitoring.

As noted above, staff recommend measures to ensure long-term protection of the OWEB investment given the uncertainty about CCC's capacity for managing conservation property.

- 6 points awarded out of 10 possible points.

### **Public Review**

A public hearing was held January 9, 2018 at the Astoria City Hall with 8 people in attendance. The hearing focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

#### **Project Benefits:**

- The project supports recovery of listed native fish species, including salmon from the Columbia, Willamette, Snake, and Deschutes ESUs.
- The project provides an educational opportunity for the community to gain a broad understanding of this type of habitat and what the property contributes.
- This is an opportunity for long-term research projects.
- A good partnership of 3 community organizations.
- Provides protection in perpetuity for the benefit of the college, the community, and the ecosystem; there is a development threat.



- The College is very important to the community, with 1,400 students in a town of 10,000.

**Concerns:**

- No concerns were mentioned.

**Messages for the Board:**

- A representative of the College wanted the Board to know that the College was very excited about this opportunity.

**Summary**

Total Score: 43 points out of 60 points possible. CLT is an accredited and experienced land trust with the capacity to successfully complete the transaction. In its current state, the property contains valuable habitat for fish and wildlife, including tidal wetlands and sloughs. Some restoration will be required to fully restore ecological function to the site. While the proposed long-term owner, CCC, currently manages undeveloped land in its natural state, and has the resources to do so, it has not managed conservation property. Plans for a stewardship endowment are under development, but are unclear at this time.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommend the Board award \$332,080 in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. This recommended award is \$254 less than requested due to correcting an error in the indirect cost calculation. Staff will consult with CLT to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2018 meeting.

# October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

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## Land Acquisition Application

**Application No.:** 218-9906

**Project Name:** Canyon Creek Ranch Conservation Easement

**Applicant:** Blue Mountain Land Trust

**Region:** Mid-Columbia

**Basin:** John Day

**County:** Wheeler

**OWEB Request:** \$1,400,064

**Total Cost:** \$2,731,038

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### Application Description [provided by the Applicant]

Blue Mountain Land Trust (BMLT) proposes to acquire and monitor a Conservation Easement on Canyon Creek Ranch, a privately owned 6,785-acre working ranch close to the Painted Hills Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. The project will maintain, restore, and preserve habitat for fish and wildlife, including 3.1 miles of habitat for ESA-listed summer steelhead on Bear Creek and upland sagebrush and grassland habitat. Canyon Creek Ranch provides landscape connectivity between Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service lands and private lands for upland species. The Conservation Easement will guide long-term management of the Property to preserve and enhance in-stream, riparian, and upland habitat and contribute to the local resiliency for climate change impacts, while allowing continued ranching on the Property. The landowners have been working diligently with conservation partners to enhance and restore the ranch since 2000, and are committed to continuing with permanent protection under a conservation easement with Blue Mountain Land Trust.

## Review

### Project Soundness

Many of the transactional circumstances of this project are the same as when previously evaluated for application no. 217-9903-14126, which was awarded to a different applicant and subsequently cancelled due to lack of landowner support for working with the previous applicant. As noted in the previous review, title analysis and follow-up would need to be conducted for the property, including but not limited to removal of the mineral reservations from the title. The verbal agreement for grazing would need to be converted to a written agreement during the due diligence period, with the agreement clearly requiring the lessee's compliance with the terms and conditions of the conservation easement in the future. The project budget would need to be clarified, as it appears that the stated appraisal cost may be unnecessarily high, and the boundary survey line item is not explained in the application. The draft conservation easement would require revisions in order to ensure project outcomes that are consistent with the purpose of OWEB's funding. Revisions would include but not necessarily be limited to: (i) ensuring that the easement's primary purpose is protection of the property's conservation values; (ii) fully integrating OWEB and NRCS

provisions in the body of the easement; (iii) clearly defining conservation value zones and ecological performance goals associated with the zones; and (iv) ensuring compatibility with requirements of the CREP program as needed. BMLT is a small organization that would benefit from contracted assistance with this effort, as proposed in the application. Like many conservation easements, this project will require significant and sustained effort to be soundly implemented.

The application did not provide sufficient detail about the stewardship fund. This detail would need to be provided, including the amount of the investment and confirmation that the projected investment returns will fund both the basic compliance and the ecological monitoring intended by the parties for the long-term. BMLT should ensure that the conservation easement will be added to the organization's Terra Firma insurance policy at or before closing, and demonstrate the financial resources to pay for the policy over time. If a management plan will be composed of several plans, the plans must be developed in a manner that ensures consistency among the plan components and the conservation easement.

### **Ecological Outcomes**

This large-scale property (6,785 acres) is a unique opportunity to protect high-quality riparian, floodplain and upland sage steppe ecosystems from both development and degradation of functioning systems. The property is located next to Eastern Oregon's Painted Hills National Monument and a large tract of BLM lands that also contain unique landforms of colorful ash deposits. Its close proximity to a main east-west highway system (Highway 26) makes the site attractive for potential of rural/recreational home sites, which would result in fragmentation of the landscape. This conservation easement would also protect numerous restoration investments that have been implemented since the property was first purchased by the current landowners in 2000.

Because of the size of the property, quality habitat for ESA-listed steelhead and other aquatic and terrestrial wildlife would be protected and critical connectivity to adjacent large-landscape habitat units assured. The application clearly explained the riparian site characteristics, but would have been stronger if it had included more detail on the upland grassland and sage steppe ecosystems, including the specific grass, shrub, and forb species present, and on other wildlife species that use this property. This should be fully developed during the baseline inventory, using an experienced ecologist who is familiar with the arid sage steppe ecosystems of the John Day Basin.

Stream flow has been identified as a limiting factor on this property. Restoration currently being implemented and planned for the future are designed with specific objectives of improving stream flows, as well as overall ecosystem resiliency and water quality. The management plan should include objectives of protecting vegetation along the riparian corridors consistent with mid-Columbia steelhead recovery plans; reconnecting floodplains to store floodwaters and improve communities of riparian hardwoods; keeping encroaching junipers from re-establishing on sage steppe grasslands; and maintaining the existing diversity of the sage steppe grass, forbs and shrub communities. Past and planned restoration actions on the property are consistent with and broaden the impact of similar actions taken downstream on Bear Creek, Bridge Creek, and the John Day River.

The application states that the management plan will include components for each of the proposed easement zones: riparian, rangeland, and agricultural, and that monitoring to ensure ecological outcomes will be done by contracted rangeland and riparian experts. The likelihood of success on this conservation

easement is high based on the conservation and restoration partnerships developed over the years, assuring that the mutual objectives of protecting the highest quality habitats and continuing to make improvements to the ecological processes on this ranch will occur. This area is ranked as a high priority in several planning documents, including the *Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan*, and the Natures Conservancy *Pacific Northwest's Resilience Landscapes Assessment* that noted this area was within the "far above average ecoregional or ecofacet resilience area."

- Needs and Opportunities: 12 points out of 15 possible points.
- Results and Benefits: 22 points out of 25 possible points.
- Condition and Function: 7 points out of 10 possible points.

### **Community Benefits and Impacts**

The application states that the John Day Basin will continue to benefit from well-managed working lands that not only contribute to the local agricultural economy, but also provide open and scenic areas and support fish and wildlife populations that enhance the quality of life and draw visitors from across the country. Continued private ownership of the property will ensure that property taxes continue to be paid on the property. Tax revenue is a concern in Wheeler County, which ranks 34 out of the 36 counties in Oregon in per capita income.

The project is an opportunity to demonstrate success of the working lands concept, where historical agricultural uses complement enhanced natural resource value. A neighboring ranch was recently divided into 90 parcels averaging 74 acres/parcel. The project will ensure that Canyon Creek Ranch remains intact in perpetuity.

Recent restoration activities on the ranch have improved flow from the Bear Creek drainage into the Lower John Day River, an important recreational asset that provides economic stimulus to local economies, particularly in the summer months when low flows have the largest impacts.

The project site has recently served as an educational resource for natural resource professionals by demonstrating Beaver Dam Analog installations, a practice that is likely to be installed in similar situations throughout the basin.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is an active partner in the project, and has committed \$500,000 in restoration projects through 2019. Archeological surveys on the property have shown that the site includes a number of prehistoric and historic resources. Continued survey work on the property is planned.

### **Organizational Capacity**

Blue Mountain Land Trust is a new applicant to OWEB's Acquisition grant program. It is a small organization that recently expanded into Grant County to address a local need. BMLT has limited financial resources, but the proposed conservation easement aligns well with the mission and geographic scope of the organization. BMLT includes staff with legal backgrounds and sufficient expertise to successfully complete the transactional aspects of the proposed project. Given the complexities inherent in negotiating an easement that is satisfactory to both OWEB and the other major funder, NRCS, while meeting the needs

of the landowners, the application indicates that BMLT will contract for additional easement negotiation support and the budget request includes sufficient funds for this work.

Blue Mountain Land Trust lacks natural resources expertise, which is critical for ensuring that the conservation values of the property are included and protected in the conservation easement and monitored and defended over time. This lack of expertise within the organization is partially addressed through the stewardship team BMLT has built for this project. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation will provide in-kind match to develop a riparian management plan and conduct riparian and stream restoration and monitoring. Contracted funds and NRCS in-kind match are included in the project budget to develop a rangeland management plan. However, BMLT still needs to ensure that the desired natural resource outcomes will be achieved by the conservation easement and the management plan. The OWEB board should consider requiring BMLT to secure land defense insurance for the easement before or at closing, to ensure that BMLT has resources to address any enforcement matters that arise. BMLT should also provide additional information about the stewardship endowment and the entities responsible for implementing the management plan.

- 7 points awarded out of 10 possible points.

### **Public Review**

A public hearing was held January 17, 2018 at Community Hall in Mitchell, with 13 people in attendance. Public comments received were as follows:

#### ***Strengths***

- Good to have wildlife connectivity between BLM and other neighboring land.
- The restoration that has been done on the ranch has been beneficial even to neighbors, for instance the extensive juniper removal has reduced the fuel load and wildfire danger from neighboring properties.
- The work done on the riparian areas has been good and will help increase Bear Creek flows.
- The riparian work to enhance beaver habitat is great, beavers are good to have in areas they don't become a nuisance. This ranch is a good place for them.
- It is nice to keep it as a ranch and still allow grazing, but with conditions that will keep the grass in great shape.

#### ***Concerns***

- Will the property be taken off the tax rolls? *Answer: The property will stay zoned as EFU and be required to pay taxes.*
- Is the Blue Mountain Land Trust affiliated with the government? *Answer: Blue Mountain Land Trust is a non-profit organization that gets its funding from private donors, fundraising, grants and some funds from each acquisition or easement they hold.*

### **Summary**

Total Score: 48 points out of 60 points possible. This project presents a unique opportunity to protect a large tract containing significant fish and wildlife habitat, while at the same time providing for the continuation agricultural operations. The property has a lengthy history of management incorporating

habitat restoration and this project will provide a high likelihood of continuing on that trajectory. The specific terms of the conservation easement will be critical to ensuring that the ecologic values inherent to the property will be maintained in perpetuity. As provided for in the proposed project budget, the applicant intends to hire additional expertise to complete the complex easement negotiation and coordination of project partners necessary for a successful project.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommend the Board award BMLT \$1,422,574 in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. This recommended award is \$22,510 higher than requested due to correcting an error in the indirect cost calculation. Staff will consult with BMLT to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2018 meeting.

# October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

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## Land Acquisition Application

**Application No.:** 218-9907

**Project Name:** Yachats Habitat Preserve

**Applicant:** City of Yachats

**Region:** North Coast

**Basin:** North Coast

**County:** Lincoln

**OWEB Request:** \$400,000

**Total Cost:** \$1,088,000

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### **Application Description [provided by the Applicant]**

The City of Yachats is a place where natural resources are valued and protected. In this spirit, a team comprised of relevant real estate experience and expertise in managing local natural resources has convened for the proposed Yachats Habitat Preserve. The 29-acre Yachats Habitat Preserve encompasses the junction of the Yachats Estuary and Yachats River. The proposed funding strategy appropriately leverages local and state capacity and reflects the project's combination of ecological, recreational, and community benefits.

The Yachats Habitat Preserve is an opportunity to complement existing ecological networks, secure a transition area, protect riverine habitats for federally listed salmon, and safeguard maturing forests. As such, the Yachats Habitat Preserve is poised to offer numerous ecological and community benefits. While the forest currently supports habitat for marbled murrelet and northern spotted owls, once protected and appropriately managed, many of the trees could develop structures suitable for marbled murrelet nests. Limited passive recreational opportunities for both residents and tourists offers the community benefit of access to a riverside park and an increase in recreation-based economic activity. The vision of the Yachats Habitat Preserve is emblematic of the community's vision and character.

## **Review**

### **Project Soundness**

The acquisition component of this project is complex and includes a lot line adjustment whereby unimproved land will be added to property already owned by the City of Yachats. The lot line adjustment will require a survey, development of a legal description for the land being proposed for purchase with OWEB funds, and establishment of an access easement, and a potentially complicated appraisal due to the structure of the transaction. The transaction's framework is further complicated by plans for The Trust for Public Land (TPL) to purchase a larger parcel than is anticipated for the OWEB funds, complete the lot line adjustment and land use approval processes, and in doing so, sell the smaller, unimproved parcel to the City and sell the remainder parcel to the private marketplace. Under this arrangement, the City, OWEB's

grantee, would use OWEB funds to purchase the property from TPL rather than from the current owner. This transactional structure would require the City to be responsible for meeting OWEB requirements for the transaction, but they are not responsible for conducting the transaction. Establishing roles and processes for communication between the City, TPL, and OWEB would be essential.

The application did not provide a clear or unified vision for how the property will be used, which impacts the strength of the project's long-term soundness. Potential uses cited by the project partners include construction of an access road to adjacent land and development of recreational infrastructure such as a dog park, boat launch, picnic area, river viewing area, and trails. While the City dedicates 17.4% of its budget to conservation and parks, the property faces challenges such as weeds, potential unauthorized uses, and potential infrastructure and park impacts. The proposed park uses and road construction are not a good fit for the conservation easement OWEB places on properties purchased in fee simple. The application indicates that the City will rely on a local volunteer group, View the Future (VTF) for stewardship of the property. VTF currently has three conservation easements in its portfolio, and plans to raise funds for a stewardship endowment. It is uncertain from the application whether stewardship of the property would be prioritized over developing and maintaining park amenities and road infrastructure.

### **Ecological Outcomes**

Reviewers felt that the project presents an opportunity to improve the ecological function of the mainstem of the Yachats River. The acquisition would establish a hard boundary to the spread of urban growth and provide an opportunity to improve water quality in a profoundly impaired region of the lower river. Reviewers noted that potential residential development of the property would greatly compromise the proposed ecological outcomes, making permanent protection of the property important. Acquisition of the project area would facilitate access for the City across the property -- access that is necessary for the construction of a new water storage facility on an adjacent City-owned site. The new water storage facility, once constructed, would allow for less flow diversion during critical summer low flows, which could potentially address the water quality issues in the mainstem Yachats River. Reviewers felt that even a slight increase in river flow in the summer could flush out salt water and prevent the red algae blooms that regularly occur during the summer low flow conditions. If summer water quality can be improved, benefit to anadromous fish could be expected, as Coho, Chinook, steelhead, and Pacific Lamprey migrate through the project area. It was also noted that as the forest matures, the ecological value could increase.

Although reviewers felt that the project site has potential benefits, they agreed that the small size of the project and its direct adjacency to a development across the river limits the significance of its impact to the conserved properties in the central coast region. A continuous connection to the Siuslaw National Forest Lands at Cape Perpetua would be preferable. Much of the project's benefit to water quality is also connected to the City's plans to construct a water storage facility on a nearby property. However, it is uncertain at this time whether the water storage facility would tip the balance greatly enough to resolve the red algae blooms currently plaguing the river and doing so requires impacting the property proposed for acquisition by constructing a road through the riparian corridor.

It was noted that while increased summer flows could improve water quality, aside from invasive weed treatment, no other restoration is proposed. Reviewers would have liked to see additional restoration actions to support and enhance aquatic habitat, such as riparian willow planting or the addition of large wood. It was noted that the project as proposed is inconsistent with the goals of the Yachats River



Conservation Area in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, which recommends reducing road density and access along streams and wetlands. They expressed concern over the planned development of the road, trails, and dog park on the property and felt that the ecological benefits would be greater if the project kept the land as a habitat preserve. Of particular concern were the plans to construct an access road through the riparian area of the property. The site of the planned road discussed and reviewed on the site visit would require extensive streambank hardening and landscape modification and runs less than 20 feet from the streambank of the river. At a minimum, they suggested relocating the proposed access road out of the riparian area. The importance of the project to anadromous fish may have also been overstated in the application. The reach of the Yachats River associated with the project site is important habitat for some anadromous fish juveniles to escape high water flows and serves as a migratory corridor, but the acquisition could have little effect on aquatic habitat if the water quality issues that currently restrict fish use are not resolved by the improvements to the water system of the City, of which plans at this time are unclear. Reviewers also pointed out that, while some Chinook ESU's are threatened, this ESU is not. They also expressed that the potential of the site for Marbled Murrelet and Spotted Owl habitat may have been overestimated given the current forest stand condition, the close proximity to the city, and that the proposed recreational and city uses of the property would invite increased predation by corvids. Reviewers noted that beyond maintenance of the planned access road and recreational improvements- long term management needs are minimal and limited to invasive weed control and the access road, and that the guaranteed long term management by the City is a positive aspect of the project.

- Needs and Opportunities: 4 points out of 15 possible points.
- Results and Benefits: 7 points out of 25 possible points.
- Condition and Function: 4 points out of 10 possible points.

### **Community Benefits and Impacts**

The City of Yachats recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation to its main economic driver, which is tourism. Working with View the Future, trails in the city are part of a regional network of trails connecting the town, coastline, Cape Perpetua Scenic Area, and Siuslaw National Forest. Once protected, the subject property will offer an accessible and sheltered trail connected to this network. The northern part of the property is envisioned as a low-impact park with a paddle craft launch.

Another community benefit is the potential to provide access to adjacent city land for construction of municipal drinking water facilities, which could result in proved drinking water quality and security, and potentially, improved summer flows in the Yachats River.

### **Organizational Capacity**

The City of Yachats is a new applicant to OWEB's Acquisition grant program. The City has a strong natural resource ethic and the City Council is in support of this project. The city currently manages 45 acres of land and has policies for short and long-term management. The City plans to partner with a local non-profit, View the Future, for long-term management. While the City does not have experience managing a property with a conservation easement, it has a collaborative partnership with View the Future with regard to trails management and outdoor recreation. There is currently no formal agreement in place between the

City and the local non-profit for planning and management at the site. Without a clearly defined long-term vision for the site and clear roles and responsibilities for all partners, long-term management and protection will be very challenging. If funded, OWEB would recommended the development of a partnership agreement that addresses the shared roles and responsibilities of the partners relative to long-term stewardship of the property and the funding needed to achieve desired stewardship outcomes.

The City has accomplished previous land acquisitions, and has a history of partnering with other groups to complete the transactional components. For this project the City is partnering with Trust for Public Lands, who has sufficient expertise, to complete this complicated transaction on behalf of the City.

- 4 points awarded out of 10 possible points.

### **Public Review**

A public hearing was held January 29, 2018 at Yachats City Hall, with 30 people in attendance. The hearing focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

#### **Project Benefits:**

- Extends trail network and provides an attractive outdoor destination.
- Vital protection of the estuary in perpetuity.
- Preserves salmon habitat in the estuary and in the Yachats River.
- Protects important visual element in town.
- Safe/efficient kayak access.
- Vital linkage from riparian area to protected marine area.
- Wind-protected park for public to enjoy the river from the north bank.
- Fits the values expressed in the community vision statement.
- Protects forestland, including old growth and murrelet habitat.
- Prevents high density development on the river.
- Benefits local hiker/outdoor recreationists.
- Helps stabilize tourism economy.
- Out of the wind destination for artists.
- Classroom for public natural resource education.
- Greenspace within city limits.
- Potential for access to city property for long-term water security and improved river flows.
- Managed kayak use.
- Could leverage WRD funds for a feasibility study for water supply storage.
- City could avoid water use curtailments during low flow periods.
- Precludes development, including new technologies and construction concepts that we are unaware of today.
- Protect land now; restoration will be more costly in the future.
- The town has an excellent trails committee to manage and maintain trails.
- Protection of wildlife habitat.

- City control of the land is better than the alternatives.
- Provides ownership of areas that are used, but not managed currently.
- Protecting greenspace within city boundaries is good for public health.
- Development of the property is likely.

**Concerns:**

- This is a solution to a problem that does not exist.
  - A park will bring more people to the river.
  - Will require trash pickup without resources.
  - Unrealistic that the property would be developed.
  - More kayakers on the river could result in more clearing of riparian vegetation and large wood.
  - Taking R-1 residentially zoned land out of development potential when the city has a housing problem.
- The city is not looking for alternative R-1 land.

**Summary**

Total Score: 19 points out of 60 points possible. The City of Yachats has an active network of municipal officials, non-profit organizations, and volunteers dedicated to continuing and improving the city's connection to the outdoors and the associated tourism economy. There is great support for recreational opportunities, including hiking trails and boating access to the river, clean drinking water, and great recognition of the value of natural resources to the local economy. While the project site has potential benefits, ecological reviewers noted that the value of the project for habitat protection and restoration is limited, and the value for improved stream flows that could be obtained from a future water storage facility is uncertain. Also, a potential access road through the subject property to serve such a facility would degrade the value of the riparian area that the preserve is designed to protect. The application lists as pending match a Local Government Grant from Oregon State Parks. Given the community support for the project and the high potential for active recreational uses on the property, that program is a good fit for this project. The potential ecological gains from the project do not warrant OWEB investment at this time.

**Staff Recommendation**

Based on the evaluation above, staff do not recommend the Board award funding for the Yachats Preserve project.

# October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

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## Land Acquisition Application

|                         |                         |                    |                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Application No.:</b> | 218-9908                |                    |                    |
| <b>Project Name:</b>    | Caledonia Woodlands     |                    |                    |
| <b>Applicant:</b>       | Klamath Lake Land Trust | <b>Region:</b>     | Central Oregon     |
| <b>Basin:</b>           | Klamath                 | <b>County:</b>     | Klamath            |
| <b>OWEB Request:</b>    | <b>\$1,573,965</b>      | <b>Total Cost:</b> | <b>\$2,082,957</b> |

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## Application Description [provided by the Applicant]

The Caledonia Woodlands, next door to the Running Y resort, is one of the last Oregon white oak-conifer woodlands east of the Cascade Mountains and supports over 80 bird species, most of which are at risk due to loss of available habitat. Caledonia Woodlands consists of 300 acres of mixed Oregon white oak and conifer stands. Oak woodland and Ponderosa Pine are both priority ecological systems and rare plant communities in the OWEB Klamath Basin ecological priority list. Caledonia holds a wide variety of bird species – surveyed by Klamath Bird Observatory - including white-headed, acorn, Lewis’ and pileated woodpeckers, mountain quail, as well as a suite of Neotropical migrants (e.g., olive-sided flycatcher), and nesting bald eagles. Other animals on the property, benefitting from the oak stands, include black bear, black tailed deer, grey fox, grey and Douglas squirrels, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, woodrat and rabbits. The Caledonia Woodlands are managed using restoration based forestry, which has included thinning and burning to restore historic conditions. Seated within the resort development overlay of Klamath County, Caledonia Woodlands is next to the Volcanic Scenic Byway, and viewed by thousands of people each day. The land is also along the Klamath Basin Birding Trail, and in the heart of the Pacific Flyway, which is the most important migratory corridor for birds in North America.

## Review

### Project Soundness

The acquisition component of this project is complex as a result of the number of landowners and title exceptions, as well as complex vesting and appraisal processes, combined with negotiations regarding a purchase agreement and the draft conservation easement, all of which will require significant effort and skill to complete in a sound manner. KLLT enjoys a strong relationship with several of the landowners, but

is a small organization with limited resources. The OWEB Board should consider granting additional funds to KLLT for contracted assistance with due diligence.

KLLT's financial resources are particularly limited. It appears that KLLT's time estimates for stewardship activities may need to include more time for conducting ecological enhancement projects, monitoring outcomes and property conditions, and updating the management plan over time. It is unclear from the application whether the landowners will engage with the full range of stewardship activities, such as controlled fire, that may be necessary to conserve the property's oak resources over time, or how the activities will be funded. The proposed stewardship fund for the easement is approximately one percent of the estimated purchase price, which is low to earn a return that is adequate for stewardship. KLLT should provide a plan for securing an adequate stewardship fund, including information about the projected investment returns and operating or other funds that may be available to cover additional project costs. Further, KLLT should obtain conservation land defense insurance at or before closing, and demonstrate the financial resources to pay for the insurance policy over time.

### **Ecological Outcomes**

- Needs and Opportunities: 12 points out of 15 possible points.

The property's location suggests a strategic conservation easement opportunity given its habitat is the eastern most edge of Oregon White oak combined with mixed conifer, supporting an array of diverse wildlife species. Since the property is directly adjacent to the Running Y Ranch, a large resort development, it could be seen as attractive for future development.

- Results and Benefits: 20 points out of 25 possible points.

The conservation principles described by the applicant were accurate and consistent with their description of how this easement would meet ecological priorities for the area. The property is uniquely placed, offers rare habitat value in Klamath County, and currently is in fair to good ecological condition. The burn scar area limits the effectiveness of this project, where much work is needed to re-establish ponderosa pine and oak communities. Permanent protection of the site will likely increase the priority for planning and restoration work.

- Condition and Function: 7 points out of 10 possible points.

The property's current ecological condition is ranked fair to good. The burn scar area could benefit from active restoration management actions such as planting, brush thinning, and juniper removal. Prescribed burning may also be needed to sustain the present oak community; it is unclear whether this management type would be supported by the landowners. The overall potential for success of restoration management is good and would have strong ecological outcomes and long term value.

### **Community Benefits and Impacts**

Located only 7 miles from Klamath Falls, the property can provide recreational, ecological, and financial benefits to the community. As the region transitions to include tourism as a major economic driver, conservation land becomes more important to the local economy. Caledonia Woodlands is located directly on the Klamath Basin Birding Trail, which reaches from Crater Lake into northern California and attracts numerous visitors to the region.

The Klamath Tribal government supports the project. Tribal members have participated on restoration work crews on the property, and the landowners have expressed a willingness to work with the Klamath Tribes to create opportunities for interested tribal members to gather traditional food sources. The Klamath Indians have hunted, fished, and foraged in the area from time immemorial. The location of the Caledonia forested “hill land” indicates an area of heavy use by native peoples. The property is abundant with nut, berry, and root crops that are traditional food sources, including serviceberry, bitter cherry, chokecherry, Klamath plum, and thimbleberry. Acorns from Oregon white oaks were a main staple by many native peoples of the region.

### **Organizational Capacity**

Klamath Lake Land Trust is a new applicant to OWEB’s Acquisition grant program. The proposed acquisition aligns well with the mission and geographic scope of the organization and they are the right organization for the long-term management of this property. Klamath Lake Land Trust is a small organization that has limited staff and financial capacity. Historically the land trust has relied on volunteer board time and partner resources to complete transactions. The Caledonia Woodlands proposed acquisition is a very complex transaction, with multiple landowners and title issues. In order to ensure the land trust has adequate resources to complete the transaction process it is recommended that they contract for assistance with negotiations, title work, and appraisal procurement. In addition, it is unclear from the application if the stewardship team has adequate expertise to ensure the long-term management and protection of the site. In order to ensure the land trust has adequate support and resources for stewardship OWEB recommends the land trust contract for assistance with conservation easement drafting, long-term management, and monitoring.

- 4 points awarded out of 10 possible points.

### **Public Review**

A public hearing on the application was held January 29, 2018 at Klamath Falls City Hall with 11 people in attendance. The following public comments were received:

#### **Strengths:**

- This is the Eastern most extent of Oregon White Oak in Southern Oregon. This plant community is mixed in with a variety of conifer species as well, which as a whole presents a very diverse vegetative community that inherently offers habitats for a diverse suite of wildlife.
- The vegetation on-site is in good condition. A previous forest management plan was prepared and partially implemented using local and Tribal personnel. After the forest restoration, surveys indicated the bird response increased.
- While the adjacent Running Y ranch has developed the area, it was noted that they left a lot of legacy trees in place that could provide perching or nesting. This accompanies the quality habitat at Caledonia, particularly for eagles and raptors. These species do not like to fly over open water, so these diverse wooded habitats offer a lot of value for these species. Surveys have shown this property to be located in a common pathway for eagles and raptors.
- Recently, lichen surveys have been done on the property. One species of lichen that is listed in Oregon was found on the property. Given the diversity of habitats, this provides more niches for different lichens to occur. Lichens are known for being key indicators of air quality. Currently, DNA samples have been collected to further understand their presence, occurrence, and environmental factors on the property.
- There is interest from the community to have recreation offered at the site. Community members felt recreation access and led nature walks would be a great asset to learn more about the unique plant communities and habitats. There is a vision for trail and public use but it needs to be managed in a way to protect the habitat and landowner preference. The landowner's big concern is wildfire.
- Recently, the local chapter of the Native Plant Society led a tour out to Skillet handle, just north of this property, which also hosts the edge of Oregon white oak communities, and was strongly attended and garnered a lot of interest. There is also restoration work being done on Skillet handle by Lomakatsi to encourage Oak release and habitat improvements. This can elevate the importance of protecting Caledonia.
- Botanically, the site offers great diversity. The adjacent Running Y ranch has open space that harbors native flora. The protection of this site will add value, particularly hosting species that benefit pollinators and other wildlife.
- There is strong support from local conservation groups, as such, who are eager and interested in visiting and protecting the property for its conservation value.
- This CE would provide stabil protection of critical habitat for a suite of bird species, because of the unique plant communities. Over 80 different species have been documented on the property. This would also protect land for future generations, which is ever so important with such an uncertain future of potential development in Klamath County.
- There was question whether this project would open up any doors for potential wetland fringe restoration on the property just to the North of Caledonia. That is a different private landowner. It was noted that the area just to the North is a certified organic farm and may be interested in wetland restoration.
- This property is a good addition to another Oak community site on Skillet Handle (which apparently does not have permanent protection).

- It was noted that Klamath Lake Land Trust are well suited for this project, have the infrastructure in place with an active board and volunteer group list. Community involvement in this type of work is already in place. The mechanisms to effectively manage and sustain this CE are in place w/KLLT, its board, volunteers, and the conservation community in Klamath.
- The property offers nine different vegetative types. Previous fires have done some good and some bad to the site.
- There is a strong cultural connection to the property, given the habitat and situation in the landscape. Wocus, a native wetland plant, would have been very abundant in the wetlands to the North and South of Calendonia. Native American presence has been well documented on the Skillet handle, suspect similar type features and uses were present at Caledonia.
- It was noted that the Oregon White oak habitats found in the Willamette Valley are vastly different than those found here in Southern Klamath County. There are current DNA studies on-going to understand this difference which could shed light on future management needs to protect the habitat. What may work in one place may not work in another. Oak seedlings are documented on the site, stating regeneration is occurring.
- The question was asked regarding how old the Oak trees were on the property. The means to do this analysis is invasive typically using core samples, which is not recommended for Oaks. Exact age is unknown, but fire scars could be a good way to do this. An 1858 survey of the area noted a 30" Oak tree on the property. Current oak trees onsite present a variety of growth habitats, including single trunk and multi-stem.

**Concerns:**

None.

**Summary**

Total Score: 43 points out of 60 points possible. The project provides a unique opportunity to conserve key habitat in the Klamath region. While some restoration is needed due to a recent burn scar, the property provides excellent habitat in its current condition and is on a restoration trajectory. Due to the complexities of the transaction, it is likely that additional resources will be needed to complete project due diligence and negotiate a conservation easement. This can be accomplished within the requested budget by shifting \$50,000 allocated for a Phase 2 environmental assessment, which is likely unnecessary, to pay for these contracted services. A detailed stewardship plan is also needed to ensure adequate resources for managing the property and monitoring the easement.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommend the Board award KLLT \$1,584,892 in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement. This recommended award is \$10,927 higher than requested due to correcting an error in the indirect cost calculation. Staff will consult with KLLT to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2018 meeting.





# October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

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## Land Acquisition Application

**Application No.:** 218-9909

**Project Name:** Bennett Ranch Sage Grouse Conservation Easement

**Applicant:** Blue Mountain Land Trust

**Region:** Eastern Oregon

**Basin:** Powder

**County:** Baker

**OWEB Request:** \$819,240

**Total Cost:** \$3,222,125

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### Application Description [provided by the Applicant]

The Bennett Ranch Sage Grouse Conservation Easement is a rare opportunity to permanently protect almost 9,000 acres of high-quality sagebrush and riparian habitat in Eastern Oregon. The cattle ranch is a unique combination of viable and sustainable sagebrush shrub-steppe habitats in the uplands, and high-quality riparian habitats in the lowlands. Immediately adjacent to three leks, the property supports a population of about 50 Greater sage grouse, which are federally listed as threatened. Onsite streams support a native population of year-long redband trout, which are a sensitive aquatic species. With support from OWEB, the Bennetts have worked tirelessly to improve and restore habitat on their ranch, are now partnering with the Blue Mountain Land Trust to protect their investments in perpetuity.

## Review

### Project Soundness

The application does not clearly describe the transaction's framework, or roles, responsibilities, and commitments. BMLT intends to use the services of The Trust for Public Land (TPL) to acquire the property, although it is unclear how TPL would be compensated. Further, it is unclear whether TPL intends to acquire the conservation easement and transfer it to BMLT, or, alternatively, to assign its option rights to BMLT, with BMLT to acquire the easement directly from the landowner. The latter is recommended, to avoid the time and expense of developing a purchase-and-transfer transaction structure. Further, as the applicant and ultimate easement holder, BMLT needs to be an active member of the negotiating team, so that it has a firsthand understanding of the landowner's interests and intentions, and establishes the relationship framework that will be necessary to monitor and enforce the easement. Given BMLT's intended involvement in the Canyon Ranch project, the organization will require the resources necessary to complete both projects simultaneously should both projects be funded.

While the landowner has successfully implemented substantial restoration actions on the property, BMLT and the landowner need to establish roles, responsibilities, and a funding approach for future management and stewardship of the ecological resources to ensure success of a conservation easement project.

The application indicates that the landowner may expect to complete the transaction in a timeframe (6 months for completing the easement and appraisal) that is inconsistent with the amount of time and effort it would take to soundly develop the easement and complete other due diligence. The draft conservation easement will require revisions in order to ensure project outcomes that are consistent with the purpose of OWEB's funding. Revisions include but are not necessarily be limited to: (i) ensuring that the easement's primary purpose is protection of the property's conservation values; (ii) fully integrating OWEB and NRCS provisions in the body of the easement; and (iii) clearly defining conservation value zones and ecological performance goals associated with the zones. BMLT and TPL appear to need contracted assistance for developing ecological performance goals. OWEB would complete a full review of the conservation easement if the Board opts to award funds for the project, with such review likely to identify additional items for revision. The deed of trust on the property's title would have to be paid off or subordinated to the conservation easement.

The long-term soundness of this project is dependent on resources dedicated for stewardship. The application states that BMLT's stewardship monitoring policies and procedures have been approved through the accreditation process by the Land Trust Alliance in accordance with their standards and practices. BMLT's easement portfolio acreage will grow by 400 percent, from about 4,000 to 16,000 acres if both of its 2017 land acquisition applications are funded by OWEB. BMLT should provide sufficient information about the stewardship fund for this project, including the amount of the investment and confirmation that the projected investment returns will fund both basic compliance and long-term ecological monitoring. BMLT should ensure that the conservation easement will be added to the organization's Terra Firma insurance policy at or before closing, and demonstrate the financial resources to pay for the policy over time. If a management plan will be composed of several plans, the plans must be developed in a manner that ensures consistency among the plan components and the conservation easement.

### **Ecological Outcomes**

The Bennett Ranch easement presents an opportunity to protect from development or future environmental decline 8,953 acres of landscape-level, intact, very high quality habitat. The property's location a few hours west of Boise provides opportunity for potential landscape fragmentation if 80- or 160-acre parcels are sold and subdivided. The exclusive farm use (EFU) zoning designation currently allows for gold mining. If sold to the right buyer and developed for mining, this would be an additional threat having detrimental impacts to the intact habitats, species and plant communities. In addition, leasing the property to develop wind and solar is also a high possibility. This conservation easement will permanently protect high-quality sage-steppe and riparian habitat from the various development threats.

Reviewers agreed that this single-owner parcel is an excellent example of sound management meeting agricultural and wildlife habitat needs. The landowner diligently improved and enhanced habitat for greater sage-grouse, various terrestrial wildlife and aquatic species over the last 10 years. Using OWEB, NRCS and other funding sources as well as substantial in-kind landowner contribution, 7,000 acres of juniper were treated, 15 diversions on Camp Creek and West Camp Creek installed, aspen groves rejuvenated and cross-fencing, springs and upland water developed to improve upland vegetative habitat. This easement will protect 350 acres of emergent wetland, 27 miles of riverine wetland and 10 acres of palustrine scrub-shrub and forested wetland. These wetlands provide late-season, brood-rearing and foraging habitat for greater sage-grouse. Although the parcel is designated by ODFW as general habitat, it is highly important to sage-grouse. According to a reviewer, leks were found in this area after ODFW had

already designated this area as general habitat. If ODFW were to review and edit this designation, the status of this property would be changed to core, elevating the importance of protecting this habitat.

Reviewers all ranked the property as excellent for current ecological function for the priority species, habitats and plant communities. The property provides high quality habitat for sage-grouse and many wildlife species. Some of the reviewers had extensive knowledge of the property as well as the landowners' efforts to diligently protect, restore and enhance this property for both agricultural and wildlife habitat values. Enrollment in the CCAA (Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances) with US Fish & Wildlife Service will further help define activities and projects that can occur on the property. The application could have been better written as it seemed rushed and poorly edited. However, the reviewers all agreed that this conservation easement is a rare opportunity to protect almost 9,000 acres of rangeland that is in excellent condition and provides essential habitat to greater sage-grouse and numerous wildlife and aquatic species.

- Needs and Opportunities: 15\_\_ points out of 15 possible points.
- Results and Benefits: 23\_\_ points out of 25 possible points.
- Condition and Function: \_10\_ points out of 10 possible points.

### **Community Benefits and Impacts**

Oregon State University Baker County Extension currently has test plots on the property to research new chemical treatments for juniper removal. If an effective treatment is found, communities throughout central Oregon will benefit from the outcome of the research in the form of more restoration projects that restore natural sage grasslands.

Recreational hunters benefit from the property's mule deer habitat. The availability and quality of winter range is one of the most important factors determining the number of deer available to hunters. The property provides excellent winter habitat.

A successful working lands easement on the property can be a powerful example in a community and region where few exist and demand is growing.

### **Organizational Capacity**

The Blue Mountain Land Trust (BMLT) is a new applicant to OWEB's Acquisition grant program. It is a small organization that has recently expanded into Grant County to fulfill a local need. The proposed conservation easement aligns well with the mission and geographic scope of the organization. BMLT includes staff with legal backgrounds and sufficient expertise, in coordination with the acquisition team, including Trust for Public Lands, to successfully complete the transactional aspects of the propose project.

However, the organization lacks natural resource expertise, which is critical to ensure the conservation values of the property are protected over time. This lack of expertise within the organization and the acquisition team can be addressed by contracting with natural resource experts for the development of the easement, management plan, and long-term ecological monitoring.

- 6 points awarded out of 10 possible points.

### **Public Review**

A public hearing was held in Unity on January 24, 2018 with 9 people in attendance. Public comments were as follows:

#### **Benefits:**

- The landowners have been active in many conservation projects.
- It is the most important ranch in Baker County for sage-grouse habitat.
- Leks had disappeared in the rest of Baker County, but not on this ranch. ODFW was unaware of sage-grouse presence until helicopter surveys discovered leks, including the largest in Baker County.
- There has been a 70% decline in sage-grouse populations in Baker County in the past 10 years.
- The property includes several key habitats included in the Oregon Conservation Strategy: aspen, riparian, sub-irrigated wet meadows, and beaver.
- It is a large, contiguous property.
- Great opportunity to showcase mutually beneficial ranching and habitat protection.
- The property is adjacent to other conservation projects on nearby ranches and public lands.
- The project is important for succession planning and to ensure that conservation benefits on the ranch are secured in perpetuity.

#### **Concerns:**

- What will the effects be on future landowners?
- What will happen with the property's water rights?

### **Summary**

Total Score: 54 points out of 60 points possible. The project is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate a working lands conservation easement that provides permanent protection of critical sage-grouse habitat as well as significant wetlands, riparian areas, and grassland of national significance. A successful project will require complex negotiations. To assure success, it is recommended that BMLT hire, in coordination with OWEB, and with OWEB grant funding, a subject-matter expert to develop ecological performance goals for the conservation easement, and incorporate objectives and actions for meeting the goals into the management plan required by OWEB. The transaction framework is unclear and needs to be clarified, preferably with BMLT acquiring the easement directly from the landowner.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommend the Board award BMLT \$822,126, plus \$50,000 and associated indirect costs for easement and management plan development, for a total grant of \$879,626, in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. The recommended award is \$2,886 higher than requested due to correcting an error in the indirect cost

calculation. Staff will consult with BMLT to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2018 meeting.

# October 19, 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

## Land Acquisition Technical Assistance

|                         |                                            |                        |          |                              |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| <b>Application No.:</b> | 218-9910                                   |                        |          |                              |
| <b>Project Name:</b>    | Tillamook River Wetlands Feasibility Study |                        |          |                              |
| <b>Applicant:</b>       | Tillamook Estuaries Partnership            |                        |          |                              |
| <b>OWEB Request:</b>    | \$149,985                                  | <b>Proposed Match:</b> | \$24,070 | <b>Total Cost:</b> \$199,990 |

### Application Description: (from the application)

The proposed Tillamook River Wetlands project (TRW), is a significant opportunity to improve tidal wetland function, habitat complexity, species diversity, and water quality in the Tillamook Bay estuary. TEP in partnership with NCLC, proposes a \$199,990 project (\$149,985 request to OWEB) to establish the feasibility of acquisition and restoration of the 73-acre TRW. Located in an unincorporated portion of Tillamook County four miles from the city of Tillamook, TRW is situated at river mile three of the Tillamook River, one of five major rivers entering Tillamook Bay. The property is tidally-influenced and historically supported spruce swamp, emergent wetland, and tidal channel environments. Availability of tidal wetland is an issue of critical importance facing coastal watersheds. Levee construction, draining, and filling have altered 85% of Tillamook Bay's tidal wetlands (greater than 70% statewide), and has resulted in the decline of sensitive species and habitat types. Tillamook Bay is designated Critical Habitat for federally threatened Oregon coast coho salmon (ESU) under regulation 73 FR 7816 and NOAA's recovery plan states the primary limiting factor for recovery is access to intact rearing habitat in tidal wetland. The project area also supports 16 other federal and/or state species of concern, 13 of which are OWEB North Coast priority species. This proposal investigates site hydrology, topography, geotechnics, passage infrastructure, levee alteration, adjacent property impacts, and tidal restoration alternatives to determine the feasibility of restoration on site. Deliverables include hydrodynamic models and technical reports that will guide restoration design and implementation. Additional partners include USFWS, ODFW, TBWC, TCPW, DU, TU, and IAE.

### Regional Review Team Evaluation:

#### Strengths:

- Restoring estuarine habitat in this watershed is a high priority. To date, there have been no estuarine restoration projects in the Tillamook River watershed and this effort to restore 73 acres of tidally influenced habitat would be the first of its kind in this portion of the Tillamook Bay watershed.
- This project could be an excellent pilot project to work through the developing SB 1517 process.
- Restoration at this location would positively impact water quality in the Tillamook River, particularly temperature and dissolved oxygen.

- Once restored, the project would contain critical habitat for Oregon coast coho salmon.
- The project complements TMDL implementation actions in this watershed.
- The project team consists of a good local partnership, including Tillamook County, and is well-poised to implement an effective and successful restoration project.
- There has been positive communication with adjacent landowners, laying the groundwork for this technical assistance work.
- The implementation of the restoration would also have potential social benefits, with the opportunity to reduce flooding on the County road and on neighboring agricultural lands.

#### **Concerns:**

- Some of the details of the proposed work were difficult to discern from the provided cost estimates. The application would have benefitted from more information and detail about each planned technical assistance activity.
- The budget for the geotechnical work seemed low given recent experience with similar projects, especially with the amount of infrastructure requiring assessments and the consideration of setback levees.

#### **Concluding Analysis:**

The review team appreciated the opportunity to work in the Tillamook River basin, especially to focus on the restoration of tidally influenced habitats along this reach of the river. Restoration of 73 acres of estuarine habitat at this project location could have far-reaching benefits to native fish and wildlife as well as water quality. They noted that all of the other major rivers in the Tillamook Bay watershed had been the subject of comprehensive estuarine wetland restoration projects and that the Tillamook River was notably lacking in having the benefit of such habitat restored. The project team is highly competent and the assembled partnership strong -- with all the right people involved with the project. Some initial outreach has been conducted to the adjacent landowners and the agricultural community, and the project is a good candidate to work through the newly developed SB 1517 process. Given the site location, the local partnership, and the potential ecological benefits, this project is ideal to develop a feasibility analysis for restoration and acquisition.

#### **RRT Funding Recommendation:**

Fund

#### **RRT Recommended Amount:**

\$149,985

#### **Staff Funding Recommendation:**

Fund

#### **Staff Recommended Amount:**

\$149,985



**Project-Specific Funding Conditions**  
**Shangrila Forest**  
**Application No. 218-9902-15904**

Grant Funds will not be disbursed under this Agreement until the following Project-specific conditions have been fulfilled to the full satisfaction of the Director:

- A. Within thirty (30) days of the award of Grant Funds, Grantee provides the following information to OWEB in writing:
  - i. An explanation of how Grantee intends to achieve specific long-term stewardship objectives for the Property, including objectives associated with managing invasive species and authorized and trespass uses of the Property. The explanation shall include the source(s) of funding, and adequacy thereof, including restricted and unrestricted funding sources for long-term stewardship activities;
  - ii. An explanation of Grantee's intended use for the \$16,000 "due diligence and legal review" and \$5,000 "survey" line items in the Project budget, including specific cost rates and deliverables that will be obtained. Grantee must receive OWEB approval before incurring any costs associated with the line items. This approval will not be granted if the Director determines that the proposed costs or deliverables are an unreasonable use of the Grant Funds; and
- B. Grantee submits a revised Project budget that includes all corrections required by OWEB.
- C. Grantee explains how the sellers of the Property vested in their respective undivided ownership interests in the Property, with the explanation supported by applicable vesting deeds.
- D. Grantee completes the purchase in accordance with a purchase and sale agreement that is based on the current OWEB purchase and sale agreement template and is consistent with information obtained in satisfying Condition C above.
- E. Grantee receives approval from OWEB on all transaction documents prior to signature including, but not limited to, the purchase and sale agreement and warranty deed.
- F. Grantee works with the sellers of the Property as necessary to ensure that requirements of Exceptions 10 and 11 in the preliminary title report dated June 26, 2017 are fulfilled prior to Closing.
- G. Along with other OWEB-required items, Grantee's management plan for the Property must include specific actions and a timeline for routinely addressing authorized and unauthorized public use of the Property and actively reducing and controlling invasive species on the Property.
- H. Grantee adds the Property to Grantee's Terra Firma insurance policy at or before Closing.



**Project-Specific Funding Conditions**  
**Tillamook River Wetlands**  
**Application No. 218-9903-15905**

Grant Funds will not be disbursed under this Agreement until the following Project-specific conditions have been fulfilled to the full satisfaction of the Director:

- A. Within thirty (30) days of the award of Grant Funds, Grantee provides the following information to OWEB in writing:
  - i. An explanation of how Grantee intends to achieve long-term stewardship objectives for the property, including objectives associated with actively managing invasive species and authorized and trespass uses of the Property. The explanation shall include the source(s) of funding, and adequacy thereof, including restricted and unrestricted funding sources for long-term stewardship activities;
  - ii. Confirmation that no tenancies exist on the Property that may trigger OWEB relocation obligations;
  - iii. Confirmation that the flood control infrastructure on the Property does not serve any adjacent land nor is the Property within a drainage district; and
  - iv. A revised Project budget that includes all corrections required by OWEB.
- B. Grantee hires, in coordination with OWEB, and with OWEB grant funding, an acquisitions subject-matter expert to assist Grantee with transaction negotiations, title work, document drafting, land use approvals, conditional use permits, survey review, road maintenance agreement matters, environmental compliance matters, and any other due diligence needs for the Project.
- C. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- D. Grantee completes the purchase in accordance with a purchase and sale agreement that is based on the current OWEB purchase and sale agreement template.
- E. Grantee receives approval from OWEB on all transaction documents prior to signature including, but not limited to, the purchase and sale agreement, mineral reservation release, partition plat, road maintenance agreement and warranty deed.
- F. Grantee, prior to closing, provides documentation of adequate progress toward meeting the Tillamook County Conditional Use process for tidal wetlands restoration, including completion of the required pre-application meeting and submittal of an application. If the project is denied through the conditional use process, the applicant shall refund the land purchase price to OWEB.
- G. Grantee removes the mineral reservation and deed of trust from the Property's title at or before closing, with those items listed as Exceptions 10 and 11 in the February 7, 2017 preliminary title report for the Property ("PTR").

- H. Grantee works with the seller of the Property as necessary to ensure that requirements of Exception 12 in the PTR are fulfilled prior to Closing.
- I. Grantee incorporates intended Grantee and Tillamook Estuaries Partnership stewardship and restoration roles and responsibilities into a binding agreement that is acceptable to OWEB.
- J. Grantee prepares baseline inventory documentation that includes, among other items required by OWEB, a description of future restored conditions on the Property ("Description of Restored Conditions") with the conditions to include high-quality tidal wetlands to the maximum feasible extent.
- K. Along with other OWEB-required items, Grantee's management plan for the Property will include specific actions and a timeline for: (i) restoring the Property to conditions that are consistent with the Description Restored Conditions; (ii) routinely addressing authorized and trespass uses of the Property; (iii) actively reducing and controlling invasive species on the Property; and (iv) managing impacts associated with any ongoing use of the access road on the Property.
- L. Grantee obtains a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment ("ESA"), and any additional investigative reports and action plans recommended by the Phase 1 ESA in order to confirm that shooting range uses on adjacent lands have not resulted in unacceptable contamination on the Property.
- M. Grantee adds the Property to Grantee's Terra Firma insurance policy at or before Closing.

**Project-Specific Funding Conditions**  
**South Tongue Point**  
**Application No. 218-9905-15908**

Grant Funds will not be disbursed under this Agreement until the following Project-specific conditions have been fulfilled to the full satisfaction of the Director:

- A. Within thirty (30) days of the award of Grant Funds, Grantee provides the following information to OWEB in writing:
  - i. An explanation of how the larger parcel will be partitioned and sold as two parcels, one to Clatsop Community College (northern parcel) and the other to Grantee (southern parcel, the Property). The explanation will clearly describe the roles and responsibilities of all involved parties, and will specifically address how those roles and responsibilities will be coordinated;
  - ii. A copy of the most recent rate agreement for Grantee's Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate; and
  - iii. A revised Project budget that includes all corrections required by OWEB.
- B. Grantee enters into a binding agreement with Clatsop Community College and the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, which clearly delineates the acquisition, restoration and stewardship roles and responsibilities of the parties.
- C. Grantee completes the purchase in accordance with a purchase and sale agreement that is based on the current OWEB purchase and sale agreement template.
- D. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- E. Grantee obtains an OWEB-approved appraisal from an appraiser selected and hired by Grantee.
- F. Grantee provides a current preliminary title report ("PTR") that pertains only to the Property and clearly identifies encumbrances affecting the Property.
- G. Grantee maps, evaluates and addresses encumbrances affecting the Property in a manner acceptable to OWEB.
- H. Grantee determines whether legal and sufficient access to the Property currently exists, and if it does not, ensures that such access will result from the property partition process associated with the Project.
- I. Grantee receives approval from OWEB on all transaction documents prior to signature including, but not limited to, the purchase and sale agreement; partition plat; agreement required by Condition B above; seller-to-Grantee warranty deed, which will not include any mineral estate reservations; and Grantee-to-College warranty deed, which will include a reversion of title provision consistent with Condition K below.

- J. Grantee enters into a notice of federal participation (“NOFP”) prepared by OWEB and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) for the purpose of committing Grantee to certain Project outcomes required by USFWS in exchange for its grant funds.
- K. Grantee and Clatsop Community College enter into an OWEB-approved conveyance agreement for the purpose of: (i) authorizing the transfer of the Property from Grantee to Clatsop Community College; (ii) committing the College to specific ongoing obligations under the OWEB grant agreement; (iii) committing Grantee to provide specific assistance to the College, including management planning assistance; and (iv) providing for a reversion of title provision to be included in the Grantee-to-College deed, with title to revert to Grantee in the event that OWEB determines that the College is not adequately protecting the conservation values associated with the Property.
- L. Grantee confirms the location of the eastern boundary of the Property and its relationship to the historic and existing deposition authorizations for dredge materials in the area.
- M. Grantee obtains a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (“ESA”) that includes specific consideration of possible fill-based contamination on or adjacent to the Property.
- N. Grantee completes a plan for establishing an adequate stewardship endowment for the Property, with the plan to include: (i) the amount of stewardship funding that will be secured; (ii) an analysis of how that amount of funding, along with other Grantee and partner resources, will be sufficient to meet the stewardship needs of the Property; (iii) roles and responsibilities for raising and managing stewardship funds; and (iv) a timeline for specific actions under the plan.

**Project-Specific Funding Conditions**  
**Canyon Ranch**  
**Application No. 218-9906-15909**

Grant Funds will not be disbursed under this Agreement until the following Project-specific conditions have been fulfilled to the full satisfaction of the Director:

- A. Within thirty (30) days of the award of Grant Funds, Grantee provides the following information to OWEB in writing:
  - i. Confirmation of the amount of stewardship endowment funding that is intended at Closing and an analysis of how that amount of funding, along with other Grantee and Project partner resources, will be sufficient to address stewardship coordination and easement monitoring and enforcement needs over time; and
  - ii. A revised Project budget that includes all corrections required by OWEB.
- B. Grantee completes the purchase in accordance with a purchase and sale agreement that is based on the current OWEB purchase and sale agreement template.
- C. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- D. Grantee hires, in coordination with OWEB, and with OWEB grant funding, one or two subject-matter expert(s) to assist Grantee with: (i) communication among Project partners; (ii) transaction negotiations; (iii) conservation easement and other document drafting; (iv) title work and other due diligence for the Project; and (v) development of ecological performance goals and completion of the baseline inventory and management plan for the Project.
- E. Grantee receives approval from OWEB on all transaction documents prior to signature including, but not limited to, the purchase and sale agreement and conservation easement.
- F. Grantee provides a current preliminary title report ("PTR") that includes only the encumbrances that affect the Property, with those encumbrances mapped, evaluated and addressed by Grantee.
- G. Grantee, in consultation with OWEB, revises the draft conservation easement to: (i) incorporate all OWEB-required language, and ensure that the language is fully integrated with language required by other funders; (ii) address matters raised in the project evaluation; (iii) account for feedback from OWEB reviewers; and (iv) address any other matters that arise during the conservation easement revision process. OWEB-required conservation easement revisions include but are not limited to: (i) describing the ecological performance goals that the conservation easement and management plan are intended to achieve on the Property generally and in each Conservation Value zone specifically; and (ii) requiring that in the event of a conflict between agricultural uses and Conservation Values protection including

achievement of ecological performance goals, Conservation Values protection will take precedence.

- H. Grantee addresses inconsistencies, if any, between CREP program requirements and protections that apply to the Property, and the conservation easement's terms and conditions.
- I. Grantee works with the sellers of the conservation easement to convert the verbal grazing lease on the Property into a written lease that clearly states that all grazing under the lease must be consistent with the purpose, terms, and conditions of the conservation easement.
- J. Grantee completes an analysis of the Property's water rights and their status and recommends actions, if any, that may be necessary to ensure that water conserved on the Property will benefit fish and wildlife. If specific water rights actions are recommended, such as an allocation of conserved water, the actions will be taken in the first five-year period of management plan implementation.
- K. Grantee revises the draft management plan to: (i) be consistent with OWEB's guidelines for management plans; (ii) address matters raised in the project evaluation; (iii) account for feedback from OWEB reviewers; and (iv) address any other matters that arise during the management plan review and revision process. OWEB-required management plan revisions include but are not limited to any changes necessary to clearly: (i) describe ecological performance goals for the Conservation Value Zones specifically and the Property generally; (ii) incorporate actions specifically designed to achieve the ecological performance goals; (iv) include ecological monitoring prescriptions that relate specifically to tracking achievement of the ecological performance goals; and (v) include specific actions and timelines for analyzing and interpreting ecological monitoring data and revising Property management actions as necessary to achieve the ecological performance goals.
- L. Grantee justifies the budgeted appraisal cost prior to initiating the appraisal work.
- M. Grantee executes a memorandum of understanding among the Project partners to establish roles and assistance for implementing the management plan after closing.
- N. Grantee documents how remote portions of the Property that are not served by existing roads will be accessed for stewardship, monitoring and enforcement activities under the conservation easement.
- O. Grantee adds the conservation easement to Grantee's Terra Firma insurance policy before or at Closing.



**Project-Specific Funding Conditions**  
**Caledonia Woodlands**  
**Application No. 218-9908-15911**

Grant Funds will not be disbursed under this Agreement until the following Project-specific conditions have been fulfilled to the full satisfaction of the Director:

- A. Within thirty (30) days of the award of Grant Funds, Grantee provides the following information to OWEB in writing:
  - i. Confirmation of the amount of stewardship endowment funding that is intended at Closing and an analysis of how that amount of funding, along with other Grantee resources, will be sufficient to address stewardship coordination and easement monitoring and enforcement needs over time; and
  - ii. A revised Project budget that includes all corrections required by OWEB.
- B. Grantee hires, in coordination with OWEB, and with OWEB grant funding, an acquisitions subject-matter expert to assist Grantee with transaction negotiations, analysis and resolution of title matters, document drafting, and other technical assistance as needed and approved by OWEB.
- C. Grantee completes an ownership diagram that clearly depicts how ownership interests in the Property evolved to their current status.
- D. Grantee completes the purchase in accordance with a purchase and sale agreement that is based on the current OWEB purchase and sale agreement template.
- E. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- F. Grantee takes all appropriate actions, such as, but not limited to, a plat vacation, in a good-faith effort to merge Parcels 1, 2 and 3 of Partition Plat 14-14 into one legally conveyable parcel prior to Closing.
- G. Grantee works with the sellers of the conservation easement as necessary to extinguish all Measure 49 Home Site Authorizations applicable to the Property prior to Closing.
- H. Grantee receives approval from OWEB on all transaction documents prior to signature including, but not limited to, the purchase and sale agreement, plat vacation and conservation easement.
- I. Grantee provides a current preliminary title report ("PTR") for the Property to OWEB, with the PTR to include only those encumbrances that affect the Property.
- J. Grantee maps, evaluates and addresses encumbrances affecting the Property.
- K. Grantee, in consultation with OWEB, makes necessary revisions to the draft conservation easement.

- L. Grantee: (i) purchases a conservation easement defense insurance policy prior to Closing, or provides documentation that such policy will be effective at the earliest possible date subsequent to Closing, in an amount recommended by the Land Trust Alliance and approved by OWEB; and (ii) demonstrates the commitment and financial wherewithal to maintain the insurance policy over time.
- M. Grantee will include, among other items required by OWEB, the following items in the management plan: (i) a plant survey to determine threats and opportunities facing the Property's vegetation and inform management priorities; (ii) a comprehensive assessment of management strategies for the Property including the use of prescribed fire to improve conditions in priority ecosystems; and (iii) clear roles, responsibilities, and actions for managing and enhancing the Property's Conservation Values, including managing recreational and other use-related impacts to the Property.

**Project-Specific Funding Conditions**  
**Bennett Ranch**  
**Application No. 218-9909-15912**

Grant Funds will not be disbursed under this Agreement until the following Project-specific conditions have been fulfilled to the full satisfaction of the Director:

- A. Within thirty (30) days of the award of Grant Funds, Grantee provides the following information to OWEB in writing:
  - i. Confirmation of the amount of stewardship endowment funding that is intended at Closing and an analysis of how that amount of funding, along with other Grantee and Project partner resources, will be sufficient to address stewardship coordination and easement monitoring and enforcement needs over time;
  - ii. A revised project budget that includes all corrections required by OWEB;
  - iii. A statement of the conservation easement seller's willingness to: (1) work with Grantee and Project partners to revise the draft conservation easement to meet all funders' requirements; and (2) work with Grantee to develop and implement an OWEB-approved management plan, including securing funding for any restoration activities necessary to enhance and maintain the Property's Conservation Values after Closing; and
  - iv. An explanation of Grantee's role in Project negotiations and due diligence.
- B. Grantee provides the option agreement referenced in the application materials to OWEB for review, and amends or revises the agreement as necessary to comply with OWEB requirements, including transaction structure requirements. At a minimum, OWEB will require that the option agreement: (i) provides for sale of the conservation easement directly to Grantee; (ii) provides for reasonable extensions that may be needed for Grantee to meet OWEB's funding conditions; and (iii) includes appropriate representations and warranties that the Property is not subject to any leases, licenses or unrecorded agreements not disclosed to Grantee.
- C. Grantee hires, in coordination with OWEB, and with OWEB grant funding, a subject-matter expert to develop ecological performance goals for the conservation easement, and incorporate objectives and actions for meeting the goals into the management plan required by OWEB.
- D. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.
- E. Grantee receives approval from OWEB on all transaction documents prior to signature including, but not limited to, the revised option agreement and conservation easement.
- F. Grantee provides a current preliminary title report ("PTR") that identifies the encumbrances affecting the Property, with those encumbrances mapped, evaluated and addressed by Grantee.

- G. Grantee, in consultation with OWEB, revises the draft conservation easement to: (i) incorporate OWEB-required language; (ii) address matters raised in the project evaluation; (iii) account for feedback from OWEB reviewers; and (iv) address any other matters that arise during the conservation easement revision process. OWEB-required conservation easement revisions include but are not limited to: (i) describing the ecological performance goals that the conservation easement and management plan are intended to achieve on the Property generally and in each Conservation Value zone specifically; and (ii) requiring that in the event of a conflict between agricultural uses and Conservation Values protection including achievement of ecological performance goals, Conservation Values protection will take precedence.
- H. Grantee completes an analysis of the Property's water rights and their status and recommends actions, if any, that may be necessary to ensure that any water conserved on the Property will benefit fish and wildlife. If specific water rights actions are recommended, such as an Allocation of Conserved Water, the actions will be taken in the first five-year period of management plan implementation.
- I. Grantee extinguishes or acquires all split-estate mineral rights pertaining to the Property, at or before closing. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if Grantee determines, and OWEB agrees, that extinguishing or acquiring the mineral rights is not feasible due to specific circumstances associated with those rights, Grantee provides a written minerals risk assessment, completed by an Oregon-licensed geologist, to OWEB that, in accordance with OWEB's established mineral rights guidelines, confirms a negligible probability of any activities related to the mineral rights materially affecting the conservation values of the Property.
- J. Grantee executes a memorandum of understanding among the Project partners to establish roles and assistance for implementing the management plan after Closing.
- K. Grantee documents how remote portions of the Property that are not served by existing roads will be accessed for stewardship, monitoring and enforcement activities under the conservation easement.
- L. Grantee adds the conservation easement to Grantee's Terra Firma insurance policy before or at Closing.
- M. Grantee will prepare a management plan that is: (i) consistent with OWEB's guidelines for management plans; (ii) addresses matters raised in the project evaluation; (iii) accounts for feedback from OWEB reviewers; and (iv) addresses any other matters that arise during the management plan review and revision process. OWEB-required management plan elements include but are not limited to: (i) ecological performance goals for the Conservation Value Zones specifically and the Property generally; (ii) actions specifically designed to achieve the ecological performance goals; (iv) ecological monitoring prescriptions that relate specifically to tracking achievement of the ecological performance goals; and (v) specific actions and timelines for analyzing and interpreting ecological monitoring data and revising Property management actions as necessary to achieve the ecological performance goals.



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
**FROM:** Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator  
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item I-OWEB Water Lease and Transfer Grant Program –  
Overview and 2017 Grant Offering Awards  
April 23-25, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting

### I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the December 2017 Water Acquisition Grant Offering process and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards.

### II. Water Acquisitions – December 2017 Offering Background and Summary

#### A. Applications Submitted

Seven grant applications were received in the December 2017 Water Acquisition Grant Offering, requesting a total of \$808,052. The applications, summarized in Table 1, propose a variety of water management approaches including minimum flow agreements, forbearance agreements, split-season and short term leases, and permanent water right transfers. OWEB's Water Acquisition Grant program allows for this variety of approaches in order to achieve the desired ecological benefits of the program, while allowing agricultural producers and ranchers the flexibility to continue their operations.

#### B. Review Process

The water acquisition applications followed the coordinated funder framework for soliciting, reviewing, and making funding recommendations that was established through OWEB's Water Acquisition Grant Revised Administrative Rules in June 2013.

Applications are evaluated for project soundness, ecological outcomes, and organizational capacity using National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) evaluation criteria developed in coordination with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NPCC) Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). The ISRP criteria identifies the key considerations in evaluating prospective flow restoration transactions, including the timing and location of the project, the current and desired hydrologic condition of the stream system, the attributes of the subject water rights and their suitability to addressing limiting factors for fish and water quality, the economic rationale for the proposed transaction cost, as well as the ability for the transaction to be monitored over time to ensure that proposed benefits are realized.

The proposals were evaluated by NFWF staff, reviewed by water rights experts in the legal and economic fields, and ranked by a third-party Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of fisheries and habitat experts from NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in addition to water transaction specialists from NPCC and Bonneville Power Administration. The TAC ultimately assesses each transaction and provides a score based on the ISRP criteria.

Staff prepared an evaluation of each project that summarizes the NFWF review outcomes and recommendations. After evaluations were completed, they were provided to the applicants.

### **C. Overview of Funding Recommendations**

Staff recommend seven applications for funding. The total amount of recommended OWEB funding is \$808,052.

### **III. Staff Funding Recommendations**

Staff recommend the board award funding for water acquisition grants as specified in Table 1.

| <b>Application #</b>                                  | <b>Region</b> | <b>Project Name</b>                                                  | <b>Total OWEB Request</b> | <b>Total Amount Recommended</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 217-9905                                              | 2             | Ashland Creek Streamflow Restoration Pilot Project                   | \$ 18,769                 | \$ 18,769                       |
| 217-9906                                              | 4             | Fifteenmile Lease Bank 2018                                          | \$ 23,441                 | \$ 23,441                       |
| 217-9907                                              | 5             | Lostine Minimum Flow Agreement 2018-2019                             | \$ 394,095                | \$ 394,095                      |
| 217-9908                                              | 5             | Lostine WW 2018                                                      | \$ 219,876                | \$ 219,876                      |
| 217-9909                                              | 6             | Reynolds Creek                                                       | \$ 57,239                 | \$ 57,239                       |
| 217-9910                                              | 6             | Rock Creek                                                           | \$ 60,915                 | \$ 60,915                       |
| 217-9911                                              | 4             | North Fork Sprague Conservation Piping and Instream Flow Restoration | \$ 33,717                 | \$ 33,717                       |
| <b>Total Water Acquisition Applications Submitted</b> |               |                                                                      | <b>\$808,052</b>          |                                 |
| <b>Total OWEB Funding Recommended</b>                 |               |                                                                      |                           | <b>\$808,052</b>                |

### **Attachments**

#### **A. Water Acquisition Project Evaluations**

## 2017 OWEB Grant Offering

### Water Lease and Transfer Application

**Project Name:** Ashland Creek Instream Lease

**Applicant:** Trout Unlimited

**Application No:** 217-9905

**Basin:** Rogue

**OWEB Request:** \$18,769

**Region:** South Coast

**County:** Jackson

**Total Cost:** \$24,711

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#### Application Description

Trout Unlimited (TU) proposes a 3-year lease of 0.5 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water from a private water user on Ashland Creek with an 1864 priority date. The proposed transaction will benefit approximately 1 mile of habitat in Ashland Creek. Ashland Creek provides habitat for Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) Coho Salmon (federally listed as threatened), Klamath Mountain Province (KMP) Steelhead Trout and resident Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout. Water management in the Bear Creek watershed is widely acknowledged to be a limiting factor to fish production - largely due to over-allocation of instream flows for irrigation - at all times of year. Protecting 0.5 cfs of live flow in Ashland Creek will provide a measurable increase in flow over current conditions and will be invaluable to Coho and Steelhead summer parr. Funding is sought for 3 seasons of leasing beginning in 2018. TU acknowledges that funding may not be received in time to meet this goal, and they have made the lessors aware of this. In the event funding is not received in time for a 2018 lease, the project will be implemented beginning in 2019 and extend through 2020 and 2021.

#### REVIEW

##### Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that the water transaction was viable and was likely to achieve the proposed flow restoration outcomes. Based on information provided by TU, it appears that sufficient due diligence measures have been conducted to establish the short-term transferability of the subject water rights to an instream use, establish accurate ownership information of the subject water rights, and document the value of the water rights to be leased based on a Rogue Basin water valuation commissioned by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Reviewers noted that the Bureau valuation was generic to the entire Rogue Basin, not specifically Ashland Creek. Nonetheless, the projected annual lease price of \$22/acre-foot is very reasonable relative to lease prices in the Rogue Basin and throughout the Pacific Northwest. Reviewers felt that this reflected a reasonable value based on available data. Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TU's plans for monitoring compliance with the lease terms was sufficient, with regular site visits to assure no water use occurs on the acreage from which water has been leased, and additional review of satellite imagery as appropriate and available. Protection of the leased water instream was documented as watermaster enforcement of the reduced diversion rate at the point of diversion. Reviewers would benefit from more information on how the watermaster will ensure protection of the water right from diversion by more junior water right holders to ensure leased flows are protected instream.

A signed Letter of Intent was provided by TU for review, but a final Landowner Agreement was not provided.

### **Ecological Outcomes**

Reviewers gave this transaction a positive review for its proposed benefits to fish, water quality, habitat availability, and connectivity. Furthermore, TU and its partners have undertaken a prioritization effort to help determine where flow restoration activities would be most beneficial in the Rogue River basin. Based on the information provided by TU, Ashland Creek appears to be a high restoration priority identified in their analysis.

The proposal and associated materials documented the value of additional flow in Ashland Creek. The primary ecological significance of the instream lease is the benefit to Coho and Steelhead outmigrating smolts and summer parr. In addition, adding water to Ashland Creek will help maintain its cold and clear nature throughout the affected reach and will help maintain temperatures suitable for salmonid migration and rearing. The proposal would have benefited from further description of how the proposed transaction complements other watershed-scale initiatives to address limiting factors. It also could have been clearer what the flow target goals are for the Creek, but one of the benefits of short term leasing is to develop a greater understanding of flows to help set such goals.

### **Organizational Capacity**

TU provided a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) in December 2016 that demonstrated the necessary organizational capacity to complete water transactions. TU and key staff have a long history of successfully navigating the State's instream transfer process. TU cites a number of relevant examples in their SOQ and the proposal identifies two other water transactions in this watershed and another nearby that have been successfully completed. Furthermore, TU has demonstrated the ability to provide monitoring and stewardship of past water acquisitions, and to work with OWRD to resolve issues as they arise.

### **Summary**

The project will provide short-term benefit on Ashland Creek, an important tributary to Bear Creek in the Rogue Basin. In addition, and of great importance, is that this lease will demonstrate the benefits of water transactions to other landowners in the Bear Creek watershed. The cost of the transaction appears reasonable based on water leasing data from similar watersheds, and is based on valuation work commissioned by the Bureau of Reclamation. TU and its staff have demonstrated the ability to negotiate, implement, and monitor complex water acquisition projects based on their previous experience and should be in a position to implement this lease as proposed. The proposal did lack details of watershed context and the relationship of the lease to other restoration actions in Ashland Creek and the larger Bear Creek watershed.

### **Review Team Recommendation**

Fund, with the request to provide more watershed context and information on how the watermaster will protect the leased water instream per the priority date of the underlying water right.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund with condition:

- Prior to first payment, provide information on how the watermaster will protect the leased water instream per the priority date of the underlying water right.



## **2017 OWEB Grant Offering**

### **Water Lease and Transfer Application**

**Project Name:** Hood Basin Fifteenmile Leasing 2018

**Applicant:** The Freshwater Trust

**Application No:** 217-9906

**Basin:** Fifteenmile

**OWEB Request:** \$23,441

**Region:** Central Oregon

**County:** Wasco

**Total Cost:** \$31,254

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#### **Application Description**

The Freshwater Trust (TFT) proposes to lease multiple water rights with multiple irrigators in the Fifteenmile subbasin. They propose to provide compensation for full and split-season leases of one to five years in duration. This provides Fifteenmile landowners with a flexible instream leasing option that they can work into their crop rotation patterns, while also supporting TFT's flow restoration goal of 5-7 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the mouth of Fifteenmile Creek to benefit a mostly wild population of ESA-listed, threatened Mid Columbia summer steelhead. Other aquatic focal species include Coho and Chinook salmon, Pacific and western brook lamprey, resident redband, and cutthroat trout, among others. The transactions included in the 2018 Leasing Program will fund 1.54 cfs of water rights with priority dates ranging from 1858-1907 in instream leases. This amount is in addition to the two continuing paid leases in Fifteenmile, and the additional uncompensated leases for later priority dates and less reliable water that will begin in 2018. TFT's Leasing Program is part of a multi-faceted approach to addressing the low flows on Fifteenmile Creek. It complements the watershed's Fifteenmile Action to Stabilize Temperatures (FAST), a contingency plan aimed at reducing lethal stream temperatures after a 2009 fish kill. It also complements considerable other work by local restoration groups (SWCD, Watershed Council), tribes, and state and federal agencies.

#### **REVIEW**

##### **Project Soundness**

Reviewers felt that this water transaction was likely to achieve the proposed flow restoration outcomes. Based on information provided by TFT and the reviewers' familiarity with TFT's prior work in this watershed, reviewers are confident that leases can be implemented as proposed.

Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TFT's plan for monitoring compliance with the lease terms was sufficient. TFT works closely with the watermaster in this watershed and will work with the watermaster and locally based Wasco SWCD to monitor leases. TFT will also visit all sites at least once during the season.

Draft lease applications were provided by TFT, but not signed agreements. NFWF will confirm leasing commitments for 2018. TFT expects to have signed agreements by the end of March.

## **Ecological Outcomes**

Reviewers gave this transaction a positive review for its proposed benefits to fish, water quality, habitat availability, and connectivity. According to the materials provided, the Fifteenmile watershed provides habitat for a nearly intact wild genetic stock of Middle Columbia summer steelhead, listed as threatened under the ESA. Summer steelhead are a primary management concern for State, Federal, and Tribal natural resource agencies. Other aquatic focal species include coho and Chinook salmon, Pacific and western brook lamprey, resident redband and cutthroat trout. The watershed has undergone extensive alteration and damage from its natural state since settlement, and is a high-priority area under both state and federal management agency restoration criteria. Other efforts are ongoing to restore aquatic habitat in the Fifteenmile watershed. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife along with the Warm Springs Tribe, NRCS, the Fifteenmile Watershed Council, and the Wasco Soil and Water Conservation District, have all implemented and continue to develop habitat improvement projects in the basin. The proposal would have benefited from clarifying which of these efforts have already been completed, are in progress, or are planned for the future.

TFT indicates that 37% to 52% of their current flow target (5-7 cfs of senior water rights) at the mouth of Fifteenmile Creek is reached through these leases and prior transactions. The proposal would have benefited from further discussion about the strategies planned to reach the flow target over time, especially as they note there may be reason to have a significantly higher flow target to meet biological need.

## **Organizational Capacity**

TFT, and its predecessor the Oregon Water Trust, have participated in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP) since the program's inception in 2002. As a participant in the CBWTP, TFT has undergone a qualification process to demonstrate the organization's capacity to successfully identify, implement, and monitor water transactions. To date, TFT has implemented over 160 water transactions in partnership with the CBWTP. Based on their general experience implementing water transactions under the CBWTP and their specific experience in the Fifteenmile watershed, reviewers felt that TFT had sufficient capacity and expertise to implement this transaction.

## **Summary**

This project is a part of a strategic effort to support flows and fish in Fifteenmile Creek. TFT and its partners have a long history of working in this basin, and farmers in several of these transactions are doing dryland farming while keeping water instream through this project. The value of leases is supported by economic valuation uploaded as part of this proposal.

## **Review Team Recommendation**

Fund

## **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

## **2017 OWEB Grant Offering**

### **Water Lease and Transfer Application**

**Project Name:** Wallowa Lostine\_MFA\_2018-2019

**Applicant:** The Freshwater Trust

**Application No:** 217-9907

**Basin:** Grande Ronde

**OWEB Request:** \$394,095

**Region:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Wallowa

**Total Cost:** \$525,060

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#### **Application Description**

The Freshwater Trust (TFT) proposes to renew a longstanding minimum flow agreement (MFA) on the Lostine River for two years. The 2018-2019 transaction proposes to maintain a minimum flow of 15 cubic feet per second (cfs) instream in the upper Lostine from August 10th to September 30th each year to benefit Chinook passage and spawning. In addition to the base payment, irrigators will again be eligible to earn payments into their shared efficiency project fund for averaged daily flows instream between 15 and 25 cfs over two 26-day periods. This payment structure will maintain a minimum flow and incentivize additional instream flow while supporting irrigators' efforts to implement permanent efficiency projects that will ultimately eliminate the need for a yearly agreement. The extension of the time period of the transaction (without any increase in payments) is a critical component of the new agreement as it will ensure consistent flows beginning right as the low flow period starts. This will be particularly important in bad water years when we are consistently seeing low flows earlier in the season. The previous start date of August 22nd coincided with the highest numbers of Chinook moving through the system, but TFT notes that the Nez Perce Tribe telemetry study shows that Chinook are present and moving through the reach from mid-July to early October. Moving the start date back to August 10th helps ensure consistent flow for fish in the system over the entire low flow period. For this project, the period has been extended while holding payments the same, so the cost per volume of water is reduced from 2015-2017.

#### **REVIEW**

##### **Project Soundness**

Reviewers felt that the water transaction was viable and was likely to achieve the proposed flow restoration outcomes. The project enables ESA-listed Chinook to access higher quality spawning grounds through an area of the River that went nearly dry in the years prior to the minimum flow agreement. TFT has been refining this transaction over time, and there is an investment in a permanent solution included in this proposal with a portion of the bonus payments to be used to invest in a long-term irrigation efficiency fund. Irrigators have signed on with Farmer's Conservation Alliance to use bonus funds for automated headgates and measuring devices on the four main ditches. TFT indicated improvements have been made to diversion structures with one still in need of upgrades, but did not note if there was a planned fix for that structure or other habitat improvements that have been made or should be made in this reach.

Reviewers felt that the proposal reflected a reasonable value based on available data from the 2015 update to the Wallowa Basin Economic Profile by Westwater Research. Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights

continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TFT's plans for monitoring compliance with the agreement terms was sufficient, with regular monitoring by Oregon Water Resources Department, communication with TFT and landowners, and other monitoring sites that the Nez Perce Tribe manages. TFT also noted that metering on ditches is in development through prior investments into the efficiency fund through this project.

A draft landowner agreement was provided and TFT will obtain signatures once funding is approved.

### **Ecological Outcomes**

Reviewers gave this transaction a positive review for its proposed benefits to fish, water quality, habitat availability, and connectivity. This project is a high restoration priority for TFT, the Nez Perce Tribe, and others in the watershed. Fish returns have increased, though the Nez Perce Tribe have also initiated a supplementation program enabled by additional flows.

The proposal and associated materials documented the value of additional flow in the Lostine River. The primary ecological significance of the transaction is noted as passage to access spawning grounds for Chinook salmon, though steelhead trout and bull trout are also noted as benefitting from this transaction. Reviewers felt that the proposal could have benefited from describing what has been learned from the 13 years of this transaction from a biological and instream habitat perspective.

### **Organizational Capacity**

TFT, and its predecessor the Oregon Water Trust, have participated in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP) since the program's inception in 2002. As a participant in the CBWTP, TFT has undergone a qualification process to demonstrate the organization's capacity to successfully identify, implement, and monitor water transactions. To date, TFT has implemented over 160 water transactions in partnership with the CBWTP. Based on their general experience implementing water transactions under the CBWTP and their specific experience in this watershed, reviewers felt that TFT had sufficient capacity and expertise to implement this transaction.

### **Summary**

The reviewers commend TFT and partners for strategic efforts to develop a permanent flow restoration project in the Lostine River, and for adapting the transaction to fit fish needs. The project will provide short-term benefit to Chinook passage in the Lostine, while also making continued investments in a long-term solution. The cost of the transaction appears reasonable based on water leasing data from similar watersheds and is based on valuation work by Westwater Research. TFT and its staff have demonstrated the ability to negotiate, implement, and monitor complex water acquisition projects based on their previous experience and should be in a position to implement this project as proposed. The proposal could have been improved by clarifying if other habitat restoration actions have been completed/are needed beyond flow and upgrading diversion structures. The proposal also could have described fish response to the 13 previous years of this transaction.

### **Review Team Recommendation**

Fund

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund with condition:

- Include description of fish response to transaction in the project completion report.

## **2017 OWEB Grant Offering**

### **Water Lease and Transfer Application**

**Project Name:** Wallowa Lostine WW2018-2019

**Applicant:** The Freshwater Trust

**Application No:** 217-9908

**Basin:** Grande Ronde

**OWEB Request:** \$219,876

**Region:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Wallowa

**Total Cost:** \$293,168

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#### **Application Description**

The Freshwater Trust (TFT) is proposing the first two years of a split-season lease of 1072.4 acre-feet annually, or approximately 8.88 cubic feet per second, in the Lostine and Wallowa River during August and September for the benefit of ESA listed Lower Snake River Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and Pacific Lamprey. Flows will be protected from river mile 5.2 to the mouth of the Lostine and continue down the length of the Wallowa River to the confluence with the Grande Ronde River. This project is associated with and complementary to a larger conserved water project with this landowner and addresses the time of year when instream flows are critical. This project builds on the Lostine River Minimum Flow Agreement (MFA) that TFT is also requesting funding for at this time.

#### **REVIEW**

##### **Project Soundness**

Reviewers felt that the water transaction was viable and was likely to achieve the proposed flow restoration outcomes. TFT has conducted sufficient due diligence to establish the short-term transferability of the subject water rights to an instream use, establish accurate ownership information of the subject water rights, and document the value of the water rights to be leased. Reviewers felt that the price per acre-foot of \$135 was acceptable and is within the range of values provided by Westwater in a valuation done for this and the broader conserved water project.

Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TFT's plan for monitoring compliance with the lease terms was sufficient. TFT and the Oregon Water Resources Department will work with irrigators on each canal to install measuring devices at locations necessary to ensure that the requirements of the split-season lease are met. TFT staff will regularly photograph acres contracted under the lease agreement to ensure that irrigation water is not being applied during the late season. Partners are also monitoring in this reach as part of a Chinook study. The proposal neglected to discuss lessons learned by this study thus far.

A draft landowner agreement was submitted with the proposal, and a signed agreement is expected in March 2018.

##### **Ecological Outcomes**

Reviewers gave this transaction a positive review for its proposed benefits to fish, water quality, habitat availability, and connectivity. This transaction builds on the Lostine River MFA transaction upstream and in this reach. 22% to 59% of the flow target will be reached during the critical low flow period through

this transaction. This project also complements other habitat work in the watershed, though it was unclear the proximity of other restoration to this project.

The proposal and associated materials documented the value of additional flow in the Lostine River. The primary ecological significance of the instream lease is to benefit passage to access spawning grounds for Chinook salmon. Stranding was observed by biologists in 2012 and 2015 during the low flow period in this reach. Steelhead trout, and bull trout are also noted as benefitting from this transaction.

### **Organizational Capacity**

TFT, and its predecessor the Oregon Water Trust, have participated in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP) since the program's inception in 2002. As a participant in the CBWTP, TFT has undergone a qualification process to demonstrate the organization's capacity to successfully identify, implement, and monitor water transactions. To date, TFT has implemented over 160 water transactions in partnership with the CBWTP. Based on their general experience implementing water transactions under the CBWTP and their specific experience in this watershed, reviewers felt that TFT had sufficient capacity and expertise to implement this transaction.

### **Summary**

This project will provide a two year benefit on the Lostine River for Chinook passage and for other species; however, the agreement with the landowner extends an additional three years, pending funding approval. This transaction, combined with others, demonstrates progress in flow restoration on the Lostine River. The cost of the transaction appears reasonable based the valuation by Westwater. TFT and its staff have demonstrated the ability to negotiate, implement, and monitor complex water acquisition projects based on their previous experience and are in a position to implement this lease as proposed.

### **Review Team Recommendation**

Fund

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

## **2017 OWEB Grant Offering**

### **Water Lease and Transfer Application**

**Project Name:** Upper John Day Reynolds Creek 2018

**Applicant:** The Freshwater Trust

**Application No:** 217-9909

**Basin:** John Day

**OWEB Request:** \$57,239

**Region:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**Total Cost:** \$76,318

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#### **Application Description**

The Freshwater Trust (TFT) proposes a one year split-season lease combined with a forbearance agreement for 2.48 cubic feet per second (cfs) of cold, late-season flow, which will provide rearing habitat for juvenile spring Chinook salmon and westslope cutthroat trout. The project will also provide some cooling benefit into a priority reach of critical Chinook spawning habitat in the main stem Upper John Day River. There are discussions around a 10-year transaction with these landowners; however, local conservation partners are currently discussing a conservation easement. This transaction provides room for those conversations to be completed. This is a renewal transaction that was previously in place for one and then three years. There is a companion transaction on Reynolds Creek that, when combined with this proposal, achieves the Reynolds Creek instream flow target of 3 cfs.

#### **REVIEW**

##### **Project Soundness**

Reviewers felt that the water transaction was viable and was likely to achieve the proposed flow restoration outcomes. TFT notes that this is their highest priority in the John Day. TFT has successfully leased the lease portion of the water rights instream and there is no intervening landowner below these water rights in Reynolds Creek. The forbearance approach works in this reach because the transacted water is not going downstream to other junior water users. Because of this, all of the water from the project water rights is expected to reach the critical spawning grounds in the John Day mainstem. The cost proposed is slightly above the top end of the valuation for the basin, but as this is cold water and thus higher ecological value, the price was accepted in the prior project implemented for this transaction. TFT notes that hay prices have increased since the basin valuation was updated in 2014.

Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TFT's plans for monitoring compliance with the lease terms was sufficient, with regular site visits to assure no water use occurs on the acreage from which water has been leased, and regular monitoring to confirm compliance with forbearance terms.

In addition, TFT will work closely with the watermaster as needed. Reviewers would have benefitted from a description of lessons learned in prior years through monitoring of the previous transactions with these water rights.

A draft landowner agreement was provided by TFT for review, but a final landowner agreement was not provided. A signed landowner agreement is expected at the end of March.

## **Ecological Outcomes**

Reviewers gave this transaction a positive review for its proposed benefits to fish, water quality, and connectivity. TFT considers this an important project in the watershed during the term of the transaction. It meets the flow target in Reynolds Creek, and has a positive influence by adding cold water to the mainstem John Day River. Temperature is the limiting factor in the Upper John Day River. The proposal indicates that the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs have said that it helps with Chinook passage in this reach of the John Day River, as well as having cooling effects.

The proposal and associated materials documented the value of additional flow in Reynolds Creek and the Upper John Day River mainstem. The primary ecological significance of the instream lease and forbearance is to provide rearing habitat for juvenile spring Chinook salmon and westslope cutthroat trout in the late season. The Upper John Day River is also a critical stream for ESA-listed bull trout and will provide spawning and over-summering habitat for Chinook.

The proposal would have benefited from a description of how the proposed transaction complements other watershed-scale and reach-specific initiatives to address other limiting factors. It also would have benefited from additional information on the results from flow and habitat monitoring in this reach over the previous four years.

## **Organizational Capacity**

TFT, and its predecessor the Oregon Water Trust, have participated in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP) since the program's inception in 2002. As a participant in the CBWTP, TFT has undergone a qualification process to demonstrate the organization's capacity to successfully identify, implement, and monitor water transactions. To date, TFT has implemented over 160 water transactions in partnership with the CBWTP. Based on their general experience implementing water transactions under the CBWTP and their specific experience in this watershed, reviewers felt that TFT had sufficient capacity and expertise to implement this transaction.

## **Summary**

The location, time of year, and quantity of water for this flow transaction present an important project in the watershed that meets the flow target and adds cool water to the main stem John Day River. TFT could have provided more specificity on links to additional habitat restoration in the watershed, their plan for implementing flow and habitat monitoring in this reach, and lessons learned from the last four years of this transaction. The cost for this transaction is high, albeit the ecological benefits of cool water in this location are also high.

## **Review Team Recommendation**

Fund, with a request to provide additional watershed context and information on lessons learned through the previous iterations of this transaction.

## **Staff Recommendation**

Fund with condition:

- Provide additional information in the project completion report on lessons learned through this project and the previous iterations of this transaction.



## **2017 OWEB Grant Offering**

### **Water Lease and Transfer Application**

**Project Name:** Upper John Day Rock Creek 2018

**Applicant:** The Freshwater Trust

**Application No:** 217-9910

**Basin:** John Day

**OWEB Request:** \$60,915

**Region:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**Total Cost:** \$81,220

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#### **Application Description**

This is a proposal by The Freshwater Trust (TFT) to seek the second year of funding for a 2-year agreement with a 40,000 acre ranch to pay for a measured flow and lease transaction on Rock Creek in the Upper John Day sub-basin. The landowner holds over 90% of the water rights within the Rock Creek watershed, presenting a unique opportunity for watershed-scale work. This transaction will benefit native steelhead which will be able to access high-quality habitat in upper portions of the basin. The ranch that TFT is working with owns multiple water rights in this valley and the transaction has evolved since 2014 to cover the time between May 15<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> for between 1.2 and 3.5 - 4 cubic feet per second (cfs) (4 cfs is the upper end for compensation between May 15<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> and 3.5 cfs is the upper end for the remainder of the season). Compensation is based on flow being above 1.2 cfs on a daily basis throughout the season. TFT is leasing a portion of the water rights involved in the transaction to guarantee downstream protection because the project landowner has enough rights senior to the irrigation water rights below the point of measurement for the overall transaction to ensure flows are in stream throughout the reach proposed.

#### **REVIEW**

##### **Project Soundness**

The proposed transaction is the result of several years of refinement of this flow project on Rock Creek. By paying for measured flow, funders are assured they are paying for actual water instream, efficiency is gained because it is not necessary to process all of the water rights for the transaction water rights through Oregon Water Resources Department as leases, and the large amounts and varied types of water rights on this ranch can continue to be managed as a unit.

Reviewers felt that the water transaction was sound and likely to achieve the proposed outcomes. Cost is at the top end of the range for the valuation done on this watershed, but because it is a measured flow transaction, this price has been accepted in the past by Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program (CBWTP). TFT noted in the proposal that, based on three years of collected streamflow data, they have not seen more than 3 cfs maintained instream from June through September.

Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TFT's plans for monitoring compliance with the transaction terms were sufficient; TFT will conduct onsite verification of flows and gage operation in Rock Creek at Derr Meadow over the course of the irrigation season (instream measurements will take place roughly once every four weeks). In addition, level-loggers deployed in multiple monitoring locations within the Rock Creek watershed will

capture flow data at fifteen-minute intervals through the irrigation season and will be reviewed at the end of the season.

A signed landowner agreement was provided by TFT for review but a final landowner agreement was not provided.

### **Ecological Outcomes**

Reviewers gave this transaction a positive review for its proposed benefits to fish, water quality, and connectivity. According to the materials provided, the project primarily aids rearing juvenile salmonids by lowering stream temperatures and providing access to the higher-quality habitat in upper portions of Rock Creek and its tributaries. Species that will benefit are listed Mid-Columbia steelhead and Chinook salmon. Additional flows during the early part of the irrigation season may aid adult steelhead migration during low-flow years. TFT noted that in 2015, the water from a prior iteration of this transaction was the only flow in Rock Creek.

Reviewers noted that while the proposal mentioned that habitat restoration has been proposed to the landowner, this has been mentioned in prior proposals for this project without progress.

The proposal would have benefited from additional description of how fish studies done in prior years (pre-project and in a project year) contributed to understanding of fish usage of this reach.

### **Organizational Capacity**

TFT, and its predecessor the Oregon Water Trust, have participated in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP) since the program's inception in 2002. As a participant in the CBWTP, TFT has undergone a qualification process to demonstrate the organization's capacity to successfully identify, implement, and monitor water transactions. To date, TFT has implemented over 160 water transactions in partnership with the CBWTP. Based on their general experience implementing water transactions under the CBWTP and their specific experience in this watershed, reviewers felt that TFT had sufficient capacity and expertise to implement this transaction.

### **Summary**

This project will provide a one year, short-term, full season measured flow and instream lease to Rock Creek in the Upper John Day sub-basin. Reviewers felt that continued project support was warranted. Reviewers would have liked more information on the likelihood of other restoration actions occurring on this acreage, as well as further description of lessons learned from fish data in prior years. The proposal recognized that there has not been more than 3 cfs maintain instream in Rock Creek from June through September. Because of this, the review team recommendation includes a fund reduction.

### **Review Team Recommendation**

Fund, at 75% of requested instream water lease amount due to the prior three years' of streamflow monitoring data showing that they have not met the flow target.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund. This is a measured flow project. As such, OWEB will pay for only the actual water measured instream as a result of this project. OWEB staff recommend fully funding the project in order to provide TFT the opportunity to fully realize the flow restoration targets, understanding that the cost of water could be less than that requested in the original proposal, depending on measured instream flows.

## **2017 OWEB Grant Offering**

### **Water Lease and Transfer Application**

**Project Name:** North Fork Sprague River Water Conservation Project Management

**Applicant:** Trout Unlimited Oregon

**Application No:** 217-9911

**Basin:** Klamath

**OWEB Request:** \$33,717

**Region:** Central Oregon

**County:** Klamath

**Total Cost:** \$3,787,159

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#### **Application Description**

Trout Unlimited Oregon (TU) is seeking \$33,717 for water acquisition project management and administrative water transaction costs and fees. The total water conservation project implementation cost is approximately \$3,787,159. This project has been awarded \$2.7 million in funding from the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and \$1 million from the Nation Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for pipeline construction, fill /removal permitting, and associated activities.

The proposed water conservation project on the North Fork Sprague River will benefit bull trout, redband trout and native sucker species, allowing them to better express their life histories. This project will occur on the North Ditch, a large irrigation diversion on the North Fork Sprague River. Water conservation will be realized via piping of the currently open and unlined North Ditch. This project is expected to conserve 35% of water currently diverted into the ditch. Of this water, TU anticipates that 93% will be dedicated to instream flow and legally protected through the OWRD's Allocation of Conserved Water Program. A modest portion (1.2%) will be utilized to develop new irrigated agricultural land (allowed under the program). This translates into approximately 10 cubic feet per second (cfs) of additional instream flow in spring, 2.9 cfs in summer, and 7.9 cfs in the fall. The newly acquired instream water right will be held by the State of Oregon.

### **REVIEW**

#### **Project Soundness**

Reviewers felt that the water transaction was sound and had a high likelihood of achieving the proposed outcomes. Based on information provided by TU, it appears that sufficient due diligence measures have been conducted to quantify the amount of water savings that would result from this conservation project, establish the transferability of the saved water to an instream use, and document the value of the water rights to be acquired through application of commonly accepted valuation approaches. TU has coordinated with the OWRD to discuss the amount of water being proposed for implementation under the Allocation of Conserved Water Program and no substantial issues of concern were identified. Applications to this program are planned for submission by June of 2018. Pipeline construction is planned to occur in 2018 and 2019. Thus, water transactions will need to be completed and finalized just prior to the 2020 irrigation season.

Reviewers found that TU understands the watershed context of the project and the importance of addressing other limiting factors. TU notes that increasing flow in the affected reach will provide immediate benefit to passage by providing connectivity to high quality habitat upstream of the North Ditch. It will make more habitat and habitat types available to native species; however, the physical habitat in NF Sprague is of moderate quality on the mid-elevation ranch lands affected by this project.

Additional desired enhancements include an improved riparian area and improved instream cover. These enhancements are achievable and will provide the most benefit upon completion of this water transaction. It is anticipated that landowners and irrigators will continue to work with TU to realize these enhancements in coming years.

Reviewers questioned the following response regarding the value of the water right: *A formal water valuation is not necessary for this project. Water users will not be paid for any part of this water transaction. The project is being implemented under the Allocation of Conserved Water Program.* While TU is not requesting OWEB funding for implementation of the project, significant public investments are being made by the NRCS and OWRD. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$3.7M with the volume of water restored annually being 3,188 acre-feet (AF). This translates to a purchase price of \$1,160/AF, a reasonable price for permanent water.

Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TU's plans for monitoring and enforcing this water transaction were well designed and should provide the necessary oversight to ensure flows are protected instream. Expansion of population size and miles of occupied stream channel by native fish will be assessed utilizing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and ODFW fish survey data and compared to pre-project snorkel surveys assessments conducted by ODFW, USFWS and the U.S. Forest Service in 2004, 2006, and 2014. The reviewers asked whether the agencies have a plan for future snorkel surveys and whether the results will be compared to pre-project numbers.

A signed Letter of Intent was provided by TU for review, but a final landowner agreement has not been signed.

### **Ecological Outcomes**

Reviewers gave this transaction high marks for its potential to restore high-quality habitat for a number of key species while also leveraging substantial conservation outcomes through other (non-flow) restoration activities. TU notes:

To allow Bull Trout and Redband Trout to express their complete adfluvial life cycle, increased instream flow in the upper Sprague River is critical. This project will also address recovery actions identified by the USFWS Recovery Plan for Lost River and Shortnose Suckers (USFWS, 2013) by: 1) conserving and restoring riparian and wetland areas along the Wood, Williamson, and Sprague Rivers and Upper Klamath Lake to improve water quality, and; 2) re-establishing stream and river connectivity. While Shortnose and Lost River Suckers are not currently known to use the North or South Fork Sprague Rivers, this project will play an important role in providing additional cold water inputs to the mainstem Sprague River during the summer period when water quality conditions are most limiting for cool water species. In addition to water quantity and temperature improvements, reductions of flood irrigation due to on-farm irrigation improvements are also expected to reduce nutrient loading to the Sprague River and ultimately Upper Klamath Lake.

The proposed water transaction is a unique opportunity to achieve meaningful flow restoration in the North Fork Sprague River benefitting Bull and Redband Trout and Shortnose and Lost River Suckers. The allowed rate of diversion is substantial enough at all times during the irrigation season to limit most aspects of native fish life history. There will be a substantial, measureable increase in protected instream flows throughout the irrigation season. From March 1 through June 15, instream flows will increase by approximately 10 cfs, from June 15 to August 15 by approximately 2.9cfs, and from August 15 to October 1 by approximately 7.9cfs. Any increase in

flow at this site will provide substantial benefit. Of primary significance is the late summer and early fall period when water quality impairment is evident in the Sprague River due to warm temperatures. The proposed water transaction will also provide more cool, clean water to Upper Klamath Lake especially in late summer when water quality conditions are most limiting. Reductions in phosphorus loading will also, in small part, improve overall water quality and benefit the Klamath River downstream of the lake.

### **Organizational Capacity**

TU provided a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) in December 2016 that demonstrated the necessary organizational capacity to complete this water transaction. TU and key staff have a long history of successfully navigating the State's instream transfer process. TU cites a number of relevant examples in their SOQ and has extensive experience in this watershed. Furthermore, TU has demonstrated the ability to provide monitoring and stewardship of past water acquisitions and work with OWRD to resolve issues as they arise.

### **Summary**

The project appears to be well designed and benefit key species of interest in the Upper Klamath Basin. The cost of the transaction appears reasonable compared to water markets in the Upper Klamath Basin and throughout Oregon. TU and its staff have demonstrated the ability to negotiate, implement, and monitor complex water acquisition projects based on their previous experience and should be in a position to implement this acquisition as proposed.

### **Review Team Recommendation**

Fund

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

**FROM:** Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item J – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program  
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

### I. Summary

Staff will update the board on the first series of Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission meetings and next steps for the commission and rulemaking. Staff will also discuss the potential for board and commission members to meet on the day prior to the June OWEB Board meeting.

### II. Background

House Bill 3249 established the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) during the 2017 Legislative Session. Since that time, OWEB has hired a program coordinator, the commission has been approved by the board, and the commission has held four meetings to begin developing program rules. Commission members are provided as Attachment A to the staff report.

### III. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Rulemaking

The commission's initial meetings have focused entirely on rulemaking. During early conversations, the commission decided to develop all rules in draft, and then to review the full slate of rules in context of each other before finalizing each rule. To date, commission members have discussed draft rules for the following:

1. Succession planning grants
2. Conservation management plans
3. Working land covenants and easements

A timeline of meetings is provided as Attachment B to the staff report. Staff will provide a brief update of the rulemaking process to date at the April board meeting. All commission information is available online at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/oahp/Pages/index.aspx>.

### IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

### Attachments

- A. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Commissioners
- B. Schedule for OAHP Rulemaking

**Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Commissioners**

| <b>Name</b>    | <b>Residence<br/>City/Town</b> | <b>Interest<br/>Represented</b>   |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chad Allen     | Tillamook                      | Farm/ranch                        |
| Ken Bailey     | The Dalles                     | Farm/ranch                        |
| Doug Krahmer   | St. Paul                       | Farm/ranch                        |
| Woody Wolfe    | Wallowa                        | Farm/ranch                        |
| Dr. Sam Angima | Corvallis                      | OSU Extension                     |
| Mary Wahl      | Portland                       | Fish & Wildlife                   |
| Bruce Taylor   | Portland                       | Fish & Wildlife                   |
| Lois Loop      | Salem                          | Agricultural<br>Water Quality     |
| Derek Johnson  | Portland                       | Easements                         |
| Mark Bennett   | Unity                          | Natural<br>Resources              |
| Nathan Jackson | Myrtle Creek                   | Indian tribal                     |
| Will Neuhauser | Yamhill                        | <i>Ex officio</i> ,<br>non-voting |



## Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

### Proposed Schedule for OAHP Rule Making

| Rulemaking Action                                                                                                                                                                                             | Dates/Deadlines                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OWEB Board authorization for rulemaking                                                                                                                                                                       | October 2017                                                        |
| Develop rule headers/concepts                                                                                                                                                                                 | November – December 2017E                                           |
| OWEB Board update and vote on Commissioners                                                                                                                                                                   | January 31, 2018                                                    |
| <b>Commission Meeting #1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OAHP 101</li> <li>• Rule headers</li> <li>• Succession planning rulemaking</li> </ul>                                                  | Thursday, February 1, 2018                                          |
| <b>Commission Meeting #2:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review succession planning rules</li> <li>• Conservation Management Plan rulemaking</li> </ul>                                         | Thursday, February 22, 2018                                         |
| <b>Commission Meeting #3:</b> CMP rules                                                                                                                                                                       | Thursday, March 8, 2018                                             |
| <b>Commission Meeting #4:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review succession planning rules</li> <li>• Conservation Management Plan rulemaking</li> <li>• Easement/Covenant rulemaking</li> </ul> | Thursday, April 5, 2018                                             |
| <b>Comm. Meeting #5:</b> Easement/covenant rulemaking                                                                                                                                                         | Thursday, April 26, 2018                                            |
| <b>Commission Meeting #6:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easement/Covenant rulemaking</li> <li>• Technical Assistance rulemaking</li> <li>• Procedural rulemaking</li> </ul>                    | Wednesday, May 23, 2018 afternoon<br>Thursday, May 24, 2018 all day |
| Provide draft rules to DOJ for feedback                                                                                                                                                                       | Early June, 2018                                                    |
| Draft Statement Need & Fiscal/ Economic Impact                                                                                                                                                                | Early June, 2018                                                    |
| Draft GovDelivery, Secretary of State notice, website                                                                                                                                                         | Early June, 2018                                                    |
| Exec. Team review draft rules after DOJ feedback                                                                                                                                                              | Mid-June, 2018                                                      |
| Notice filed with Secretary of State                                                                                                                                                                          | June 20, 2018                                                       |
| Board Update                                                                                                                                                                                                  | June 25, 2018                                                       |
| Public comment notice posted online and in Sec. of State bulletin; sent to GovDelivery and legislators                                                                                                        | July 1, 2018                                                        |
| Public comment period; hearings around the state                                                                                                                                                              | July 1 – July 31, 2018                                              |
| Exec. Team review and revise draft rules based on public comment                                                                                                                                              | Early August, 2018                                                  |
| <b>Commission Meeting #7:</b> Review public comment                                                                                                                                                           | Early August, 2018                                                  |
| DOJ review any significant changes to rules                                                                                                                                                                   | Mid-August, 2018                                                    |
| <b>Commission Meeting #8:</b> Final draft of rules                                                                                                                                                            | Late August, 2018                                                   |
| Send rules to Board to review                                                                                                                                                                                 | September 1, 2018                                                   |
| Board vote on rules                                                                                                                                                                                           | October 2018                                                        |
| Board submit final rules to Secretary of State                                                                                                                                                                | October/November 2018                                               |





# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

**FROM:** Renee Davis, Deputy Director  
Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item K – 2019-2021 Agency Request Budget  
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

### I. Introduction

This report updates the board about budget preparation for the 2019 Legislative Session and budget proposal ideas that will be included in the Agency Request Budget (ARB) for board consideration in June 2018.

### II. Budget Preparations for the 2019 Legislative Session

The Oregon Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. In preparing for the next biennium, budgets are structured so that each agency's current (or "base") budget is recalibrated and submitted without need for specific policy description or justification. Any resources requested to be added to the base budget by agencies must be identified separately with policy narratives and justification. The requested additions to an agency's base budget are called "Policy Packages."

OWEB must submit its ARB narrative to the Governor and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) by August 31, 2018. The Governor's Office will then develop state budget recommendations in partnership with agencies, known as the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB). This budget proposal may also include additional Policy Packages that reflect the Governor's priorities and initiatives.

The GRB is the starting point for agency budget discussions at legislative hearings. During the session, agencies may advocate for their individual Policy Packages only to the extent that they are included in the GRB.

In advance of preparing the ARB, OWEB staff have discussed agency needs and ideas for budget requests, and are providing early thoughts to the board for discussion at the April meeting. It is anticipated staff will share budget proposals with key stakeholders for their feedback.

### III. Budget Outlook

The recent economic forecast projects that the economy will continue to grow at a modest, but slower pace than in recent years. Lottery revenues are expected to continue to grow slightly. While overall state revenues are anticipated to increase, the amount is not expected to keep up with increasing state payroll costs and other cost

increases associated primarily with health care, corrections and education. In addition, revenues are expected to continue to be impacted by the roll-back associated with the PERS reform implemented last biennium.

Based on this information, DAS has signaled revenues will not be sufficient to cover the combined current service level expenditures and costs faced by the state budget for 2019-21. Therefore, current service level expenditure reductions are anticipated for both General and Lottery funded agencies. Each biennium, agencies are required to submit a report that lists 10 percent reduction options from current service level by priority for all fund sources. Despite this, full reductions have not been taken in the past few budget cycles. This coming budget cycle may require the implementation of some degree of reductions, depending on the revenue outlook and the level of remaining ending balances from the 2017-19 biennium.

#### **IV. OWEB Functions Analysis**

Given the anticipated budget limitations, when considering budget needs for the 2019-21 biennium, staff focused on functions the agency needs to perform. First, staff considered how needed functions could be completed with existing staffing or contract resources. Attachment A provides the current agency organizational chart.

As a result of those conversations, the agency's Executive Team proposes that, in addition to the agency's base budget, the ARB include funding for positions and contracted services identified in Attachment B to the staff report.

Staff currently are coordinating with the Governor's Office and other agencies on various other ideas for policy packages, and may have additional information regarding 2019-21 budget concepts at either the April or June board meetings.

#### **V. Next Steps for Budget Development**

Staff will bring an updated list of packages for inclusion in the 2019-21 ARB for the board's consideration and approval at the June 2018 meeting.

#### **VI. 2017-19 Budget and Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF)**

Related to OWEB's current 2017-2019 budget, staff have submitted the final grant application to NOAA Fisheries for funding under PCSRF in federal fiscal year 2018. OWEB, on behalf of the State of Oregon, is requesting \$25 million, the maximum amount of funding possible. This request requires a 33% match, which comes from lottery funding, salmon license plates, and match from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Consistent with the last few years, funding received from NOAA will be used to satisfy both OWEB's and ODFW's budget needs.

#### **VII. Recommendation**

This report is for informational purposes only.

#### **Attachments**

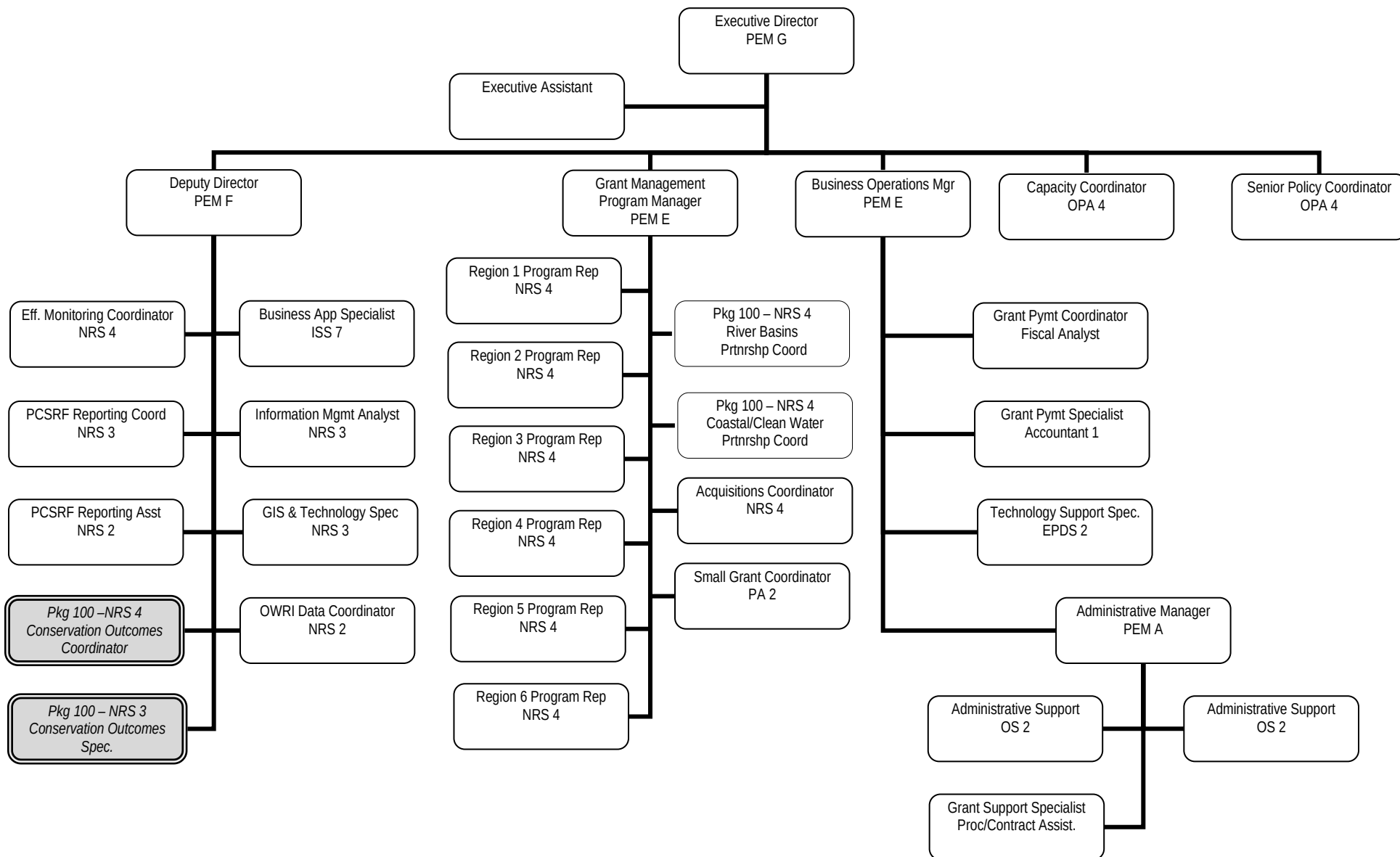
- A. OWEB Organizational Chart, 2017-2019
- B. Draft Proposed Policy Option Packages for OWEB's 2019-2021 ARB

# Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

## Organizational Chart

### 2017-2019 Legislatively Adopted Budget

ATTACHMENT A



Permanent

Limited Duration FTE

33.0 - FTE  
33.0 - Positions

**OWEB 2019-2021 Agency Request Budget  
Policy Option Package Proposals**

| <b>1. Program Continuity</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Amount</b> | <b>FTE</b> | <b>OWEB Strategic Plan Priority<sup>1</sup></b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Conservation Outcomes Coordinator (NRS4)</u> – Continues a limited duration position that leads OWEB’s program to measure and report on the ecological, economic and social outcomes resulting from OWEB grant investments at the landscape level. The position coordinates with other state and federal agencies to determine priorities and carry out implementation efforts of the Coordinated Streamside Management program, the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership and other similar initiatives. The position works with other agencies and local stakeholders to develop conservation outcome metrics, coordinate monitoring and data management frameworks, and report results at the landscape level and statewide scales. This position helps to measure and report on salmon habitat and recovery activities across the state. | 285,000       | 1.00       | 6 and 1                                         |
| <u>Conservation Outcomes Specialist (NRS3)</u> – Continues a limited duration position to implement aspects of OWEB’s program to measure and report on ecological, economic and social outcomes resulting from OWEB grant investments at the landscape level. The position assists with implementation of coordinated monitoring, adaptive management, and shared learning aspects of OWEB’s updated strategic plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 200,000       | 1.00       | 6 and 1                                         |

<sup>1</sup> Based on the current draft of OWEB’s strategic plan, these references denote connections between policy option packages and strategic plan priorities.

| 2. Program Enhancement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Amount    | FTE | OWEB Strategic Plan Priority |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----|------------------------------|
| <p><u>Contracted Services</u> – OWEB Measure 76 grant funds are not eligible to use for contracting. There are certain work products and functions required by OWEB’s programs that are most efficiently and effectively accomplished through personal services contracts. The contracting funds included in OWEB’s base budget are not sufficient to cover the full range of the agency’s contracting needs. This request ensures OWEB has adequate funds available for contracting purposes next biennium.</p> <p>These funds will be used in lieu of hiring additional staff to provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Long-term protection implementation, including ecological, title and appraisal reviews for an increasing number of land acquisition grant applications that are being received by OWEB, and initiation of the first biennial cycle of 6-year monitoring for all of OWEB’s land acquisitions investments;</li> <li>2. Effectiveness monitoring of OWEB’s restoration investments with the federal government via the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program;</li> <li>3. Improvements to OWEB’s statutorily required reporting for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Biennial Report; and</li> <li>4. Staff training to ensure effective management of grants that support watershed restoration and conservation.</li> </ol> | \$375,000 | N/A | 1, 3 and 6                   |
| <p><u>Online Systems Project Management</u> – Beginning in the 2015-2017 biennium, OWEB initiated a series of improvements to its business processes to increase efficiency and provide higher quality customer service. One component was creation of an online grant application system to complement OWEB’s existing fiscal management data system. OWEB is continuing this work by transitioning more of its process and requests a 0.5 FTE position (Project Manager 2) to work with OWEB customers and staff to scope online system functionality, manage system improvements and coordinate testing and refinement of the system through time.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | \$150,000 | 0.5 | N/A                          |
| <p><u>Partnerships Coordinator (NRS4)</u> – A project management position is needed to address workload created by the board’s increase in grants for Focused Investment Partnerships, which are long-term investments in high performing partnerships implementing restoration actions to achieve ecological outcomes at the landscape scale. Based on preliminary discussions, the board is expected to increase FIP investment by \$7 million in the 19-21 biennium, to a total of \$22 million, or 25% of OWEB’s grant portfolio. The additional position is needed to manage this increased investment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | \$285,000 | 1.0 | 3 and 7                      |

| <b>3. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Amount</b> | <b>FTE</b> | <b>OWEB Strategic Plan</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------|
| This request is for funding to support the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. This program offers voluntary tools that help farmers and ranchers maintain land as active farms and ranches while providing incentives and support for conservation on those lands. The request includes \$5.25 million in grants for succession planning, conservation management plans, and working land conservation covenants and easements. It also requests \$725,000 for associated staff costs to implement the program. Positions needed to implement this program include an OPA4 (1.0 FTE) to provide overall program coordination, an NRS4 (1.0 FTE) to coordinate the working land covenants and easements, and an OS2 (0.5 FTE) to provide program support. | \$6,000,000   | TBD        | 5                          |

| <b>4. Carry Forward</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Amount</b> | <b>FTE</b> | <b>OWEB Strategic Plan</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------|
| This policy package proposes to extend expenditure limitation for non-lottery fund grants that have been awarded and continue to be active. This will allow funds for these grants to be expended in the 2019-2021 biennium. | TBD           | N/A        | N/A                        |

| <b>5. Additional Grant Funds</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Amount</b> | <b>FTE</b> | <b>OWEB Strategic Plan</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------|
| This policy package would allow OWEB to receive and expend funds from Oregon Department of Forestry as grants for forest collaboratives under the State's Federal Forest Health Program, should this service be requested and if additional funds are appropriated by the Legislature for these purposes in 2019-2021. | \$750,000     | N/A        | 4                          |

| 6. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Federal Funds Limitation                                                                                                                                                                                     | Amount      | FTE | OWEB Strategic Plan |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----|---------------------|
| This policy package would allow OWEB to receive and expend as grants funding from NRCS for local technical and administrative assistance, should this service be requested and if federal funds are available for these purposes during the 2019-21 biennium. | \$1,000,000 | N/A | 5                   |

#### OWEB Strategic Plan Priorities

1. Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds
2. Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians
3. Community capacity and strategic partnerships support resilience in watersheds
4. Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio
5. The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health
6. Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness
7. Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
**FROM:** Renee Davis, Deputy Director  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item L-1 – Focused Investment Partnership Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Request  
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

### I. Introduction

Staff request the board approve funding to support programmatic effectiveness monitoring work for Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP), as well as funding to support Bonneville Environmental Foundation's (BEF) ongoing work related to FIP effectiveness monitoring.

### II. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Progress Monitoring Framework

OWEB and BEF partnered to develop a progress monitoring framework for Implementation FIPs. The FIP monitoring approach has offered a unique opportunity to identify effective ways to measure progress toward outcomes under six-year investments in Implementation partnerships. It creates a practical and consistent framework for measuring and communicating progress toward achieving implementation objectives (outputs) and predicted ecological results (outcomes). The key elements of the progress monitoring framework are a results chain and a cross-walk matrix, which have been presented to the board at previous meetings including most recently at the October 2017 board meeting. 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.

As reported previously to the board, the BEF team engaged with each Implementation FIP to collaboratively construct and vet results chains and cross-walks unique to each program. Subsequently, OWEB and BEF staff reached out to each of the FIPs to discuss their existing monitoring plans and approaches and potential monitoring or reporting gaps identified through the results chain process. OWEB recognizes that the ability to fill such gaps would likely strengthen each FIP's ability to describe and communicate a more holistic and accurate narrative about progress being achieved by their work. A preliminary list of potential gaps has been compiled.

Staff request \$750,000 from the Focused Investment EM line item in the board's spending plan to provide resources to the Implementation FIPs to fill priority gaps and enable BEF's ongoing engagement with this work through the end of the biennium.



OWEB and BEF staff will work with the FIPs to identify the top 1-2 priorities for monitoring, tracking and/or reporting. Grant applications proposing work to address these priorities will be reviewed by a team involving staff from OWEB's Technical Services and Grant Management programs and BEF, along one or more members of the FIP Technical Review Team and, as needed, others with relevant technical expertise. The review process will ensure that the proposed actions fill gaps in a way that increases the FIP's ability to quantify its progress toward outputs and outcomes.

A modest portion of the funding would be used to support BEF's ongoing engagement in the FIP monitoring effort including to refine the cross-walk tables, develop a reporting tool to visualize progress to the board and other funders through time and graphics to convey results chains in a simplified manner for use with less-technical audiences, develop adaptive management guidance for each FIP and, where applicable, explore opportunities for integrating social values components into the progress monitoring framework approach. In addition, the funding would support training of other OWEB grantees in theory of change concepts. Finally, upon selection of the FIPs for the 2019-21 biennium, BEF would complete the results chain and cross-walk process with the newly selected FIPs.

### **III. Recommendation**

Staff recommend the board award \$623,750 from the Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to support grants to fill priority gaps for Implementation FIPs, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of April 25, 2018.

Staff recommend the board award \$126,250 from the Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to continue Bonneville Environmental Foundation's work with OWEB on FIP monitoring by increasing grant 216-8390-12951, as described in Section II of this staff report..



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
**FROM:** Renee Davis, Deputy Director  
Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item L-2 – Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness  
Monitoring Funding Request  
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

### I. Introduction

Staff request the board approve funding to support open solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring to help OWEB and grantees combine quantitative data with restoration examples around the state to better ‘tell the restoration story.’

### II. Open Solicitation Effectiveness Monitoring: Telling the Restoration Story

Staff have been working with the board’s Monitoring Subcommittee to develop a monitoring-based approach to ‘tell the story’ of restoration. The concept was first raised in earnest at the October 2016 board meeting. Board members expressed interest in having examples from around the state of areas in which the board has invested restoration dollars, then overlaying quantitative data that describe the ecological results of these investments.

Staff then identified options, which include:

- a) a retrospective approach that leverages existing data and pairs that with information about restoration investments to understand possible linkages and trends;
- b) a prospective approach in which monitoring is planned and data are collected before implementation of restoration begins, and continues to track the ecological effects of restoration through time; and
- c) a hybrid approach that leverages existing data, but provides the opportunity to collect supplemental data to better answer the question of restoration effectiveness.

Subsequent discussions with the Monitoring Subcommittee identified that while a prospective approach is ideal, retrospective and hybrid options are practical alternatives and can be applied in the near term. Based on these discussions, staff analyzed OWEB’s restoration investments for geographic and restoration action diversity, identified

relevant data for selected locations and identified areas of 'high potential' for pairing restoration information and monitoring data to tell the restoration story.

Staff are requesting \$200,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic effectiveness monitoring line item in the board's spending plan to pursue an initial slate of retrospective analyses to 'tell the story.' Funding will support work by local partners (in close coordination with OWEB staff) to quantify restoration investments in identified local areas, analyze and/or interpret existing monitoring data for the local area, and draft a story describing the ecological effects of restoration and lessons learned from this work, using an OWEB-developed template to ensure consistency among the stories. Staff estimate that this funding will support telling the story in 8-12 locations around the state.

### **III. Recommendation**

Staff recommend the board award \$200,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to support grants for an initial slate of retrospective analyses to tell the restoration story, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of April 25, 2018.



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
**FROM:** Renee Davis, Deputy Director  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item L-3 – Conservation Effectiveness Partnership Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Request  
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

### I. Introduction

Staff request funding to support new work associated with programmatic effectiveness monitoring for the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership.

### II. Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (CEP)

CEP is an interagency collaboration among OWEB; Oregon Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Agriculture, and Fish and Wildlife; and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The partnership aims to describe the effectiveness of cumulative conservation and restoration actions in achieving natural resources outcomes through collaborative monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. CEP has completed case studies in several areas, including the Wilson River, Whychus Creek, Fifteenmile Creek, and Prairie Creek, and has work underway in Willow Creek and Dairy Creek. The CEP approach has been used as a model for OWEB's approach to tell the story of its restoration investments, as described above.

One area of previous focus is Fifteenmile Creek, which is located mostly in northern Wasco County. Historic agricultural and forestry land management activities caused soil loss and sediment and sedimentation in Fifteenmile Creek, adversely affecting aquatic life leading DEQ to list the waterbody as impaired for sediment in 1998. The watershed also has faced water temperature issues that have impacted salmonids. In response to these issues, landowners in the watershed have implemented conservation practices for agriculture and forestry to reduce soil loss, in addition to undertaking extensive riparian restoration work to address water temperature issues.

An opportunity has emerged for the CEP partners to update the Fifteenmile case study with updated analyses and information. The National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)—involving NRCS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and state water quality agencies—provided financial assistance to implement conservation work, along with funding for development of a monitoring program to evaluate water quality improvements. Leveraging these resources, DEQ and a contractor evaluated various sediment metrics to determine which most effectively describes in-stream effects of

conservation practices. In 2016, DEQ—on behalf of the CEP partners and in coordination with local partners—collected data based on this evaluation. Staff request \$15,725 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic EM line item in the board’s spending plan to complete analysis of these data and update the Fifteenmile Creek case study, in coordination with CEP partners.

### **III. Recommendation**

Staff recommend the board award \$15,725 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to complete data analyses and update the Fifteenmile Creek case study for the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of April 25, 2018.



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
**FROM:** Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item M: Organization Collaboration Grant Awards  
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

### I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2017-2019 Organization Collaboration grant offerings, and outlines the staff recommendation for a grant award for the March 2018 application offering.

### II. Background

OWEB initially 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 to help increase their ability to implement restoration and/or acquisition projects on the ground.

Since its inception, six grants have been awarded for a total of \$493,869. Of the \$200,000 allocated for Organizational Collaboration grants in the 2017-2019 spending plan, \$72,848 is remaining.

### 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 are 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**

One application was received by the March 2018 deadline. The applicants, Rickreall and Glenn Gibson watershed councils were interviewed by OWEB staff and review team members on March 16, 2018. The interview included board and staff members from each watershed council. The interview focused on understanding how the existing structure limits capacity for stakeholder engagement and conservation actions, the openness and shared commitment of the watershed councils to change, and the likelihood of success of the project.

#### **V. Current Grant Cycle Staff Funding Recommendations**

Staff recommend funding the application as described in Attachment B. The watershed councils have worked together in various forms for many years. The application demonstrates the watershed councils are committed to this process and ready to explore organizational options to improve their collective capacity to engage stakeholders and implement conservation actions. The councils will begin by mapping their current structure and then begin to discuss how to structure the councils in the future to maximize organizational effectiveness and their collective ability to implement conservation actions.

#### **VI. Recommendations**

Staff recommend the board award the Organization Collaboration grant as described in Attachment A.

#### **Attachments**

- A. Staff Funding Recommendation
- B. Evaluations

## Staff Funding Recommendation

### March 2018 Organization Collaboration Applications

| Project Number                                     | Applicant            | Project Title                           | OWEB Request    | Amount Recommended | Brief Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 218-8007-16260                                     | Cascade Pacific RC&D | Mid-Willamette Partnership Facilitation | \$48,945        | \$72,848           | The Rickreall and Glenn Gibson watershed councils would like to conduct an organization situational analysis, explore alternative partnering arrangements, and build a clear, sustainable plan for how to proceed into the future. The plan should optimize the ability of participating organizations to provide benefit to the constituents and watershed(s) they represent. To achieve this, the two councils propose a facilitated, inclusive process open to all stakeholders. |
| <b>Total Request</b>                               |                      |                                         | <b>\$48,945</b> |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Total Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff</b> |                      |                                         |                 | <b>\$72,848</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |



# Organization Collaboration Application Review Summary

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## OVERVIEW

**Project #:** 218-8007-16260

**OWEB Region:** 3

**Application Name:** Mid-Willamette Partnership Facilitation

**Requested Amount:** \$48,945.00

**Applicant's Summary:** There have been a variety of financial and cooperative relationships in the Mid-Willamette Valley among the Rickreall, Glenn-Gibson, and Luckiamute watershed councils, and other conservation service providers in Polk County. The relationships have changed over the past twenty years reflecting changing opportunities for funding and requirements by funders.

The RWC and GGWC would like to conduct an organization situational analysis, explore alternative partnering arrangements, and build a clear, sustainable plan for how to proceed into the future. The plan should optimize the ability of participating organizations to provide benefit to the constituents and watershed(s) they represent. To achieve this, the two councils propose a facilitated, inclusive process open to all stakeholders.

OWEB funds will pay for professional facilitation, business analytical services, legal and financial due diligence, coordinator time, meeting room rentals, food, and beverages, as well as travel, lodging, and staff time for outside groups presenting to the partners.

## REVIEW SUMMARY

### Application strengths identified during review include:

- Both watershed councils understand that the current organizational structure limits both organizational effectiveness as well as their collective ability to engage stakeholders and implement conservation actions.
- The watershed councils have recently made some changes, such as joint chair and district manager meetings to improve communication among the partners.
- Both watershed councils believe that the timing is right to have this conversation and demonstrated commitment to the process.

### Application concerns identified during review include:

- Polk SWCD is the employer of the shared council coordinator, their absence from active membership of the partnership and involvement in all of the discussions could lead to problems down the road.
- The watershed councils are still not clear on how they want to operate, either individually or collectively in the future. Although this is acceptable, it will likely make the process more challenging and extend the timeline.
- The timeline is overly ambitious. This process will likely require many difficult conversations between the watershed council boards; the process needs to allow for those conversations to happen.
- The budget underestimates the time and expense for a facilitator and, if necessary, legal review.

**Concluding Analysis:** The watershed councils have worked together in various forms for many years and are currently operating under a very complex structure. The watershed councils demonstrated they are ready to explore organizational options to improve their collective capacity to engage stakeholders and implement conservation actions. The lack of official Polk SWCD involvement will likely prove challenging and the councils will need to work hard to engage the SWCD when necessary in discussions. The initial phase, analyzing the current structure, must be complete before the councils can move into phase II, deciding where to go next.

**Review Team Recommendation:** Fund with conditions and increased funds

**Staff Recommendation:** Fund with conditions and increased funds.

**Conditions:**

Phase I: The watershed councils may use up to \$25,000 to hire a contractor to complete an analysis of the current organizational structure, and develop a budget and work plan for phase II that should lead to a decision on a future organizational structure.

Phase II: The watershed councils may use up to \$47,848 to work with a facilitator to determine a future organizational structure.

**Amount:** \$72,848



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
**FROM:** Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item O – Strategic Plan  
April 24-25, 2018 Board Meeting

### I. Introduction

OWEB staff and Dialogues in Action (DIA) will seek the board's feedback on the revised strategies and proposed actions that have emerged from an extensive community involvement process in developing OWEB's new strategic plan.

### II. Background

OWEB approved its last strategic plan in 2010 during a time when the agency and its associated funding were expected to sunset in 2015. At the same time, Constitutional Ballot Measure 76 passed in Oregon, making OWEB's funding permanent.

As a result of the shift to permanent funding, the board then undertook an effort in 2012-13 to develop a Long-Term Investment Strategy for granting. The strategy 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 eight years since the board approved its last strategic plan and 2018 will be five years after board approval of the strategy.

### III. Strategic Plan Process Steps to Date

**Who We Are:** In January 2017, the board formally initiated its strategic planning process. Both the board and all OWEB staff began developing the "Who We Are" portion of the strategic plan.

**Interviews:** Also in January, board members and the newly established staff process team members interviewed a range of OWEB stakeholders about their experiences and work with OWEB, each interviewing at least one stakeholder.

**Listening Sessions:** In March 2017, OWEB staff traveled with Steve Patty to six locations across Oregon to hold strategic planning listening sessions, 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 2017, surveys were sent broadly to stakeholders and partners to identify what is working well in their interactions with OWEB, as well as

areas for improvement. That information was provided to the board at their June meeting.

**External Advisory Group:** In May and June 2017, the board's established External Advisory Group synthesized and expanded on information from interviews, listening sessions, and stakeholder surveys. In October, the group provided their input to the strategy development and they helped to prioritize strategies in January 2018.

**Board Strategic Plan Discussions:** In January, April, June, July, and October 2017, as well as January 2018, the board met to vet the ideas proposed through the many processes identified above, which has resulted in the latest versions of "Strategic Priorities for Impact" and a draft of the supporting implementation actions for each priority (Attachments A and B).

#### **IV. April Board Meeting Discussion**

**Strategy Finalization:** In January 2018, the board provided a set of updates to the strategies that were developed by staff to address the board's strategic priorities. Those updates are made and the board will review the final strategies.

**Action Development:** Staff have taken each of the strategies and developed associated actions. At the April meeting, staff will outline the process used to arrive at actions and the associated timing and resources needed. Staff will highlight actions and receive board feedback on the direction proposed.

**Strategic Plan Implementation Grants:** Staff will introduce a concept to the board of the use of grants to assist in the implementation of the strategic plan. As has been noted throughout the process, many partners are working on similar strategies or have expertise that could help the board expedite plan implementation and bring fresh ideas to the bold initiatives proposed. Staff would like the board to consider adding a spending plan line item in June 2018 that would allow for investment in this work. This request is also referenced in the Open Solicitation Grant staff report (agenda item G-1).

In this meeting, the board will consider the whole picture of the strategic plan, with particular attention to the frames of action. This will be a time to examine the form of the strategies, the sequence and pacing of the strategies, and the implications of the strategies for the next stretch of OWEB. The board will be invited to reflect on the big picture of direction, priority, and pacing.

#### **V. Recommendation**

This is a discussion item only.

#### **Attachments**

- A. Most recent version of "Strategic Priorities for Impact" with draft plan strategies.
- B. Draft version of implementation actions for each priority.

## OWEB - Strategic Priorities with Strategies

*Draft Materials for Review by the OWEB Board*

*January 30-31, 2018*

### Priority 1 - Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

#### What we mean

OWEB serves 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 with dual goals. First, to help Oregonians 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. This will result in a growing care and stewardship of local watersheds and a deeper commitment to watershed work throughout the state.

#### Strategies

##### ~~1-1. Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration and community successes of watershed investments~~ ~~Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns~~

Develop innovative and consistent messaging. Use existing networks to deliver broadly relevant messages to traditional and non-traditional audiences. OWEB will partner with outside entities as a vehicle for broad engagement. Harmonize existing ecological, social, and economic data with personal stories of watershed conservation.

##### 2. Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches

New, non-traditional partners (corporations, recreation and healthcare industries, etc.) can add value to strategic partnerships that improve watershed health. This takes new and different approaches to reach out to partners and engage them in ways that benefit their organization. Outreach is one critical component of establishing and maintaining partnerships.

Comment [ML1]: Moved from previous strategic partners priority

##### ~~2-1. Highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration and community successes of watershed investments~~

~~Harmonize existing ecological, social, and economic data with personal stories of watershed conservation.~~

Comment [ML2]: Is now part of strategy 1.1 above

## Priority 2 - Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of 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 seek out and develop leaders that reflect the diversity of Oregon to engage them in the rewarding work improving the health of their watersheds. OWEB will adopt practices that support diversity in our own work and encourage equity in our grant-making 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.

### Strategies

#### 1. Listen, Learn and Gather Information about diverse populations

The agency will start by learning from others with more experience and knowledge. This includes a commitment to continuous learning by understanding who our current grantees, partners and stakeholders are and clearly identifying the gaps in these areas and how they are represented. This is important to fully incorporate inclusive approaches into OWEB's mission.

#### 2. ~~Evaluate and c~~reate new opportunities to expand who is at the table

OWEB will evaluate staff and board recruitment processes to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion to meet the agency's core mission. OWEB will intentionally reach out to and engage under-represented communities for staff and board recruitment. In addition, OWEB will work with stakeholders to help them improve their work to recruit and engage under-represented communities for staffing, volunteers, and board members at local organization.

#### 3. Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion

As OWEB defines and develops understanding around increasing inclusion, the agency will develop strategies to address the gaps identified in the information-gathering phase. This includes intentionally considering the impact and relevance of diversity, equity and inclusion in OWEB's grant-making to meet the agency's core mission.

## Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships 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 and strategic partnerships to participate in cooperative conservation. ~~Local Partnerships at all levels~~ 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. OWEB will be a statewide champion for partnerships in watershed health. OWEB will help develop the environment and provide guidance to 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.

## Strategies

### 1. Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding

OWEB has been funding the operating capacity of watershed councils and water quality program implementation through SWCDs for more than 18 years. OWEB intends to continue funding watershed councils and SWCDs, while exploring both how the funding is provided and ways to improve its effectiveness in achieving watershed health outcomes.

### 2. ~~Evaluate Support~~ best approaches to ~~invest build in~~ organizational, community, and partnership capacity

Organizations and agencies at all levels provide various forms of capacity to support restoration work. OWEB will evaluate approaches to help stakeholders identify capacity needs and gaps, and determine capacity investment opportunities that increase restoration on the ground.

### ~~3. Provide funding and support for regional shared services~~

~~Many individual organizations cannot support all the functions they need to deliver services locally. Analyze approaches that help communities share services—not every organization needs to internally house all functions.~~

Comment [ML3]: Is now one of the 'best approaches' in 3.2 above

### 3. Continue to catalyze and increase state/federal agency participation in strategic partnerships

Natural resource agencies have complementary missions in support of watershed health. OWEB can support existing and new models that increase engagement of state/federal agencies in strategic partnerships.

Comment [ML4]: Moved from previous 'strategic partnerships' priority

## Priority 4—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 to 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.~~

### Strategies

#### 4. ~~Identify areas for alignment of strategic partnership investments with other funders~~

~~Oregon has a number of public and private funding organizations that have an interest in natural resources, conservation, and communities. Providing support to align and coordinate resources and focuses will help achieve more efficient and timely use of resources to address common priorities.~~

#### 5.1. ~~Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches~~

~~New, non traditional partners (corporations, recreation and healthcare industries, etc.) can add value to strategic partnerships that improve watershed health. This takes new and different approaches to reach out to partners and engage them in ways that benefit their organization. Outreach is one critical component of establishing and maintaining partnerships.~~

#### 6.1. ~~Continue to catalyze and increase state/federal agency participation in strategic partnerships~~

~~Natural resource agencies have complementary missions in support of watershed health. OWEB can support existing and new models that increase engagement of state/federal agencies in strategic partnerships.~~

#### 7. ~~Develop more robust partnership support for stakeholders~~

~~OWEB will enable the successful development of new partnerships and help existing partnerships thrive. OWEB's role is to support, not lead, the partnership process.~~

#### 8. ~~Provide tools to help strategic partnerships to assess and improve their effectiveness~~

~~OWEB will work with stakeholders to develop a strategic partnership evaluation tools to help partnerships to assess their partnerships. From this information, local partners and OWEB can identify partnership organizational outcomes and gather lessons learned.~~

**Comment [ML5]:** Given its overlap with both the 'community capacity' and 'stable funding' priorities, this priority was deleted

**Comment [ML6]:** Is part of all funding strategies in the 'diverse and stable funding portfolio' strategy

**Comment [ML7]:** Moved to 'broad awareness' priority

**Comment [ML8]:** Part of all sections of the 'community capacity' priority

**Comment [ML9]:** Now an action under 'community capacity' priority, strategy 2



## Priority 54 - Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

### What we mean

OWEB will work with traditional and non-traditional funders to support the work that watershed organizations accomplish in communities. At the same time, OWEB and partners will work with these same organizations to strengthen their ability to seek and secure more diverse funding sources for watershed work. This two-pronged approach will provide communities the resources to move forward strategically and boldly in addressing watershed restoration needs.

### Strategies

#### 1. ~~State Agency Strategy:~~ Increase coordination of ~~public~~state restoration investments and develop funding vision

There are a number of ~~public~~state agencies who provide funding related to watershed health, water quality and habitat. OWEB can support the development of statewide coordination of investments including grants, mitigation, and other funding mechanisms.

#### 2. ~~Foundation strategy:~~ Identify ~~Align~~ common investment areas with private foundations

Foundations may or may not know about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon. While restoration may not be a priority for foundations, the additional benefits of restoration projects may be. Jobs, community capacity, health, and community resiliency are just a few additional benefits that come from restoration projects, which may be of interest to private foundations.

#### 3. ~~Corporate strategy:~~ Explore creative funding opportunities/partnerships with the private sector

Corporations in Oregon have a vested interest in clean water and healthy watersheds. OWEB will work with partners to identify ways to help corporations invest strategically in the health of their local watershed.

#### 4. Design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources

OWEB's investments over the last 20 years have done a great deal to advance large scale, complex restoration work in Oregon. However, there is more to be done. Addressing the impacts of climate change, aging water and other infrastructure, and sustaining working lands for future generations may require new and innovative strategies and funding sources.

Comment [ML10]: Added based on conversations at January board meeting

## Priority 56 - The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

### What we mean

OWEB will develop strategies to help local partners engage broader participation among those who own and manage working lands. This includes working broadly with partners who 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.

NOTE: "Working land" means land that is actively used by an agricultural or forest land owner or operator for an agricultural or forestland operation that includes, but need not be limited to, active engagement in farming, ranching or timber management.

## Strategies

### 1. Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

Working with partners and the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission, finalize rules, solicit for applications, and determine appropriate funding sources for working lands easements, management plans, and succession planning for agricultural landowners. Full implementation is funding-dependent.

### 2. Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners

Oregon's natural resource industries - agriculture, forestry, fishing, recreation – are dependent on healthy watersheds for their sustainability. Working with others who have direct experience and knowledge working with a broad range of landowners in Oregon, OWEB will gain an understanding of how to improve conservation on working lands, particularly with landowners who may not have previously worked with an OWEB grantee.

Comment [ML11]: Added based on January board meeting conversation

### ~~2.3.~~ Work Enhance the work of ~~with~~ partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands

There are many areas in the state where working lands strategies and habitat/water quality priorities intersect. A number of statewide agencies and organizations have strong connections with farmers, ranchers and forest land owners. OWEB will partner with those organizations (formally and informally) to increase landowner involvement in conservation – whether through a program or on their own. OWEB can continue to work with partners at the state and local level to identify strategic areas where the agency can focus its investments on that intersection, highlighting the compatibility of working lands conservation strategies.

### ~~3.4.~~ Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands

While local organizations are very effective at working with farm, ranch and forest landowners, there are some landowners/managers who have not yet been engaged in conservation for a variety of reasons. OWEB can coordinate with other partners to help local organizations effectively engage new landowners in their community.

### ~~4.5.~~ Develop engagement strategies for owners/managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations

Landowner engagement will be an important component of the working lands movement to build understanding and support for the work as well as identify opportunities to work with interested land owners.

## Priority 76 - 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 monitoring and evaluation. OWEB will work with partners to ensure frameworks to receive and share information exist. These frameworks will 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.

### Strategies

#### 1. ~~Initiate Broadly communicate~~ **broad communication of restoration outcomes and impacts**

Expand broad communications about the ecological and socio-economic results of OWEB's investments to demonstrate the value of these investments and their connection to human well-being.

#### 2. ~~Strategically invest~~ **invest in monitoring over the long term**

For effectiveness monitoring to be successful there needs to be long term sustained effort – or, at the very least, an ability to sample or measure indicators at appropriate time scales.

#### 3. **Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring**

Develop monitoring and adaptive management guidance to provide technical support.

#### 4. **Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners**

Develop communication strategies to share results, incorporate information into restoration planning, and support adaptive management. This will be accomplished through the creation of networks, venues and communication tools that bridge the gap between research/monitoring and on-the-ground work.

#### 5. **Define monitoring priorities**

Assess what OWEB wants to achieve through monitoring and then create the resources and tools necessary. Define appropriate monitoring scopes or scales. Consider the operational contexts to determine what is appropriate for any given partnership or organization.

#### 6. **Develop and promote a monitoring framework**

Encourage local partners to develop consistent approaches, clear goals, shared scope and scale for their watershed monitoring.

## Priority 87 - 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 health innovations by grant applicants. These innovations can reach beyond project implementation to touch all areas of OWEB's granting that support 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 the public benefits from our investments.

### Strategies

#### 1. Invest in landscape restoration over the long-term

Expand funding opportunities for large-scale conservation efforts over multiple years

#### 2. ~~Develop appropriate investment approaches~~ in conservation that ~~recognize the dual conservation and economic drivers and benefits of watershed actions~~ support healthy communities and strong economies

Traditional conservation incentives may hinder participation; while at the same time, new, untested incentives may be developed to reach new audiences. In addition, effectively conserving and restoring watersheds requires a thorough understanding of how economics and restoration/conservation actions intersect.

#### 3. ~~Provide space for~~ Foster experimentation ~~and capture lessons from restoration and partnership investments~~ that aligns with OWEB's mission

Deliberately invest in both programs/projects that are traditional (with predictable outcomes) and innovative (where more risk exists).

## OWEB Actions Draft 4/8/2018

**Priority 1 - Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds****Strategy 1.1: Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration, and community successes of watershed investments <sup>(1)</sup>****Intent**

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. OWEB, working with Oregon Lottery, watershed councils, SWCDs, land trusts and others, will tell the stories of the people, places, and partnerships that make Oregon's Conservation ethic unique. This will include celebrating accomplishments and saying "Thank You" to all Oregonian's that support this work.

**Objectives**

- In partnership with Oregon Lottery, the Conservation Partnership, and other conservation partners, develop tools and resources for local stakeholders to help them highlight conservation actions and the people and places impacted by those actions.
- Develop and share consistent messages across all OWEB's partners and stakeholders regarding the importance of watersheds to the health and vitality of all Oregonians.
- Build local capacity to tell stories, train, educate local communicators to tell the story.

**Activities**

Short Term (1-3 years):

- Coordinate with Lottery, SWCDs, watershed councils and land trusts on 20th Anniversary Campaign, including training for local organizations to help tell the story.

Medium-Long Term (3-6 years):

- Develop a continuous feed of stories (people and actions) to provide for Lottery to highlight ongoing conservation actions.

**Outcomes**

- Successes are celebrated at the local and state level through use of appropriate tools.
- More Oregonians are aware of the impacts of their investment in their watershed; more Oregonians understand why healthy watersheds matter to their family and community; more Oregonians understand their role in keeping their watershed healthy.
- Local partners are trained and have access to media resources, either through shared services or increased local capacity.

(1) = This strategy is either already being implemented or is a near-term strategy.

(2) = This strategy will come over the next few years. It may include only medium/long term actions.

(3) = This strategy will likely not begin for a few years and require another strategy scored as 1 and/or 2 to be completed before beginning implementation of this strategy.

## Priority 1 - Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

### Strategy 1.2: Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches <sup>(2)</sup>

#### Intent

New, non-traditional partners (corporations, recreation and healthcare industries, etc.) can help improve watershed health. This takes new and different approaches to reach out to partners and engage them in ways that benefit their organization. Outreach is one critical component of establishing and maintaining partnerships. 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.

#### Objectives

- Identify potential non-traditional partners.
- Develop outreach and engagement strategies to increase engagement with non-traditional partners
- Support stakeholders as they work to engage more diverse partners

#### Activities

Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Identify and learn from our stakeholders who are already engaging with non-traditional partners.
- Identify the needs, opportunities, and gaps that non-traditional partners can fill.
- Understand where OWEB's mission aligns with, or at a minimum does not conflict, with non-traditional partners' missions.
- Work with the conservation partnership to engage with non-traditional partners toward a common goal, including organizations that may have different, but overlapping missions.

#### Outcomes

- Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches.

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## Priority 2 - Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians

### Strategy 2.1: Listen, learn and gather information about diverse populations <sup>(1)</sup>

#### Intent

OWEB's board and staff will engage with partners and grantees to develop models and approaches that actively involve all Oregonians, particularly the historically marginalized, to improve the health of our watersheds. OWEB will take the time to listen to and learn from our partners, stakeholders, and others working with the broad diversity of Oregonians.

#### Objectives

- Engage with current and potential future applicants from a diversity of backgrounds to determine the accessibility of our grant programs and if we are meeting their needs.
- Listen to stakeholders about barriers/concerns related to program types and accessibility.
- Increase understanding among staff, board, and stakeholders what the work entails, that it is ongoing and long-term.
- Increase understanding of current and potential partners who can help OWEB increase diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
- Create a plan to adapt services to accommodate gaps and barriers where possible.

#### Activities

Short Term (1-3 years):

- With partners, survey our grantees to learn about the demographics of their stakeholders.
- Meet with other state and federal partners who are already doing DEI work to learn, understand available resources and find ways to partner.
- Hold trainings for staff and board regarding both DEI and the state's unique relationship with tribes.

#### Outcomes

- OWEB staff and board share a common understanding of what is meant by diversity, equity and inclusion as it relates to OWEB's business practices.
- OWEB staff and board develop awareness of how social, economic, and cultural differences impact us internally and externally.
- OWEB staff and board share a common understanding of OWEB's unique relationship with tribes.

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(2) = This strategy will come over the next few years. It may include only medium/long term actions.

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## Priority 2 - Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians

### Strategy 2.2: Create new opportunities to expand who is at the table <sup>(2)</sup>

#### Intent

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.

#### Objectives

- In coordination with partnership develop strategies to help stakeholders recruit and engage under-represented communities based on training and feedback through Strategy 1.
- Seek new partnerships to recruit high-quality, diverse board and staff.
- Implement a continuous feedback loop – evaluate our strategies again after we listen and learn.

#### Activities

Medium term (3-6 years):

- Following implementation of Strategy 2.1, develop actions and workplan to expand the diversity, equity and inclusion through OWEB's programs, staff, and board.
- Build diversity, equity, and inclusion conversations and training in to staff and board onboarding processes.

#### Outcomes

- Stakeholders have access to the tools and resources to recruit and retain a greater diversity of staff, board members, and volunteers.
- Increased engagement of under-represented communities in OWEB grant programs and programs of our stakeholders.

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## Priority 2 - Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians

### **Strategy 2.3: Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) <sup>(3)</sup>**

#### **Intent**

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. Through this process OWEB will take the time to listen to and learn from our partners, stakeholders, and others working with the broad diversity of Oregonians.

#### **Objectives**

- Develop funding models to represent DEI principles.
- Engage under-represented communities as funding recipients.
- Mobilize under-represented communities as partners in watershed conservation efforts.

#### **Activities**

Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Activities will be built out after OWEB's initial listening and learning in years 1-3 of the strategic plan.

#### **Outcomes**

- Diversity, equity, and inclusion are incorporated into OWEB grant programs, as appropriate.
- Partnership with other state agencies and other funders to consider opportunities to fund natural resource projects with a DEI lens.

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## Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships support resilience in watersheds

### **Strategy 3.1: Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding <sup>(1)</sup>**

#### **Intent**

By evaluating one of OWEB's longest running programs and developing lessons learned we are demonstrating our commitment to meaningful monitoring and evaluation of our programs. We are encouraging staff and stakeholders to ask questions as they think about 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 cooperative conservation in new ways and through fresh perspectives.

#### **Objectives**

- Evaluate existing SWCD and watershed council investments in capacity.
- Compile information to design strategies that improve capacity programs and build on lessons learned.
- Establish process to monitor, evaluate, and develop opportunities to improve investments in capacity to meet community needs.

#### **Activities**

Short Term (1-3 years):

- Talk to other funders to learn how they invest in organizational capacity.
- With an external expert advisory team and steering committee, complete a qualitative and quantitative evaluation of past council and SWCD capacity investments.
  - o Quantitative: Understand what our capacity dollars are already funding and the local accomplishments.
  - o Qualitative: Interview current and previous SWCD/WC staff and board members.

Medium Term (3-6 years):

- Identify lessons learned. Share with partners (funders, state and federal agencies).
- Use lessons learned to continue to adjust capacity funding going forward.

#### **Outcomes**

- New mechanisms for watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts to report on outcomes of capacity funding.
- OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds.
- Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity.
- Data exists to better understand the impacts of OWEB's capacity investments

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(2) = This strategy will come over the next few years. It may include only medium/long term actions.

(3) = This strategy will likely not begin for a few years and require another strategy scored as 1 and/or 2 to be completed before beginning implementation of this strategy.

## Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships support resilience in watersheds

### **Strategy 3.2: Support best approaches to build organizational, community and partnership capacity<sup>(1)</sup>**

#### **Intent**

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. We seek to evaluate and learn to continue providing Operating Capacity funds for local organizations to advance conservation missions. We understand that capacity funding enables local partners to engage their communities in cooperative conservation while benefiting Oregon's diverse economies.

#### **Objectives**

- Understand the current state of capacity investments, including opportunities and gaps.
- Understand the connection between capacity investments and conservation actions.
- Understand ingredients of successful partnerships and develop tools for partnership self-evaluation.
- Provide a range of resources including funding, technical tools, and learning opportunities that serve the needs of existing, new and emerging partnerships, and local capacity.

#### **Activities**

Short term (2-3 years):

- Review other capacity funding models, including diverse, non-traditional approaches.
- Explore and share information and best practices on high-performing partnerships.
- Explore geographic/regional capacity funding to fill core capacity functions, incorporating results from the retrospective evaluation.
- Provide funding and support for regional shared services

Medium Term (3-6 years):

- Considering the life cycle of a partnership, community opportunities and gaps, identify resources needed to improve stability for organizations, partnerships, and the restoration community.
- Based on research, implement a pilot to test new ways for supporting organizational, community and/or partnership capacity.
- Use results of research to evaluate OWEB's spending plan and fund allocation for Operating Capacity.
- Assess needs for providing information to help foster a statewide network of high-performing partners.

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Long Term (6-10 years):

- Review results of pilot and make any adjustments to OWEB's Operating Capacity funding.

### **Outcomes**

- A suite of alternative options to invest in capacity to support conservation outcomes.
- Help for local groups to define their restoration 'community' for purposes of partnership/community capacity investments.
- Established grant avenues for capacity and partnership funding (small, medium, large; short and long term).

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## Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships support resilience in watersheds

### **Strategy 3.3: Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships <sup>(1)</sup>**

#### **Intent**

Natural resource agencies have complementary missions in support of watershed health. OWEB can support existing and new models that increase engagement of state/federal agencies in strategic partnerships. 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.

#### **Objectives**

- Develop approaches to help local organizations improve partnerships with state/federal agencies.
- Increase engagement of and coordination among state/federal agencies.
- Develop new models of efficient and effective coordination that make restoration easier.

#### **Activities**

Short term (1-3 years)

- Develop talking points for federal and state agency OWEB board members describing the importance of agency collaboration.
- Work with federal and state agency OWEB board members to continue to elevate the need for conservation and restoration coordination among agencies.
- Continue to support existing effective federal/state agency partnerships, including providing updates at Board meetings and Natural Resources Cabinet.

#### **Outcomes**

- A set of streamlined cross-agency processes to more effectively implement restoration projects.
- Better prioritized funding requests with a higher likelihood of success.
- Better coordinated and transparent cross-agency efforts.

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## Priority 4 - Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

### **Strategy 4.1: Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision<sup>(1)</sup>**

#### **Intent**

There are a number of public agencies who provide funding related to watershed health, water quality and habitat. OWEB can support the development of statewide coordination of investments including grants, mitigation, and other funding mechanisms. 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.

#### **Objectives**

- Support development of a state investment vision to create clarity from the highest levels of the executive branch to local landowners.
- Better coordinate mitigation and restoration funding to leverage conservation efforts.
- Evaluate OWEB's role in, and capacity to, coordinate funding across agencies.
- Develop cross-agency approaches to coordination investments at a state level.

#### **Activities**

Short Term (1-3 years)

- Map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state and identify areas for potential alignment.
- Update OWEB mitigation policy to increase clarity around OWEB investments and how they work with mitigation funding.

Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Research development of a state agency "granting cabinet".
- Identify opportunities to leverage mitigation and restoration.
- Use granting cabinet to develop state investment vision.
- Identify innovative public agency investment strategies to better align with other funders.

#### **Outcomes**

- More effective and efficient use of public dollars.
- Shared vision across agencies about strategic investment opportunities.
- Clear understanding of OWEB's role in coordinating funding and improved capacity to implement that role.

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## Priority 4 - Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

### Strategy 4.2: Align common investment areas with private foundations <sup>(2)</sup>

#### Intent

Foundations may or may not know about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon. While restoration may not be a priority for foundations, the additional benefits of restoration projects may be. Jobs, community capacity, health, and community resiliency are just a few additional benefits that come from restoration projects, which may be of interest to private foundations. 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.

#### Objectives

- Develop messaging around the multiple benefits of restoration investments.
- Work with other funders to better reflect environmental, community and economic values in granting language.
- Work with foundations to invest in strategic partnerships around conservation and restoration.
- Reduce the risk of projects from the funder's perspective to encourage project investment.
- Seek ways to increase connections with tribal foundations.

#### Activities

Short –Term (1-3 years):

- Map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state and identify areas for potential alignment.
- Utilize existing convenings to highlight OWEB successes and open a dialogue with funders about co-investment.

Medium Term (3-6 years):

- Use existing networks to meet with funders as the opportunities arise.
- Explore opportunities for expanding conversations with foundations.
- Share OWEB's innovations in supporting partnerships with other funders.
- Identify new and innovative foundation investment strategies to better align with other funders.

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## Outcomes

- Foundations are informed about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon and understand the additional community benefits of restoration projects.
- Foundations consider restoration investments when they are developing their investment portfolios.
- Foundations know OWEB, how the agency's investments work, and how they can partner if interested.
- Foundations increase their investment in restoration.



## Priority 4 - Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

### Strategy 4.3: Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector <sup>(2)</sup>

#### Intent

Corporations in Oregon have a vested interest in clean water and healthy watersheds. OWEB will work with partners to identify ways to help corporations invest strategically in the health of their local watershed. 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.

#### Objectives

- Identify companies who have an inherent interest in natural resources, water, and watersheds.
- Work with companies to identify sponsorship models that work for them.
- Work with statewide conservation organizations to expand grantee capability to seek corporation investments in local projects.
- Reduce the risk of projects from the funder's perspective to encourage project investment.

#### Activities

Short-term (1-3 years):

- Map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state and identify areas for potential alignment.

Medium term (3-6 years)

- Partner with foundations to develop messages around the economic, environmental, and community values of conservation investments for corporations.

Long term (6-10 years)

- Identify new and innovative corporate investment strategies to better align with other funders.

#### Outcomes

- Corporations are informed about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon and understand the additional community benefits of restoration projects.
- Corporations consider restoration investments in their investment portfolios.
- Corporations know OWEB, how the agency's investments work, and how they can partner.
- Corporations increase their investment in restoration.

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## Priority 4 - Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

### **Strategy 4.4: Design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources <sup>(1)</sup>**

#### **Intent**

Oregon needs to scale up its investment to address increasingly complex conservation and restoration needs. This will require creative thinking around funding opportunities that match the size and scale of Oregon's vision for healthy watersheds. It is likely the investment need will be far beyond OWEB and its current partners' ability to fund with existing dollars. 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.

#### **Objectives**

- Work with partners to identify areas ripe for large-scale investments.
- Clearly identify the size of the challenge and the time scale to address it with or without additional funding.
- Develop analysis approaches to prioritize investment needs at the regional and state scale.

#### **Activities**

Short Term (1-3 years)

- Identify areas of alignment between state climate change legislation and initiatives and OWEB funding.
- Partner to develop inventory, assessment, and prioritization approaches to identify water and other associated infrastructure needs.

Medium-Long Term (3-10 years)

- Identify additional areas of alignment for new and creative investment.

#### **Outcomes**

- Coordinated outreach strategy for state agencies, foundations, and corporations.
- Increase in new and diverse funding sources.
- Increase in creative funding mechanisms and strategies.

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## Priority 5 - The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

### Strategy 5.1: Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program <sup>(1)</sup>

#### Intent

Working with partners and the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission, finalize rules, solicit for applications, and determine appropriate funding sources for working lands easements, management plans, and succession planning for agricultural landowners. Full implementation is funding-dependent. 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. Current and future generations need access to whole and 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.

#### Objectives

- Establish a fully functioning Agricultural Heritage Commission.
- Adopt rules governing grant programs for succession planning, covenants, easements, and technical assistance.
- Determine the funding needs for working lands grant program.

#### Activities

Short Term (1-3 years)

- Provide leadership for the Agricultural Heritage Commission.
- Facilitate the Commission's development of program rules.
- Implement surveys and otherwise solicit the level of interest in the granting programs under the Commission's purview to determine annual funding needs.

#### Outcomes

- The eligibility, types of offerings, evaluation criteria, and funding procedures for OAHC programs will be clearly articulated in program rules and guidance.
- The need for OAHC granting programs will be quantified.

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## Priority 5 - The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

### Strategy 5.2: Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners <sup>(1)</sup>

#### Intent

The agency will start by learning from others with more experience and knowledge. This includes a commitment to continuous learning by understanding who our current grantees, partners and stakeholders are and clearly identifying the gaps in these areas and how they are represented. This is important to fully incorporate strong working lands approaches into OWEB's mission. 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.

#### Objectives

- Map the working lands community, landowner barriers and motivations.
- Develop a pathway to work with partners to increase working lands projects, and support technical assistance for owners and managers of working lands.
- Evaluate opportunities for incentives to increase landowner participation.

#### Activities

Short-term (1-3 years)

- Invest with grantees and working lands advocates to survey landowners to identify motivation and barriers to implementing conservation.
- Develop and design training and information sharing approaches.

Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Work with partners to develop a pathway to increase working lands projects.
- Work with partners to identify and support technical assistance to work with owners and managers of working lands.

#### Outcomes

- Better understanding of state of conservation participation, barriers and incentives.
- Identification of opportunities to increase outreach and technical assistance to landowners and partners.
- Expanded relationships with agriculture and forestry associations.
- A pathway to understand the type of landowner our grantees are working with and who is missing.

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## Priority 5 - The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

### **Strategy 5.3: Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands <sup>(2)</sup>**

#### **Intent**

There are many areas in the state where working lands strategies and habitat/water quality priorities intersect. A number of statewide agencies and organizations have strong connections with farmers, ranchers and forest land owners. OWEB will partner with those organizations (formally and informally) to increase landowner involvement in conservation – whether through a program or on their own. OWEB can continue to work with partners at the state and local level to identify strategic areas where the agency can focus its investments on that intersection, highlighting the compatibility of working lands conservation strategies.

#### **Objectives**

- Engage multi-agency resources to help target and develop assistance for landowners.
- Understand how Oregon's land use program benefits working lands and capitalize on those opportunities.
- Increase understanding of who is implementing successful working land approaches and how OWEB can partner with them.
- Create opportunities to increase incentives for landowner participation in working lands conservation based on learning from strategy 5.2.

#### **Activities**

Medium Term (3-6 years)

- Provide training to review teams about the value of working lands for conservation.
- Based on lessons learned from strategy 5.2, identify funding and funding gaps for working lands conservation projects.
- Convene resource specialists to help identify species, habitat and water quality needs/opportunities and where they intersect with working lands. Utilize this information to inform review teams about opportunities to invest in projects that achieve both conservation and working lands benefits.
- Establish and facilitate a state technical group to identify and recommend approaches to invest in technical support tools for local partners.

#### **Outcomes**

- Expanded working lands partnerships that improve habitat and water quality.
- Increased conservation awareness amongst owners and managers of working lands.
- Increased working lands conservation projects on farm, ranch, and forest lands.
- Expanded funding opportunities for working lands conservation.

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## Priority 5 - The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

### **Strategy 5.4: Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands<sup>(2)</sup>**

#### **Intent**

While local organizations are very effective at working with farm, ranch and forest landowners, there are some landowners/managers who have not yet been engaged in conservation for a variety of reasons. OWEB can coordinate with other partners to help local organizations effectively engage new landowners in their community.

#### **Objectives**

- Increase available technical resources for landowners and managers of working lands.
- Determine funding mechanisms for long-term stewardship of working lands.
- Support outreach to better meet the needs of changing demographics in rural Oregon who own or manage working lands.

#### **Activities**

Medium term (3-6 years)

- Facilitate assessment of technical assistance needs.
- Increase investment in technical assistance to grantees and working lands advocates.
- Design monitoring and evaluation strategies for working lands restoration.

Long term (6-10 years)

- Develop technical assessment materials to meet the needs of specific audiences.

#### **Outcomes**

- Comprehensive assortment of technical assistance strategies based on the audience.
- Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future.
- Generations of landowners will continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability.

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## Priority 5 - The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

### **Strategy 5.5: Develop engagement strategies for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations <sup>(3)</sup>**

#### **Intent**

Landowner engagement will be an important component to increase working lands projects to build understanding and support for the work as well as identify opportunities to work with interested land owners.

#### **Objectives**

- Engage community leaders to help build support and understanding for working lands conservation.
- Expand awareness or understanding of working lands conservation programs to owners, managers of working lands not currently engaged.
- Broadly communicate economic and conservation values of working lands conservation, emphasizing the balance of habitat, water quality, and landowner needs.
- Build and encourage a culture of conservation on working lands.
- Ensure consistent working lands conservation opportunities across the state.

#### **Activities**

- Additional activities will be developed based on lessons learned from strategy 5.2.

#### **Outcomes**

- Increased engagement of owners and managers of working lands conservation projects.
- Landowner engagement strategies for conservation practitioners including OWEB grantees.
- Examples of successful working lands conservation projects.

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## Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

### Strategy 6.1: Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts <sup>(1)</sup>

#### Intent

Healthy, resilient watersheds provide 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 healthier upland habitat, while ensuring that the work of our grantees is resilient to long-term impacts to the environment. OWEB seeks to ensure all communities 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.

#### Objectives

- Work with partners to tell the story of watershed work, progress, and impact.
- Improve understanding and awareness about how restoration benefits people.
- Identify clear and understandable restoration outcomes, including measures of both ecological and social/economic outcomes that describe the relevance of OWEB's investments to the public.

#### Activities

Short term (1-3 years):

- Assess what information is readily available for tracking restoration results, outcomes, and impact and improve the quality and relevance of data collected as appropriate.
- Work with grantees and other local partners to identify the best ways to communicate outcomes.
- Build on existing processes for 'telling the story' to effectively interpret scientific information and communicate results in ways that are meaningful to diverse audiences.

Medium-Long Term (3-10 years):

- Link refinements to OWEB's monitoring grant-making to OWEB's approach to 'telling the story of restoration' and adaptively manage this work.
- Continue to explore new and diverse ways to use online and social media.
- Continue to build on successful awareness and communication efforts, expanding OWEB's ability to reach new or under-represented sectors or demographic groups.

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## Outcomes

- Improved understanding and awareness about the impacts of restoration and what the impacts mean.
- Increased engagement and support of restoration and conservation activities.
- A dedicated process for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described.

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## Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

### Strategy 6.2: Invest in monitoring over the long term <sup>(2)</sup>

#### Intent

For effectiveness monitoring to be successful there needs to be long term sustained effort – or, at the very least, an ability to sample or measure indicators at appropriate time scales. OWEB seeks to ensure all communities 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.

#### Objectives

- Help grantees develop realistic approaches for what to monitor, purpose, and timeframe.
- Explore coordinated monitoring approaches that provide monitoring capacity and technical support at appropriate and realistic scales of both geography and time.
- Consider how theory of change approaches can inform both restoration planning and strategies to track the effectiveness of restoration over the long term.
- Develop the ability to communicate the structure of a monitoring framework over the long term and how it is relevant to restoration practitioners, managers and funders who are interested in better understanding status and trends and the effectiveness of restoration.

#### Activities

Short-Medium term (2-4 years):

- Assess existing coordinated monitoring efforts and/or teams to understand how they have functioned.
- Evaluate past OWEB investments in paired restoration and large-scale monitoring, FIP monitoring, and long standing monitoring projects/programs.

Long Term (5-10 years):

- Develop recommendations for the board about long-term investments in monitoring, and criteria for applicants to address the board priorities for long-term investments in monitoring.

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## Outcomes

- Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results.
- Evaluation of impact, not just effort, is practiced broadly.
- Impact on ecological, economic and social factors are considered.
- Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning.
- Improved restoration and monitoring actions on the ground to meet local and state needs.

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## Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

### **Strategy 6.3: Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring <sup>(1)</sup>**

#### **Intent**

Develop monitoring and adaptive management guidance to provide technical support.

#### **Objectives**

- Understand specific barriers and challenges to implementing successful monitoring efforts.
- Improve monitoring grant applications to meet local and state needs.
- Distill technical monitoring data into useable information for adaptive management.

#### **Activities**

Short-Medium Term (1-5 years):

- Prioritize findings of OWEB's monitoring application guidance development process, develop a work plan for refining the agency's monitoring grant-making, and begin implementation of the plan. Example activities include:
  - o Compiling and communicating lessons learned from past monitoring investments.
  - o Developing guidance documents for restoration and monitoring practitioners.

#### **Outcomes**

- Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning.
- Readily available information to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level.
- Improved restoration and monitoring actions on the ground to meet local and state needs.

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## Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

### Strategy 6.4: Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners <sup>(3)</sup>

#### Intent

Develop communication strategies to share results, incorporate scientific and technical information, including climate science information into restoration planning, and support adaptive management by helping bridge the gap between research/monitoring and on-the-ground work.

#### Objectives

- Develop communication strategies to share results, incorporate information into restoration planning, and support adaptive management, helping to bridge the gap between research/monitoring and on-the-ground work.
- Accelerate science/practitioner communication.
- Explore the value of the regional forums and/or networks to coordinate monitoring and encourage efficient and effective use of available resources for monitoring.
- Make scientific data and tools available to restoration practitioners.

#### Activities

Medium-Term (3-5 years):

- Explore and support existing information-sharing venues to share results of research and monitoring, including existing workshops, symposia, regional monitoring gatherings, and peer exchanges.
- Share information about resources and tools available through existing regional networks.
- Continue to coordinate with other states on opportunities for action-specific monitoring partnerships.

Long-Term (5-10 years):

- Explore the value of helping to organize informal networks that include scientists/researchers, technical/monitoring experts, and restoration practitioners.

#### Outcomes

- Increased decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results.
- Increased ability to evaluate social change that leads to ecological outcomes.
- More evaluation of impact, not just effort, broadly practiced.
- Improved restoration and monitoring actions on the ground to meet local and state needs.
- Network of experts to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects.

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## Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

### Strategy 6.5: Define monitoring priorities <sup>(3)</sup>

#### Intent

Assess what OWEB wants to achieve through monitoring and then create the resources and tools necessary. Define appropriate monitoring scopes or scales. Consider the operational contexts to determine what is appropriate for any given partnership or organization.

#### Objectives

- Define appropriate scopes and/or scales for monitoring.
- Integrate monitoring with other OWEB investments to ensure ecological outcomes can be quantified.
- Promote monitoring as a critical component of restoration work and identify other funding partners for this work.

#### Activities

Medium-Term (3-5 years):

- Assess and define what OWEB wants to achieve through monitoring.
- Review the findings from other strategies under the Coordinated Monitoring priority.

Long-Term (5-10 years):

- Draft monitoring priorities for consideration by the full board
- Use funding conversations with foundations and state agencies under Priority 4 to explore areas of common interest in funding monitoring, including assessment of other interested and willing funders.

#### Outcomes

- Priorities proactively established to plan for adequate monitoring resources that describe our restoration investment outcomes.
- Board adopts Monitoring Priorities following comprehensive process that solicits input and ideas from monitoring partners.
- Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs.
- Monitoring practitioners focus efforts on priority monitoring needs.

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## Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

### Strategy 6.6: Develop and promote a monitoring framework <sup>(3)</sup>

#### Intent

Encourage state and federal agency partners to develop consistent approaches, clear goals, shared scope and scale for their watershed monitoring.

#### Objectives

- Partner with state and federal agency partners to develop consistent approaches, clear goals, shared scope, and scale for monitoring watershed restoration outcomes and impacts.
- Partner with state agencies to increase interagency collaboration and develop a common vision for monitoring at a larger scale.
- Complement larger-scale monitoring planning with embedded approaches to help local partners identify lessons learned at a local scale and with relevance to localized decision-making.
- Strengthen integration of data collection across state and federal agencies.

#### Activities

Medium-Term (3-5 years):

- Continue implementation of current monitoring efforts and evaluate the use of approaches that bridge larger-to-smaller scales.
- Evaluate existing monitoring strategies and consider their appropriateness as a foundation for developing a monitoring framework.
- Share information with restoration and monitoring practitioners about existing and emerging data integration and visualization tools.

Long-Term (5-10 years):

- Develop tools and resources to encourage use of a consistent monitoring framework, methodologies, and tools by integrating these into OWEB's grant-making processes.
- Continue to support use and build-out of existing and emerging tools for: integrating data collection efforts; visualizing monitoring results at larger scales; and evaluating potential for more efficient monitoring on the ground.

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## Outcomes

- Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results.
- Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring.
- Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space, to allow for use and application at local, watershed and regional scales.

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## Priority 7 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

### Strategy 7.1: Invest in landscape restoration over the long term. <sup>(2)</sup>

#### Intent

Expand funding opportunities for large-scale conservation efforts over multiple years, sharing risk amongst diverse partners.

#### Objectives

- Provide funding for landscape scale restoration over the long term
- Provide funding to support partnerships implementing landscape-scale restoration or identify other sources of capacity funding for partnerships
- Share results of long-term efforts and lessons learned with the broader conservation community
- Invest in capacity to develop projects that can be successfully implemented at the landscape scale.

#### Activities

Short term (1-3 years)

- Continue to fund long-term activities that lead to landscape scale restoration.
- Develop evaluation processes for individual restoration grants that reward projects that may entail risk, but offer big potential upsides.

Medium term (3-6 years)

- Evaluate if other OWEB grant programs may be necessary to successfully invest in landscape scale restoration.

#### Outcomes

- OWEB's grant portfolio will move towards landscape scale restoration that will likely involve effective partnerships around the state. At this scale of restoration, over the long term, ecological outcomes may be reached.
- OWEB will work with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community.

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## Priority 7 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

### **Strategy 7.2: Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economics <sup>(3)</sup>**

#### **Intent**

Develop appropriate investment approaches that recognize the dual conservation and economic drivers of watershed actions.

#### **Objectives**

- Identify new economic approaches that incentivize conservation.
- Clearly communicate to the public the economic benefits of restoration, including the ecological benefits realized from well-managed working lands.

#### **Activities**

Medium to long-term (4-10 years)

- Research cutting edge science that involves working lands and conservation outcomes.
- Identify economic impacts of healthy fish runs, water quality, and healthy watersheds.
- Develop resources that can help our partners in conservation communicate the economic benefits of restoration.

#### **Outcomes**

- OWEB's investment approaches recognize the dual conservation and economic drivers and benefits of watershed actions, where appropriate.
- Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands.
- Increased and expanded understanding that restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health.

(1) = This strategy is either already being implemented or is a near-term strategy.

(2) = This strategy will come over the next few years. It may include only medium/long term actions.

(3) = This strategy will likely not begin for a few years and require another strategy scored as 1 and/or 2 to be completed before beginning implementation of this strategy.

## Priority 7 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

### Strategy 7.3: Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission <sup>(1)</sup>

#### Intent

We will stimulate innovations and experimentations to learn from new forms of intervention and to adopt promising new practices throughout the conservation system. Once discoveries are made, we will provide insights from the learning to the conservation community for adoption and further experimentation.

#### Objectives

- Deliberately and nimbly invest in both programs/projects that are traditional (with predictable outcomes) and innovative (where more risk exists), sharing risk amongst diverse partners.
- Convene partners to develop, then provide incentives for innovative ideas.
- Allocate funding specifically for innovation.
- Formally recognize that lessons learned are a part of a project's success.

#### Activities

Short term (1-3 years)

- Capture lessons learned from restoration and partnership investments and share with restoration practitioners to identify areas for innovation and increased risk-taking.
- Develop approaches that allow grantees the space to clearly articulate risks and benefits of new and innovative approaches.

Medium term (3-6 years)

- Develop board and staff capacity to evaluate risk and to be able to weigh risk of innovation against proposed benefits.

#### Outcomes

- A Culture of Learning: Conservation communities value an experimental approach to learning and innovation.
- A Culture of Potential: Conservation communities become comfortable with properties and projects that show potential (not just work based on demonstrated past performance).
- Intelligent Investments: OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk and encourage a culture of innovation.

(1) = This strategy is either already being implemented or is a near-term strategy.

(2) = This strategy will come over the next few years. It may include only medium/long term actions.

(3) = This strategy will likely not begin for a few years and require another strategy scored as 1 and/or 2 to be completed before beginning implementation of this strategy.

## **April 24-25, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting**

### **Executive Director Update P-1: Lower Columbia River Watershed Council**

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 its July 2017 meeting, the board discussed and awarded Council Capacity grants for the 2017-2019 biennium. After deliberation, the board elected to fund the Lower Columbia River Watershed 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 merit criteria.

### **Grant Agreement Special Conditions**

The Council's grant agreement includes a list of special conditions that the Council must fulfill during the grant period. Quarterly progress reports are required documenting the Council's work on each of the five merit criteria.

### **Evaluation Process**

The Council's progress toward meeting the merit criteria will be evaluated through:

- 1) Review of the quarterly progress reports (Attachment A);
- 2) Attendance at Council meetings;
- 3) Meetings with Council staff and board members; and
- 4) Council staff and board member participation in an interview and review process.

### **Progress to date**

The Council has been meeting monthly, with meeting notices and minutes emailed OWEB staff. Since the January 2018 update to the board, the council has achieved the following:

- 1) Held council board officer elections and elected a new board chair and vice chair;
- 2) Updated its Memorandum of Understanding with the Columbia SWCD; and
- 3) Met OWEB's conditions of first payment and submitted its first payment request.

### **Next Steps**

The Council is required to submit its council capacity grant work plan update by April 30, 2018. OWEB staff, along with the council capacity review team, will meet with the Council on May 10, 2018, to complete the interview and review process. OWEB staff will meet with the newly formed board Operating Capacity Subcommittee before the end of May to discuss the results of the 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.

### **Staff Contact**

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Courtney Shaff at [courtney.shaff@oregon.gov](mailto:courtney.shaff@oregon.gov) or 503-986-0046.

### **Attachments**

- A. Progress Report

**Lower Columbia Watershed Council**  
**Progress Report #2 to OWEB for Meeting Merit Criteria – April 3, 2018**  
**(OWEB requirements in bold)**

**Merit Criteria #1: Effective governance**

- **Actions the council is taking to demonstrate implementation of council governance procedures separate and distinct from the district. These must include, but are not limited to 1) documented review and update of the council's board officer position descriptions; 2) Documentation that the council is using a variety of methods to advertise and invite the public to council meetings; 3) Completion and review at a council meeting the council's self-assessment**

The Lower Columbia Watershed Council, through its Fiscal Sponsor, the Columbia SWCD, contracted with the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (Shawn Morford) in October 2017 to help guide the council in meeting the merit criteria requirements. Shawn has attended monthly council meetings since October as well as numerous meetings and phone calls with a small task force of council members (called the "Roll up the Sleeves Team" or RUST for short) assigned to focus on accomplishing the tasks outlined in the OWEB agreement as well as the SWCD District Manager.

The council has continued to follow Shawn's written guide, "A Road Map to OWEB Merit Criteria" that outlines specific actions and timelines for meeting the criteria. This document was attached to the first progress report.

The results have been very encouraging with several major developments have occurred since the last progress report:

**1) Negotiation and signature of a new Fiscal Sponsorship and Employment Agreement.** A new agreement between Columbia SWCD and the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council was signed by both board chairs on February 29 and March 1 (attached) after review and approval at SWCD and LCRWC meetings in February. The negotiations and the resulting written agreement is a significant step in articulating the distinction between the SWCD and the Watershed Council and forging a clear and supportive relationship into the future. Among other specifications, the agreement spells out that:

*While the SWCD ultimately maintains legal, supervisory, and financial responsibility for the council as its fiscal sponsor,*

- *LCWC will sets its own priorities based on its own annual action plan and that the action plan will be based in part on community input obtained through outreach efforts and through council member input.*

- *The LCWC coordinator's position will be 100% devoted to watershed council activities and the coordinator's work plan will be directed by the council as long as the council is adhering to SWCD personnel and other policies affecting the coordinator. These could include joint projects with the SWCD (such as the current RCPP project and Westport Slough), but the roles and expectations of the LCWC coordinator on those projects will be negotiated and clarified as the funding proposals and work plans are being developed.*
- *The SWCD will prepare and submit to the LCWC at least quarterly financial documents that show the expenses and income specifically for the watershed council and these will be presented at council meetings. Time sheets will continue to be completed by the new coordinator that will show the work of the coordinator by activity which will be available for review by the LCWC Executive committee or council membership as requested.*
- *The coordinator hiring committee will be a joint committee involving both the SWCD and LCWC.*
- *Performance review of coordinator will also be conducted jointly.*
- *As the fiscal sponsor, the SWCD will submit grant proposals on behalf of the council but the council will lead the proposals and forward them to the SWCD for their approval and submittal. In each grant proposal for which the council will utilize the funds separate from the SWCD, the LCWC will be listed as the project lead.*
- *LCWC council will assign a liaison to the SWCD board who will attend SWCD meetings and report back to the watershed council on activities and relevant decisions of the SWCD.*

**2. Board officer elections.** The council appointed a nominating committee for the council's biennial officer election at its regular monthly meeting in January. Between the January and February council meetings, the nominating committee contacted all council members letting them know about the nomination process and seeking nominees. The nomination chair brought names of willing nominees to the February 13 meeting and Chair KC VanNatta asked for any additional nominations from the floor. The secret ballots were counted and a new President was named. The following individuals were elected/re-elected for a two-year term:

Ian Bledsoe, President (new)

Gary Soderstrom , Vice President (re-elected)

Marilyn Van Natta, Secretary (re-elected)

The new President presided over his first full meeting in March. See attached minutes.

**3. Board position descriptions.** Shawn Morford worked with the officers to develop a draft set of board position descriptions that the council reviewed and approved at its February 13 meeting. The position descriptions were submitted to OWEB with the first funding request and are also attached.

**4. Filling the council coordinator position.** In response to the coordinator's resignation in November, the council appointed two council members to work with the SWCD on a hiring team to develop a position description, advertise the job, create a short list of candidates, conduct the interviews, and

make a selection. The position announcement opened February 5 and closed February 21 with interviews on March 14. The hiring team selected a two-person consulting team from Whiting Environmental, LLC (Allan Whiting) and West Coast Cronin Clan Co (Kevin Cronin) on a three-month contract beginning April 1 through June 30. The LCRWC/SWCD hiring team will recommend to extend the coordinator contract or to announce the position again after June 30 depending on direction the council chooses to go in their strategic planning and assuming the capacity grant funding is secured.

Allan Whiting - [allanwhiting@gmail.com](mailto:allanwhiting@gmail.com) 503-789-9240

Kevin Cronin - [kevinadamscronin@gmail.com](mailto:kevinadamscronin@gmail.com) 503-984-6489

The scope of work includes continuing to build existing capacity for LCRWC through the work with the council in development of a management structure with board members and local partners, the organization of emerging governance documentation, creation of an outreach strategy with watershed council members and key stakeholders, and the management of existing projects and the development of future projects and update of the action plan due April 30. Also among the deliverables is a five-year strategic plan to guide Council mission, vision, values, goals, objectives, and action planning.

The complete scope of work is attached.

## **Merit Criteria #2: Effective management**

- Actions the council is taking to demonstrate implementation of effective council management practices separate and distinct from the district. These must include, but are not limited to 1) Documentation, through council board meeting minutes, that the council coordinator is updating the council board, in writing, at each council meeting of the coordinator's activities and the board has the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on those activities 2) A description of the actions taken by the council to track the work of the council coordinator for the council separate and distinct from work performed for the district; 3) Documentation, through council board meeting minutes, that the council board is reviewing and approving council financial information at monthly council meetings.**

Shawn Morford and the RUST task force updated the council at each council meeting from November through March. At each meeting there was significant discussion about and work on the fiscal sponsorship agreement, coordinator search, board job descriptions, and board elections led by Shawn, the chair and the RUST task force with council members. The point of contact for the new coordinator consultant team as identified in their Scope of Work is the LCRWC President (chair), Ian Bledsoe and it is expected that Ian will meet frequently by phone and in person with the consulting team in delivery of their scope of work, which includes scoping of additional projects that will be unique to or led by the watershed council. Shawn Morford will also meet by phone and in person with the consulting team

during the transition to ensure consistency in the hand-off and to ensure that final OWEB requirements of the council are met.

Verbal and written financial reports outlining the council income and expenditures were provided to the council as a regular agenda item beginning at its March 2018 meeting and are expected to continue monthly under the new President and coordinator consultants.

### **Merit Criteria #3: Progress in planning**

- **Actions the council is taking to demonstrate progress in planning separate and distinct from the district. These must include, but are not limited to 1) Documentation, through council board meeting minutes, that the council board reviewed and adopted the Council Capacity Work Plan update, due April 30, 2018; 2) A description of progress the council is making to engage stakeholders in planning and prioritizing the work of the council.**

The coordinator consulting team Scope of Work includes updating the Council Capacity work plan as a key deliverable (see attached under Task 1). They expect to provide a draft outline for the council to review and discuss at its April 10 meeting; however it is not likely that a final approval by the board will take place until its May 8 meeting. The work plan will be a part of the larger strategic plan that is also a key deliverable of the coordinator consultants.

The watershed council meetings continue to be announced in the following ways:

- The Council meetings are announced on the Outlook contact list and snail mail list comprised of Council members and people with an interest in the council.
- The meetings are announced in the OSU Extension newsletter, which is online and mailed. The LCWC monthly meeting has been announced every month in 2017 on the front page calendar. The newsletter has a ~1300 mailing list. For example, [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/sites/default/files/country\\_living\\_december\\_2017.pdf](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/sites/default/files/country_living_december_2017.pdf)
- Board Secretary Marilyn Van Natta sends meeting notices to the Clatskanie Chief, Chronicle, and Spotlight newspapers to ensure that they have information they need to announce each meeting in their papers prior to the meetings.
- The LCWC currently has a page on the SWCD website at <http://www.columbiaswcd.com/about/watershed-councils/lcrwc> , however the Council now has developed the structure for its own standalone website that is under construction (<https://www.lowercolumbiariver.org>). The new coordinator and the new outreach committee of the council will be tasked with populating this website and announcing the new site when it's ready for release.



#### **Merit Criteria #4: Progress in on-the-ground restoration**

- **Actions the council is taking to implement on-the-ground restoration work separate and distinct from the district.**

Sixty percent of the new Scope of Work (140 hours over next three months) for the coordinating consultants includes project work, including scoping and landowner engagement that is expected to lead to new projects, better management of existing projects, and new funding proposals. Specifically the tasks include:

- Evaluate existing project inventory to assess stage of development (i.e. conceptual, reconnaissance, feasibility).
- Update inventory through scoping of additional projects and provide summary profiles that include level of landowner engagement, initial budget, ecological benefit, and potential funding sources.
- In collaboration with fiscal sponsor, manage existing grant funded projects in close coordination with partners and stakeholders. Manage specific authorized projects with approved scope of work, budget, and schedule by Watershed Council.
- Attend project development meetings as necessary to scope project, prepare required permits, and respond to inquiries from stakeholders.
- Where appropriate link outreach plan concepts developed in task 1 tailored for each restoration project.
- Research potential grants and due dates to match opportunities identified above. This could include re-scoping previously developed proposals
- Participate with the Columbia SWCD on the public participation phase of the PL-566 Watershed plan process.

#### **Merit Criteria #5: Progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes**

- **Actions the council is taking to implement community engagement activities separate and distinct from the district.**

A strategic outreach plan is among the deliverables of the coordinating consultants. They are contracted to prepare an organizational engagement strategy with Watershed Council, key stakeholders, and others as assigned to raise public profile and provide progress reports at regular meetings. Kevin Cronin's expertise is community outreach and planning and he will work with the board on developing and delivering outreach activities. Other than public meeting announcements and a public comment period during each meeting, this merit criterion will be addressed by a new outreach subcommittee of the board that was discussed at the March 2018 council meeting. It's expected that the new subcommittee will begin the process of identifying community engagement activities for 2018 with Kevin. It is anticipated that most community engagement activities will take place during the

warm-weather season such as field tours or booths at the Columbia County Fair, but there could also be speakers at council meetings open to the public throughout the rest of the year as well.

## April 24-25, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting

### Executive Director Update P-2: FIP Gathering

This report provides the board an update on the FIP Gathering, held March 13-14, at Menucha Retreat Center.

### Background

At the October 2017 meeting, the board awarded funds to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to host a gathering of the Implementation and Development FIPs. The objectives for the gathering were to share lessons learned among the partners, offer training, and networking opportunities.

### FIP Gathering

The 2018 FIP Gathering brought together 42 partners from 17 of our 18 FIPs from around the state for two half-days of sharing, learning, and relationship building. Participants included both partnership members as well as facilitators. Highlights from the Gathering include:

- Breakout sessions for both the Development and Implementation FIPs, providing the space to dive deeper into discussions with their peers and OWEB staff;
- A funders panel, which included representatives from Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, National Resources Conservation Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
- Breakout sessions on 1) Technical Tools, 2) Writing a Strategic Action Plan, and 3) Moving from Planning to Implementation;
- Discussions on Stakeholder Engagement and Partnership Resiliency; and
- A presentation on the elements of effective networks for partnerships, by Converge for Impact, a consultancy specializing in collaborations and networks.

### Feedback

A survey was sent to all participants at the conclusion of the Gathering to receive feedback on the event, including relevancy of sessions, suggestions for future gathering topics and feedback on if OWEB should offer such a gathering again and at what frequency.

The overall feedback from the gathering was excellent. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to interact with peers as well as hear from outside presenters. A few excerpts from the survey are below.

*"It was a good opportunity to share ideas and experiences with other groups that might have encountered similar problems, or that might have taken different approaches to developing their partnerships."*

*"It was good to network with others, learn about their partnership experiences and share some of our own lessons learned."*

*"Thanks to all the OWEB staff for putting together a great, useful, and inspiring FIP gathering." "I thought the duration was perfect, giving people time to travel but also packing it in. Loved it! This was one of the more useful professional development opportunities I've experienced. Thank you!"*

Based on the positive feedback OWEB staff have begun to discuss future FIP gatherings, including frequency of gatherings and relevant topics.

**Next Steps**

Based on the feedback from participants, OWEB staff consider the Gathering a success and that it accomplished its goals, to offer sharing and networking opportunities among the FIPs. As OWEB staff work through the next Implementation and Development FIP grant cycles we will consider the timing and relevancy of another gathering of FIP partners.

**Staff Contact**

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Courtney Shaff at [courtney.shaff@oregon.gov](mailto:courtney.shaff@oregon.gov) or 503-986-0046.

**Attachments**

- A. FIP Gathering Agenda
- B. FIP Gathering Attendee List

## Focused Investment Partnership Gathering Agenda

**March 13-14, 2018, Menucha Retreat Center**

### **Tuesday, March 13**

- 10:00 Arrive and Check-in
- 11:00 Kick-off by Meta and Menucha Orientation (Wright Hall)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00-2:30 **Session 1: (Split by Development and Implementation FIPs)**  
 A: Development-FIPs (Wright Hall)  
 B: Implementation FIPs (Creevey Hall)
- 2:45-4:30 **Session 2: (Small Group Discussions, individuals choose where they want to go)**  
 A: Technical tools: Mapping and databases (Creevey Hall)  
 B: Writing a Strategic Action Plan (Greenhouse)  
 C. Moving from planning to implementation, including project prioritization (Wright Hall)
- 4:45-6:00 **Session 3: Stakeholder Engagement Discussion (Wright Hall)**
- 6:00-7:00 Dinner
- 7:00-8:00 pm **Funder Panel (Wright Hall)**
- 8:00 pm Social Time

### **Wednesday, March 14 (All events will take place in Wright Hall)**

- 8:00-9:00 Breakfast
- 9:00-10:00 Networks and Collaboration: The Santa Cruz Example
- 10:00-11:30 Discussion: Partnership Resiliency: How to build resilient partnerships that can achieve ecological outcomes.
- 11:30-12 Wrap-up
- 12-1pm Lunch



## 2018 OWEB FIP Gathering Participant Contact Information

ATTACHMENT B

| Name              | Partnership                                     | Organization                                           |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Chris Chambers    | Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Initiative | Ashland Fire & Rescue                                  |
| Marko Bey         | Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Initiative | Lomakatsi Restoration Project                          |
| Darren Borgias    | Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Initiative | The Nature Conservancy                                 |
| Jim Brick         | Clackamas Partnership                           | ODFW                                                   |
| Todd Alsbury      | Clackamas Partnership                           | ODFW                                                   |
| John Runyon       | Clackamas Partnership                           | Cascade Environmental Group                            |
| Cheryl McGinnis   | Clackamas Partnership                           | Clackamas River Basin Council                          |
| Lauren Mork       | Deschutes Partnership                           | Upper Deschutes Watershed Council                      |
| Natasha Bellis    | Deschutes Partnership                           | Deschutes River Conservancy                            |
| Tanner Scrivens   | East Cascade Oak Partnership                    | Columbia Land Trust                                    |
| Lindsay Cornelius | East Cascades Oak Partnership                   | Columbia Land Trust                                    |
| Mary Bushman      | East Cascades Oak Partnership                   | Private consultant                                     |
| Chris Colson      | Harney Basin Wetland Initiative                 | Ducks Unlimited                                        |
| Bob Sallinger     | Harney Basin Wetland Initiative                 | Audubon Society of Portland                            |
| Benjamin Cate     | Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative                | High Desert Partnership                                |
| Shawn Morford     | Hood River Partnership                          | Network of Oregon Watershed Councils                   |
| Chuck Gehling     | Hood River Partnership                          | Hood River Watershed Group                             |
| Cindy Thieman     | Hood River Watershed Partners                   | Hood River Watershed Group                             |
| Herb Winters      | John Day Basin Partnership                      | Gilliam SWCD                                           |
| Bryan Vogt        | John Day Basin Partnership                      | Monument SWCD                                          |
| Michael Lambert   | John Day Partnership                            | Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation |
| Caitlyn Gillespie | Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network                    | Klamath Bird Observatory                               |
| John Alexander    | Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network                    | Klamath Bird Observatory                               |
| CalLee Davenport  | Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network                    | USFWS                                                  |
| Debbie Pickering  | Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative      | TNC                                                    |
| Sam Whitridge     | Rogue Basin Partnership                         | Rogue Basin Partnership                                |
| Denis Reich       | Rogue Basin Partnership                         | Rogue Basin Partnership                                |
| Ann Schmierer     | Siskiyou Coast Estuaries                        | Wild Rivers Land Trust                                 |
| Erin Minster      | Siskiyou Coast Estuaries                        | Curry County SWCD                                      |
| Dan Carpenter     | Siuslaw Coho Partnership                        | Siuslaw Watershed Council                              |
| Eli M Tome        | Siuslaw Coho Partnership                        | Siuslaw Watershed Council                              |
| Mizu Burruss      | Siuslaw Coho Partnership                        | Siuslaw Watershed Council                              |
| Eric Riley        | Umpqua Basin Partnership                        | Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers                      |
| Lee Russell       | Umpqua Partnership                              | Elk Creek WC                                           |
| Coby Menton       | Wallowa Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership    | Grande Ronde Model Watershed                           |
| Jesse Steele      | Wallowa Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership    | Grande Ronde Model Watershed                           |
| Marci Krass       | Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group         | Willamette Riverkeeper                                 |

## 2018 OWEB FIP Gathering Participant Contact Information

|                |                                               |                               |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Andrea Berkley | Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group       | OPRD                          |
| Dan Bell       | Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group       | Friends of the Columbia Gorge |
| Tom Kaye       | Willamette Valley Oak and Priarie Cooperative | Institute for Applied Ecology |
| Clinton Begley | Willamette Valley Oak Prairie Cooperative     | Long Tom Watershed Council    |
| Jeff Krueger   | Willamette Valley Oak Prairie Cooperative     | JK Environments               |
| Carolyn Menke  | Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Cooperative     | Institute for Applied Ecology |



## **April 24-25, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting**

### **Executive Director Update P-3: Technical Assistance Grants Rulemaking**

This report provides the board an update on technical assistance (TA) grants rulemaking.

#### **Background**

At the July 2017 meeting, the board authorized staff to initiate rulemaking for TA grants. OWEB does not currently have rules specifically for TA grants; instead the grants are authorized under Division 5, OWEB Grant Program administrative rules, which is a broad rule division that encompasses all of OWEB grants.

#### **TA Grants Rulemaking Update**

A rules advisory committee (RAC) has been established to assist OWEB staff in developing TA administrative rules. A list of RAC members is found in Attachment A. Between February and April, the RAC met on two occasions to discuss concepts to include in rule language and to provide feedback on draft rules. OWEB staff incorporated these concepts into draft rules based on three TA grant categories:

- Organizational Technical Assistance Grants for groups of collaborating organizations seeking to improve organizational effectiveness to support actions that are necessary for carrying out eligible conservation actions or programs that lead to development of eligible projects;
- Resource Assessment and Planning Grants to support the development of information about existing water quality or habitat conditions and processes at an identified scale, and relates those conditions and processes to actions that will directly lead to desired future conditions; and
- Technical Design and Engineering Grants to support the development of project feasibility, designs, or engineering materials that directly lead to site-specific restoration or acquisition projects.

OWEB will submit the draft rules for public comment between May 1 and 31, 2018. 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 June 2018 meeting.

#### **Staff Contact**

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at [eric.hartstein@oregon.gov](mailto:eric.hartstein@oregon.gov) or 503-986-0029.

#### **Attachments**

A. Technical Assistance Grants Rules Advisory Committee Members

**Technical Assistance Grants Rules Advisory Committee Members**

Brian Barr, Rogue River Watershed Council

Aaron Bliesener, Union Soil and Water Conservation District

Theresa DeBardelaben, Oregon Department of Agriculture

Chris Gannon, Crooked River Watershed Council

Nancy Gramlich, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Bryce Hill, Baker County Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Amy Horstman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Haley Lutz, Nestucca-Neskowin and Sand Lake Watersheds Council

Eric Riley, Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Nell Scott, Trout Unlimited

Katie Voelke, North Coast Land Conservancy

Bryan Vogt, Monument Soil and Water Conservation District

Terry Warhol, Region 5 Regional Review Team and Retired U.S. Forest Service

Jared Weybright, McKenzie Watershed Council

## **April 24-25, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting**

### **Executive Director Update P-4: Livestock Exclusion Monitoring Study Report**

This report summarizes the long-term livestock exclusion monitoring study conducted under OWEB's effectiveness monitoring program.

#### **Background**

Livestock exclusion has been identified as an important action for restoring fragile riparian areas. Livestock exclusion includes building and maintaining fences along riparian areas. In 2006, OWEB and the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) initiated a cooperative study to monitor livestock exclusion projects in both states. This joint effort supports both agencies' effectiveness monitoring programs for watershed and salmon habitat restoration projects. This coordinated approach to monitoring represents a successful effort to collect comparable data across jurisdictional boundaries, thus increasing efficiencies in monitoring and strengthening the statistical power of the monitoring study.

#### **Summary of the Study**

##### **Study Design**

This project employs a Before-After-Control-Impact) design, where data are collected both before and after an "impact," or treatment, which in this case was fence building. The "control" is established in areas not expected to change during the project. The study gathered data about several parameters: livestock presence in the exclusion, bank erosion, canopy cover, riparian vegetation structure and pool tail fines (e.g., fine sediment) at each project site. Monitoring occurred before treatment, and again in years 1, 2, 5, and 10 after fence installation.

##### **Findings**

Results indicate that livestock exclusion projects significantly reduced bank erosion and improved riparian structure by Year 10. The study found no significant effects of livestock exclusion on bank canopy cover or percentage of fine sediment in pools. However, the mean percentage of pool tail fines was lower in all impact reaches, which indicates a desired trend. The reduction in bank erosion is consistent with previous studies on livestock exclusions that have generally shown decreases in bank erosion and increases in riparian vegetation structure and shade. It is possible that canopy cover may continue to improve in impact reaches with livestock exclusion. However, the lack of change in canopy cover and fine sediment are likely the results of several factors including: evidence of livestock grazing in many impact reaches, livestock exclusion in control reaches, limitations of the riparian sampling protocols, and challenges with statistical analyses due to some control reaches not being well matched with impact reaches.

The final report from the study is available in the 'Effectiveness Monitoring' section of OWEB's website at <http://www.oregon.gov/oweb/data-reporting/EM/Pages/Livestock-Exclusion-EM.aspx>.

#### **Staff Contact**

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator, at [ken.fetcho@oregon.gov](mailto:ken.fetcho@oregon.gov) or 503-986-0035.



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
**FROM:** Eric Williams, Grants Program Manager  
Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item Q: Other Business- Coastal Wetlands Grants  
April 24-25, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting

### I. Introduction

Staff request the board approve receipt of one grant award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) 2018 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP) and delegate authority to the Director to award funds for the Winter Lake Restoration and Planting Project.

### II. NCWCGP Funding Awarded in April 2018

NCWCGP funding has been used to support the infrastructure phase of the project. In 2017, OWEB submitted a NCWCGP application to support the restoration phase, including wetlands planting and reconnection of approximately 10 miles of remnant channels on the Winter Lake and Beaver Slough project sites to enhance habitat for migratory birds, anadromous fish, and other native fish and wildlife. In April 2018, the USFWS announced that the Winter Lake Restoration and Planting Project was awarded \$1,000,000 through the NCWCGP. The project's primary local implementer is The Nature Conservancy, with assistance from the Coquille Watershed Association and the Beaver Slough Drainage District.

### III. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve receipt of funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 from USFWS under the 2018 NCWCGP and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through the appropriate agreements with an award date of April 25, 2018 in support of the Winter Lake Restoration and Planting Project.