Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Materials

for

October 16-17, 2018
Board Meeting

Gold Beach, Oregon

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
October 16-17, 2018

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Curry Public Library
Learning Center
94341 3rd St.
Gold Beach, OR 97444
Directions: https://goo.gl/maps/dLkGZx6Ekkt

Business Meeting – 8:00 a.m.

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. The board may also elect to take an item out of order in certain circumstances. During the public comment periods (Agenda Items D, F, K, L, and N), anyone wishing to speak to the board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The board encourages persons to limit comments to 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 October 9, 2018 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

A. Board Member Comments (8:05 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 (8:45 a.m.)

The minutes of the June 27, 2018 meeting in Cascade Locks will be presented for approval. *Action item*.

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (8:50 a.m.)

Representatives from board subcommittees (Monitoring, Focused Investments, and Operating Capacity) will provide updates on subcommittee topics to the full board. *Information item*.

D. Public Comment (9:10 a.m.)

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

E. Council Capacity Grants Guidance (9:25 a.m.)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff will request board action on revisions to OWEB's Council Capacity Grants guidance document. *Action item.*

F. Spring 2018 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 Spring 2018 Open Solicitation grant offering.

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

This time is reserved for public comment on pending restoration, technical assistance, 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 **October 9, 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 Spring 2018 Open Solicitation grant offering. Proposals, supporting materials, and funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the Board. *Action item.*

G. Board Discussion with Oregon Water Resource Department (1:30 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Oregon Water Resources Department Field Services Division Administrator Ivan Gall will brief the board on topics including water measurement, water leasing, and the Allocation of Conserved Water Statute. *Information item*.

H. Strategic Plan Update (2:15 p.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will report to the board on progress made on strategic plan implementation. *Information Item.*

I. Secure, Safe, and Resilient Water Future for Oregon (3:00 p.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis will update the board on the Governor's initiative to ensure resiliency in water systems across the state. *Information item*.

Tour – 3:45 p.m.
The OWEB Board and staff will participate in a field tour of planned restoration work in the Rogue River estuary. Anyone is welcome to join the tour, but please be prepared to provide your own transportation and be prepared for inclement weather.

Informal Reception – 5:30 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:
Curry Public Library
Learning Center
94341 3rd St.
Gold Beach, OR 97444
Directions: https://goo.gl/maps/dLkGZx6Ekkt

Wednesday, October 17, 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 D, F, K, L, and N), anyone wishing to speak to the board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The board encourages persons to limit comments to 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 October 9, 2018 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

J. 2019-2021 Spending Plan (8:00 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will lead the board through initial discussions around developing the 2019-2021 Spending Plan. *Information item.*

K. Public Comment (8:45 a.m.)

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

L. Land Acquisitions (9:00 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 8:55 a.m.
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will bring before the board a request to transfer ownership of two parcels of land in Yamhill County that were acquired through past Land Acquisition grant awards. In addition, the board will consider an extension of the grant agreement associated with the Botts Marsh acquisition project. *Action item.*

M. Tide Gate Programs Update (10:15 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the board on the Tide Gate Partnership, and Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho will discuss with the board next steps based on findings and recommendations from a recent literature review of tide gate restoration projects by Oregon State University. *Information item.*

N. Conservation Partnership Funding Request (10:55 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 10:55 a.m.
Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff will brief the board on the Conservation Partnership's 2017-2019 work, and request funding for the second year of their partnership support grant. *Action item.*

O. Governor's Priorities (11:25 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will request the board provide Governor's Priority funding for post-fire technical assistance. *Action item*.

P. Director's Update (11:40 a.m.)

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

Q. Other Business (12:20 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 7 are ex-officio. For purposes of conducting business, OWEB's voting requirements are divided into 2 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, October 16 at 9:10 a.m., and Wednesday, October 17 at 8:45 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 *October 9, 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*
Molly Kile, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Fish and Wildlife Commission*
Vacant, *Board of Forestry*
Meg Reeves, W*ater 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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Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
Tel: 503-986-0178
Fax: 503-986-0199
www.oregon.gov/OWEB

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

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

2018 Board Meeting Schedule

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

2019 Board Meeting Schedule

January 15-16, in Cannon Beach
April 16-17, location TBD
July 16-17, in Klamath Falls
October 15-16, in Condon

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

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2018 Strategic Plan, At A Glance

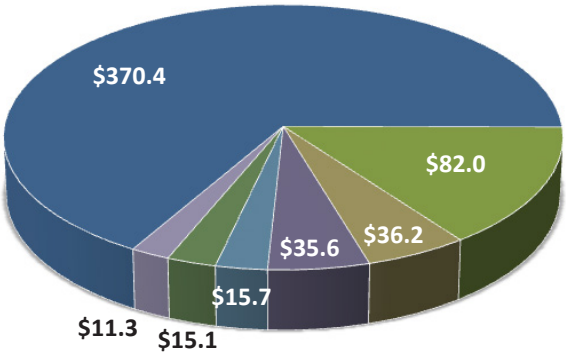
Mission

To help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies

About OWEB

OWEB has funded more than 8,700 grants since 1999, with which Oregonians have restored more than 5,100 miles of streams and have made more than 6,100 miles of habitat accessible for fish. The grants have helped landowners improve more than 1,135,000 upland habitat acres and restore, improve, or create more than 51,000 wetland or estuarine habitat acres. The majority of the funds invested go directly to on-the-ground improvements of land and water such as native plantings, dam removals, irrigation efficiencies, streams and rivers made accessible to fish, and land protected for future generations.

Statewide Total Grants (All Fund Sources from 1999 to December 2017): $566,268,983



Dollar amounts are in millions

Restoration & Acquisition	$370.4 or 65.4%
Local Capacity	$82.0 or 14.5%
Technical Assistance	$36.2 or 6.4%
Monitoring	$35.6 or 6.3%
Outreach & Education	$15.7 or 2.8%
Research	$15.1 or 2.7%
Assessment	$11.3 or 2.0%

On behalf of the board members and staff of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), we invite you to review our 2018-2028 strategic plan. Based on a year and a half of conversations with partners and grantees, this plan celebrates all we have accomplished together over the last twenty years and sets a course for the next ten.

OWEB, our partners, and our grantees have much to celebrate. With over $550 million in investments from Lottery, Salmon License Plates, federal and other funds, our grantees have restored 5,100 miles of streams, and improved habitat on over 1.1 million acres in the watersheds above those streams. Coupled with the restoration or creation of 51,000 acres of wetlands and estuaries, these gains support clean water and habitat for Oregonians and the fish and wildlife species that call this state home.

Our current investment portfolio – ranging from our flagship Open Solicitation grants to our newly established Organizational Collaboration grants – provides the foundation to improve the health of our watersheds by investing in people in our local communities. OWEB grants support local community partners to work with farmers, ranchers, forestland owners, and local contractors to provide clean water for Oregonians and healthy habitat for our fish and wildlife.

Our new plan builds on that strong granting foundation. As we look forward to the next ten years, we will focus our efforts, and current and future grant offerings to address the strategic priorities on the following page.

Over the past year of conversations, we have learned many of you share these same priorities, and we hope you will join us in implementing them. As we identify specific actions and measures to track our plan, we will share our progress with you. We look forward to working with you to improve the health of Oregon's watersheds, and the opportunity to celebrate our successes over the next ten years.

Priorities & Strategies

With extensive input from our stakeholders, OWEB has designed a strategic plan to provide direction for the agency and its investments over the next 10 years.

Priority 1

Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

Strategies

- Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration and community successes of watershed investments
- Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches

Priority 2

Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians

Strategies

- Listen, Learn and Gather Information about diverse populations
- Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table
- Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion

Priority 3

Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

Strategies

- Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding
- Champion best approaches to build organizational, community, and partnership capacity
- Continue to catalyze and increase state/federal agency participation in strategic partnerships

Priority 4

Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

Strategies

- Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision
- Seek alignment of common investment areas with private foundations
- Explore creative funding opportunities/partnerships with the private sector
- Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources

Priority 5

The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

Strategies

- Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
- Strengthen engagement with a broad base of landowners
- Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands
- Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands
- Develop engagement strategies for owners/managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations

Priority 6

Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategies

- Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts
- Invest in monitoring over the long term
- Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring
- Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners
- Define monitoring priorities
- Develop and promote a monitoring framework

Priority 7

Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

Strategies

- Invest in landscape restoration over the long-term
- Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies
- Traditional conservation incentives may hinder participation; while at the same time, new, untested incentives may be developed to increase conservation work across Oregon. In addition, effectively conserving and restoring watersheds requires a thorough understanding of how economics and restoration/conservation actions intersect.
- Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission

OWEB Strategic Direction and Principles

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

Goals

Goals from OWEB's 2010 Strategic Plan

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

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

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

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

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

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

Long-Term Investment Strategy

OWEB's Framework for Grant Investments

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

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

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

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

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

OWEB

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Operating Principles

Operating Principles to Enhance OWEB Team Work

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

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

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

	OWEB SPENDING PLAN	Oct 2018 additions	Spending Plan as of Oct 2018	TOTAL Board Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan after To-Date Awards	Oct 2018 Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after Oct 2018 awards
1	**Open Solicitation:**						
2	Restoration (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands)		33.000	17.060	15.940	7.972	7.968
3	Technical Assistance						
4	Restoration TA		4.000	1.844	2.156	0.792	1.364
5	CREP TA (includes NRCS & ODF funds)		1.435	1.435	0.000		0.000
6	Stakeholder Engagement		0.700	0.169	0.531	0.463	0.068
7	Monitoring grants		3.100	1.784	1.316		1.316
8	Land and Water Acquisition						
9	Acquisition (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands)		9.900	6.630	3.270		3.270
10	Acquisition Technical Assistance		0.600	0.150	0.450		0.450
11	Weed Grants		3.000	3.000	0.000		0.000
12	Small Grants		3.150	3.150	0.000		0.000
13	Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring		1.587	0.556	1.031		1.031
14	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**60.472**	**35.778**	**24.694**	**9.227**	**15.467**
15	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**62.44%**				
16	**Focused Investments:**						
17	Deschutes		4.000	4.000	0.000		0.000
18	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat		2.445	2.445	0.000		0.000
19	Harney Basin Wetlands		1.970	1.970	0.000		0.000
20	Sage Grouse		2.355	2.355	0.000		0.000
21	Ashland Forest All-Lands		2.340	2.340	0.000		0.000
22	Upper Grande Ronde		2.417	2.417	0.000		0.000
23	Development FIPs		1.150	0.572	0.578		0.578
24	FI Effectiveness Monitoring		0.750	0.750	0.000		0.000
25	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**17.427**	**16.849**	**0.578**	**0.000**	**0.578**
26	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**17.99%**				
27	**Operating Capacity:**						
28	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD) incl. NRCS+LCWC		14.598	14.598	0.000		0.000
29	Statewide org partnership support	0.050	0.500	0.450	0.050	0.050	0.000
30	Organizational Collaborative Grants		0.400	0.400	0.000		0.000
31	**TOTAL**	**0.050**	**15.498**	**15.448**	**0.050**	**0.050**	**0.000**
32	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**16.00%**				
33	**Other:**						
34	CREP		0.750	0.750	0.000		0.000
35	Governor's Priorities		1.000	0.941	0.059	0.060	-0.001
36	Strategic Implementation Areas		1.200	1.200	0.000		0.000
37	Strategic Plan Implementation Grants		0.500	0.500	0.000		0.000
38	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**3.450**	**3.391**	**0.059**	**0.060**	**-0.001**
39	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**3.56%**				
40	**TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan**	**0.050**	**96.847**	**71.466**	**25.381**	**9.337**	**16.044**
41	**OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION**						
42	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF		10.450	10.450	0.000		0.000
43	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		0.309	0.309	0.000		0.000
44	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF		0.500	0.500	0.000		0.000
45	PSMFC-IMW		0.729	0.729	0.000		0.000
46	PSMFC-Coho Habitat Tools		0.166	0.166	0.000		0.000
52	ODOT		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
47	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**12.154**	**12.154**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
48	**TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds**	**0.050**	**109.001**	**83.620**	**25.381**	**9.337**	**16.044**

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
June 27, 2018 Board Meeting

Port of Cascade Locks, Marine Park Pavilion
395 SW Portage Rd.
Cascade Locks, OR 97014

MINUTES: Some agenda items are discussed out of order.
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://youtu.be/pxz3OuoHmpc).

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Alvarado, Ron
Buckmaster, Bruce
Furfey, Rosemary
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Masterson, Laura
McAlister, Liza Jane
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Stangl, Kathy

ABSENT
Brandt, Stephen
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Marshall, Gary

VACANT
Environmental Quality Comm.
Board of Forestry

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Barnes, Darika
Ciannella, Greg
Fetcho, Ken
Gunville, Katy
Hartstein, Eric
Hulst, Miriam
Loftsgaarden, Meta
McCarthy, Jillian
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT
Arnold, Jennifer
Ault, Sam
Beamer, Kelley
Coordes, Regan
Houston, Ryan
Klock, Clair
Morford, Shawn
Patty, Steve
Swanson, Kaola
Thieman, Cindy
Warren, Robert
Wittekind, Linnea

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

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:00:20)
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 = 0:30:00)
The minutes of the April 24-25, 2018 meeting in Frenchglen were presented to the board for approval.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve the minutes from the April 24-25, 2018 meeting in Frenchglen. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:30:15)

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 0:30:40)

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

D. Public Comment (Audio = 0:41:12)

The board was addressed by Shawn Morford, representing the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils and the Oregon Conservation Partnership. Morford provided an update to the board on the activities of her organization and the Partnership, including a brief report on the 2018 CONNECT Conference and plans for next year's conference in 2019.

E. OWEB Strategic Plan – Adoption and Implementation Grants (Audio = 0:45:20)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Principal Consultant Steve Patty with Dialogues in Action presented OWEB's new strategic plan for board approval. Director Loftsgaarden also requested the board include a new line in its spending plan to implement components of the strategic plan, and approve funds from the Governor's Priority line item in the spending plan to ensure a secure and resilient water future for all Oregonians.

Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the 2018 OWEB Strategic Plan as shown in the attachments. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:09:55)

Meg Reeves moved the board add a "Strategic Plan Implementation" line item to the 2017-2019 spending plan totaling $500,000, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of June 27, 2018. The motion was seconded by Jan Lee. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:04:55)

Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board approve $65,450 from the Governor's Priority line item in the 2017-2019 spending plan to support the Governor's work to ensure a secure and resilient water future for all Oregonians, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of June 27, 2018. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:06:15)

G. Executive Director's Update (Audio = 2:07:30)

G-1: Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Co-Chair Will Neuhauser updated the board on the rulemaking activities of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

G-2: Jason Robison provided the board with an update on the multi-state trip to Washington D.C. to meet with federal agencies and Oregon delegations to discuss the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund and the Farm Bill.

F. Technical Assistance Grants – Administrative Rules (Audio = 2:45:00)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein presented administrative rules for the technical assistance grants for board consideration and approval.

Jason Robison moved the board approve the technical assistance grant administrative rules as amended in Attachment C to the Technical Assistance Grants Administrative

Rules staff report with an amendment to add the words, "or the Director" after "by the Board" in OAR 695-030-0085 (1) The motion was seconded by Co-Chair Randy Labbe. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:08:10)

I. 2017-2019 Council Capacity Awards – Lower Columbia Watershed Council (Audio = 3:09:40)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff came before the board to request a second year of funding for the Lower Columbia Watershed Council's 2017-2019 Council Capacity grant, including an additional $3,500 to pay for a consulting report to share with other councils the lessons learned from their new, unique approach.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board award $50,847.50 of Council Capacity grant funds to the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council for the remainder of the 2017-2019 biennium in grant agreement #218-002. The motion was seconded by Laura Masterson. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:22:00)

J. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) – Upper Grande Ronde Request (Audio = 3:22:45)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams requested the board carryforward funds associated with the Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership's 2015-2017 Implementation FIP award, specifically for the Hall Ranch Restoration project.

Will Neuhauser moved the board carry forward $339,887 from grant #216-8205-12639 to the 2017-2019 biennium for the Hall Ranch Restoration project. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:29:10)

H. 2017-2019 Spending Plan Additions (Audio = 3:30:15)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden, Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy, Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff, and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho requested the board approve receipt of funds from the following programs:

- $1,000,000 from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries' Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund;
- $1,000,000 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program;
- $60,000 from Natural Resources Conservation Service and Oregon Department of Forestry for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program; and
- $291,000 from Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission funding for monitoring efforts in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve receipt and distribution of the Federal Fiscal Year 2018 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund grant in the identified categories of OWEB's 2017-2019 Spending Plan as outlined in the 2017-2019 Spending Plan Update staff report. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:50:45)

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve receipt of funding as noted in Table I of the 2017-2019 Spending Plan Update staff report, as amended for up to $60,000, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through the appropriate agreements, with award dates listed in Table I. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:52:30)

K. Land Acquisition Grant Program – 2017 Portfolio Monitoring and Rulemaking (Audio = 3:54:45)

K-1. Grant Program Manager Eric Williams presented a summary of 2017 Land Acquisition portfolio monitoring and consideration for future monitoring. (Audio = 3:55:10)

K-2. Grant Program Manager Eric Williams requested the board authorize rulemaking for Land Acquisition grants. (Audio = 4:14:55)

> Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board authorize rulemaking for the OWEB Land Acquisition grants. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 4:16:05)

L. Public Comment (Audio = 4:16:40)

Kaola Swanson from Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) addressed the board to introduce herself as a new member of the PFT team based in Portland, and to thank the board for their support of the Mountcrest Forest Project.

Kelley Beamer, Executive Director from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), also came before the board to provide an update on the activities of land trust community. She announced that COLT will be starting their next strategic plan in January with the goal of reaching one million Oregonians. She invited the board to join COLT on tour of several different conservation properties throughout the summer to meet landowners and hear their stories. She discussed how the Conservation Partnership activated their networks to solicit opinion letters that were published around the state to endorse the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund program. Beamer also shared that the Conservation Partnership reserved the lobby of the Oregon Capitol Building on February 22nd, 2019, to engage the public and legislators for the 20th anniversary of Measure 66 and help share the story of conservation investments.

M. OWEB Agency Request Budget (Audio = 4:25:45)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden requested the board's approval of budget proposals that will be included in OWEB's Agency Request Budget to the Governor for the 2019-2021 biennium.

> Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the budget proposals included in Attachment B of the 2019-2021 Agency Request Budget staff report for inclusion in OWEB's 2019-2021 Agency Request Budget, as amended with referrals to the strategic plan. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 5:05:40)

N. FIP Update – Partnership Learning Project Phase II (Audio = 5:06:20)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff and Jennifer Arnold of Reciprocity Consulting provided an update on the Partnership Learning Project that is being led by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. This Phase II update focused on the lessons learned from evaluation of the six Implementation FIPs.

O. Other Business (Audio = 6:01:15)

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m. by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser. (Audio =6:03:20)

October 16-17, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting
Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members
Chair Alan Henning, Stephen Brandt, Rosemary Furfey, Debbie Hollen, and Jason Robison

Background
The Monitoring Subcommittee oversees work associated with both open solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring (EM) and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) monitoring. They also advise staff about improvements to monitoring grant-making processes.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter
The subcommittee met on July 24 and September 18, 2018. In September, a portion of the meeting was a joint discussion with the Operating Capacity subcommittee. The monitoring subcommittee discussed the following topics during its meetings:

- Introduction of Lisa Appel, OWEB's new Conservation Outcomes Specialist;
- June board meeting debrief, including a shared need between the states for ongoing, long-term monitoring of restoration actions and the value of coordinated monitoring;
- Implementation FIP monitoring with Bonneville Environmental Foundation, including progress with the six I-FIPs to prioritize monitoring and reporting needs—identified through the results chain process—that will be addressed with supplemental funding;
- Retrospective analyses with local partners to 'tell the story' of OWEB's investments (e.g., fish passage in the Rogue and Warner basins; instream in the Coos, McKenzie, and West Fork Smith watersheds; oak and prairie restoration in the Willamette Valley; and floodplain reconnection in Meacham Creek); partners are submitting applications and the first stories are anticipated in early 2019;
- Recent improvements to online grant applications and guidance for monitoring grants to address feedback received during the monitoring application guidance process; and
- The monitoring framework for Strategic Implementation Areas that has been developed by an interagency team under the Coordinated Streamside Management initiative.

In July and September, the committee provided feedback about the proposed evaluation approach for monitoring the results of past operating capacity investments in watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts (SWCD). This approach is being developed in consultation with Dialogues in Action, as they advise the agency about methods for tracking progress of strategic plan implementation, and Oregon Department of Agriculture, given their involvement with SWCDs.

In September, the monitoring subcommittee reviewed and commented on a draft of high-priority next steps that emerged from the tidegate literature review completed by OSU. The revised list will be presented to the board in October.

Future items for the subcommittee's agenda include: continued tracking of next steps from past monitoring work, possible new areas for programmatic effectiveness monitoring, and tracking of strategic plan implementation. The group will meet again on November 12, 2018.

To Be Presented at the October 2018 Board Meeting by:
Alan Henning, Subcommittee Chair

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

October 16-17, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting
Focused Investment Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members
Chair Jason Robison, Alan Henning, Gary Marshall, Will Neuhauser, Ron Alvarado, Paul Henson, Bruce Buckmaster

Background
The Focused Investment Subcommittee focuses on issues related to the Focused Investment Program (FIP), including Development and Implementation FIPs, and the effectiveness of these programs.

Summary of Focused Investment Subcommittee Work this Quarter
The subcommittee met on September 14 and discussed the following topics:

- The 2019-2021 Implementation FIP Solicitation process – Staff described the evaluation process for the ten Implementation FIP proposals. Expert review teams have met to evaluate proposals and provided ratings based on criteria described in administrative rules. Staff will compile the reviews and present them to the FIP Subcommittee and the applicants. The subcommittee will have a call November 2 to ask clarifying questions on the application reviews; and the subcommittee will meet in public session November 7-8 to interview applicants and rank the applications for board consideration at the January 15-16 board meeting. The subcommittee meeting will be chaired by Will Neuhauser.
- Plans for updating the Board-designated ecological priorities for FIP program –Staff noted that current priorities were established in 2015, and administrative rules state that the priorities shall be approved at least every five years. The subcommittee discussed initial thoughts on obtaining public input on the priorities, and if necessary, the process for making adjustments to the priorities ahead of an anticipated Implementation FIP solicitation in 2020, so that any changes can be incorporated into the solicitation.
- Implementation FIP reporting to the board – Staff described the process by which the current Implementation FIPs will conduct biennial reporting to the board. At the January 15-16, 2019 meeting, a written report and presentation will be provided to the board by each partnership. At the April 16-17, 2019 meeting, updated FIP budgets and work plans will be provided to the board.
- Development FIP Solicitation-Staff noted that consultations with partnerships interested in the Development FIP program are underway, with applications due October 22. The board will be making decisions on grant awards for this solicitation at the January 15-16, 2019 meeting.
- The subcommittee will meet again on November 2, 2018.

To Be Presented at the October 2018 Board Meeting by:
Jason Robison, Subcommittee Chair

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

October 16-17, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting
Operating Capacity Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members
Chair Debbie Hollen, Jan Lee, Laura Masterson, and Liza Jane McAlister

Background
The Operating Capacity subcommittee focuses on issues related to watershed council and soil and water conservation district operating capacity grants, monitoring of capacity investments, support for the statewide partnership organizations, and organizational collaboration grants.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter
The subcommittee met in joint session with the monitoring committee in September. A summary of that meeting is provided in the monitoring committee staff report.

The subcommittee met on September 18 and discussed the 2019-2021 Council Capacity grant cycle and changes to the guidance document. The subcommittee has no concerns with the proposed changes, which will be discussed by the board during agenda item E.

The subcommittee will meet again on November 1, 2018.

To Be Presented at the October 2018 Board Meeting by:
Debbie Hollen, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact
Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator
courtney.shaff@oregon.gov or 503-986-0046

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item E – Council Capacity Grant Guidance Updates
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will brief the board about updates to the 2019-2021 biennium Council Capacity grant guidance and seek board approval of the updates.

II. Background

In July 2014, the board adopted administrative rules and guidance for council capacity grants, which help support the operating capacity of effective watershed councils. Biennial grants have now been awarded twice under the revised program, and the 2019-2021 biennium grant offering will be announced in December 2018. Many technological updates have occurred at OWEB since the revised program was launched, including the development of an online application. Many of the proposed program changes (Attachment A) are in response to moving council capacity grants into the online application system, and based on feedback from applicants, staff, and reviewers.

III. Program Updates

A. Online Application

Staff have been working with the new online application builder tool to move the council capacity grant application into OWEB's online application system. Testing of the new application will occur in October with any needed changes based on feedback from testers occurring in November. The two most significant changes are:

1. The merging of the eligibility and application deadlines. One deadline will be easier for staff and applicants to manage and will work effectively within the structure of the online application system;
2. The elimination of the annual work plan update. In its place a progress report will be submitted only by councils that are placed in the reduced funding category.

B. Merit Criteria

Currently there are five merit criteria:

1. Effective management
2. Effective governance
3. Progress in planning

4. Progress toward on-the-ground restoration, and
5. Progress toward community engagement for the purposes of on-the-ground restoration.

Staff propose to merge the effective management and effective governance criteria into a single criterion entitled, "Effective Management and Governance." These criteria refer to the management and governance of the organization and its staff. Two biennia of evaluating these criteria have demonstrated that they are very closely related and it is difficult to evaluate one separate from the other. This change will make the merit evaluation process clearer for staff, applicants, and reviewers.

C. Simplify Guidance Document Language

The council capacity grant guidance document contains a significant amount of information regarding the history of the program, why program changes were made, and how to apply using a different application system. Now that we are entering into the third biennium under the program revisions, much of that information is not necessary for applicants to understand when applying for a grant. Staff propose to update and simplify language in the new version of the document. The goals are to 1) shorten the document and make it easier to read, 2) align guidance with the online application system, and 3) remove background information that is captured in other locations.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the changes to the 2019-2021 council capacity grant program and guidance document.

Attachments

A. Summary of council capacity grant guidance changes.
B. Draft 2019-2021 Council Capacity Grant Guidance document

Summary of Proposed Changes to Council Capacity Grant Guidance Document for 2019-2021

Background, Page 2

1. Updated and simplified background information and removed references to the 2010 Strategic Plan.

Definitions, Pages 3-4

1. Changed community engagement to stakeholder engagement and aligned definition to stakeholder engagement application rules.
2. Removed examples under restoration, stakeholder engagement, and organizational development and management.
3. Removed reorganized council.

Eligibility Criteria, Pages 3-7

1. Simplified background information.
2. Removed all information related to eligibility review deadline. This deadline has been merged with the application deadline.
3. Removed background information on geographic and population criteria.
4. Removed information on legal entity, now captured through our grant management processes.
5. Simplified the eligibility review process since it now will occur when the application is submitted online.

How to Apply for a Council Capacity Grant, Page 7

1. Simplified to only include information about how to apply through the online application system and the application deadline.

Merit Evaluation Process, Page 8

1. The initial OWEB evaluation will occur over 2 days, with all RPRs meeting together to discuss the councils. This will help provide a statewide context during the review and increase consistency.
2. Removed references to two-year work plan. The guidance now only references the application.
3. Removed references to the annual work plan update; this will no longer be required.

Merit Criteria, Pages 8-10

1. Merged the effective governance and management criteria, resulting in changing from 5 to 4 merit criteria.
2. Additional examples were added under all criteria.
3. Changed references from limiting factors to action plan and strategic plan.

Summary of Proposed Changes to Council Capacity Grant Guidance Document for 2019-2021

Use of Funds, Page 13

1. Clarified the types of outreach activities that are eligible and that education activities are not eligible.

Grant Agreement Conditions, Page 13

1. Removed references to online work plan update.
2. Added language to require all grantees to send all meeting announcements to OWEB Project Manager.

- Removed language around insurance requirements. These are now captured in all grant agreements.
- If the OWEB Project Manager does not receive meeting notices, quarterly payments will be held until the information is received.

3. Required all councils that are in the reduced funding category to submit a progress report halfway through the biennium.
4. Clarified what is eligible and not eligible under education, outreach, and stakeholder engagement.

OWEB Grant Management Changes

- OWEB RPRs will attend at least two meetings a biennium of any council in the reduced funding category.

2019-2021 Guidance for Outcome-Based Watershed Council Operating Capacity Grants

How to use this Guidance

On July 29, 2014, the OWEB Board adopted 1) Oregon Administrative Rules 695-040-0010 through 0150 for Outcome-Based Watershed Council Operating Capacity Grants (Council Capacity Grants), and 2) this Guidance document. OWEB staff will use this Guidance in administering the Council Capacity Grant program.

In making determinations under this Guidance, OWEB will consider the spirit and intent of Oregon statutes defining watershed councils, Council Capacity Grant rules, the goals and objectives OWEB seeks to achieve through Council Capacity Grants, the Board's policy direction, and this Guidance.

A watershed council that wants to apply for a Council Capacity Grant should read this Guidance to determine:

1. Whether the council is eligible to apply,
2. How to apply,
3. How the application and the council will be evaluated, and
4. How funding decisions are made.

Guidance Updates

This Guidance will be periodically updated by the OWEB Board as needed. The Board delegates to OWEB staff the authority to make **non-policy updates**, such as deadlines for eligibility and application materials; staff contact information; website links; and correction of typos and errors.

Contact Information
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OWEB Capacity Programs Coordinator
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OWEB's Website: https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Pages/index.aspx

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Background

Operating Capacity Investments are a core element of OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy. Council Capacity Grants:

- Help support operating costs of effective watershed councils;
- Are performance and outcome-based; and
- Contain high standards for eligibility, reporting and accountability.

OWEB envisions a statewide watershed restoration system that is resilient, sustainable and achieves ecological outcomes. Experience gained from supporting watershed work since 1997, and studies of successful watershed groups, demonstrate this vision can be achieved with watershed councils that:

- Are strong organizations with access to diverse skillsets.
- Have broad and deep support from local and regional communities.
- Engage a balance of interested and affected people, businesses, and communities in their watershed to participate in voluntary, cooperative conservation.
- Secure diversified funding and/or build strategic collaborations with other councils and/or natural resource groups to increase collective local capacity.

II. Definitions

These terms are used throughout this Guidance. Additional definitions are provided in Council Capacity Grant rules OAR 695-040-0020.

A. Coordinating council
A council that provides support to, and coordinates the work of, multiple councils. The coordinating council's governing body includes at least one member from each council participating in the coordinating council.

B. Membership organization
An organization with a defined group of individuals who play a role in the governance of the organization (i.e., by voting for a board of directors or other governing body that is responsible for the governance of the council).

C. Local government
Defined in ORS 174.116(1)(a) as all cities, counties and local service districts located in this state, and all administrative subdivisions of those cities, counties and local service districts.

D. Council's governing body
Means the group of people who have the responsibility to a) ensure that the council meets legal requirements, b) support successful achievement of the council's goals, and c) create a structure, policies, and procedures that support good governance.

E. On-the-ground watershed restoration
Activities with the objective of altering the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of the landscape in order to improve ecological process and function.

F. Stakeholder engagement
Activities with the purpose to communicate and build ongoing, permanent relationships with landowners, organizations, and the community in the watershed for the purposes of carrying our eligible restoration and acquisition projects, or programs that lead to development of eligible projects.

G. Organizational development and management
Activities with the objective of improving the council's organizational effectiveness and health.

III. Eligibility Criteria

Which Councils Are Eligible to Apply for Council Capacity Grants

A. Purpose of Eligibility Criteria: OAR 695-040-0030
Eligibility criteria define how OWEB will determine whether a watershed council is eligible to apply for a Council Capacity Grant. *The eligibility criteria do not limit or control the existence or creation of watershed councils*. Watershed councils may form around the state according to ORS 541.910 and 541.890(15); **however, OWEB shall not accept an application for a Council Capacity Grant unless OWEB determines the council or group of councils meets the eligibility criteria.**

Eligibility criteria seek to ensure that OWEB's council capacity investment:

Is an effective and accountable use of public funds;

Supports councils that meet the intent of Oregon statutes defining watershed councils; and

Encourages strategic collaboration to build collective local capacity for watershed restoration.

A. OWEB Determination of Eligibility for a Group of Councils with One Council Capacity Grant
OWEB's eligibility review is simpler for multiple councils that operate collectively because there is a coordinating council that supports actions of all the councils.

1. **Group of Councils Operating Collectively**
   If OWEB determines two or more councils operate collectively, OWEB will conduct eligibility review only for the coordinating council serving as applicant. **The coordinating council is responsible for ensuring all participating councils operate in alignment with the coordinating council's bylaws or charter to the extent necessary for the participating councils to meet the eligibility criteria.**

   a. OWEB shall determine whether councils operate collectively by reviewing the bylaws or charter of the coordinating council and finding all of the following covered in the bylaws or charter:

      i. There is a coordinating council as defined in this Guidance; and

      ii. One Council Action Plan covers the work of all councils.

2. **Group of Councils Operating Independently**
   a. If OWEB determines the councils operate independently, each council is required to meet all eligibility criteria described (except Geographic Area and Population, which the group of councils must meet). If one or more independent council does not meet all eligibility criteria, then none of the councils can apply for a Council Capacity Grant during the upcoming cycle.

b. OWEB shall determine whether councils operate independently by reviewing each council's bylaws or charter and, if necessary, using OWEB's knowledge as a funder, to verify:

i. Each council has its own council coordinator or executive director;

ii. There is no coordinating council.

IV. Eligibility Criteria and OWEB Review

OAR 695-040-0030

A. Local government designation as a watershed council

OWEB will determine local government designation by reviewing the local government ordinance or minutes of a local government action and reviewing the map of the geographic area designated by the county.

1. For watershed councils previously awarded a Watershed Council Support Grant, the council shall be designated as a watershed council by a local government.
2. For new or reorganized watershed councils, the council shall be designated as a watershed council by a county commission, county board, or county court. The documentation submitted to OWEB shall include a map of the geographic area designated by the county commission, board, or court.

B. Geographic Area and Population

1. A geographic area served by a council or group of councils can change. However, to be eligible, OWEB shall determine that a council or group of councils serves an area:
   a. In which a council or group of councils previously received a Watershed Council Support Grant or Council Capacity Grant; and
   b. That is the same or larger than the geographic area served by a council or group of councils as of July 1, 2013. To make the determination of "the same or larger," OWEB shall use the OWEB Watershed Council Map which was updated in June 2014 to correct council boundaries based on information supplied by councils; and
   c. That includes a minimum population of 500 individuals within its designated boundary or boundaries.
      i. If there is a question on population OWEB will use the most current U.S. Census Bureau's census block shapefile for the state of Oregon and if necessary, absentee landowner information from county records.
2. No more than one applicant shall be eligible in the same geographic area.

C. Council Action Plan Adopted by Governing Body

OWEB shall determine whether the council has a Council Action Plan by reviewing the plan(s) and evidence of governing body adoption on file in OWEB's records, and determining whether the plan(s) meet the minimum criteria described below.

1. A Council Action Plan is **NOT** a watershed assessment and is not the 2 year council capacity work plan. Action plans are living documents that will change over time as projects are implemented and new priorities arise. **At a minimum**, the plan or set of plans need to identify and prioritize ecological problems the council seeks to address, and voluntary on-the-ground

watershed restoration activities the council will conduct to address those problems. The plan(s) can either be for the entire watershed or for sub watersheds, depending on the focus areas of the council. Council Action Plans may also contain other goals and objectives such as stakeholder engagement efforts, monitoring, and funding strategies for priority restoration work.

D. Organizational Structure and Business Operations

OWEB shall review the bylaws or charter and policies and procedures ("governing documents") to determine whether they contain the required topics. [OAR 695-040-0030(5)]

OWEB shall also determine whether the governing documents were adopted by the council's governing body. Acceptable evidence of governing body adoption is (a) Meeting minutes that describe the governing body's adoption of the governing documents; or (b) A signature page contained within the governing documents and signed by the Board Chair or Secretary, dated, and indicating the action taken by the governing body.

1. **OWEB Determination**

   Council governing documents shall cover all topics in OAR 695-040-0030(5) in order for OWEB to determine the council is eligible to apply.

2. **Topics Covered in Current Bylaws or Charter**

   a. Council Mission

   A council may have multiple purposes in its mission. However, at a minimum, the bylaws or charter shall indicate that "a primary purpose of the council is to work collaboratively with communities and landowners to develop and carry out voluntary watershed protection, restoration, enhancement, and stakeholder engagement activities."

   b. Governing Body and Officers

   The bylaws or charter shall contain the following topics:

   i. How the governing body is selected;

   ii. Titles of officers, e.g., Chair, President, Secretary, Treasurer;

   iii. How officers are selected;

   iv. Who is eligible for the governing body;

   v. Who is eligible to be an officer;

   vi. Length of service on governing body;

   vii. Length of service for officers;

   viii. Powers of governing body;

   ix. Powers of officers;

   x. Minimum number or frequency of governing body meetings;

   xi. Decision making process of governing body; and

   xii. A statement that the council intends its governing body to include a diverse range of geographic areas and community interests in the watershed in order to engage a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed as required by ORS 541.910(2).

c. Process for Amending Bylaws or Charter

The bylaws or charter shall describe a process for amending the bylaws or charter.

d. Membership Organization Provisions

If the council is a membership organization, the bylaws or charter shall also include the following topics:

i. Who is eligible for watershed council membership;

ii. Minimum frequency of council membership meetings;

iii. The decision making role of the membership; and

iv. Mechanisms to remove members from the watershed council or terminate the voting rights of members. The bylaws or charter may provide for either removal or voting right termination, or provide for both.

3. **Topics Covered in Current Policies and Procedures**

a. A list of the geographic areas and community interests the council intends to include on its governing body in order to engage a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed pursuant to ORS 541.910(2).

b. A policy that the council operates as an open and inclusive organization. The policy shall include at a minimum the following elements:

i. Inviting the public to council meetings, and

ii. The council, upon request, provides the public with meeting agendas and records of decisions. This does not include personnel discussions and actions.

c. A policy that the council, or its fiscal sponsor, uses Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

d. A policy that the council does not rely on litigation to compel regulatory enforcement as a means to implement the council's mission.

i. Reason: Council Capacity Grants help support councils that engage people and communities to participate in collaborative, voluntary restoration and protection of native fish or wildlife habitat and natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows. The role of watershed councils has been to bring people together to solve problems.

ii. Councils that use litigation to pursue protection, enhancement or restoration of watershed health (for example, litigation to enforce environmental regulations) are not eligible for Council Capacity Grants.

iii. Litigation necessary to enforce contracts is not considered litigation to compel regulatory enforcement as a means to implement the council's mission.

V. OWEB Eligibility Review

OAR 695-040-0090

A. Eligibility Review

OWEB staff shall complete the eligibility review of Council Capacity grant applications and notify all councils of the results within one month of the application deadline. Councils determined to be ineligible may appeal to OWEB's Executive Director through the process described below.

B. Appeal Process

1. **Opportunity to Appeal to OWEB Executive Director**
   If a council disputes the determination it is not eligible to apply and wishes to appeal, it may appeal to the OWEB Director (OAR 695-040-0090(2)). The appeal shall follow all of the requirements below.

   a. Appeal by the Deadline: April 19, 2019.

   b. Appeal Materials: The council's appeal letter and any attachments shall be sent to OWEB by delivery service that provides documentation of receipt (e.g., email that includes receipt of delivery confirmation, or registered or certified letter). To be considered, the letter shall be received by OWEB by the appeal deadline. Letters of support will not be reviewed and should not be submitted.

   c. Appeal Review and Decision: OWEB's Executive Director will review the council's letter and any attached information. A council's appeal shall be granted only where the Executive Director determines the council provided clear and convincing evidence that council meets all the eligibility criteria described in OAR 695-040-0030.

2. **Future Eligibility Review Requests Allowed**
   Councils determined to be ineligible for a particular Council Capacity Grant offering may request eligibility review during future Council Capacity Grant offerings.

VI. How to Apply for a Council Capacity Grant

OAR 695-040-0100

A. Deadline to Apply: March 18, 2019

Applications are only accepted through our online system.

An OGMS login is required to access the online grant application. If no login exists for an organization, please email Leilani Sullivan at Leilani.Sullivan@oregon.gov to request one.

Log in to the Online Application

Online Application: https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/oweb/oa/

Guidance to help you fill out the application is always available in the top navigation bar of the online application. An application template is also available after you log in and choose "Create a New Application."

VII. Merit Evaluation

695-040-0110

A. Goals of OWEB's Merit Evaluation

1. Ensure strategic and accountable investment of public funds;
2. Encourage continuous improvement in watershed councils' organizational management, operating structure, and functions, and the planning and implementation of on-the-ground watershed protection, restoration, enhancement, and stakeholder engagement activities; and
3. Ensure watershed councils are working toward strengthening their role in watersheds through activities focusing on council resilience, leadership, collaboration, and representing a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed as required by ORS 541.910(2).

B. Information Considered in Merit Review

The four merit criteria below guide OWEB's evaluation of a council's progress and performance. OWEB will consider:

- The Council Capacity Grant application.
- OWEB staff's knowledge of council performance including information gained through the council's OWEB project grants and OWEB staff's attendance at council meetings and events.
- Any supplemental information provided by the council in response to OWEB's request.
- If requested by OWEB, interviews with council officers and staff.

C. Merit Criteria

1. **Merit Criterion #1: Effective Governance and Management**

   The council has effective bylaws or charter and policies and procedures, and follows them. The council includes a balance of interested and affected persons from the watershed on its governing body. The council regularly evaluates and takes action to improve its organization including operations and policies.

   The governing body takes action to ensure the council meets legal obligations and requirements; support successful achievement of the council's goals; and create organizational structure, policies, and procedures to support good governance. The council's governing body provides effective oversight of staff and contractors.

   Evidence of Effective Governance and Management

   a. The council holds elections according to its bylaws or charter.

   b. The council holds governing body meetings according to its bylaws or charter, and its governing body meets at least four times a year.

   c. The council operates as an open and inclusive organization according to its policies and procedures, including inviting the public to council meetings by publishing its meeting schedule in advance of meetings in a manner that provides adequate notice to the general public.

   d. The council, upon request, provides the public with records of its meetings and decisions.

   e. The council completes a self-evaluation or other assessment of its governing body at least once every two years.

f. The council's governing body includes a mix of different interests which may include the geographic areas and community interests identified in the council's policies and procedures.

g. The council annually reviews its policies and procedures.

h. The council adopts an annual budget and regularly reviews that budget.

i. The board regularly examines the nonprofit financial statements and discusses questions, concerns, issues, i.e. the board takes responsibility for the financial health of the nonprofit.

j. The council has defined roles and responsibilities for its governing body and officers and follows them.

k. The council has on file a current position description or set of deliverables for the council's executive director or coordinator.

l. The council has personnel policies and follows them.

m. The council coordinator or executive director is annually evaluated by the council.

n. If the council is a membership organization,

i. The council holds membership meetings according to its bylaws or charter, and

ii. The council membership meetings include agendas, attendance records, and records of decisions, and the council keeps this information on file and makes it available to the public upon request.

2. **Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning**

In planning its priority work, the council makes progress in engaging a balance of interested and affected persons in the watershed. The council uses its planning documents, such as the action plan, strategic plan, and other relevant documents, to identify and implement on-the-ground watershed restoration and stakeholder engagement projects. The council regularly evaluates its action plan and work plans and makes adjustments to respond to changes and challenges.

Evidence of Progress in Planning

a. The council's 2-year work plan is reviewed and adopted by the council's governing body.

b. Work plan projects are linked to the council's action plan and/or strategic plan.

c. Council work plans are developed with consideration of the council's staffing and organizational resources.

d. The council capacity grant application demonstrates the council is working with a mix of watershed stakeholders to plan and prioritize work to address current needs. Example: working with a technical team, or a council project committee, to review and update the council's action plan(s).

e. The council has a succession plan for board members and the executive director/coordinator.

3. **Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration**

The council's actions result in progress in completing priority, on-the-ground watershed restoration work.

Evidence of Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration (at a minimum a-c below; OWEB may request additional information if there are questions or concerns whether there is progress in on-the-ground restoration)

a. The application demonstrates the council's actions resulted in progress toward completing priority on-the-ground restoration projects.

b. The application demonstrates the council has a clear niche related to on-the-ground restoration within the broader watershed community.

c. The council's on-the-ground watershed restoration activities are linked to the council's action plan and/or strategic plan.

4. **Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes** The council's actions result in progress in achieving specific stakeholder engagement objectives.

   Evidence of Progress in Stakeholder Engagement (at a minimum a-c below; OWEB may request additional information if there are questions or concerns whether there is progress in stakeholder engagement)

   a. The council has identified priority stakeholder engagement activities and is making progress completing those activities.

   b. The application demonstrates the council has a clear nice related to stakeholder engagement within the broader watershed community.

   c. The council's stakeholder engagement activities are linked to the council's action plan and/or strategic plan or other stakeholder engagement plan.

D. Merit Evaluation 695-040-0110

1. **Initial Merit Evaluation**

   a. Initial Review Panel

   The Capacity Programs Coordinator will review all Council Capacity Grant applications.

   Regional Program staff will review all applications within their OWEB region.

   Focused Investment staff will review all applications of councils that have received OWEB Focused Investment grants.

   The Small Grant Program Coordinator will participate in the Initial Merit Evaluation and provide input on all the applications.

   b. Initial Merit Evaluation

   The staff identified above will meet evaluate merit by considering:

   i. The Council Capacity Grant application;

   ii. OWEB staff's knowledge of the council, including but not limited to the council's history of performance on project and Council Capacity Grants.

   If OWEB staff do not have a consensus merit evaluation, the Capacity Programs Coordinator, considering input from all staff involved in the review, will determine the initial merit evaluation. This evaluation will be communicated to the OWEB Executive Director prior to notifying councils.

   c. Notice of initial merit evaluation

   Notice of Initial Merit Review Results: Week of April 22, 2019

   i. If OWEB determines the councils meets all of the merit criteria it will notify the council coordinator via email that the council it met all merit criteria and will be recommended for funding at the highest funding level.

ii. If OWEB determines the council does not meet all the merit criteria; OWEB has follow-up questions; or the council is a new or reorganized council, OWEB will send the council coordinator and council chair a follow-up letter and email including the following information:

a) Reasons for determination;

b) Questions raised during initial merit evaluation;

c) Supplemental information requested by OWEB;

d) Information on the required interview for the Secondary Review Process. (see below)

e) Council Required Next Steps

(i) Submit requested materials to OWEB by May 15, 2019.

(ii) Schedule an interview for the council coordinator and council officers with OWEB. Secondary Review and Interviews will be scheduled for the following dates**:** May 29, 30, 31, June 3 and 4, 2019.

(iii) If OWEB does not receive requested materials by the deadline, the Secondary Review will take this into account.

(iv) The Secondary Review will focus on OWEB's questions and concerns. Councils should not bring additional materials and should not expect to make presentations during the interview.

2. **Secondary Review**

a. Secondary Review Panel

i. OWEB Capacity Programs Coordinator and Regional Program staff for councils in their OWEB region.

ii. External Reviewers: The panel will include two representatives with statewide perspectives, one who works east and one who works west of the Cascades. In addition, one representative from each OWEB region will be included as applicable.

iii. OWEB will send the following materials to panel members prior to the interview.

a) Council Capacity Grant application.

b) Additional information and documents provided by the council at OWEB's request.

c) OWEB memo summarizing the initial merit evaluation, questions and concerns, and topic areas to be covered in the interview.

b. The interview

The Secondary Review Panel will interview the council. The interview will focus on questions and concerns raised during the initial merit evaluation.

c. The discussion

Following the interview, the Secondary Review Panel will discuss whether the interview and additional materials provided by the council should change the initial merit evaluation. The external reviewers do not make funding recommendations to OWEB staff. Staff will consider feedback from the Secondary Review Panel when making merit evaluation determinations and funding recommendations to the OWEB Board.

3. **Notification of OWEB Merit Evaluation and Funding Recommendation0.**
   OWEB shall prepare brief summaries of the merit evaluations for each applicant. The evaluations and staff funding recommendations will be posted in OGMS at least 2 weeks before the OWEB Board meeting in which Council Capacity Grant awards will be considered.

VIII. Board Action on Eligible Applications

695-040-0120

A. Staff Recommendations and Board Awards
Staff funding recommendations and Board awards will be based on 1) the merit evaluation and 2) available funding.

B. Staff funding recommendations and Board awards may include:

1. **Full base award for councils that meet all merit criteria**
   - **a.** Councils meeting all merit criteria shall be placed in the highest merit category and be recommended for the same level of award.
2. **Reduced base funding for councils that do not meet all merit criteria**
   - **a.** Councils that do not meet all merit criteria shall be placed in the reduced funding merit category and recommended for the same level of award. The reduced funding base award will be 80% of the full base award. For example, if the full base award is $100,000, the reduced base award will be $80,000.
3. **Reduced base funding in third consecutive grant cycle results in "do not fund" ranking**
   - **a.** If a council or group of councils is placed in the reduced base funding category for two consecutive grant cycles and does not meet all merit criteria in the following grant cycle, it shall be placed in the "do not fund" category for that third grant cycle. If eligible, a "do not fund" council may apply in future grant cycles.
4. **Discretion to rank Do Not Fund (inadequate performance)**
   - **a.** OWEB has the discretion to place a council in the "do not fund" merit category at any time. Factors OWEB will consider in this placement include:
   - **b.** The council does not meet all merit criteria.
   - **c.** The council's history of performance over a period of years has resulted in little or no progress toward implementation and completion of on-the-ground watershed restoration projects.
   - **d.** The council's history of performance over a period of years has resulted in little or no progress toward implementation and completion of stakeholder engagement activities.
   - **e.** The council's history of organizational performance over a period of years has shown lack of board officer leadership, weak organizational structure, and/or poor organizational management.
   - **f.** The council has made little or no progress toward implementation and completion of organizational development and management activities.

C. OAR 695-040-0120(2)(d): Board Discretion on Larger Geographic Area
The Board has not adopted guidance to implement OAR 695-040-0120(3)(d), which provides Board discretion to award grants for larger geographic areas, and this section of the rules is not

currently implemented. Prior to implementation, this Guidance document will be updated through a process that includes public comment and Board adoption.

IX. Use of Funds

695-040-0130

Council Capacity Grants help fund staff, contractors and other costs of watershed councils. See OWEB's most recent Budget Categories Definitions and Policy document for additional information.

Outreach Activities

Measure 76 and ORS 541.956 authorize OWEB to make grants available for outreach activities that are necessary for carrying out eligible restoration and acquisition projects that protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitat or that protect or restore natural watershed or ecosystem functions in order to improve water quality or stream flows. To qualify as necessary for restoration or acquisition, the project must be tied to a specific geography, address clearly articulated habitat or watershed or ecosystem function goals for that geography, and identify a clear path toward achieving the restoration or acquisition measurable outcomes within a reasonable and specific timeframe. **PROJECTS WHOSE PRIMARY PURPOSE ARE EDUCATION ARE NOT ELIGIBLE**.

X. Grant Agreement Conditions

695-040-0140

A. Minimum grant agreement conditions for all Council Capacity Grants

1. Send all watershed council meeting announcements to the OWEB Project Manager.
2. Submit an annual report to all local government entities that designated the council. Upload each annual report and documentation it was shared (i.e. meeting agenda if the report was presented in person, a copy of a sent email if the report was submitted electronically) with the Council Capacity project completion report.
3. Complete the watershed council self-assessment form once a biennium. Upload the Summary Chart generated at completion of the assessment with the Council Capacity grant project completion report.
4. All councils that are placed in the reduced funding merit category will be required to submit a progress report halfway through the biennium.

B. Two or more independent councils submit written agreement

OWEB will not release a Council Capacity Grant agreement for a group of councils operating independently until the councils submit to OWEB a written agreement signed by the chair of each council. The agreement shall describe, at a minimum, 1) roles and responsibilities of each council in relation to the Council Capacity Grant work plan and reporting requirements, and 2) a plan for how the councils will allocate a Council Capacity Grant between them.

C. Other Conditions

Grant agreements may include conditions of funding such as progress reports or certain actions as a condition of receiving full funding. Conditions may allow OWEB staff to terminate the grant agreement if conditions are not met. OWEB staff would consult with the Executive Director before terminating a grant agreement.

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Spring 2018 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 40 restoration projects, 14 technical assistance projects, and 6 stakeholder engagement projects.

II. Spring 2018 Grant Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering solicited applications for Restoration, Technical Assistance, and Stakeholder Engagement. A total of 98 applications were received seeking nearly $14.5 million. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

B. 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.

OWEB then facilitated RRT meetings in each region for all grant types offered. Reviewers considered the likelihood of success of the proposed project based on evaluation criteria in rule. For restoration, this includes proposal clarity, technical soundness, watershed context, capacity of the applicant, and cost effectiveness. For stakeholder engagement, evaluation criteria include technical soundness, timeliness, cost effectiveness, capacity of the applicant, and engagement. 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 will forward to the board any written comments received from applicants regarding the RRT and staff recommendations.

III. Spring 2018 Grant Offering and Board Policy Decisions

A. Salmon License Plate Projects

Using the board's 2015 policy related to projects funded with Salmon License Plate dollars, staff recommend distributing $400,000 for this offering to two projects listed in Attachment B.

B. Sage-grouse Projects

At its April 2015 meeting, the board adopted a policy to make available at least $10 million through its granting programs over the next ten years in support of projects located in Oregon's sage steppe ecosystem directed to improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. For the Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering, there are four projects (219-4009, 219-5006, 219-5010, and 219-5016) recommended for funding that meet these criteria, requesting $419,736. Total funding awarded to sage-grouse projects in all categories since April 2015 is $6,509,619. If the recommended projects are awarded funding from the board, the new total will be $6,929,355.

IV. Funding Recommendations

The funding recommendations for the Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering are shown in Table 1. The remaining grant funds will be held for the final 2017-19 biennial grant offering.

Table 1: 2017-19 Spending Plan and Spring 2018 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	$16,059,920	$15,940,080	$7,971,795	$7,968,285
Technical Assistance	$4,000,000	$1,843,508	$2,156,492	$791,556	$1,364,936
Monitoring*	$3,100,000	$1,783,942	$1,316,058	$0	$1,316,058
Stakeholder Engagement	$700,000	$169,200	$530,800	$463,136	$67,664
TOTAL	$39,800,000	$19,856,570	$19,943,430	$9,226,487	$10,716,943

***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 C contains the number of applications recommended for funding by RRTs and staff by region and type, and the funding requests recommended by staff by region and type.

B. Spring 2018 Grant Offering – Funding Recommendations

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

Attachments

A. Grant Applications Submitted
B. Salmon License Plate Projects
C. RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations
D. Regions 1-6 Funding Recommendations

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
May 7, 2018 Open Solicitation Offering

Applications Received by Type

	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	3	5	5	13
Region 2	1	7	11	19
Region 3	4	5	5	14
Region 4	0	5	8	13
Region 5	1	5	18	24
Region 6	2	3	10	15
Totals	11	30	57	98

Dollar Amounts by Application Type

	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	84,597	252,001	1,446,548	$1,783,146
Region 2	169,792	322,074	3,463,646	$3,955,512
Region 3	176,460	289,749	860,441	$1,326,650
Region 4	0	308,211	1,925,265	$2,233,476
Region 5	78,710	219,408	1,762,982	$2,061,100
Region 6	63,815	183,002	1,827,506	$2,074,323
Totals	$573,374	$1,574,445	$11,286,388	$13,434,207

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Spring 2018 Grant Cycle Salmon License Plate Projects

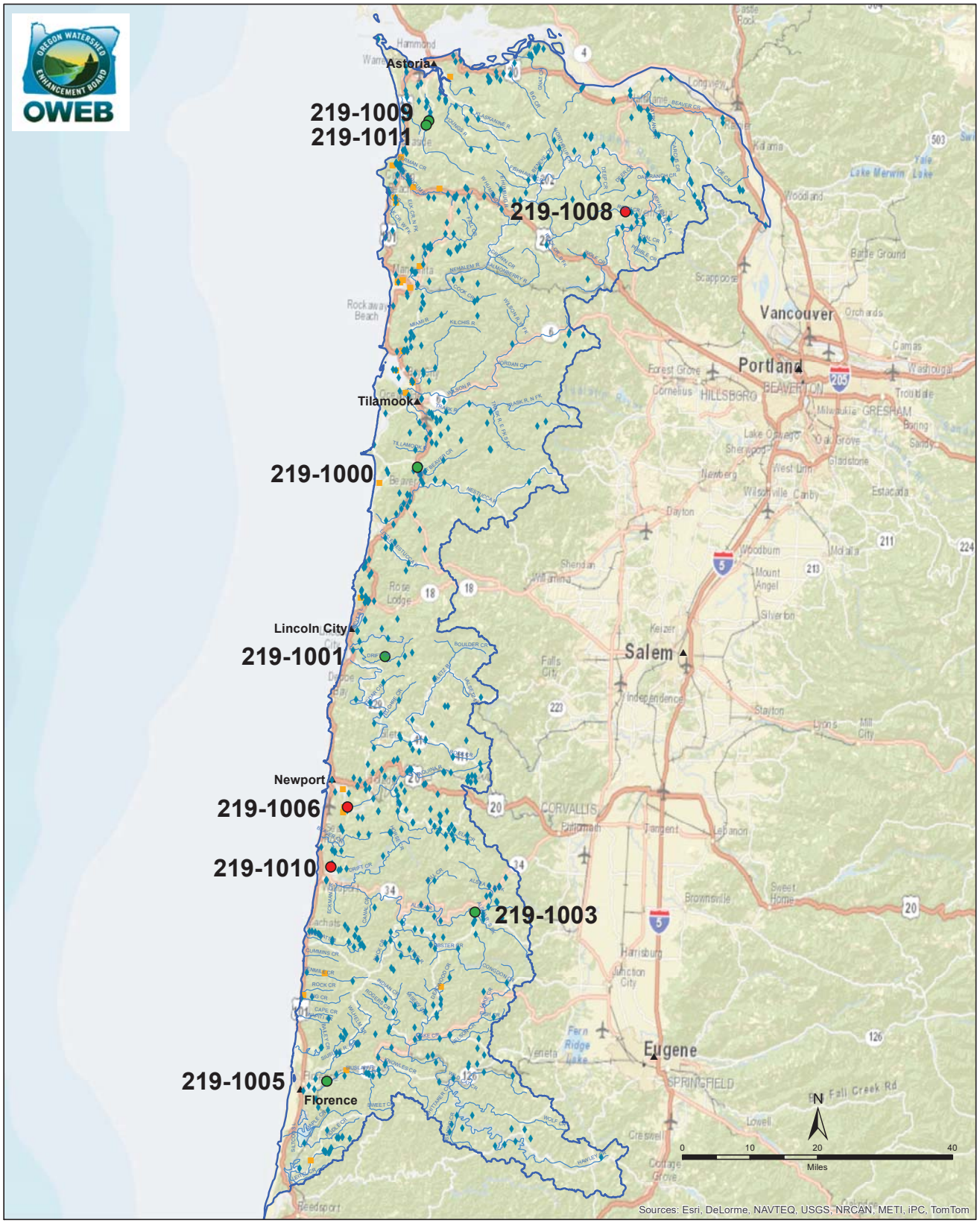
Application #	Title	Project Objectives	Total OWEB Grant	Salmon License Plate Contribution
219-1001	North Creek Aquatic Organism Passage Restoration	Replace a fish passage barrier to provide access to 13 miles of habitat for Coho, cutthroat, and steelhead.	$370,174	$200,000
219-2007	Seestrom Tidelands Restoration	Replace failing tidegates to restore 270 acres of critical winter habitat for anadromous fish.	$808,600	$200,000
			Total	**$400,000**

RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations
for the Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering

Region	Restoration			Technical Assistance			Stakeholder Engagement		
	RRT	Staff	%	RRT	Staff	%	RRT	Staff	%
Region 1	3	3	100%	4	2	50%	2	1	50%
Region 2	9	4	44%	6	3	50%	1	1	100%
Region 3	5	5	100%	4	2	50%	4	2	50%
Region 4	6	6	100%	4	3	75%	0	0	-
Region 5	13	13	100%	4	1	25%	1	1	100%
Region 6	9	9	100%	3	3	100%	1	1	100%
Total	**45**	**40**	**89%**	**25**	**14**	**56%**	**9**	**6**	**67%**

Region	Restoration	Technical Assistance	Stakeholder Engagement
Region 1	$831,908	$120,901	$42,312
Region 2	$1,977,078	$132,462	$169,792
Region 3	$861,849	$141,151	$125,588
Region 4	$1,295,477	$158,715	$0
Region 5	$1,280,382	$60,275	$78,710
Region 6	$1,725,101	$178,052	$46,734
Total	**$7,971,795**	**$1,034,812**	**$463,136**

North Coast - Region 1 Spring 2018 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendations

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

Previous Grants - 1998-2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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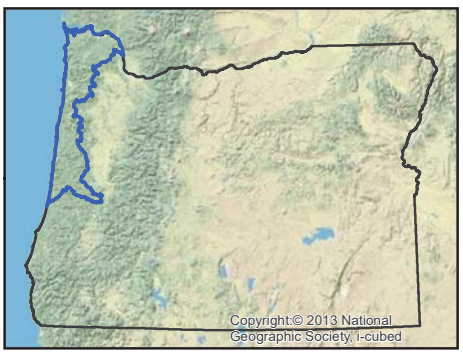

Region 1 - North Coast

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-1001	MidCoast WC	North Creek Aquatic Organism Passage Restoration	This project will replace a fish passage barrier on North Creek, a tributary of Drift Creek in the Siletz River basin, with a new structure that provides passage for all life stages of fish, including coho salmon, cutthroat, and steelhead trout. Access will be restored to 13 miles of habitat.	370,174	Lincoln
219-1000	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	Bear Creek Culvert Replacement	Access will be restored to 3 miles of habitat as this project will replace a fish passage barrier on Bear Creek, a tributary of the Nestucca River, with a new structure that provides passage for all life stages of fish, including coho salmon, and steelhead trout.	268,368	Tillamook
219-1003	MidCoast WC	Bummer Creek Stream, Floodplain, Wetland and Oak Savanna Restoration	This project will reconnect portions of Bummer Creek, a tributary of the South Fork Alsea River, with its floodplain and restore riparian habitats in order to address limiting factors for coho salmon and other aquatic species. Oak savanna and oak woodland habitat on the site will also be restored and enhanced.	193,366	Benton
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**831,908**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
		None			
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**831,908**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
219-1002	Tillamook Bay WC	Mill Creek Fish Passage Project	547,616	Tillamook
219-1004	Lincoln SWCD	Mill/Slack Creeks Riparian Enhancement Project and Tide Gate Removal	40,334	Lincoln

Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-1005	McKenzie River Trust	Waite Ranch TA 2018	Final designs for a 217 estuarine restoration project on the Siuslaw River will be produced. Geotechnical work, drawings, technical specifications will be developed to support the return of historic tidal exchange to the Waite Ranch property, providing critical habitat for Oregon coast coho salmon and other estuary dependent fish and wildlife.	46,436	North Coast
219-1009	North Coast WS Assn	Lower Columbia Chum SAP	This project will create a Strategic Action Plan for Columbia River Chum Salmon in the Lower Columbia watershed. The plan will identify and prioritize restoration projects that address limiting factors for the species.	74,465	Lower Columbia
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**120,901**	

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-1006	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	Yaquina Bay Native Olympia Oyster Restoration Project	A long-term plan will be developed to restore populations of the native Olympia oyster to Yaquina Bay. Data on habitat characteristics will be collected and optimum areas for restoration in the estuary will be identified.	49,945	North Coast
219-1008	Columbia SWCD	Rock Creek Restoration TA	This project will complete cultural resources work necessary for the development of a final design for restoration on Rock Creek, a tributary of the Nehalem River. The resulting restoration effort will restore riparian and floodplain habitats along the creek.	12,954	North Coast
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**183,800**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
219-1007	Upper Nehalem WC	Fishhawk Lake Replacement Fish Passage Construction Design	68,202	

Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
219-1011	North Coast WS Assn	Lower Columbia Chum Landowner Outreach	This project will conduct landowner outreach necessary for implementing the Lower Columbia Chum Strategic Action Plan. Landowners in areas prioritized for restoration will be engaged with the goal of building support for implementing chum recovery in the watershed.	42,312	Lower Columbia
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**42,312**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount**	**County**
219-1010	The Wetlands Conservancy	Bayview Oxbow	A long-term conservation strategy for the Bayview Oxbow area in the Alsea watershed will be developed through outreach with neighbors adjacent to existing protected land.	23,975	North Coast
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**66,287**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount**	**County**
219-1012	Columbia SWCD	Outreach Plan Implementation		18,310	Lower Columbia
Region 1 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**995,121**	**10.79%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**9,226,487**	

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1000-16332

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bear Creek Culvert Replacement

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $268,368

Total Cost: $500,368

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Bear Creek culvert replacement project is located on Tillamook County owned East Beaver Creek Road just east of the community of Hemlock. This culvert is the only remaining fish passage barrier on Bear Creek. Bear Creek drains a 1,600 acre watershed and enters East Beaver Creek near its confluence with West Beaver Creek, a tributary of the Nestucca River. From its headwaters on National Forest land, Bear Creek flows through private timber land and privately owned pastures. Bear Creek contains over 3.0 miles of anadromous fish habitat. The existing culvert is a corrugated metal pipe arch undersized for the stream that is approaching failure and is in critical condition. The project proposes to replace the aging, failing, undersized culvert with an appropriately sized bridge that meets Aquatic Organism Passage Standards and is sized at 1.5x Active Channel Width (ACW) for the replacement structure.Project partners include US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tillamook County and Nestucca, Neskowin and Sand Lake Watersheds Council (NNSL). US Forest Service, in cooperation with Tillamook County and NNSL, has developed an engineered design and channel restoration plan to replace this crossing with a bridge. US Forest Service will take the lead in preparing the project's federal permits. NNSL will prepare the county land-use form, ODFW fish passage permit, secure state ESA coverage for fish salvage and file and complete BOLI compliance forms. Tillamook County Public Works has provided survey work, design review, and will provide construction oversight site survey and 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 will provide ecological benefit for Oregon coast coho and other aquatic species, including Chinook and steelhead. There are three miles of cool water refugia habitat upstream of the crossing slated for replacement.
- Replacement of this crossing with a structure designed to Aquatic Organism Passage standards will address a priority fish passage issue. The structure ranked #13 out of 93 barriers identified in the Salmon SuperHwy project list.
- The project is a priority for Tillamook County and is an important access route for many landowners and a large dairy. Replacing the crossing will have social benefits, including emergency access and safety.
- The project has strong partnerships and the design process included consultation with the appropriate entities.

- The applicant has a proven track record by successfully implementing at least seven similar projects in recent years.

Concerns

- The design approach seems construction heavy, the application would benefit from more detail about why the chosen approach is necessary.
- The design provided with the application shows the streambed work tying into a natural wood/riffle at the downstream end. It is unclear how this structure would hold up over time and whether its eventual mobility would compromise the rest of the streambed design.

Concluding Analysis

The project will address an identified barrier to fish passage in a priority location with a design that adheres to commonly accepted Aquatic Organism Passage standards. The project designers indicated that recent design revisions addressed the concern related to tying into the natural wood structure at the downstream end. There is a high likelihood that the project team can implement a successful project as proposed to achieve the stated ecological outcomes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$268,368

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$268,368

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1001-16352

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Creek Aquatic Organism Passage Restoration

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: $370,174

Total Cost: $1,084,724

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will replace the only culvert crossing on a fish bearing stream in North Creek, a tributary to Drift Creek and the Siletz River. The current 12’ culvert was installed in the 1950's, and its dimensions measure to approximately one third of current standards for culverts. It is severely undersized and failing: The culvert was identified as a fish passage issue in 1961 by the Oregon Fish Commission because it is a complete barrier to juvenile fish passage, and a partial barrier to adult coho salmon, cutthroat, and steelhead trout. Additionally, its close proximity to the confluence of Drift Creek, 750 feet upstream, blocks passage for Pacific lamprey, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates to most of the North Creek basin.The new culvert will be a 50-foot wide, 15-foot-tall open bottom culvert set on concrete footings that will meet all federal and state fish passage requirements. The culvert will allow full upstream access to 3.4 miles of Oregon Coast coho salmon habitat, including 2.37 miles designated critical habitat, 5.4 miles of winter steelhead habitat, and 13 miles of sea-run cutthroat trout habitat. North Creek flows in its full extent through a watershed managed by the US Forest Service as a late successional reserve. Consequently, access will be provided to great juvenile rearing habitat with large pools, naturally recruited large woody debris, excellent shade cover, and cold water refugia sites.Project partners include the MidCoast WC, Salmon Drift Creek WC, USFS (Hebo Ranger District), Native Fish Society, Trout Unlimited Blue Backs Chapter, Drift Creek Camp, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District, ODFW/ODOT, and potentially (applications submitted) USFWS, The Nature Conservancy and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The North Creek crossing has been recognized as a priority for fish passage restoration for decades. Replacing this crossing will restore passage to a significant amount of habitat for a diversity of aquatic species.
- The project is supported by a partnership with engagement from the public, the Drift Creek Camp, and appropriate agencies. As a main user of the road, the Drift Creek Camp is an active partner and accepts the need to close the camp during construction. This avoids the need for a bypass, which saves a substantial amount in construction costs.
- There has been progress made in recent years with regards to design improvement, partnership building, and fundraising for the project. The effort is now poised for implementation.
- The riparian habitat upstream of the crossing is in federal ownership and designated as Late Successional Reserve.

- The applicant has capacity to complete the work and a successful track record of implementing similar projects.
- The designs are well-considered and adhere to commonly accepted standards of Aquatic Organism Passage.

Concerns

- When compared to the reference site, the proposed design for the streambed construction has comparably few steps and pools planned at longer distances. Providing additional steps for grade control consistent with the reference site is a preferable approach.

Concluding Analysis

Improving passage at the North Creek culvert has long been a priority for fish and wildlife agencies, and the project has generated significant public support from anglers. A strong partnership has developed between the associated agencies, road users, and organizations, thus improving the project's likelihood of success. The technically sound design for the replacement structure and associated streambed work will address passage problems to a significant amount of stream habitat. Concerns about the streambed grade control design, which appeared to conflict with reference site conditions as shown in the hydrology assessment, were addressed by the applicant and project designers. The project design plan now has a decreased interval between grade control structures by constructing additional steps without increasing the cost to OWEB.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$370,174

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$370,174

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1002-16361
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Mill Creek Fish Passage Project
Applicant: Tillamook Bay WC
Region: North Coast
County: Tillamook
OWEB Request: $547,616
Total Cost: $773,216

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project proposes to replace two undersized road crossings and enhance riparian habitat on an unnamed tributary, Tributary B, of Mill Creek in the Trask River basin, Tillamook Bay watershed. The project site is 5 miles from the town of Tillamook in Tillamook County. The road crossings are in close proximity (200 yards) and both have been identified as high priorities for replacement in order to: 1) restore passage to 1.9 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook, coho, Pacific lamprey, steelhead and cutthroat trout; 2) restore watershed function and natural channel processes, and 3) improve County road infrastructure by reducing local flooding. The lower crossing is on County owned Brickyard Road and sits on two undersized and perched concrete culverts with trash-racks that clog with debris and can temporarily block the stream. The upstream crossing is a private driveway with two undersized culverts. Bridge installations are proposed for both sites. These projects address the only road/stream barriers in Tributary B. Riparian enhancement is proposed for both banks on a quarter-mile stream reach and along the shoreline of Christie Pond. Project partners include US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Tillamook County Public Works Department, the Christie family, Salmon Super Highway and Pelican Brewing.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Mill Creek is a priority basin for restoration work in the Trask River watershed. This creek has unusual riparian vegetation complexity, a high incidence of beaver activity, and a range of flow conditions that provides a diversity of instream habitat.
- The project is designated a priority for the Salmon Superhwy.
- Substantial beaver activity in the basin provides an increased level of habitat complexity that has potential to provide rearing habitat for coho.
- The long term family landowners are invested in the ecological health of their property and are supportive of riparian restoration.
- The project is supported by a strong partnership.
- There is connectivity with other restoration projects in the Mill Creek basin.

Concerns

- There is a concrete dam structure a few hundred feet upstream of the project location that impounds water for the landowner’s pond. Fish passage at the dam has not been well assessed and it is

unclear whether juvenile coho and other aquatic species are able to pass it. ODFW data indicates coho distribution ends at this dam.

- The project application refers to the dam as a potential subsequent project phase, but details are not provided. The application would benefit from more concrete information about plans to address the barrier or the inclusion of data that provides evidence for upstream fish passage at that location.
- The project cost is high, especially considering that passage at the dam site has not been assessed.
- The project is designed to accommodate a higher stream channel capacity for larger flows compared to initial design calculations done by the USFS. As a result, the project increased in cost and the design incorporates heavy rock in the streambed to accommodate the larger capacity. It is unclear whether this higher design standard is necessary or justified given the resulting need to use larger sized rock that may be difficult to permit.
- The proposed design fails to address the likely stream elevation changes that will occur due to the work at the crossing, particularly with regards to the impounded area just upstream of the driveway crossing.

Concluding Analysis

The landowner's tolerance of beaver activity and willingness to conduct riparian habitat restoration on their property is appreciated. The uncertainty regarding fish passage at the dam and the increased cost associated with the design approach limits the project cost-effectiveness since it may not improve access to the two miles of stream habitat cited in the application. Project partners are encouraged to re-assess fish passage at the dam location and provide more information about the subsequent project phases, as well as reconsider the project design approach to find a potentially more cost effective alternative.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1003-16375

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bummer Creek Stream, Floodplain, Wetland and Oak Savanna Restoration

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Region: North Coast

County: Benton

OWEB Request: $220,056

Total Cost: $373,863

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located approximately 1.5 miles south of the town of Alsea on Bummer Creek, the largest 4th order tributary of the South Fork Alsea River. Bummer Creek is designated a high priority “Anchor Habitat” for the recovery of listed Oregon Coast coho (OCC) within the Alsea basin. However, a BLM assessment ranked Bummer Creek as the most at-risk 6th field in the South Fork Alsea watershed. In response to the ranking, a 2005 OWEB funded Limiting Factors Analysis (LFA) was conducted at the location. The LFA identified two major co-limiting factors for coho production: 1) limited availability of high-quality spawning gravel, and 2) excessive summer temperatures. This project addresses both these issues using instream and riparian restoration techniques, including channel reconnection intended to re-link legacy oxbows to Bummer Creek that were previously isolated by historical farming practices, and the development of up to 180-foot riparian vegetation buffers. Additionally, this project will re-establish oak savanna, oak woodland and historic wetlands. Two wetland areas with hydric soils exhibit a pre-farming legacy of late season water storage prior to the development of artificial drainage networks. Oregon white oak and prairie species plantings will enhance a 300+ year old Oak grove at the site. These habitats may represent the western-most extent of oak habitat in the Coast Range, and present a unique opportunity to re-establish a plant community that has been virtually lost to agricultural development in the Coast Range. Joining OWEB and the landowners in this partnership are the Midcoast Watersheds Council (applicant), BLM, USFWS Finley National Wildlife Refuge, Benton SWCD, NRCS and the USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project involves a myriad of habitat types, and is well thought out and comprehensive.
- Broad partnerships are involved in implementing various project components with the appropriate level of expertise for each habitat type.
- Participation in the CREP program helps to ensure project success.
- The project presents an interesting opportunity to restore oak savannah, a rare habitat type in the coast range. The plan for oak savannah restoration seems straightforward and has a high likelihood of success.
- Reconnecting the oxbows may benefit both aquatic habitat and water quality.

- This reach of Bummer Creek is a high priority location for restoration benefiting salmonids, and the proposed work will have great benefit on instream habitat complexity. Coho are currently using the ditch system on the property, which will be restored into a more natural flow path within the project area.
- The landowners have the necessary equipment and capacity to maintain restoration work and are invested in a positive ecological outcome.

Concerns

- The goal of the proposed wetland work and expected ecological benefit is unclear from the application. The wetland work will involve a significant amount of disturbance and cost for only a marginal ecological benefit. Due to the history of diking and ditching on the property, any created wetlands are unlikely to be highly functioning. As a result of this uncertainty for success, this project component has limited cost-effectiveness.
- One of the proposed locations for a created wetland would be challenging to maintain given the site hydrology.
- The use of standpipes to control water levels is not a preferred approach.
- The restoration plan seems segmented, for example, the fencing plan does not align with the mapped habitat polygons. Since the fence bisects the oak savannah restoration, it is unclear how this habitat will be managed on both sides of the CREP fence.
- There is no irrigation proposed for the plantings, which may be important for successful plant establishment.
- The application would benefit from more information about the proposed use of herbicides and the various alternatives for site preparation that were considered.
- The Bummer Creek channel is significantly incised and more intervention than what is proposed might be needed to address the ongoing incision.
- The application would benefit from additional information on the plan for tree thinning in the upland forest and a justification for the creation of meadows in this habitat type.

Concluding Analysis

This multi-faceted project will provide ecological benefit to a diversity of habitat types with restoration and enhancement actions planned for instream, riparian, wetland, and upland habitats. The project has connectivity to other nearby restoration work in the Bummer Creek basin, and the instream habitat and floodplain re-connection may have an exponential positive impact due to similar work on adjacent stream reaches. In particular, the oxbow reconnection work and large wood placement project components have a high potential to benefit aquatic species using the creek by increasing habitat complexity.

Participation in the CREP program signifies a broader partnership and a landowner commitment to achieving the stated ecological outcomes.

Any benefits generated from the two created wetlands would be marginal in comparison with the cost and level of disturbance necessary to accomplish this portion of the work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$193,366

Review Team Conditions

Exclude wetland and stand-pipe components of project and revise budget accordingly.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$193,366

Staff Conditions

Exclude wetland and stand-pipe components of project and revise budget accordingly.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1004-16392

Project Type: Restoration

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

Applicant: Lincoln SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: $40,334

Total Cost: $81,321

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 is in a high priority location on Mill Creek to provide benefits for fish, especially coho and chum.
- Estuarine habitat is a priority habitat type for restoration in this region, and removing the tide gate will restore tidal influence to 2.6 acres. This portion of the project is straightforward, technically sound, and cost-effective.
- The project addresses known limiting factors in the watershed by improving water temperature and habitat complexity.
- The applicant addressed concerns with plant maintenance from a previous application by increasing the level of stewardship proposed for the site.

Concerns

- The fencing plan has not changed from the last application, and the plan to use blackberry and other features, such as cut banks, to close off the fence and exclude the livestock is not a technically sound approach. Blackberry and cut banks are not stable fencing. To have a measurable impact on water quality, livestock should be effectively excluded from the stream and riparian areas to allow new riparian plantings to establish successfully.

- Site preparation proposed for planting directly into the blackberries is not sufficient considering the level of infestation.
- The proposed project uses potted willow stock, which seems unnecessary given the high success rate and ready availability of willow stakes on the coast.

Concluding Analysis

The project site is in a priority location for the mid-Coast because Mill Creek has the most stable chum population in the localized region. However, the proposed fencing plan will still allow cattle to access the stream, threatening water quality and putting the new riparian planting at risk. While the current number of cattle on the property is low, it is possible the numbers of livestock will fluctuate on the site in the future. As a result, the project is likely to fall short in addressing water quality issues as proposed. The applicant is encouraged to seek small grant funding for the estuarine habitat project components, which will provide ecological high value and has a high likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1005-16353
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Waite Ranch TA 2018
Applicant: McKenzie River Trust
Region: North Coast
County: Lane
OWEB Request: $46,436
Total Cost: $173,612

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Waite Ranch Tidal Wetland Restoration Project's goal is to restore historic tidal exchange between the Siuslaw River and the interior of the Waite Ranch Property. The 217 acre Waite Ranch property is located in western Lane County 4 miles east of the city of Florence. The property's southern boundary is the Siuslaw River and the entire property drains into the river via a tidegate near its western (downstream) tip. The property is entirely diked preventing daily tidal inundation. The site has a preliminary restoration design, and by October of 2018, the project design will be at 60% completion. This TA grant funding, combined with other pending grants will allow for the project to complete the final design, including drawings and technical specifications. The OWEB TA grant funds will specifically be used for further geotechnical assessment associated with a setback levee's connection to the Highway 126 embankment and other highway protection features. This work will build off of a current engineering alternative analysis examining both habitat and cost considerations of Highway 126 protection features. This OWEB TA funding will produce a geotechnical assessment report that will support the final design, and will be the final geotechnical work required for this project. Project partners include the SWC, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, Ecotrust, USFWS, ODOT, and NOAA.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting restoration project will restore 217 acres of estuarine habitat in a priority system of the Siuslaw watershed and North Coast basin.
- The project site has connectivity to other conservation properties in the Siuslaw estuary, and restoration at this site could be a pathway to other restoration opportunities.
- Restoring estuarine habitats is a priority for Oregon coast coho, which will benefit from the return of tidal hydrology to the project site. The Strategic Action Plan for coho developed for the Siuslaw identifies restoration at Waite Ranch as a high priority and it will benefit salmonids long term.
- The application is well written; it includes thorough information on the project's long history and documents recent progress the project partners made in moving toward a restoration design solution.
- Recent developments with project partners, including the Coho Business Planning process and the engagement of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians have renewed momentum and increased the likelihood of success.

Concerns

- The project has a long history due to challenges in identifying a design solution that balances site constraints from nearby property owners and ODOT concerns. During previous project planning efforts, ODOT expressed late in the process that any highway subsidence is not acceptable. As a result, the applicant had to reconsider design alternatives that incorporate more costly infrastructure to protect the highway. The lack of clarity in communications with ODOT regarding design requirements has caused the applicant to return for an additional technical assistance design project. This uncertainty in determining a specific design option that addresses all the concerns at this site creates a degree of risk for the resulting restoration project.
- The design approach preferred by the applicant, identified as Option 4 in the application, may not be technically sound and could cause further scouring and erosion of the road bed. A softer approach is preferred for the project to provide a cost effective watershed benefit.

Concluding Analysis

The Waite Ranch project continues to be a high priority for the region and the Siuslaw watershed. With the potential to create over 200 acres of estuarine habitat, the project has been identified as a priority in numerous plans and assessments, including the recent Coho Business Plan effort in the watershed. The project has a degree of risk due to the challenge of providing protection for neighboring landowners and the adjacent highway. However, the renewed momentum on behalf of the applicant, as well as an expansion of the partners involved with the project, has resulted in an increased likelihood for success. This technical assistance funding may finally facilitate a commitment to a design option that will result in timely project implementation of a high priority restoration effort with significant cost benefit for the ecological gains if funding for highway protection can be secured.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$46,436

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$46,436

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1006-16358

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Yaquina Bay Native Olympia Oyster Restoration Project

Applicant: Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: $49,945

Total Cost: $89,595

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Despite the numerous ecosystem services provided by oysters, such as water filtration and fisheries enhancement, the only oyster species native to the West Coast, the Olympia oyster, is functionally extinct. While there has been a significant interest in the restoration of this species, the factors limiting successful restoration have not been determined. Using an estuarine gradient as proxy for salinity, predation, competition, and larval retention we propose to determine the upper and lower boundaries of successful Olympia oyster restoration in the Yaquina Bay, near the city of Newport in Lincoln County, OR. Eighteen sampling apparatuses will be spread along an estuarine gradient, from Kings Slough (~33 ppt) to the Toledo Airport (< 5 ppt) measuring growth rates, settlement rates, and survivorship of juvenile and adult Olympia oysters. Data from this TA will inform a long-term plan for the restoration of the Olympia oyster in the Yaquina Bay. Results will aid in a spatially based restoration plan focusing on optimal areas for restoration regardless of ownership or current land use. Through willing landowners and partners, such as Oregon Oyster Farms, Kings Estuary Shellfish, The Wetlands Conservancy, and the Ports of Toledo and Newport, we will also highlight areas where we predict restoration success can occur and ownership/access is currently available. Through additional partners, such as Oregon State University and the coast-wide native Olympia oyster network, this TA will provide much needed information to inform restoration planning and ground truth larval retention models, allowing for restoration projects to be planned even under future climate-change scenarios.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has a strong partnership and is affiliated with a regional west coast program, which broadens the applicability of the information to be collected. Letters of support were numerous and well written.
- There is limited information available on restoration of habitat for native oysters within the North Coast basin; the data collected will fill a known data gap.
- Oysters are a critical component of the food web in estuaries that is often overlooked. Restoration of native oyster populations could have long term benefits to water quality in the Yaquina watershed.
- Project implementation is timely because it will complement other data models developed by DEQ and help inform other work linking ocean conditions to estuaries.
- The application budget is straightforward and thorough.
- The applicant has capacity to complete the work with an experienced shellfish biologist on staff.

Concerns

- The methods to collect grab samples once a month may not provide effective data, continuous monitoring would likely be more useful.
- It is unclear whether using estuarine gradient as a proxy is the best practice.
- The monitoring plan includes a number of factors that have significant variability. The application would benefit from more clarification as to how these factors will effectively link up and inform the restoration plan. There appears to be a disconnect between the modeling and data collection and the restoration plan development, with some uncertainty about how the two project components will unite.
- The application contains limited detail about the work that OSU will do on the project, and the accompanying letter of support provided from the university does not elaborate on these complementary actions.

Concluding Analysis

Restoring native Olympia oysters to the Yaquina estuary may improve water quality, estuarine health, and overall biodiversity - and the application makes a case for increasing efforts focused on restoration of this important component of the food web. The project has built strong partnerships with both local shellfish farms and broader regional research entities involved. The monitoring plan methodology for collecting data to inform the prioritization and restoration planning project components has some unclear logic. Given the experience and capacity levels of the applicant and project partners, there is a likelihood of success for the stated project outcomes to be achieved.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$49,945

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-2018 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1007-16365

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Fishhawk Lake Replacement Fish Passage Construction Design

Applicant: Upper Nehalem WC

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: $68,202

Total Cost: $96,115

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The existing fish ladder at Fishhawk Lake does not meet current fish passage standards. As part of the overall watershed program, replacing the fish ladder is high priority. The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council (UNWC) and its partner, Fishhawk lake Reserve and Community (FLRC), have been on a mission to enhance the watershed and the ecological stability of the migrating species for the last six years. In addition to improving stream habitat in the area, it has defined a water supply and quality enhancement project (Gated Spillway) and the subsequent Replacement Fish Ladder project to work in conjunction to restore the Fishhawk section of the overall watershed. Fishhawk Creek and Fishhawk Lake, in the Nehalem sub-basin of the North Coast Basin in Clatsop and Columbia Counties, has cold water species of Steelhead, Pacific Lamprey, Coastal Cutthroat Trout and the endangered Coho Salmon. Each species has different upstream and downstream migration patterns, fish passage and spawning requirements as well as optimum water temperature and oxygenation requirements. Poor water quality (above normal water temperature and turbidity, and poor oxygenation) in the creek and lake, and the challenge of traversing an outdated fish ladder to migrate contributes to poor survival rates. This fish ladder design replacement project creates a new fish passage that significantly improves juvenile survival and improves passage for each of the species. The design builds upon the separate major water quality endeavor already underway in partnership with UNWC. Together these projects create a more functional, healthier aquatic and migration environment in the creek and lake. This TA application is only for the fish ladder replacement construction design which must interface with the water supply and quality enhancement project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Fish passage at the project location is a priority for the regional ODFW office, and this project will address a longstanding issue at the dam. The current ladder is a partial barrier for adult fish and has poor or limited juvenile passage.
- The FLRC has been and continues to be a committed and willing partner in this endeavor.
- The application documents the project history and provides updated information requested in past project reviews, including water quality data.
- The project connects to other restoration efforts, including restoration work in the upper watershed and an upstream Strategic Implementation Area.

Concerns

- The sluicegate design proposed for the dam and its potential negative impacts on downstream habitat remains a concern for the project to successfully provide ecological benefits from this investment.
- Water quality in the lake will continue to be an issue for fish despite passage improvements. Temperatures in the lake are significantly higher than adjacent streams, and the project, as designed, is unlikely to address this important limiting factor for salmonids. The lake currently has lethal water temperatures for salmon in the summer.
- Proposed riprap installation to reduce water velocities could be problematic to fish, and may provide more of a dam maintenance benefit than a necessary component of fish passage.
- The project has a minimal conservation focus, improving the fish ladder at this location is intrinsically tied to the accompanying dam repair. It is unclear how the fish ladder and dam spillway components are being addressed separately or what the outcome would be if only one of the project components received funding.
- The application would benefit from more discussion about the habitat conditions and quantity upstream to where access would be restored.
- NOAA and other appropriate fish passage agencies should be engaged before moving forward with any design alternative.

Concluding Analysis

Passage at the Fishhawk Dam has long been a priority and a concern of wildlife agencies due to the recognition that the current situation is less than ideal. The approach of decoupling the fish passage from the dam spillway work may result in an effective project funding strategy; however, it adds uncertainty about how the two aspects of the project would be designed and implemented since these two project components are inextricably linked. While improving fish passage at this structure is desired, the project appears to be more of a dam repair and recreation project than a watershed restoration project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1008-16383
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Rock Creek Restoration TA
Applicant: Columbia SWCD
Region: North Coast
County: Columbia
OWEB Request: $12,954
Total Cost: $66,580

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project is located on Rock Creek, a tributary to the Nehalem River, and is outside the city of Vernonia in Columbia County. A limiting factor analysis (LFA) has been conducted in the watershed (Trask et al 2011). These analyses have identified numerous habitat issues in lower Rock Creek including decreased floodplain connectivity, degraded riparian corridors, simplification of stream habitat, and reduced large wood inputs. Additionally, this section of Rock Creek is listed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as a 303(D) impaired water body for elevated temperatures, impacting rearing and spawning salmon. The proposed restoration actions look to address these issues by re-vegetating the adjacent riparian area and floodplain, grading unnaturally steepened banks, and adding edge-oriented large wood structures. The recovery of riparian canopy through extensive planting will strengthen bank cohesion, reduce solar radiation reaching the stream, and provide sources for large wood recruitment in the long term. The design of the bank reconstruction will focus on improved off-channel habitat and floodplain reconnection. The large wood placement will encourage the development of off-channel habitat, providing lateral margins where juvenile fish can find flow refuge during winter high flows. This proposal for Technical Assistance requests funds to support cultural resource survey required for USACE 404 permitting, and supplemental funding for project design and Columbia SWCD staff project management time. The deliverables will be the cultural resource survey report and the 50% design drawings. The Columbia SWCD is partnering with NOAA, NFWF, and the Wild Salmon Center on this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting restoration project will provide ecological benefit by addressing limiting factors for lower Columbia salmonids, including habitat connectivity and complexity.
- The restoration work resulting from the technical assistance may have a positive impact on key water quality parameters, including temperature and sedimentation.
- The project designs, which have already been completed, appear reasonable and are technically sound.
- Completing the cultural resource work will help get the designs to completion and enable implementation, for which funding is already positioned.
- Project partnerships are well developed with the appropriate people and expertise involved.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

This request for technical assistance will provide necessary cultural resource work and is an important step to arriving at permit-ready designs for this project. The preliminary project design appears straightforward and clearly addresses limiting factors in the region.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$12,954

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

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1009-16402
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Lower Columbia Chum SAP
Applicant: North Coast WS Assn
Region: North Coast
County: Clatsop
OWEB Request: $74,465
Total Cost: $110,369

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will create a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) detailing restoration locations and projects required to address chum salmon limiting factors related to spawning habitat and estuary rearing habitat. Columbia River Chum Salmon are a federally-listed species and their recovery is a priority for Oregon's Conservation and Recovery Program. No plan currently exists targeting chum restoration in the region. With the specificities of chum distribution, a plan is necessary to prioritize projects within crucial reaches for chum habitat that are currently overlooked by the coho-driven restoration plans. We need to identify priority areas for chum that target unique reaches not currently slated for restoration. Creating this plan is essential for a targeted effort at reaching delisting criteria for chum salmon in the Coastal Stratum. And, while they occupy some unique reaches, chum projects will create ecosystem uplift and benefit other species in multiple ways. The Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership includes the North Coast Watershed Association (NCWA), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Lewis and Clark National Historical Park (LEWI), the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP), and the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST). Together we have identified the following goals for our project:Ecological outputs from restoration actions:Decreased sedimentation into spawning areas Improved gravel retentionIncreased channel complexityImproved floodplain connectivityIncreased abundance of spawning habitat Anthropogenic migration barriers addressed Reconnect tidal habitat through dike and levy breachingRevegetation of tidal habitat Increase structure as neededEcological outcomes from restoration actions:Increased distribution of chum salmon spawning in response to habitat restoration Increased egg-to-fry survival of chum salmon in response to improved habitat quality Increased marine survival of fry in the estuary

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Developing a Strategic Action Plan for chum recovery will fill a critical planning gap. The current ODFW document, on which this effort will build, does not include details on habitat restoration.
- The proposed planning is timely because of chum reintroduction work actively underway in the Lower Columbia watershed.
- Priority basins have been identified as part of the ODFW chum reintroduction plan, and the proposed technical assistance will build on existing groundwork to begin a strategic planning effort.
- The applicant has a successful track record with similar work and the partnership is well developed with the capacity to succeed in meeting the project objectives.

- Projects that benefit chum have the potential to benefit other species as well in this watershed, including Pacific lamprey.

Concerns

- The project overlaps and coincides with the accompanying Stakeholder Engagement grant application, and it is unclear whether some budget costs between the two projects are possibly duplicative.

Concluding Analysis

There is a need for a strategic action plan for chum recovery in the Lower Columbia and this project will fill an important gap necessary to move forward with habitat restoration focused on the species. The partnership assembled appeared well organized and committed to chum recovery in the watershed. It is unclear how this project interfaces with the accompanying Stakeholder Engagement grant from the applicant that will allow the applicant to work simultaneously on landowner outreach during the Strategic Action Plan's development. Overall, engaging in activities proposed in each application is an appropriate approach for the projects to successfully accomplish their goals.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,465

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$74,465

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1010-16380
Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement
Project Name: Bayview Oxbow
Applicant: The Wetlands Conservancy
Region: North Coast
County: Lincoln
OWEB Request: $23,975
Total Cost: $31,705

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1. Bayview Oxbow is a former tidal wetland, originally connected directly to the Alsea River Estuary, in Waldport, Lincoln County Oregon. 2. Currently, the Oxbow is separated from the Estuary by levees and only minimally connected to tidal exchange through culverts. The Wetlands Conservancy acquired a substantial fraction of the Oxbow in 2009. In 2010, TWC did a feasibility analysis to assess the feasibility of re-connecting the Oxbow to Alsea Bay to restore tidal wetland function and to improve habitat. The report provided a preliminary assessment of the feasibility of two restoration alternatives as compared to taking no action. The two restoration alternatives consisted of re-connecting just the Oxbow's west side, which is largely owned by the Conservancy, or, if additional property or easements are acquired, reconnecting both sides of the Oxbow. TWC's preferred alternative is Option B.3. The Wetlands Conservancy will work with adjacent neighbors to develop a long-term conservation strategy for long term protection and enhancement of Bayview Oxbow. The desired outcome will be commitment letters from adjacent neighbors for future TWC fee title or conservation easement acquisition. 4. Partners: Adjacent landowners Lincoln County and City of Waldport Federal and State Fish and Wildlife management agencies.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The outreach approach described in the application takes a long term view of conservation ownership in the area. The project will result in an overall strategy and road map to achieving larger landscape level goals in this localized area.
- Tidal marsh habitat is a priority habitat for restoration work in the North Coast basin, and this project will pursue opportunities to restore and connect estuarine habitat.
- The application demonstrates that the project partners understand the complexities involved and due diligence necessary to arrive at a successful land acquisition project. The proposed approach takes into account the time and forethought needed to achieve the goals.

Concerns

- The project deliverables are not specific and the application would benefit from more information about the type of outreach to be done.
- The objectives stated in the application are not measurable.

- The number of landowners to be engaged is unclear. There are a large amount of rural residential landowners in the project area and a significant amount of site constraints to restoring the entirety of the Bayview Oxbow.
- The map of the surrounding area appears incomplete and has limited detail. Tax lot information for the entire target area would have been helpful in evaluating the application.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a more recent iteration of a previously funded technical assistance grant that focused on restoring tidal hydrology to another portion of the Bayview Oxbow. With this stakeholder engagement effort, a more long-term conservation strategy will be pursued in the area that will likely result in a landscape level restoration approach. Estuarine habitat is a priority for restoration and conservation in this part of the state and is one of the more complex habitat types in which to work due to site constraints and the dramatic hydrologic changes that can ensue. With the proposed project approach, the applicant is taking the time necessary to work with landowners and complete the due diligence necessary to arrive at a successful outcome. More details on the deliverables and objectives would strengthen the application, but the project team is likely to successfully implement this engagement effort and achieve the stated outcomes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$23,975

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

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1011-16405

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Lower Columbia Chum Landowner Outreach

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: $42,312

Total Cost: $56,845

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will conduct landowner outreach necessary to implementing the Lower Columbia Chum SAP. Restoration work on privately owned land is both a significant challenge and a critical element to future habitat restoration projects in our work area. Big Creek and Youngs Bay chum populations have been prioritized for restoration in the Chum Recovery Strategy - a supplement to the federal and state Recovery Plans. These locations have historically large numbers of chum, fairly good habitat, less permanent infrastructure than other stratums, and small current returns, which makes them a perfect place to invest in restoration. These areas are prime for restoration, but one of the biggest challenges that we face is landowner outreach. In order for large-scale restoration to occur, we need willingness and cooperation from many small landowners. This project will give us the time to invest in these landowner conversations in prioritized reaches through targeted mailers, community meetings, watershed council networking, participant surveys, site-visits, and landowner agreements. This project is timely due to the the opportunity to coordinate with our strategic action plan development. Our partnership's development of a chum SAP makes this a particularly good time to invest in outreach. By investing in outreach before the SAP is completed, we are able to engage landowners in the development process and incorporate landowner willingness into our project prioritization, dramatically increasing our chances of successfully implementing the strategic plan.This project identifies willing landowners in high priority restoration reaches identified through the Lower Columbia Chum SAP. The outcome of this project will be securing landowner agreements for implementing strategically identified restoration projects in prioritized chum habitats and creating a strategy and materials to continue the landowner outreach conversation in these reaches after the grant closes.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This stakeholder engagement effort complements the technical assistance application received by the same applicant. The approach of doing both the plan development and stakeholder engagement work concurrently is thoughtful and will increase the likelihood of securing restoration opportunities identified by the technical assistance work.
- This project proposes beginning stakeholder engagement activities at an appropriate and critical time. The plan for engagement is well planned and specific information on outreach actions and deliverables is included.
- The project has a broad partnership, and the scope and expertise of the members is balanced and appropriate.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified during review.

Concluding Analysis

The approach of engaging in both technical planning and stakeholder engagement as concurrent activities builds on the value in engaging landowners early on and will only help increase the likelihood of success of the complementary Technical Assistance grant. The partnership has momentum towards implementing chum recovery in the Lower Columbia watershed, and the outreach strategy has been well considered. The project partners have capacity to achieve the stated landowner engagement objectives in priority watersheds, and subsequently begin to implement projects benefitting chum.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$42,312

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$42,312

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1012-16413
Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement
Project Name: Outreach Plan Implementation
Applicant: Columbia SWCD
Region: North Coast
County: Columbia
OWEB Request: $18,310
Total Cost: $23,090

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The watershed council has increased its capacity for strategic planning in the form of an outreach plan and action plan. These two products are reflective of renewed desire to capture community interest in watershed related topics including restoration project development. Proposal provides additional resources to implement outreach plan that defines a range of outreach activities geared toward new partnerships with local community groups and individual landowners. This includes exploration of areas with particular socio-economic interest with upirver private timber companies and lower watershed agricultural activities. Funds will be used to support time and materials needed for effective stakeholder engagement. Outcome of efforts will lead to increased interest in watershed restoration activities and restoration project opportunities. Project partners include local drainage district, timber companies, and Columbia Soil and Water Conservation district.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The stakeholder engagement project may capitalize on recent restoration momentum within the Lower Columbia watershed.

Concerns

- The application has limited detail and does not contain contextual information about the watershed to understand the need for increased stakeholder engagement in the region. The Abstract lacks information about project location.
- The application is unclear, hard to follow, and lacks quantifiable objectives.
- There are no indicators of success described and the engagement strategies are not well defined.
- Only one specific geographic location is identified and no details are provided about why this location was chosen for a focus.
- An outreach strategy is referred to in the application but it is not included and details on the scope and scale of the proposed activities are not provided.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed activities do not directly link with a specific geography as required with Stakeholder

Engagement grants. One sub-watershed, Beaver Creek, is mentioned, but no details are given as to how the watershed was chosen or what specific actions would take place there.

The applicant is encouraged to complete an outreach strategy before pursuing a Stakeholder Engagement grant. If this application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to include information on the necessary pathway to achieving ecological objectives and provide detail on why the outreach is necessary, including explanation for the chosen location and the proposed timeframe.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Southwest - Region 2 Spring 2018 Funding Recommendations

Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2018SpringCycle\Projects\Region2_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2018Spring.mxd
ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wills 20180925

Funding Recommendations

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

Previous Grants - 1998-2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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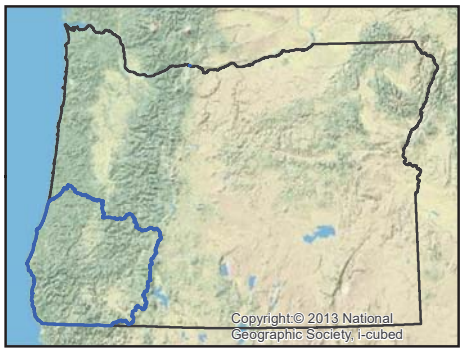

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-2007	Coquille Watershed Association	Seestrom Tidelands Restoration	Tidal wetlands will be restored by replacing failing tidegates, reconstructing diked tidal channels, and planting native vegetation. As a result, Coho salmon will have access to an additional 270 acres of critical winter habitat on a working ranch.	808,600	Coos
219-2006	Coquille Watershed Association	Baker Creek Fish Passage Restoration	A failing culvert located near Powers will be replaced to open migratory fish passage in a restored stream channel with enhanced habitat.	685,573	Coos
219-2008	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Steelhead Creek Culvert Replacement and Stream Enhancement	Habitat for native fish will be improved at 31 sites along 1.25 miles of Steelhead Creek near Glendale. Fish passage will also be improved by replacing a culvert that is a barrier to fish migration.	170,689	Douglas
219-2009	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Butler/Lutsinger Instream Restoration	Using a helicopter and an excavator to place 588 logs in Butler and Lutsinger Creeks near Roseburg, the project will result in 5.5 miles of improved native fish habitat.	312,216	Douglas
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,977,078**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-2010	Elk Creek WC	Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration	Located near Drain, this project will restore 12 acres of riparian area through invasive species removal, planting native vegetation, and fencing. Instream habitat will be restored by placing 67 fish habitat structures along 3 miles of Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks.	328,009	Douglas
219-2005	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Upper Phillips Dam Fish Passage and Irrigation Efficiency Project	The project will restore fish passage at Upper Phillips Dam; install a new headgate and fish screen; and conserve water through piping 1.4 miles of irrigation ditch that serves 10 small farms near Ruch.	220,681	Jackson
219-2000	Smith River WC	Lower Wasson Creek Riparian Restoration	By removing invasive blackberry and planting native trees, the project will restore riparian habitat on 17.7 acres of Wasson Creek, located near Reedsport.	81,785	Douglas

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order Continued					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
219-2003	Coos Watershed Association	Daniels Creek Riparian Restoration Project	Through planting and fencing 2,300 feet of stream bank, the project will restore important habitat for native fish on Daniels Creek, located near Coos Bay. The stream bank will be planted with native trees and shrubs that will stabilize the bank, shade out invasive reed canary grass, improve water quality, and decrease stream temperatures.	108,203	Coos
219-2002	Coos Watershed Association	Williams River Quarry Falls Fish Passage Improvement	Fish passage will be improved by moving a road further away from the river bank at the Williams River Quarry Falls, located near Tenmile. As a result, the river will have access to a more natural stream channel.	319,767	Douglas
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**3,035,523**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount**	**County**
219-2001	Coos Watershed Association	Marlow Creek Habitat Restoration	355,157	Coos
219-2004	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Laurel Slough Restoration Project	72,966	Josephine

Region 2 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-2014	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Lower Bridgepoint Dam Fish Passage Project	This project will result in engineered designs for fish passage improvement and irrigation efficiency at Lower Bridgepoint Dam, a channel-spanning, fish passage barrier at river mile 0.5 on Williams Creek located near Provolt.	34,502	Josephine
219-2013	Coquille Watershed Association	Twelvemile Creek Watershed Assessment and Project Development	Project partners will review watershed conditions in order to develop, prioritize, and design habitat/water quality enhancement projects in the Twelvemile Creek watershed, located near Camas Valley.	42,092	Douglas
219-2017	Coos Watershed Association	Coos Estuarine Wetland Restoration Project Designs	Project designs, permits, and funding proposals will be developed for wetland restoration projects in the following high priority areas: the Coos Bay estuary, Coos River, and the Catching Creek basin located near Coos Bay.	55,868	Coos
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**132,462**	

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-2012	Curry SWCD	Floras Creek Sediment Abatement Road Inventory	To improve water quality, the project will inventory sediment sources on 41 miles of both public and private roads used for forest and grazing access in the Floras Creek watershed near Langlois. Plans will be developed for pollution reduction techniques, including design specifications and cost estimates for implementation.	25,300	Curry
219-2015	Coos Watershed Association	South Fork Coos River Road Inventory and Sediment Reduction	To improve water quality in important stream habitat for native fish, the project will result in an inventory of sediment pollutions sources on approximately 240 miles of roads that drain directly to the South Fork Coos River.	65,166	Coos
219-2011	Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	Cow Creek Umpqua Tribe Rogue River Restoration Project	Following a site investigation of nearly 2 miles of the Rogue River near Central Point, the project will result in a conceptual design to restore important fish habitat by addressing erosion, streamside vegetation, and access to the river's side channels.	45,997	Jackson
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**268,925**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
219-2016	South Umpqua Rural Community	Elkton Reserve Restoration Project	53,149	Douglas

Region 2 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
219-2018	Coos Watershed Association	Coos-Coquille Comprehensive Tidegate Outreach	To develop options to address failing tidegates and loss of tidal wetlands, project partners will engage land owners in the Coos and Coquille watersheds by implementing a comprehensive outreach program providing non-regulatory "full-service" assistance. Additionally in the Coos watershed, outreach will include strategies recommended in the Coho business plan to improve habitat for Coho salmon.	169,792	Coos
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**169,792**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount**	**County**
		None			
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**169,792**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount**	**County**
		None			
Region 2 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**2,279,332**	**24.70%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**9,226,487**	

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2000-16314

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Wasson Creek Riparian Restoration

Applicant: Smith River WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $81,785

Total Cost: $168,287

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Wasson Creek drainage is located 15 miles NE of Reedsport OR and is majority federally owned and managed. The project area is located 19 miles up Smith River Rd, and occurs on private property bordered by the Siuslaw NF to the West, East and the South. The primary issue here is Riparian Process and Function. Multiple watershed and terrestrial functions will be benefited by addressing noxious weeds and restoring the riparian areas to native plant dominated forested lands.This project will remove and suppress Himalayan Blackberry (HBB) over 17.7 acres, by manual, mechanical and chemical means. Pretreatment will remove the bulk of the HBB biomass over a two year period. Larger tree stock will be planted, 2-3 foot stock. Post-planting treatments will be combined manual removal and herbicide treatments and will occur twice during year 3 and once for years 4-6. The need for subsequent treatments will be evaluated during years 5 and 6 to ensure escapement for plantings to the free to grow stage.SRWC and partners will continue to monitor plantings and treat HBB for a minimum for 4 years following tree planting. Project partners include: ODFW, USFS and Ecotrust Forest Management. Post-planting treatment is aimed at ensuring trees escape HBB influence and form a canopy capable of shading out future HBB growth. OWEB funds will be used for contracted services for the treatment of HBB, replanting of native species and in-house personnel.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location’s importance and connectivity to the high quality habitat above the project reach is well described in the application.
- The application presents a concise description of the watershed’s limiting factors and the discussion of the restoration alternatives was helpful in understanding how the proposed solution would address the limiting factors.
- The site preparation approach and the planting plan are reasonable and tailored for site conditions.
- The resulting restoration of the riparian area will help improve riparian function, benefit water quality and support future large wood recruitment to the stream.

Concerns

- While the approach to establishing the plantings is reasonable, the description of the extent of the invasive blackberries and the current site conditions left uncertainty about whether the plant

establishment timeline would be sufficient to get trees to the “free to grow” stage. Future applications could be strengthened by including a more in-depth discussion of how the time needed for plant establishment was determined and the long-term maintenance needs beyond plan establishment.

- There are differences in the area to be treated between sections of the application (1 acre in the metrics, 17 acres in the narrative).
- The budget line item for “Executive Director” comprises a high percentage of the project cost. This seems high based on the associated work tasks and project timeline. Future applications would be strengthened by using the “Budget Narrative” section in the application to describe how the costs were determined.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a good opportunity to help restore native riparian function in the project reach and provide connectivity to healthy habitats upstream. The work would benefit riparian function as well as help improve water quality and restore future large wood recruitment to the area benefiting coho and other native salmonids.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$81,785

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

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2001-16350
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Marlow Creek Habitat Restoration
Applicant: Coos Watershed Association
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Coos
OWEB Request: $355,157
Total Cost: $487,315

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Marlow Creek is the lowest of the three main tributaries to the East Fork Millicoma River and has been heavily impacted by past land management practices which have resulted in degrade in-stream habitat throughout the basin (Attachment 1). Marlow Creek which has the potential to provide important habitat to fall chinook, chum and coho salmon and steelhead trout, along with other important aquatic species (e.g. Pacific lamprey). Marlow Creek has been an area of previous habitat restoration, but there is still plenty of room for more restoration work. The Marlow Creek Habitat Restoration project is a multi-component project that seeks to address a lack of stream complexity and fish passage by proposing to 1) place nearly 90 pieces of wood over 4 miles of Marlow Creek, 2) replace an undersized, perched culvert with a bridge to open 0.2 miles of tributary habitat and release a large amount of coarse sediment into the newly add wood on Marlow Creek, 3) improve passage through the boulder falls near the 5 Mile Marker on the 1000 Rd to open 2 miles of habitat, and 4) improve and maintain the 1000 Road surface and current drainage to reduce the chronic sediment input into Marlow Creek (Attachment 2). OWEB funds will be used for project management & travel, contracted services, materials & supplies, and indirect costs. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, Department of State Lands (DSL), Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA), and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) will provide match that includes engineered designs, contracted services, materials & supplies, and technical assistance.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Marlowe Creek is a highly productive stream that supports important ESA-listed coho spawning and rearing habitat.
- The proposed project work addresses critical limiting factors impacting ESA-listed coho related to simplified instream habitat conditions and passage issues.
- The proposal demonstrates a strong working relationship between partners through involvement in design, implementation and funding. Project partners have implemented a large number of similar project types successfully.
- The project continues the restoration momentum on this stream, building on completed instream and passage restoration work downstream.
- The existing riparian area has the potential for recruitment of large wood.
- The larger structures proposed will have beneficial geomorphic influences.

Concerns

- Design detail for the bridge is not provided in the application, making evaluation difficult and creating uncertainty about associated costs. It was unclear why the design was for a 50-year event and not a 100-year event, as required by ODF.
- Design detail is not provided for the large wood placements, making evaluation of approach, materials and costs difficult.
- The work proposed for improving passage at the falls is not clear regarding the site-specific design detail and the planned approach to create a jump pool.
- The logs for the instream enhancement work are already down and staged near the project, making them targets for illegal wood cutting.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds on a great deal of restoration work and has the potential to increase the habitat productivity in this stream for ESA-listed coho and other native salmon, trout and Pacific lamprey; however, having design information on both the bridge and instream work is critical to the review of the project's effects on fish passage and habitat, and without that information a complete evaluation is not possible. The applicant is encouraged to consider applying for a Technical Assistance Grant to support the design work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2002-16351

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Williams River Quarry Falls Fish Passage Improvement

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $319,767

Total Cost: $400,562

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Williams River is a major tributary to the South Fork Coos River and has potential to provide important habitat for fall chinook and coho salmon, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey, among other aquatic species (Attachment 1). In the 1960's, road building and quarry operations constrained the Williams River at the Five Mile Creek Quarry to the west side of the valley, up against a massive bedrock hillslope and drastically increased the stream gradient, creating the Quarry Falls. This project proposes to move the Weyerhaeuser 5000 Road and the associated river bank at the Williams River Quarry Falls approximately 30 feet to the northeast, away from the bedrock hillslope to widen the channel to a more natural state. These proposed activities will improve adult and juvenile access to nearly 21 miles of anadromous fish habitat located above the Williams River Quarry Falls all year round. The Quarry Falls is directly downstream of in-stream wood placements and a road improvement project completed in 2015 (OWEB # 214-2035) and this project would improve access to nearly 21 miles of habitat upstream. OWEB funds will be used for project management, travel, supplies & materials, contracted services, and indirect costs. Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA), and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) will provide match that includes project designs, road relocations activities, and technical assistance.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The approach to improve fish passage at the site should lessen gradient and flow velocity. The result of the work will broaden the range of hydraulic conditions, improving juvenile fish passage.
- The barrier is the final one in this system and this work will complete fish passage efforts in this watershed.
- The project will facilitate passage for multiple species including ESA-listed coho, with juveniles benefitting the most from the project.
- Project partners have experience in successfully addressing challenging fish passage projects and the application demonstrates strong working partnerships and commitment necessary to design, fund and undertake a project of this magnitude.
- The project builds on other fish passage and extensive instream habitat restoration work both upstream and downstream of the site.

Concerns

- Fish passage is not a primary limiting factor in this watershed; there are Chinook, steelhead, and coho upstream of the project site.
- The design approach includes grouting of rock associated with the new channel and road bed, and does not include a vegetation component, which may pose challenges during the permit process. It is acknowledged that this approach to protecting the road bed would allow for removal of some of the "house-sized" boulders that were dumped into the river bed during historic quarry operations.
- It was unclear why the designs included in the application were not stamped by a professional engineer.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant developed a reasonable and technically sound approach to addressing a barrier that most significantly impacts juvenile fish. While passage is not a critical limiting factor in this system, resulting in a lower benefit-cost ratio, the work would complete fish passage restoration efforts and connectivity between upstream and downstream habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
9 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$319,767

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

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2003-16360
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Daniels Creek Riparian Restoration Project
Applicant: Coos Watershed Association
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Coos
OWEB Request: $108,203
Total Cost: $141,799

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 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 restore riparian function through planting and fencing 2,300' of stream bank. 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 application is a resubmittal that addresses questions raised in the previous review, including presenting different alternatives for stock watering and changing the approach from a seasonal electric fence to permanent fencing. CREP was also discussed with the landowners, who decided not to pursue it.
- The project will benefit water quality, water temperature, and habitat for ESA-listed coho as well as enhance local beaver habitat.
- The project area has high visibility and makes a good outreach opportunity to engage other landowners in potential restoration activities.
- Design details show a project that is technically sound and likely to achieve project objectives.

Concerns

- The cost-benefit of the fencing was not clear as livestock use the property seasonally and in low numbers. It could be helpful to establish a grazing management plan to help guide best management practices for the property.
- The proposed buffers are narrow, limiting their potential effectiveness.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project could influence future restoration work and generate momentum for developing projects in an area where there has been low landowner interest in the past. The landowners are supportive and committed to long-term management for restoration benefits. The project is likely to improve water quality and riparian function in the project reach.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$108,203

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

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2004-16363
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Laurel Slough Restoration Project
Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Josephine
OWEB Request: $72,966
Total Cost: $136,164

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project restores instream and off-channel refugia habitat for juvenile salmonids and improves adult spawning habitat, leveraging ongoing riparian restoration along the Applegate River and Williams Creek across 48 acres at the BLM Provolt Seed Orchard property. The site is located in both Jackson and Josephine counties, near the unincorporated town of Provolt Oregon. Off-channel and side-channel habitat are a limiting resource on the Applegate River and the historic side-channels at this site have become disconnected from the mainstem river because of flow regulation by Applegate Dam. This project will enhance 0.36 miles of off-channel and side-channel habitat in several historic side-channels and adjacent mainstem Applegate River instream habitat, through placement of instream large woody debris and enhancement of side-channel and alcove flows which are two of the Highest Priority Recovery Actions for SONCC Coho salmon. Enhanced rearing habitat will support populations of spring and fall Chinook salmon, ESA-listed threatened SONCC Coho salmon, summer and winter steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and cutthroat (migratory) trout as well as other aquatic species in the Applegate River Watershed.Project Partners include the Bureau of Land Management, Middle Rogue Steelheaders, the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has a high potential for outreach to a large audience and is a good opportunity to showcase restoration as the land use changes from being managed as a federal/private seed production orchard to one offering public access for recreational purposes.
- The enhancement of side channel and flood plain habitats will benefit multiple species including ESA-listed coho, as well as improve stream and floodplain function, and benefit water quality by augmenting cold water in the summer. Lack of floodplain access is a limiting factor for SONCC coho.
- The proposal ties directly into other riparian restoration work on the property.

Concerns

- The design information presented lacked details, such as a longitudinal profile.
- The application did not describe design alternatives and objectives, including the purpose of the proposed structures.

- The design approach calls for excavation at the mouth of the channel. It was unclear why this approach, rather than work in the main channel, would be the most effective method of controlling the watering and protection of the side channel.
- It was unclear whether the proposed re-use of riprap on site meets design criteria; generally, the use of rip-rap in restoration is discouraged in favor of more natural solutions.
- Channel-spanning habitat is unlikely to remain in the side channel due to winter high flows (2,500 cfs) and low flows during summer.

Concluding Analysis

The change from the current land use into a property that will be managed for recreation uses will provide a good opportunity for demonstrating the value of restoration to the public. The project lacked important design details and associated discussion of objectives and alternatives necessary for a thorough review. The applicant is encouraged to submit a Technical Assistance proposal.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2005-16366

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Phillips Dam Fish Passage and Irrigation Efficiency Project

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $220,681

Total Cost: $909,994

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Upper Phillips Fish Passage and Irrigation Efficiency Project will restore fish passage at Upper Phillips Dam; install a new headgate and fish screen; and conserve water through piping 1.4 miles of irrigation ditch that serves 10 small farms in Jackson County in the Rogue River Basin. The Upper Phillips Ditch diversion has 2 dams: a 5-foot concrete structure with a 4-foot pushup dam upstream. Improvements to the diversion will eliminate the pushup dam and a bypass channel will be created around the concrete structure. These dams are located on the Little Applegate River, a major tributary of the Applegate River. This project will provide fish passage to 49 miles of essential rearing and cold water habitat, improve water quality, and increase instream flows for Endangered Species Act-listed and State-listed species Coho salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and cutthroat trout. Irrigation efficiencies will save an estimated 85% of currently diverted water and conserved water will be left instream for the benefit of aquatic species in a DEQ-listed flow-limited stream. Additionally, this project will improve irrigation infrastructure and agricultural production while leaving water instream. Designs for this project were developed under a 2015 OWEB Technical Assistance Grant and the project is a result of a decade-long partnership between the Upper Phillips Ditch Association and the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) and other partners, including Steve and Priscilla Weaver (landowners), Jackson County SWCD, OWRD, BLM, ODFW, Middle Rogue Steelheaders, Trout Unlimited, and the Rogue Basin Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has the potential to gain an instream water right through use of the conserved water statute. Instream water would be protected downstream to the confluence with the Applegate River, a distance of approximately seven miles. Water quantity is a critical limiting factor in this watershed for ESA-listed coho.
- Besides benefiting the stream, the project would increase the efficiency of water users.
- Fish passage barriers below this project have already been addressed, increasing instream water. The next diversion point is 1,000 feet upstream.

Concerns

- In order to realize the full potential of the project, two ditches (Upper and Lower Phillips) would have

to be combined into one diversion point. It is unknown at this time what the actual water savings will be from the project.

- Agreements for the project and project deliverables have not yet been developed with users.
- It was unclear how much water is currently diverted and how much would be diverted after project implementation. Determining conserved water will be part of a second phase after the fish passage and ditch piping work is completed.
- The designs were not detailed enough to determine whether they meet state and federal fish passage criteria. Information such as water depths within the by-pass channel and height specifications for the blocks would help inform the review. Additional design considerations should include concentrating the flow more in the by-pass channel, having a v-shape at the bottom, and adding one or two pools of moderate depth to improve fish passage.

Concluding Analysis

Water quantity is a critical limiting factor in the watershed. The project has potential to build on the instream flows that have already been realized from previous projects downstream. Potential savings from this project have not been determined and would likely not be established until after the project was implemented. Future submissions could be improved through a more thorough discussion about documenting potential instream water, the feasibility of combining diversion points, and ensuring designs meet fish passage standards.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$220,681

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

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2006-16369

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Baker Creek Fish Passage Restoration

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $685,573

Total Cost: $1,160,463

Project Abstract *(from application)*

On Baker Creek there is a 12ft diameter by 250ft length culvert that is perched 18ft above stream grade and currently obstructing native migratory fish passage (Powers, Oregon/Coos County). Baker Creek was designated as a “Key Watershed” for maintaining and recovering at-risk anadromous fish habitat under the Northwest Forest Plan. Removal of the culvert has been identified by both state and federal agencies as a high priority restoration project for ESA listed Oregon Coast coho salmon and other anadromous species. Culvert removal will address limiting factors for coho recovery in the Coquille basin by restoring volitional fish passage and stream connectivity to important juvenile thermal refugia and access to an additional 2.0 miles of spawning and rearing habitat. In 2012, a feasibility study occurred to evaluate the removal of the culvert and the project has moved forward since then. River Design Group has issued a 30% design and is approaching a 60% design in May 2018. An OWEB TA grant is funding ongoing cultural resource surveys and final engineering designs. Together with the BLM, ODFW and the USFWS, the Coquille Watershed Association will restore anadromous fish passage to critical spawning, rearing and thermal refugia habitat. Pre-restoration actions in 2018 include fortifying the surrounding road and bridge. Restoration actions in 2019 include: removing the culvert and degraded fish ladder, constructing a pilot channel, and allowing for natural sediment delivery. In 2020, final channel modifications will be made and the team will construct LWD structures to enhance habitat at the project site.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project design and approach resulted from two Technical Assistance grants, is technically sound, and is likely to achieve project objectives.
- Baker Creek is a thermal refugia for ESA-listed coho; barrier removal will provide access to two more miles of high-quality cold water habitat.
- Strong partnerships are evidenced by the technical resources, funding, and implementation support contributed by project partners. USFWS and NOAA have been involved in permitting, with the project on track to begin implementation in 2019.
- The location originally identified for fill material disposal has changed to eliminate the need for a temporary bridge to cross the stream.
- The project will improve stream temperature in a 303(d)-listed stream.

- The proposed approach works with natural stream processes rather than hardening solutions in place.
- Large wood structures will trap sediment in a gravel-starved reach downstream of the culvert replacement site.

Concerns

- There is a high cost associated with addressing a barrier of this magnitude.

Concluding Analysis

The magnitude of the project makes it seem more like a dam removal than a typical culvert removal. The South Fork Coquille is water quality limited with high water temperatures during the summer months and is also sediment starved. The project will provide refugia for juvenile salmonids and help restore natural stream function and sediments to the system below.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$685,573

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$685,573

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2007-16371
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Seestrom Tidelands Restoration
Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Coos
OWEB Request: $808,600
Total Cost: $2,802,293

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Lack of slow-water refugia and off-channel habitat has been identified as one of the most critical limiting factors affecting Oregon Coast ESU coho salmon recovery. These types of habitats, including tidal wetland habitats in the Coquille River basin, have been converted to pasture using tidegate infrastructure to the extent that less than 5% of the historic acreage of wetlands currently exists. Restoration of tidal wetlands is a top priority for coho recovery in federal, state and local action plans. The Seestrom Tidelands Restoration project will address this critical limiting factor by restoring floodplain connectivity to 270 acres of working ranch on the Coquille River near Riverton, OR (Coos County). Prioritized as a high potential restoration project by a tidegate survey and optimization model, this working landscapes project will provide critical habitat restoration for coho and other anadromous fish while also providing improved pasture infrastructure and water management. To achieve this, the Coquille Watershed Association and the landowner are collaborating with ODFW and USFWS. Restoration actions include replacing two failing tidegates limiting anadromous fish passage to critical winter habitat, reconstructing historical tidal channels from current diked channels, planting a riparian buffer in a fenced livestock exclusion area, and implementing a water management plan. These restoration actions will improve access, complexity, and productive capacity of floodplain and tidally influenced habitats for overwintering coho, summer rearing fall Chinook salmon, cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey while also providing increased drainage and pasture management for the landowner; truly a win-win restoration project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application addressed concerns raised in the previous review regarding both the lack of a design and water management plan. USFWS financial and technical support has resulted in project designs that are ready for implementation. The water management plan is now in place.
- The design engineer is also responsible for construction inspection.
- The landowners are supportive and committed to the project. The working lands project accomplishes conservation goals while continuing agricultural use. Under a 5-year agreement, the landowners will be responsible for maintenance of fences and riparian vegetation.
- The project is a good outreach opportunity for other landowners facing tidegate issues.
- The project is a result of a strong partnership, with partners working together to develop, finance, and implement the project.

- Restoration and a “fish friendly” tidegate will benefit many species dependent upon tidal wetlands and off-channel habitat. The project will have a high benefit to juvenile ESA-listed coho by increasing opportunities for over-winter habitat critical to their production and survival.
- The project will help restore a more predictable tidal exchange regime and restore riparian areas.

Concerns

- Replacement of tidegates comes at a high cost and the infrastructure has a defined lifespan. In this case, the $165,000 for mobilization/demobilization seems high, and the $850,000 in match is unsecured.

Concluding Analysis

Designs are complete and permits should be in hand in late 2018. The project is a good working landscape model and will have significant benefits to the watershed in the form of improving tidal function, water quality, and habitat critical to the survival of juvenile ESA-listed coho and many other species. Additionally, the landowner’s ability to manage for agricultural purposes will be enhanced, increasing the likelihood of long-term success in improving watershed health.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$808,600

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$808,600

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2008-16388

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Steelhead Creek Culvert Replacement and Stream Enhancement

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $170,689

Total Cost: $350,608

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Steelhead Creek, a tributary stream located in the northeastern part of the West Fork Cow Creek watershed, was surveyed for fish habitat conditions and fish presence as part of creating the West Fork Cow Creek Action Plan (2016). West Fork Cow Creek is a 55,914 acre 5th field watershed located in the South Umpqua sub-basin. Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR), Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Medford BLM and private timber companies began a new partnership to assess fish presence and stream habitat conditions and prioritize restoration work in that area (OWEB TA 215-2049). A fish passage blocking culvert and poor instream conditions on Steelhead Creek ranked as high priority projects to increase productivity for Oregon Coast (OC) coho, winter steelhead and other native fish. Project designs for top-tier project work across the watershed were completed in 2017 and included the instream structure design and culvert replacement design and specifications for Steelhead Creek. BLM, PUR and ODFW staff worked together to design instream log structures at 31 sites across 1.25 miles of Steelhead Creek for a total of 168 logs placed on both BLM managed and Weyerhaeuser lands. Instream habitat structures will extend from the mouth of the creek to 0.25 miles past the failing culvert. PUR's contract engineer surveyed the culvert site and designed a culvert to provide fish passage to an additional 1.0 mile of upstream habitat. OWEB funds will be used for wages and benefits, contracted services, travel, materials, post-project monitoring and grant administration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project partners have developed a good track record developing and implementing instream and fish passage projects.
- Replacing the culvert will provide access for ESA-listed coho to high intrinsic potential habitat as well as improve stream function and sediment transport in the reach.
- At the downstream end of the project is a high value extensive beaver complex where another tributary meets Steelhead Creek, increasing the benefits of habitat restoration.
- The culvert designs meet NOAA fish passage criteria.
- The culvert has a high potential for failure, creating a sense of urgency.
- Given the gravel richness of the stream, there should be a quick response to the large wood placement in the form of increased habitat complexity.
- The project builds on extensive instream habitat and fish passage work undertaken in this sub-watershed.

Concerns

- The culvert is higher in the system, so biologically it is less of a priority.
- Additional information on culvert design would be helpful to the review, including whether there had been a scour analysis, who developed the design, and a better description of the stream and channel.

Concluding Analysis

The application demonstrates strong partnerships committed to improving habitat conditions in this system. The proposal addresses the second highest priority limiting factor for ESA-listed coho by increasing instream habitat complexity, and is complementary to its watershed context, which includes an established beaver complex downstream as well as completed habitat restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$170,689

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$170,689

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2009-16399

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Butler/Lutsinger Instream Restoration

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $312,216

Total Cost: $524,070

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The tributaries of the Middle Umpqua River are prolific streams, with a close proximity to the ocean, gravel richness, and overall productivity that make them key to Oregon Coast Coho recovery and survival. However, many have been severely impacted by historic management practices that are now outlawed, such as splash damming and stream cleaning. Several tributaries in the Lower Umpqua River were assessed for fisheries restoration need and where appropriate, project work was designed (OWEB TA 215-2047). On both streams, a lack of instream large wood has limited spawning and rearing habitat, resulting in lower fish production. Log structures were designed for Butler and Lutsinger creeks during the technical assistance project. Across both BLM managed and Roseburg Resources owned timberlands, this project seeks to restore 4.25 miles of Lutsinger Creek (including tributaries), and 1.25 miles of Butler Creek by using a helicopter and excavator to place 588 logs. All sites have been identified, and a material list is attached. Lutsinger Creek has been the subject of restoration activities, including two fish passage culvert replacements and 3.2 miles of instream fish habitat restoration accomplished in 2009 and 2016 (OWEB #209-2020, #215-2014). When 2019 work is complete, all reaches of Lutsinger Creek and Butler Creek that are accessible to salmonids will be fully restored. OWEB funds will be used for project management and travel, contracted services, project materials, and fiscal administration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration actions will help restore natural stream function and enhance ESA-listed coho spawning and rearing habitats, improving productivity.
- The coordination of helicopter work with other projects in the region helps reduce costs.
- The project partners have developed a good track record developing and implementing instream habitat projects. New partners were brought in, resulting in increased leverage.
- The design approach bundled the remaining project work within the stream system in order to eliminate multiple site mobilization costs.
- This proposal is complementary to previous restoration efforts in Butler and Lutsinger Creeks.
- The project addresses stream complexity, a critical limiting factor for coho.

Concerns

- The potential for future large wood recruitment is low.
- Aggradation will increase the width/depth ratio of the channel.
- The proposed approach relies on locking logs into small alder in an entrenched channel. While the design includes more pieces of wood than is typical to compensate, there is a risk that the structures will move.

Concluding Analysis

The application is a resubmittal from the previous cycle when it was recommended but fell below the funding line. The applicant addressed questions in the previous review about helicopter usage and associated costs by avoiding the need to re-enter the system for additional work. Restoration will address limiting factors for ESA-listed coho and the habitat needs of other native fish species. There is urgency to the timing of OWEB funding since matching BLM RAC funds will otherwise be lost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$312,216

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$312,216

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2010-16411

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration

Applicant: Elk Creek WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $328,009

Total Cost: $556,285

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project addresses key watershed problems in Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks, the two major tributaries of the Middle Elk Creek 6th-field watershed of the Elk Creek 5th-field watershed of the Umpqua Basin, west of Drain in North Douglas County, Oregon. Past and current land management practices have contributed to degraded instream coho habitat, riparian habitat and water quality, as well as fish passage barriers. The restoration plan is based on the recommendations of the Fish and Stream Habitat Inventory Findings and Restoration Action Plans for Jack Creek (2015) and Hardscrabble Creek (2016). Restoration actions include:• Installation of 67 instream fish habitat structures along 3 miles of Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks (313 logs, 700 boulders, 20 whole trees, 200+ Christmas trees) to increase in-stream habitat complexity• Replacement of culvert on Johney Creek (Jack Creek tributary) to open up 1.75 miles of high intrinsic potential coho habitat• Replacement of "low-water bridge" on Hardscrabble Creek to improve access to 2.5 miles of high intrinsic potential coho spawning habitat• Replacement of damaged culvert on Hardscrabble Creek before its failure impacts water quality• Restoration of 12 acres of degraded riparian habitat along 1.3 miles, of Jack and Johney Creeks by brush mulching, planting 1700 trees and shrubs to enhance mature hardwoods, and a 3-year spring and fall herbicide regime for brush and moisture control to encourage native plant survival.• Complete exclusion of livestock from 1.3 miles of Jack and Johney Creeks, with 2.6 miles of wildlife-friendly riparian fencing, 2 railcar bridges and an off-channel livestock water system • Extensive willow planting (5000 cuttings) to provide shade, capture bedload and improve beaver habitatPartners include the landowner (the Woolley family - Hardscrabble Ranch, LLC), OWEB, BLM, ODFW, Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District and the Umpqua Fish Enhancement Derby.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner and property manager are committed to making the project successful. The application demonstrates good partnerships in place to develop, implement, and maintain the work for restoration benefits. The project will also help increase the landowner's effectiveness in managing the property for both agricultural and forestry purposes.
- The landowner has good rapport with other landowners in the watershed and is open to using the project as an outreach tool.
- The project will benefit habitat important to ESA-listed coho and other native salmonids as well as help improve water quality. The stream reaches were selected based on a watershed rapid bioassessment.

- The setbacks are larger than is typical and all fencing is wildlife friendly.

Concerns

- More information on bridge and culvert designs would be useful to the review:
  o two of the bridges were identified as project match and one has already been installed;
  o bridge scour is not addressed;
  o the railcar bridges are not included in the budget; and
  o boulder and barb structures in the site 13 design are more appropriate for a bedrock channel rather than an alluvial system.
- The applicant has limited experience with restoration projects. To address capacity concerns, the applicant should consider phasing the project by implementing the bridges and culverts first, then the in-stream and fencing components.

Concluding Analysis

The application is a resubmittal in which the applicant addressed questions and incorporated suggestions from the previous review. The landowners and the land manager are committed to the success of the project, which has a high likelihood of achieving project objectives. Due to the complexity of the project, the applicant should consider phasing the work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$328,009

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

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2011-16330

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Cow Creek Umpqua Tribe Rogue River Restoration Project

Applicant: Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $45,997

Total Cost: $57,517

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians owns a working cattle and hay production ranch on the main stem Rogue River in Jackson County near Central Point, Oregon. The property includes approximately 9,700 feet of frontage along the Rogue River. A portion of that frontage (approximately 200 feet) is actively eroding into the river and there is an additional 400 ft of frontage that requires restoration in order to stabilize the bank and provide other ecosystem functions. The eroding side channel is a chronic source of sediment to the Rogue River and is threatening to erode a narrow strip of land between the river and a pond on the property that is used for irrigation. The remaining 400 ft of non-actively eroding channel needs to be treated for invasive species (Himalayan blackberry). Once the invasive species are removed, the site will need to be re-planted in order to stabilize the bank and avoid sedimentation into the channel. While addressing the riparian function, we will enhance the side channel with fish habitat structures that can be used for cover and juvenile fish rearing. This is a critical area for salmonid spawning and rearing, as side channel habitat is considered limited in the main stem Rogue River. We will hire a consulting firm to perform a site investigation, draft a narrative report, and prepare a preferred conceptual 30% design for the site. Project partners include the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians Natural Resources Department (Water and Environmental Resources Program), K-Bar Ranches Corp. (Tribally owned) and the Tribe's Emergency Management Department . This work would also support efforts by others to improve the habitat within the main stem Rogue River including The Freshwater Trust and other NGO's working within the Rogue Basin.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting restoration will help to prevent negative impacts which could occur if the Rogue River captured an historic aggregate quarry which now serves as an irrigation pond.
- The bioengineering approach is sound and may help demonstrate techniques to other landowners with similar issues. In addition to bio-engineering techniques, the design will consider wood structures to slow water velocity, a technique used successfully at similar sites to address erosion on meanders.
- The side channel has potential to increase refugia for juvenile salmonids including ESA-listed coho.
- The riparian restoration will reduce temperature and sedimentation and stabilize the stream banks if it works as designed. Greater benefit would be achieved if more riparian area was added to project scope.

Concerns

- The application identifies other partners but their commitment to the project is unclear. It is also unclear if there had been effective communication about the project with the local community.
- It is unclear whether bioengineering techniques alone will have enough time to establish and hold if the channel is actively eroding into the bank.
- The application did not identify contributory causes to the erosion problem. It will be important to look at the larger project reach in order to determine causal factors. Two earlier OWEB funded projects (203-019 and 204-098) located nearby may provide baseline information related to channel profiles to assist in the design work.
- It was unclear whether adequate consideration was given to other alternatives.
- The budget for contracted services is in the form of lump sums, making it difficult to evaluate the appropriateness of the costs.

Concluding Analysis

The project seeks to address bank erosion and the possible capture of an irrigation pond on the mainstem Rogue River. These situations can unravel quickly and cause significant impacts in the form of increased sedimentation, impacts to channel integrity, and loss of riparian areas, which are then more costly to address. Other projects in the vicinity have been successful in halting gravel pond capture, and should inform the design of this project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$45,997

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

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2012-16343

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Floras Creek Sediment Abatement Road Inventory_Resubmission

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: $25,300

Total Cost: $38,800

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 36.6 miles of privately owned, non-industrial, forestry-grazing roads located on 6 ownerships (5443 acres) in the Middle Mainstem and South Fork subwatersheds; and on 4.33 miles of BLM road (695 acres) 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 sediment delivery. Sediment abatement plans will be developed to summarize the inventory data, prescribe BMP's for 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

- The project is a resubmittal of an application that was previously not recommended for funding. The applicant addressed concerns raised from the previous review by improving maps and including a discussion of the survey approach, including its use for a similar project that resulted in identification and development of successful on-the-ground projects.
- There are multiple EQIP and CREP projects in the area and expanding sediment reduction work to roads would leverage those projects.
- The applicant has developed good relations with private landowners in the area and the work focuses on private roads in the watershed.
- The project area includes the drinking water source for the City of Langlois, which helps leverage additional funds.

Concerns

- A large portion of matching funds is pending; however, there is a high likelihood that ODA funding will be secured.

- The application lacks a systematic approach and a specific set of established protocols.

Concluding Analysis

The project ultimately seeks to treat many different problems related to roads and seeks to be flexible to meet multiple private landowners' needs. As a result, the approach appears to incorporate methods adapted from several assessment processes rather than a more systematic approach. Similar previous road survey efforts by the applicant have led to successful project implementation, however, and the project is based on that work with similar outcomes anticipated by the project partners.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$25,300

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

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2013-16348

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Twelvemile Creek Watershed Assessment and Project Development

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $42,092

Total Cost: $81,474

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project will occur on Twelvemile Creek, a 24,000-acre drainage to the Middle Fork Coquille River (Douglas County). Twelvemile Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for coho, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey. Primary limiting factors in the sub-watershed include a lack of stream habitat complexity and poor water quality. Historically, Twelvemile Creek was clear-cut and subjected to stream cleaning. Resultantly, most of Twelvemile Creek and its major fish bearing tributaries lack sufficient LWD. Additionally, the sub-watershed has riparian corridors impacted by a legacy of timber harvesting resulting in reduced recruitment of LWD. Moreover, an extensive array of road networks throughout the basin are contributing to high rates of sediment loading. We aim to review watershed conditions in order to develop, prioritize, and design habitat/water quality enhancement projects in the sub-watershed. Assessments will include surveying fish passage impediments on road crossings, conducting road network surveys using Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package methods, and analyzing existing ODFW Aquatic Habitat Inventory data to evaluate current stream/riparian conditions and prioritize reaches for treatment. We expect assessments to yield 5-7 potential projects as determined by project partners (CoqWA, timber companies, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, ODFW, BLM). This funding will cover designs and initial permitting for the top three projects. We have conducted initial surveying and expect to develop designs for a minimum of 1 anadromous stream culvert replacement, placement of ~200 LWD components, installation of 200-400+ cross drain/road infrastructure improvements and riparian enhancement where needed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application presented a sound plan which is likely to lead to identifying priority areas and specific project sites.
- Resulting restoration actions will benefit water quality and habitat in Twelvemile Creek and the benefits are likely to extend to the Middle Fork Coquille. There is a perception that ESA-listed coho do not use Twelvemile Creek and while it is near the top of their range in the Middle Fork Coquille watershed, they can access it. The proposal presents an opportunity for a pilot project to get meaningful restoration work started in this watershed.
- The road survey work covers 36 miles, making it a significant effort to identify sediment inputs and road crossing issues. The survey will utilize professionally accepted methods described in The Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package.

- There is urgency to the timing of the application. A fire in 2017 killed trees which will be suitable for instream habitat restoration projects for a limited time.

Concerns

- Access to one stream segment has been denied in the past, but current management is amenable to instream project work there.

Concluding Analysis

Twelvemile Creek has not had a lot of attention but restoration has potential to benefit water quality as well as fish populations both in Twelvemile Creek and the Middle Fork Coquille. The proposal offers a sound plan that has a high likelihood of resulting in important restoration projects being developed and implemented.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$42,092

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$42,092

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2014-16357

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Bridgepoint Dam Fish Passage Project

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Josephine

OWEB Request: $34,502

Total Cost: $54,422

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will develop engineered designs for fish passage improvement and irrigation efficiency at Lower Bridgepoint Dam (York Breeden Dam), a channel-spanning, fish passage barrier at river mile 0.5 on Williams Creek in Josephine County. Lower Bridgepoint 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 over 13.1 miles of habitat for Chinook salmon, 24 miles of habitat for ESA- listed threatened SONCC Coho salmon, 36.2 miles of habitat for steelhead, 62.5 miles of habitat for cutthroat trout, and 11.5 miles of habitat for ESA-listed species of concern Pacific lamprey. Lower Bridgepoint Dam is listed on the2018 ODFW Statewide Fish Passage Priority list and is #10 on the Rogue Basin Partnership Future Project Priority “Top 10 List” of fish passage projects. The current conveyance system has a low efficiency rate and high transmission losses which require diverting a greater quantity of water in order for irrigators near the end of the ditch to receive their full allotment of water. Additionally, the dam has caused accelerated erosion of streambanks at the BLM Provolt Seed Orchard.This proposal will provide engineered designs for a reverse siphon that will replace the current pushup dam and restore access to miles of high quality fish habitat thereby supporting fish population recovery for ESA-listed and state-listed species. The developed streambank stability and conveyance efficiency designs will improve fish population, address DEQ-listed limiting factors, and watershed health by increasing water quality and leaving water instream. Project partners include Blue Fox Farms, Whistling Duck Farms, Lower Bridgepoint Irrigation Association, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Water Resources Department, Rogue Basin Partnership, and Middle Rogue Steelheaders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting restoration work will benefit ESA-listed coho and other anadromous species through improved fish passage and water quantity, both of which are critical limiting factors in this system. The applicant is investigating using the conserved water statute with land owners to permanently protect instream water.
- The project site is in proximity to, and builds upon, other restoration efforts including fish passage, riparian, and instream habitat restoration.
- The project is supported by a strong partnership and commitment to the project is evidenced by the many letters of support describing partner roles.

- The technical approach is sound and has a high likelihood of achieving project objectives.
- The project is timely with respect to a proposed nearby recreation development.

Concerns

- None identified.

Concluding Analysis

The resulting habitat restoration and water quality improvement is likely to provide high value for this technical assistance investment while providing the opportunity for irrigators to more efficiently and effectively use diverted water.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$34,502

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$34,502

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2015-16384

Project Type: Technical Assistance

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

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $65,166

Total Cost: $86,692

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. Fish passage barriers and impediments can fragment stream reaches limiting access to valuable habitat.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 highly valuable tributary systems. We will use a protocol designed by the US Forest Service Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package (GRAIP) to capture current road conditions and identify problems. This project will provide two tools for reducing the effects of road on streams: (1) a road features GIS database; (2) a fish passage and sediment reduction Action Plan. These tools will help us to estimate road sediment yield and hydrological connectivity; identify needs, prioritization, and layouts for road improvements, or decommissions; and used for tracking sediment reduction actions and long term asset management.Project partners will be Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Weyerhaeuser and US Forest Service (USFS). Weyerhaeuser, BLM, and ODFW will help to develop future restoration projects. US Forest Service will provide training and support. OWEB funds will be used to conduct surveys, data analysis, project management, training, travel, equipment and supplies.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant responded to a suggestion from the previous review by providing training on the survey methodology to Weyerhaeuser road staff.
- The project will survey a high number of road miles (234) for the investment.
- The project takes a watershed approach using an established methodology (GRAIP) to identify sediment sources, which the applicant has utilized successfully in other watersheds.
- The project seeks to identify opportunities to develop projects to address sediment from road crossings, which leverages prior instream habitat restoration and fish passage work.
- There is a strong partnership evidenced by extensive survey work previously undertaken in the Coos River watershed. Project partners have a history of collaborating to develop and implement projects once assessments are done.

- Resulting restoration work will improve water quality through reduction of sediment and benefit habitat important to ESA-listed coho and other salmon and trout species utilizing the system.

Concerns

- The application did not respond to previous concerns requesting details on habitat potential and capacity, and linkage to fish distribution.
- The USFS is not listed as a partner, yet the proposed work utilizes USFS protocols.
- The proposed methodology includes a comprehensive survey of potential problems, but the result is limited to a prioritization of riparian road issues.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant and the project partners have developed a strong working relationship and a strong track record on similar projects. The previous efforts have resulted in multiple restoration projects to address road issues in streams important to ESA-listed coho and other native fish species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 6

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

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2016-16385
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Elkton Reserve Restoration Project
Applicant: South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Douglas
OWEB Request: $53,149
Total Cost: $89,349

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Elkton Reserve site, located on the main stem of the Umpqua River near Elkton in Douglas County, is home to 410 acres of complex, high value, critical oak and mixed conifer habitat. An existing Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) plan is in place for the property. However, its focus is on conifer forest habitat management, and the HFRP plan contains little direction for the management of non-forested habitat such as open meadows, oak stands, mixed oak conifer stands and streams, ponds, bogs, and other aquatic assets. These more open or aquatic habitats support or have the potential to support a wide variety of wildlife, including songbirds, rare prairie and oak-dependent plants, and federally listed aquatic species such as Coho salmon or species of concern such as Lamprey, Umpqua Chub and the Western Pond Turtle. Current challenges within more open habitats include non-native weeds and conifer encroachment into the meadow and oak habitat areas. In addition, very little attention has been paid to the aquatic habitats, and existing culvert crossings are substandard.We propose to develop a comprehensive restoration plan for the site that incorporates State and Federally recognized high priority habitats. Creating this plan will ensure that restoration actions will conserve and improve rare habitats and provide benefits to the species that depend upon them for years to come. Project partners include National Resource Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Dept. Forestry, Oregon Dept. Fish and Wildlife, Lomakatsi Restoration Project and the South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A portion of the property is enrolled in The Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) and is under a permanent easement held by NRCS.
- The landowners are conservation-minded and the land management approach is sound.
- The project is supported by NRCS and USFWS.
- The property has valuable upland habitat including open meadow and oak. Aquatic resources are limited as the property is at the upper end of the sub-watershed; however, there is beaver activity present.
- The proposal presents a good opportunity for developing an implementable plan to address multiple issues facing important habitat types from a ridge to ridge perspective.

Concerns

- The implementation of any oak habitat restoration resulting from this Technical Assistance project within the bounds of the easement will likely require additional review by NRCS/USFWS/ODF to insure the HFRP values of the easement, particularly for spotted owl habitat, as well as the protections of the safe harbor agreement for Northern Spotted Owl, all remain intact.
- The application as presented seems to be more technical planning rather than site-specific design, making it unclear whether eligible restoration projects will result.
- A large portion of match is pending, which could impact the project.
- It was not apparent if the applicant will be working with USFWS or ODA on federally listed ESA plant species that have habitat ranges that include the property.
- The ecosystem benefits, as presented, were hard to quantify.

Concluding Analysis

There is potential to restore and protect important upland habitat areas, and to provide outreach opportunities for restoration. The HFRP plan did not consider oak habitat values, creating some challenges to implementing any restoration actions on those areas within the easement. The HFRP is a “working lands” program, however, and there is the possibility that if all the interested parties -- the landowners, NRCS, ODF, and USFWS -- worked together they could develop a path forward that updates the existing HFRP plan to include a more holistic approach while still maintaining the values and intentions of the HFRP. Having certainty that the Technical Assistance project will result in implementable projects within the HFRP easement is vital.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2017-16396

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Coos Estuarine Wetland Restoration Project Designs

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $55,868

Total Cost: $76,148

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This Technical Assistance proposal will consist of developing project designs, permits, and funding proposals for wetland restoration projects in high priority areas for lowland restoration: the Coos Bay estuary, mainstem Coos River, and the Catching Creek basin—a main tributary to the Coos Bay, east of the town of Coos Bay, Coos County. After rearing in protective freshwater areas, juvenile salmonids migrate downstream, into highly productive wetlands were they continue to grow and acclimate to salt water. Marshes can be critical to the growth and maturation of coho salmon; however, 80-90% of salt marshes in the Coos basin have been lost due to diking and filling for agricultural and industrial purposes. This has led to a significant reduction in the quantity and quality and rearing habitat available to juvenile salmonids. Resulting deliverables will include four wetland restoration projects ready to receive funding and be implemented. These projects will restore or enhance 107.5 acres of wetlands for salmonid rearing habitat and will include restoration practices such as wetland and riparian plantings, channel reconfigurations, culvert replacements, and large wood placements. These restoration actions require technical expertise, and advisors including South Slough National Estuary Research Reserve (SSNERR), Chris Claire from ODFW, and Craig Cornu (former Stewardship Coordinator of SSNERR) will be consulted on project designs. OWEB funds will primarily be used for project management and personnel time to prepare permits and land use agreements, write reports, develop grant applications, perform hydrological modeling for channel reconfigurations, determine large wood placements, and stream crossing designs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application was well developed and provided clear project detail and background information.
- The project focuses on the estuary environment and the resulting restoration will benefit many species, including ESA-listed coho, wetlands, tidal processes, and water quality.
- The application describes the specific projects and the amount of habitat that would result from the project designs.
- Coos Watershed Association has a sound track record of developing projects from assessment and strategic planning work.
- The proposal offers a sound approach to working with an interesting mix of targeted landowners including, private, private industrial, non-profit and public.

Concerns

- Public awareness efforts were not addressed in the application.
- Some restoration designs involve developing “high-risk plans” for structures such as bridges, dikes, and tidegates, and will have to be approached thoughtfully. Plans will likely require a professional engineer stamp.
- This is a complex project and it was unclear whether the proposed budget is adequate.

Concluding Analysis

Historic estuary losses make projects that seek to restore impaired function a high priority. The applicant has proven experience developing sound watershed assessments and implementing successful projects, including undertaking the design and permitting necessary for construction.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$55,868

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$55,868

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2018-16382

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Coos-Coquille Comprehensive Tidegate Outreach

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $169,792

Total Cost: $214,117

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Increased juvenile coho access to tidally-influenced rearing habitat is identified as critical for species recovery in the 2016 NMFS Final ESA Recovery Plan for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon, and in numerous state and local plans. Coastwide, that access has been increasingly restricted over the past 150 years by tidegate networks constructed to drain land for agricultural production. In the Coos and Coquille watersheds more than 18,000 acres of such habitat has been identified, and existing tidegate inventories confirm that the overwhelming majority of infrastructure restricting fish access is on private lands. Many aging tidegate systems are increasingly ineffective, and new tidegate designs can address fish passage consistent with pasture management goals, but to date few agricultural landowners have participated in fish passage upgrades. They report difficulty finding consistent, intelligible regulatory information about their options; lack confidence in regulators; doubt that fish passage provisions will serve their agricultural interests; and/or need financial and technical advice and assistance with prerequisites for permits and project implementation. The Coos SWCD and Coos and Coquille Watershed Associations propose to cost-effectively address these engagement barriers by jointly implementing a comprehensive multi-level outreach program to landowner groups and individuals as a non-regulatory “full-service” resource for exploration of project options. Our combined agricultural and fish habitat expertise has earned landowner trust and enables us to provide on-site evaluation of project options, agency liaison, and follow-up technical assistance and referral. The project is endorsed by local landowners, landowner groups, and local government.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project complements a larger state/federal/county initiative to address tidegate issues.
- The project will provide a needed forum to support a more proactive approach, involving all parties in addressing issues associated with tidegates.
- The multi-pronged approach, which includes a non-regulatory entity holding meetings at neutral places, should improve landowner participation. The work is informed by the successful Coffee Klatch approach previously implemented by the Coos Watershed Association.
- The approach is likely to be effective for translating regulations to landowners and provides landowners a pathway for identifying issues alongside other landowners facing similar issues.
- The work will lay the foundation for restoring estuarine habitat. The potential for improved estuarine habitat will benefit ESA-listed coho and a multitude of other aquatic species in these two watersheds.

- There is a lot of aging tidegate infrastructure and engaging landowners will not only benefit estuarine health but also benefit the ability of land managers to more proactively manage their properties.
- In the Coos watershed, there is potential to add value by incorporating the Coho Business Plan messaging into the outreach work.

Concerns

- Trust is going to play a big part in successfully implementing this work. The applicant plans to hire a partnership coordinator and it will be important to have leadership and a team that has a high likelihood of being accepted by landowners.
- While the project focus is on agricultural landowners, it is also important that municipalities be included in the outreach.
- It is important to also lay the foundation for the future as tidegates upgraded now will, in several decades, once again be nearing the end of their functional life and will need replacing.
- The deliverables are vague in terms of the types of material produced and the metrics are unclear regarding the number of landowners to be reached.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant has presented a thoughtful pathway for engaging landowners in understanding and addressing tidegates with a proactive and non-traditional approach. The proposed stakeholder engagement is likely to result in projects that restore connectivity and enhance land managers' use of their property much sooner than traditional efforts.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount

$169,792

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$169,792

Staff Conditions

None

Willamette Basin - Region 3 Spring 2018 Funding Recommendations

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Funding Recommendations

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

Previous Grants - 1998-2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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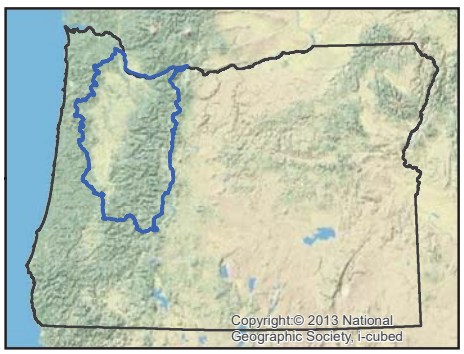


Region 3 - Willamette Basin

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-3001	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Camas Swale Restoration: Neighbors Working Together	Native streamside plant communities will be established by planting native vegetation, controlling noxious weeds, and installing fencing to exclude livestock along Camas Swale near Creswell, Oregon. This 9.66 acre project will benefit native fish and wildlife habitat and improve water quality.	85,371	Lane
219-3003	Middle Fork Willamette WC	Coal Creek Floodplain Restoration	Natural stream functions in Coal Creek, a tributary in the Upper Middle Fork Willamette River, will be restored by removing berms and placing large wood instream. This 20-acre project will restore a natural river connection with its floodplain and provide essential habitat to endangered spring Chinook salmon and bull trout, as well as other native aquatic and terrestrial species.	240,027	Lane
219-3002	Sandy River Basin WC	Sandy-Salmon Floodplain Reconnecton Project	A levee will be partially removed and large wood structures will be placed instream to mimick natural log jams in the Salmon River and Sandy River confluence area. This will reconnect the river with its floodplain and open historic side-channels, which will disperse river energy across the floodplain and provide migratory and rearing habitat for native salmon.	251,020	Clackamas
219-3004	Friends of Buford Park & Mt Pisgah	Mt. Pisgah Oak-Pine Woodland, Oak Savanna, & Wet Prairie Restoration: Ponderosa Unit	Restoration and enhancement of wetland prairie, upland prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitats across a 110-acre project site will benefit 17 at-risk native plant and wildlife species, including the Western meadowlark and acorn woodpecker, that depend on these habitat and are known to occur in the Mt. Pisgah area near Eugene, Oregon.	199,492	Lane
219-3000	Scappoose Bay WC	Lower North Scappoose Stream Enhancement	The amount and quality of stream habitat will be increased in the North Scappoose Creek for Chinook, coho, and steelhead fish by placing large wood instream and restoring a native plant community adjacent to the stream.	85,939	Columbia
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**861,849**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
		None			
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**861,849**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
		None		

Region 3 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-3009	Molalla River Watch Inc.	Molalla Confluence Floodplain Restoration	Restoration opportunities will be identified and design solutions will be created to provide diverse habitats and improve water quality in the Molalla State Park for winter steelhead and spring Chinook, and other native fish and wildlife species.	66,154	Clackamas
219-3007	Marys River WC	Oak Creek	Design work will be completed to restore fish passage at four barriers on Oak Creek, located in Corvallis, Oregon. This will provide year-round access to stream habitat for cutthroat trout, and is the first step in building a landscape-scale strategy for the stewardship and enhancement of Oak Creek.	74,997	Benton
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**141,151**	

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-3006	Scappoose Bay WC	South Scappoose Creek, Reach F Design	Technical assistance will include stream survey work and modeling to produce permit-ready designs for stream restoration projects that will restore natural habitat for salmon production.	37,867	Columbia
219-3008	Clackamas SWCD	Delano Creek Fish Passage Design	Design work will be completed to replace a failing private farm crossing with a spanning bridge on Delano Creek, a tributary of Clear Creek. Replacing this fish passage barrier will benfit salmon habitat and protect water quality.	35,742	Clackamas
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**214,760**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
219-3005	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Lower Eagle Creek Restoration Feasibility Assessment	74,989	Hood River

Region 3 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-3012	Long Tom WC	Monroe Dam Alternative Selection	Stakeholder engagement will convene the City of Monroe community in evaluating alternatives for addressing fish passage at the Monroe dam, and collaboratively determine a solution that integrates economy, community, and watershed health	82,462	Benton
219-3013	Marys River WC	Oak Creek Stakeholder Engagement 2018	A diverse group of Oak Creek landowners and other stakeholders will be engage in a collaborative process to determine strategies for stewardship in the Oak Creek watershed.	43,126	Benton
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**125,588**	

Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount	County
219-3011	Clackamas River Basin Council	Stakeholder Engagement for a Healthy Clackamas Watershed	The Healthy Clackamas Watershed program offers stakeholder engagement opportunities to recuit landowner participatation in programs to restore native streamside vegetation and stream projects that support salmon recovery.	12,577	Clackamas
219-3010	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Drinking in the Coast Fork: Engaging Stakeholders to Enhance Water Quality	Landowners will be engaged in the development of restoration projects in Row River, Mosby Creek, and Upper Coast Fork Willamette watershed, which are drinking water sources for the City of Cottage Grove and the City of Creswell. Resulting projects will provide long-term protection of drinking water sources for these communities.	38,295	Lane
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**163,883**	

Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
		None		

Region 3 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**1,128,588**	**12.23%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**9,226,487**	

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3000-16345

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower North Scappoose Stream Enhancement

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $82,531

Total Cost: $172,534

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Project is located on lower North Scappoose Creek, a major tributary to Scappoose Bay, Multnomah Channel and the lower Columbia River. Project site is one mile upstream from the confluence of the North and South Scappoose creeks, just upstream of an identified Anchor Habitat reach. Project addresses key salmon-production limiting factors identified in the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recover Plan (ODFW, 2011): 1) lack of physical habitat quality and complexity, including loss of floodplain connectivity and cool-water pools, and access to off channel habitat; and 2) the loss of complex riparian vegetative function and stream shading. Project will restore natural habitats on 0.3 miles of the main-stem of North Scappoose Creek by installing nine large-wood structures, constructing a bank lay-back along approximately 50 feet, and remove invasive vegetation and replant with native species on approximately 3.4 acres. Project outcomes support Lower Columbia River Fall Chinook, coho, and steelhead by extending high quality, lower-watershed habitat beyond Scappoose Bay and Multnomah Channel directly above tidal reaches. Partners include four private landowners, Bonneville Power Administration and ODFW.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project implements actions that are part of a recently completed watershed strategic action plan.
- The project site is located upstream of previously completed restoration, which expands habitat connectivity and increases the cost benefit of this project.
- Restoration will benefit ESA-listed fisheries and is supported by ODFW.
- This is a well thought out proposal with reasonable goals and a design that will restore channel complexity while also considering risks to nearby infrastructure. The proposed restoration design is site appropriate and technically sound.
- Landowners strongly support the proposed restoration, and the project is expected to build momentum for future stream restoration work.
- The contractor has relevant experience with similar projects.

Concerns

- The short project reach limits the scale of impact and results in a modest overall cost benefit for this restoration investment.

- The application budget lacks detail where costs are lump sums. Additional detail on construction costs would strengthen the application.
- The cost of large wood has been variable and difficult for the applicant to estimate in a grant budget; a potential increase in the cost may limit the number of large wood structures placed during project implementation. Adding a ten percent contingency to the large wood budget line item will increase the likelihood for success in achieving proposed ecological outcomes.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project implements restoration in a strategic action plan for the Scappoose Bay watershed, which is a priority area for ESA-listed fish. While the overall cost-benefit for this project is limited by the scale, the project is likely to build continued momentum for voluntary stream restoration that will increase the benefits from this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund Increased with Conditions

Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$85,939

Review Team Conditions

Add 10% contingency to log structures in Materials and Supplies and associated indirect costs. This increases grant by $3,408.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund Increased with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$85,939

Staff Conditions

Add 10% contingency to log structures in Materials and Supplies and associated indirect costs. This increases grant by $3,408.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3001-16368

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Camas Swale Restoration: Neighbors Working Together

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $85,371

Total Cost: $127,115

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Salyers Family Ranch and Spencer Shadow Ranch are located southwest of Eugene and northwest of Creswell within Lane County in the Lower Coast Fork Willamette watershed. These neighboring privately owned properties are uncommon in the highly populated Willamette Valley because of their size, ~2200 acres combined, and are home to large scale oak and prairie habitats. The project site is located along a major fork of Camas Swale Creek which flows through both ranches. The project site has been impacted by grazing livestock that have removed much of the stream side vegetation, compacted and disturbed soils, and broken down banks, resulting in both channel incision and the widening of stream channels. Degradation of these systems has continued by the colonization of invasive plants, reducing the habitat suitability for wildlife. This 9.66-acre project will address habitat for native species through management of invasive vegetation, planting native vegetation, and initial plant establishment to ensure project success and sustainability. A diverse selection of native species will be planted to increase plant diversity. Re-establishing a native riparian buffer and fencing off the waterways along Camas Swale will benefit fish and wildlife habitat and improve water quality by shading the water, filtering out fine sediments and nutrients and result in a more resilient habitat in the face of climate change. Project partners include Farm Services Agency CREP, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Salyers Family Ranch, Spencer Shadow Ranch, and Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration extends from the upper and lower ends of a completed OWEB project, which will extend habitat connectivity to over 2 miles of restored riparian vegetation.
- The project is located in a Conservation Opportunity Area adjacent to other protected natural areas and near an urban area.
- Restoration will benefit habitat for aquatic and wildlife species, including a Species of Concern, the Oregon Vesper Sparrow.
- Lessons learned from the completed OWEB project are integrated into the proposed project design.
- The project leverages a CREP investment, which is particularly important and timely since the property will no longer be CREP-eligible once it is under a conservation easement as planned.
- This project is a compelling example of Oregon’s voluntary watershed approach in which working with a landowner leads to continued restoration on neighboring lands. There are also potential future opportunities for prairie and woodland oak savannah habitat restoration that could expand from this stream focused project.

- The contractor has relevant experience with similar projects.

Concerns

- The riparian planting design is unusual because it is designed with fewer trees to minimize potential impacts to Oregon Vesper Sparrows that need open plant community structure. While this is a reasonable approach to restore habitat for this Species of Concern, the project would benefit from increased plant diversity. The applicant is strongly encouraged to increase plant diversity in the final planting plan.
- The application budget would be strengthened by further details on the planting plan and how OWEB and CREP funds will be used. Plans for these funds were adequately explained during the application review site visit.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed restoration is a straightforward project that extends habitat connectivity on a large landscape scale. Implementation of this project is urgent in order to use existing match that is time limited. Landowners have demonstrated commitment to land stewardship, including assisting with recruiting neighbors to participate in voluntary restoration that further extends habitat benefit of this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$85,371

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$85,371

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3002-16407

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Sandy-Salmon Floodplain Reconnecton Project

Applicant: Sandy River Basin WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: $251,020

Total Cost: $851,062

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Sandy Salmon Floodplain Reconnection will restore wild salmon habitat and enhance community resiliency in a priority Oregon basin for recovery of threatened Lower Columbia River wild salmon and steelhead that is vulnerable to climate change driven storms, flooding and erosion. Restoring the floodplain at the confluence of the Sandy and Salmon Rivers represents one of the largest and most potentially productive restoration opportunities in the Sandy River basin, identified as a top restoration priority in basin- and reach-scale plans. Levees built after the Sandy's record flood in 1964 isolated key floodplain and side channel habitat. Portions of the levees are vulnerable to failure from long-term erosion. The project site partially breached already in a moderate October 2017 storm flow. Climate models project more severe and frequent storms. Adjacent roads, bridges, water and sewer systems, and homes have been damaged or threatened by previous floods. Proposed restoration actions will alter levees to restore floodplain and side channel habitat, add large wood structures mimicking natural log jams, and restore riparian vegetation to enhance habitat and disperse river energy across the floodplain.. Resulting reconnected floodplain habitat will provide migratory and rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids, addressing reach prioritie for limiting factors specified by restoration plans, and building toward basin scale connectivity in the main stem Sandy and its tributaries. Project partners include Bureau of Land Management and Clackamas County, primary land owners, Portland Water Bureau, which holds a conservation easement on a portion of the project, as well as local residents.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Key watershed limiting factors will be addressed in a high priority watershed for ESA-listed fish, and the proposed restoration may potentially address climate change impacts.
- Proposed restoration is a top priority and top tier action identified in the Sandy Basin Partners' action plan.
- The project builds from an OWEB Technical Assistance project and demonstrates thoughtful consideration of issues for the Sandy basin, such as failing levees and lack of floodplain connectivity. The design process included a technically sound risk assessment, which resulted in a solution that balances public safety and ecological needs.
- The project engineer has relevant experience with similar projects in this watershed.
- Significant community support for the project was demonstrated by active stakeholder participation in the application review site visit.

- The watershed council has expanded their capacity by hiring new staff to manage and focus on this large-scale, complex project.

Concerns

- Discussion of deliverables in the application narrative and metrics sections is unclear.
- There is some uncertainty in how the stream will respond to the proposed restoration activities. A considerable amount of work is proposed for a small footprint that appears to be designed to micromanage watershed processes at the site. As a result, the proposed restoration design moves away from a natural watershed process restoration approach.
- The budget for permits seems low for what the actual cost will likely be on a complex floodplain project.
- It is unclear from the application budget how some match items are necessary for implementing the proposed restoration goals and objectives, such as trail cameras and laptop.
- Further description of outreach project components and how they are necessary for implementing the proposed restoration goals and objectives would strengthen the application.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed restoration is a significant project in a priority basin for ESA-listed fish. Despite uncertainty with the design approach, the proposed restoration solution balances potential habitat gains in a challenging stream system that has limited restoration options. It also balances cost limitations associated with complete versus partial levee removal. The levee is already starting to fail; an intentional and affordable partial levee removal will unravel its impacts in a measured, careful manner that will create conditions for fish while ensuring landowner comfort with the project. Given the contractor's previous experience and approach to stream restoration, there is benefit in investing in this project to learn from the results of the proposed strategy regarding the levees in a challenging and dynamic stream system.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$251,020

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$251,020

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3003-16409
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Coal Creek Floodplain Restoration
Applicant: Middle Fork Willamette WC
Region: Willamette Basin
County: Lane
OWEB Request: $242,027
Total Cost: $488,822

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed project is located on lower Coal Creek at its confluence with the Upper Middle Fork Willamette River, approximately 25 miles south of Oakridge, OR. This section of Coal Creek lies in an unconfined valley with an average gradient of less than two percent. With those characteristics, Coal Creek should be functioning as a depositional reach, but due to anthropogenic impacts stemming from timber harvest practices such as road construction and stream cleaning, it now functions as a transport reach. This transformation in stream processes has caused Coal Creek to incise, leaving the floodplain mostly disconnected, which has resulted in an absence of off-channel habitat, altered vegetation types, a lowered water table, and other detrimental impacts to native fish and wildlife and the ecosystem. Through this project, we seek to reconnect the floodplain to Coal Creek by removing berms along the 0.3-mile stream reach and matching elevations across the 20-acre project area. We will also place as many as 580 pieces of large wood, some with rootwads, throughout the floodplain to spread and slow flow. This will return Coal Creek and its floodplain to a dynamic depositional environment which can provide essential habitat to ESA-threatened populations of spring Chinook salmon and bull trout, as well as many other native aquatic and terrestrial species. The Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council and the US Forest Service Middle Fork Ranger District are partnering on this project, with technical assistance from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed restoration will benefit ESA-listed bull trout.
- A process-based restoration design will reset natural watershed processes that allow water to flow across the floodplain; and materials, including wood and sediment, to deposit naturally on the floodplain. This design approach is feasible because there is no concern for impacting infrastructure. It also incorporates lessons learned from recent implementation of a similar project in the same watershed, integrates active recreation needs, and is based on extensive GIS analysis.
- The interdisciplinary project team has proven experience with related restoration efforts.
- The project is supported by engaged partners, which is demonstrated by letters of support.
- The project cost is reasonable for the watershed benefits.
- The application is well written and includes effective use of maps to describe the project and watershed context.
- The project includes effectiveness monitoring by measuring channel conditions at 100 random points.

- Future project phases are likely to be funded by USFS using timber receipts.

Concerns

- An old engineered log jam design is included in the application that does not appear to be part of the proposed project.
- The impact of proposed restoration is somewhat limited by the project's location above a dam.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project builds on an effective stream restoration approach with proven results in similar stream conditions. The cost benefit to watershed process and habitat has been demonstrated by previous efforts, and this benefit will be further leveraged by future projects planned in the watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$242,027

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Staff reviewed the application budget and determined costs associated with student education is not eligible for OWEB funding because the primary purpose of the associated tasks is education instead of activities necessary for the watershed restoration work as required in ORS 541.956.

Staff Recommendation
Fund Reduced

Staff Recommended Amount
$240,027

Staff Conditions

Remove "Bus transportation for student field trips to site" from Contracted Services, and "Education

Coordinator” from Salaries, Wages and Benefits.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3004-16414

Project Type: Restoration

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

Applicant: Friends of Buford Park & Mt Pisgah

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $199,492

Total Cost: $501,492

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, implements an action from a draft management plan, builds on previous restoration work, and utilizes appropriate restoration methods.
- The site is a priority for oak and prairie dependent species because it is located in a Conservation Opportunity Area and provides opportunity for habitat connectively across a larger landscape context with nearby conservation properties.
- The ecological burn plan is technically sound.
- The project team has relevant experience with this type of restoration, and has experience in working with local mills.

- Partner support is demonstrated with match and letters of support.
- The application addresses previous regional review team concerns.
- Overall project cost is reasonable compared to other oak habitat projects.

Concerns

- The proposed restoration will have limited overall benefit to legacy oak trees.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is time sensitive for the tree thinning component to capture market value on these trees to reinvest in restoration before their value is lost. Since the project is located in a highly visible park, it offers an opportunity to demonstrate effective use of fire on the landscape as a restoration tool. This could help landowners become more comfortable with fire as a management tool and may result in adoption of similar practices on their lands.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$199,492

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$199,492

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3005-16327

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Eagle Creek Restoration Feasibility Assessment

Applicant: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Hood River

OWEB Request: $74,989

Total Cost: $116,074

Project Abstract *(from application)*

LCEP requests $74,987 to complete a feasibility assessment of restoring the cold water refuge provided by lower Eagle Creek to returning adult Columbia River salmon and steelhead and fish passage in the creek to 1.2 miles of high quality salmon and lamprey spawning and rearing habitat. In 2011, the University of Idaho documented Eagle Creek as an important cold water refuge, and in 2017, USEPA identified Eagle Creek as a primary cold water refuge stream for their draft Columbia River Cold Water Refuge Plan. The quantity and quality of instream and floodplain habitat for local and upriver salmon, steelhead, and lamprey is highly restricted in Eagle Creek because of the ODFW Cascade Hatchery; the immensely popular Eagle Creek trail system and its parking infrastructure; and I-84. Hatchery and recreational infrastructure constrict Eagle Creek's historic floodplain and alluvial fan. To operate the hatchery, ODFW withdraws water from Eagle Creek using a diversion dam, which eliminates upstream fish passage to 1.2 miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat and dewaters approximately 0.5 miles of the creek downstream during summer and early fall. Also, the hatchery diversion increases downstream temperatures by 1.8-3.8°C during the prime period when returning adult salmonids use cold water refuges. We will assess restoration alternatives to improve: 1) instream processes - channel/floodplain surface water connections, hyporheic exchange, cold water refuges, and sediment transport; 2) hatchery operations; 3) riparian conditions; and 4) recreational experience. Alternatives will be chosen by a stakeholder group, including USFS and ODFW, and taken through concept designs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will benefit cold water refugia and the multiple anadromous fish species that rely on this habitat.
- The proposal is a well thought out project with lots of moving parts, concepts, and designs, including concepts for fish hatchery improvements, managing recreation at a popular location, and addressing impacts from a fire.

Concerns

- The application does not include a letter of support from ODFW, which owns the fish hatchery that will be impacted by this project.

- Since any restoration solution is likely to have a high cost, the application would benefit from a description of strategies for securing implementation funds.
- The application would be strengthened by a description of a vision for balancing social aspects, such as recreation, with restoring fish habitat.
- It may be too soon to fully understand the impacts of the Eagle Creek fire; as a result, it may be premature to begin planning a restoration strategy. It is also unclear whether the timing of this project aligns with reopening recreation trails after the Eagle Creek fire.

Concluding Analysis

The application may be premature since it is unclear what the vision is for a solution and whether the landowner stakeholders, including USFS and ODFW, are ready to assess restoration alternatives. The applicant should consider a Stakeholder Engagement project proposal to work with potential partners and build buy-in on a common vision for a restoration solution on Eagle Creek that integrates fire recovery, recreation, fish habitat, and fish hatchery operations.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3006-16346

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Scappoose Creek, Reach F Design

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $37,867

Total Cost: $48,215

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Project is located in South Scappoose Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay, the Multnomah Channel and Lower Columbia River. The site is approximately one mile above the confluence of the North and South Scappoose Creeks; less than three miles above tidal influence in Scappoose Bay. Project addresses key salmon-production limiting factors identified in the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan (LCRCP; ODFW, 2011), the Upper Willamette River Conservation and Recovery Plan (UWRCP; ODFW, 2011), and the Scappoose Creek Limiting Factor Analysis (SBWC, 2012): 1) lack of physical habitat quality and complexity, including loss of floodplain connectivity and cool-water pools and access to off-channel habitat; and 2) the loss of complex riparian vegetative function and stream shading. Project will complete surveys, hydraulic modeling, and a permit-level design with cost estimates to restore natural habitats on 0.2 miles of South Scappoose. This project supports restoration actions on 0.7 miles directly upstream, currently under construction. Partners include City of Scappoose, a private landowner, CSWCD, ODFW and BPA.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Technical Assistance will lead to restoration that addresses key production limiting factors for ESA-listed fish.
- The project builds on adjacent stream channel restoration work currently underway.
- The applicant has a technically sound idea of how to approach channel complexity in this area.
- The project is at a highly visible location that offers outreach benefits for raising public awareness about stream restoration.

Concerns

- The application has limited detail on project site context and the expected Technical Assistance products; however, the site visit provided context to better understand the project.
- There are limited stream restoration options because of the potential risk to adjacent park infrastructure and downstream housing, which limits ecological benefits for the cost.

Concluding Analysis

Site constraints limit the potential footprint for restoration, which limits the ecological uplift from this investment. Given this limitation, the applicant is trying to take advantage of feasible opportunities and is building contiguous stream habitat from previous restoration work. Since the location is highly visible, it offers a potential social and outreach benefit that may lead to community buy-in and future restoration opportunities that will further leverage this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$37,867

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3007-16377
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Oak Creek
Applicant: Marys River WC
Region: Willamette Basin
County: Benton
OWEB Request: $74,997
Total Cost: $121,129

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The upper reach of Oak Creek is rated highly by Marys River Watershed Council and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for cutthroat trout habitat. Fish passage barriers in the middle reach make much of the system inaccessible to fish during the summer months and the uppermost headwaters are blocked year-round by an upper-reach barrier. This project will provide designs for fish passable culvert replacements in advance of planned implementation in 2019. The project will also provide alternative designs for two additional barriers, from which MRWC and the participating stakeholders will select preferred alternatives to move forward for restoration implementation. Because these barriers are complicated by current uses, impingement from infrastructure, multiple stakeholders and decision makers and the long funding cycles associated with research being conducted nearby, multiple conceptual alternatives will be developed for each. From the two alternatives at OSU's College of Forestry research weir and the three alternatives at OSU's College of Agriculture pop-up dam, a preferred alternative will be chosen for each, which will be moved forward for completed designs and implementation funding. The removal of these barriers will provide year-round access to high quality habitat for cutthroat trout and represents an important first step in the stewardship and enhancement of Oak Creek, which will be further cemented through MRWC's Oak Creek Stakeholders Engagement project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting restoration project will remove four instream barriers and provide habitat benefits to multiple native fish species. These fish passage barriers were identified as a top priority in a county GIS analysis.
- A landscape scale design approach will be used that balances multiple land use types, including forest, agriculture,and rural residential.
- A multidisciplinary team will provide technical review of the resulting designs.
- The project is supported by engaged partners with clear roles and match contributions.
- The application is well-written and thorough.
- The Technical Assistance project will promote public awareness that may lead to future restoration opportunities.

Concerns

- A resulting restoration project may have a high cost for the ecological benefit due to site constraints.
- A lack of Best Management Practices in the OSU dairy farm management may be negatively affecting water quality in Oak Creek, which limits the ecological benefit of this proposed instream project.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project offers a unique opportunity to work with stakeholders, including OSU, to engage in stream restoration. This Technical Assistance project, in combination with a proposed Stakeholder Engagement project, has a high likelihood of success for generating watershed restoration benefits that leverage from this initial fish passage design stream component.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,997

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$74,997

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3008-16387
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Delano Creek Fish Passage Design
Applicant: Clackamas SWCD
Region: Willamette Basin
County: Clackamas
OWEB Request: $35,742
Total Cost: $50,851

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The purpose of this application is to design a project to both remove a fish passage barrier and eliminate a potential sediment source from Delano Creek, a tributary of Clear Creek. Delano Creek is designated as Essential Salmon Habitat and Critical Habitat for Lower Willamette Coho Salmon and Steelhead. The implemented design will replace a failing private farm crossing with a spanning bridge (or another type of crossing that meets objectives).The fish passage barrier is located within the DeLano Farms LLC property; a 200 acre beef cattle ranch and a Century Farm. The crossing, which was installed in the 1950's and is vital to the farm operation, is an undersized and failing culvert. The culvert is also greatly perched and is a barrier to juvenile and adult fish. Over the past two winters, the culvert has begun to erode and will likely fail in the next several years, risking erosion of 1300 cubic yards of road fill above the culvert into Delano Creek, Clear Creek, and the Clackamas River.Because this stretch of stream is considered Essential Salmon Habitat, any replacement must meet fish passage guidelines. As a result, this farm's plan to replace the culvert became infeasible as the additional cost for passage made solutions prohibitively expensive. The farm manager reached out to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Clackamas River Basin Council (CRBC) and Clackamas SWCD for assistance once it became clear that the repair would exceed their available resources.This project will result in permit-ready engineering designs to address fish passage and grade stabilization with fish habitats elements, all while enabling the farm operation to operate safely and economically. Partners include DeLano Farms LLC, CRBC, ODFW, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the US Forest Service, from which Retained Receipts funding has been secured to help offset construction costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed Technical Assistance will address fish passage and alleviate risk of sediment mass wasting that would impact water quality and Lower Willamette Coho and steelhead populations.
- The application is reasonably thought out.
- Since there is a funding source available for implementation, the proposed restoration is ready to implement after this proposed design work is completed.

Concerns

- A resulting restoration project is likely to have a high cost for the ecological benefit.

- The application would be strengthened by a letter of support from the landowner, discussion on whether alternative and potentially more cost-effective crossing locations are feasible, and description of the extent and quality of aquatic habitat upstream of the crossing.

Concluding Analysis

Delano Creek is a tributary of Clear Creek, which is a secondary priority for ESA-listed fish in the Clackamas watershed. Replacing the current culvert that has a risk of failing is a significant benefit to the watershed by mitigating potential future negative effects of sediment to ESA-listed fish and water quality.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$35,742

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3009-16395

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Molalla Confluence Floodplain Restoration

Applicant: Molalla River Watch Inc

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: $66,154

Total Cost: $115,404

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Molalla River State Park (MRSP), is comprised of 450 acres of floodplain habitat and 4.4 miles of river frontage, and is located near Canby, Oregon at the confluence of the Molalla, Pudding, and Willamette Rivers. This confluence area is a biodiversity hotspot due to dynamic physical processes that drive ecosystem productivity. However habitat conditions have been affected by past land management within the site and upstream contributing to reduced water quality, blocked habitat access, reduced habitat complexity, and degraded riparian plant communities as limiting factors for fish and wildlife. Molalla River Watch (MRW) and Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept. (OPRD) have begun collaborating with consultants, agencies, and researchers to develop plans to increase summer thermal refuge for listed fish, floodplain inundation depths and duration to increase winter refuge, increase habitat complexity for multiple species, and preserve the floodplain forest at MRSP. MRW and OPRD seek to identify preferred restoration opportunities and create design solutions for actions that: 1) address limiting factors for winter steelhead and spring Chinook, specifically habitat access, habitat complexity, and water quality at the site; 2) benefit other key fish and wildlife species; 3) Provide opportunities to improve public natural resource education.Funding will be used to hire a qualified consulting firm to implement:• Site Investigations: collate data, desktop analysis, topographic characterization, hydrologic and geomorphic analyses, temperature investigation, other investigations as needed.• Alternatives Analysis: refine goals and objectives, define alternatives and evaluation criteria; evaluate alternatives.• 30% Design and Budgeting (including additional data collection or modelling needed to refine selected alternative).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located at a priority confluence area, which is a high value area for ESA-listed fish.
- There is a clear need to assess opportunities and river dynamics to target a restoration strategy over a large landscape.
- The proposed project is comprehensive and will not impose an engineered stability approach to habitat restoration; instead it will encourage natural watershed process restoration.
- Oregon Parks is an actively involved landowner and partner in the project.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by the inclusion of photos.
- The applicant has not engaged with the adjacent landowner about the project.

Concluding Analysis

The project location is both culturally and ecologically significant. There is a high likelihood that Native Americans used this location. Also, the project is a large scale landownership where three river floodplains converge, and the waterways within it have significant cold water refugia for fish. There is opportunity for restoration to expand beyond the state park ownership, which further expands potential benefits from this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$66,154

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$66,154

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3010-16372

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Drinking in the Coast Fork: Engaging Stakeholders to Enhance Water Quality

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $38,295

Total Cost: $59,370

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC) continues to work collaboratively with our many partners to recruit stakeholders and encourage new projects. The Council is in the process of finalizing an updated 10 year Action Plan that prioritizes work throughout the watershed. The result of this work has selected key areas that will provide the most ecologically significant impact for restoration and enhancement. This project seeks to recruit stakeholders in the prioritized regions of the Row River, Mosby Creek, and Upper Coast Fork Willamette watersheds. These sensitive areas are drinking water sources for both the City of Cottage Grove (approximately 10,000 residents) and the City of Creswell (approximately 4,500 residents). This work is essential for the long term protection of drinking water sources for the communities reliant on the Willamette River for drinking water. Project Partners include the City of Cottage Grove, the City of Creswell, U.S. Forest Service – Cottage Grove Ranger District, private landowners, and the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project outreach plan is based on source water protection, and landowner engagement methods have proven success.
- The watershed council is well suited to serve as an ambassador bridging the urban and rural divide, and has a proven track record in effectively communicating with these stakeholders.
- A letter of support from the City of Cottage Grove is included in the application.
- A partnership with McKenzie River Trust leverages an effective team approach to engaging with landowners, including peer to peer conversations among farmers.
- Resulting restoration project development will be beneficial to the watershed.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional detail, including an explanation of the “living on the land” workshops and where the cities obtain their drinking water.
- A letter of support from the City of Creswell and state agencies involved in source water protection, such as DEQ, would strengthen the application.

- The application would be improved by further description of the target project benefits, including whether the primary project benefit is drinking water protection or fish habitat, how water quantity limitations affect the project, and the potential cost/benefit given the large project scale.
- The pathway from the Stakeholder Engagement project to an eligible restoration project is unclear; the application would be strengthened by an explanation on what is expected beyond the Stakeholder Engagement outreach activities and how they connect to a restoration implementation project.

Concluding Analysis

While the project is likely to succeed by using effective outreach strategies to recruit landowners for voluntary restoration, the specific watershed benefits expected to result from the investment are unclear.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$38,295

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3011-16401

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Stakeholder Engagement for a Healthy Clackamas Watershed

Applicant: Clackamas River Basin Council

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: $12,577

Total Cost: $20,952

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) The Healthy Clackamas Watershed Project (HCW Project) is located in the lower Clackamas River basin from its confluence to RM24. Priority tributaries include: Clear, Deep, & Eagle Creeks, all located in Clackamas County. 2) Engaging people and their lands in the Clackamas River Watershed are important for salmon recovery efforts and for improving and protecting the source of drinking water for over 10% of all Oregonians. The Clackamas River provides migration corridor and rearing habitat for ESA-listed Chinook & Coho salmon and steelhead. Extensive loss of critical habitat for these species has made habitat protection and restoration in the lower Clackamas River a priority. Limiting factors impacting fish populations in the lower river are channel stability, habitat diversity, pesticides, sediment loads and water temperatures. Population growth in Clackamas County as also added pressure to the watershed. 3) The HCW Project offers stakeholder engagement opportunities to address these limitations in the watershed by (i) engaging basin residents and their properties in available riparian restoration programs, and (ii) enlisting key properties for future riparian restoration projects benefiting salmon recovery. Engagement activities will build on the momentum generated through our Shade Our Streams program which has removed weeds and planted riparian forests on 30 miles of Clackamas tributaries and mainstem to date. Direct mailings, fact sheets, 1:1 meetings, workshops & tours have enlisted >150 eligible & willing landowners for riparian enhancements & habitat restoration projects totaling 30 miles of plantings. 4) Partners include: Clackamas River Water Providers, CSWCD, and Clackamas County Water Environment Services.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed activities align with ESA-listed fish recovery and watershed action plans for the basin.
- The project is cost-effective and provides potential for future watershed restoration projects.
- The timeline is reasonable.
- The applicant has a proven track record with this work and the staff have relevant experience.
- A broad list of landowners in the application indicates the applicant is working with appropriate stakeholders for this Stakeholder Engagement project.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional information on the type of land ownership in the project area, the total number of target landowners, how high priority areas are defined and what percentage of landowners are in those priority locations, and the connection between this Stakeholder Engagement project and the applicant's action plan.
- It is unclear whether mailers are an effective outreach tool for recruiting landowners.
- The pathway from the Stakeholder Engagement project to an eligible restoration project is unclear; the application would be strengthened by an explanation on what is expected beyond the Stakeholder Engagement outreach activities and how they connect to a restoration implementation project.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is likely to lead to future restoration work with landowners. The extent of the impact from this Stakeholder Engagement investment is unclear from the application without information on how it will effectively target landowners for high priority restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$12,577

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3012-16403
Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement
Project Name: Monroe Dam Alternative Selection
Applicant: Long Tom WC
Region: Willamette Basin
County: Benton
OWEB Request: $82,462
Total Cost: $360,671

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Fish passage at the dam on the Long Tom River in Monroe (Benton County) is a keystone project for the entire watershed. The Monroe dam is at river mile seven from the Willamette River, the lowest of three check-dams that block access for juvenile spring Chinook, cutthroat trout, Pacific lamprey and other species to over 100 miles of habitat in the lower section of the Long Tom River watershed. There are 15+ miles of rearing habitat for ESA-listed spring Chinook between the Monroe dam and the next upstream check-dam. Activities include engaging the community in evaluating alternatives for the dam and addressing questions necessary for a majority of Monroe City Councilors and influential citizens to agree to a fish passage solution in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). This requires engaging the decision-makers in a productive process toward outcomes with the greatest watershed benefit that meet community needs, and includes providing decision-makers a fair understanding of what the community will accept. Activities will address multiple learning styles and include information, presentations, work sessions, visuals and technical answers, and engaging people in gathering fish monitoring data, and surveys. Outcomes are 1) citizens increasing their knowledge and support for restoring fish passage along the river, 2) an informed decision-process and fish passage solution for the Monroe site, and 3) community partnership with key collaborators for ongoing environmental and community benefit in this small town. Partners include the Corps, City of Monroe, area farmers and riverside landowners, local business-owners, local organizations, UO RARE program, ODFW, Hewlett Foundation. This is Phase 2 after a successfully completed Phase I grant. The Hewlett Foundation has committed significant funding to match LTWC through the development of fish passage solutions for all three check-dams with the first and most difficult engagement-wise being Monroe.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Addressing fish passage at Monroe Dam is identified as the number one priority for the Long Tom watershed by the watershed council, ODFW, NMFS, City of Monroe, and US Army Corps; and will provide high ecological value because access will be restored to over 15 stream miles of fish habitat for salmonids and lamprey with potential for an additional 100 miles if two upstream dams are addressed.
- The Stakeholder Engagement activities focus on presenting design results from a Technical Assistance project for the purpose of communicating and engaging with community members about the need for a project at Monroe Dam, and building buy-in necessary for moving to implementation of this restoration project.
- A diversity of partners supports the project, which is demonstrated by match.

- The application is well written with well-defined goals and objectives, and budget details.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by more detail on the pathway connecting the Stakeholder Engagement activities to the eligible restoration project.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is a timely and unique opportunity for building on momentum to address fish passage at the Monroe Dam. It is important to carefully and thoughtfully carry out communication with the community regarding stream restoration at this location to successfully move to project implementation. This is also a potential demonstration project that provides an example of how to work with stakeholders around a complicated issue to identify and build buy-in for a solution that integrates economy, community, and watershed health.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$82,462

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$82,462

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3013-16406

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Oak Creek Stakeholder Engagement 2018

Applicant: Marys River WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: $43,126

Total Cost: $88,942

Project Abstract *(from application)*

MWRC's Stakeholder Engagement project brings a diverse group of Oak Creek landowners and other stakeholders into a collaboration to steward and enhance the Oak Creek watershed. The high value habitat found in the headwaters of Oak Creek and the central place the watershed holds in the community make tackling the challenging issues in the system highly worthwhile for the health of the watershed and the community that stewards it.The challenge of building a watershed-scale stewardship approach with the diversity of stakeholders, land uses and limiting factors as are found in Oak Creek is fundamental to why such an effort has not been undertaken heretofore. Through extensive outreach by MRWC and a convergence of readiness on the part of basin stakeholders, most of the key stakeholders are now committed to participate in the facilitated stakeholder meetings and in the working groups that will be formed from the planning process. This group is therefore poised to engage in the collaboration with limited further outreach needed.While the three collaboration planning meetings will provide the opportunity for all stakeholders to weigh in on watershed priorities and individual landowner/partner Oak Creek stewardship goals, the working groups will move on-the-ground implementation projects forward. These groups will meet separately to identify and plan for specific restoration actions at specific sites. Likely working groups include fish passage projects, water quality enhancement projects and oak & prairie restoration.In addition, the project will support exploration of an urban green infrastructure program that will not only benefit Oak Creek, but the larger Corvallis urban streams and stakeholders as well. It will also support the establishment of an Oak Creek landing page on the Institute for Natural Resources' Oregon Explorer platform and will engage Oak Creek and other community members in an Oak Creek-focused forum presented by MRWC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed watershed scale project is possible due to the breadth of stakeholders involved and committed to the work.
- The application is well written and clearly explains the causes of watershed problems and the need for action.
- The project is likely to lead to eligible on the ground restoration projects, including projects that will provide water quality benefits.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional information on the Oregon Explorer project element and how it is necessary for achieving the goals and objectives of this Stakeholder Engagement project.
- The pathway from the Stakeholder Engagement project to an eligible restoration project is unclear; the application would be strengthened by an explanation on what is expected beyond the Stakeholder Engagement outreach activities and how they connect to a restoration implementation project.

Concluding Analysis

Oak Creek is a significant community and ecological resource. This Stakeholder Engagement project, in combination with the proposed Technical Assistance project, has a high likelihood of success for generating watershed restoration with multiple watershed benefits to Oak Creek.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$43,126

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

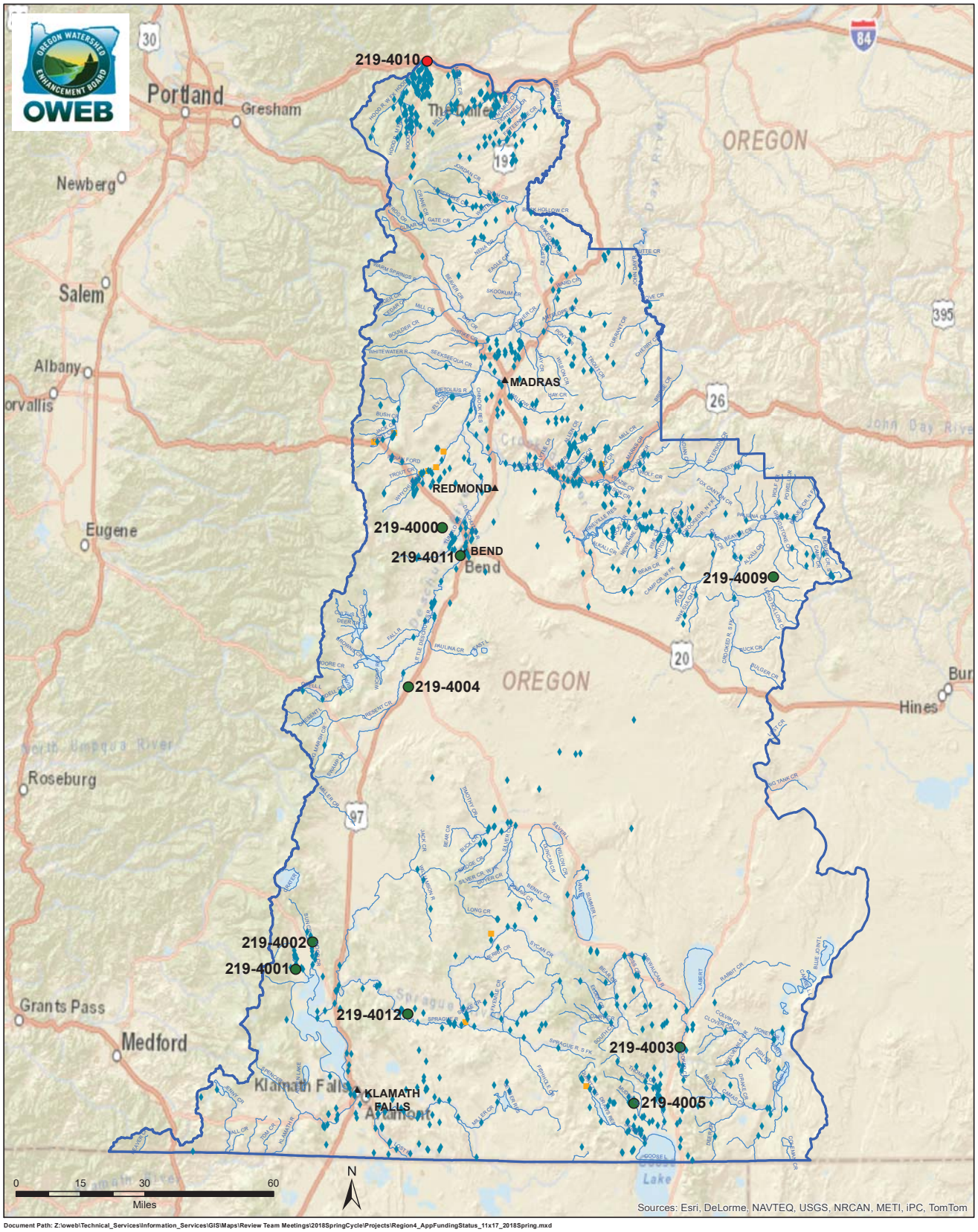
Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$43,126

Staff Conditions

None

Central Oregon - Region 4 Spring 2018 Funding Recommendations



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ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wills 20180925

Funding Recommendations

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

Previous Grants - 1998-2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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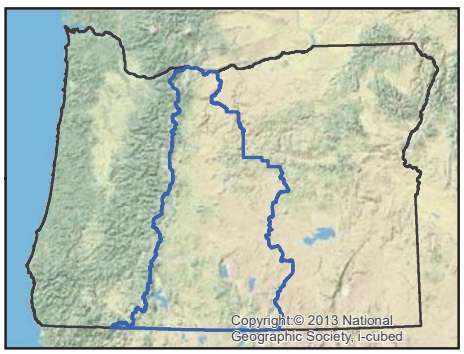


Region 4 - Central Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-4003	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	North Warner Forest Health Phase II	This landscape-scale forest health and resiliency project will continue forest treatments across 8,000 acres (OWEB funding 1,600 acres) in phase II on private lands within the North Warner Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project.	543,714	Lake
219-4002	Trout Unlimited Inc	Wood River Ditch Fish Screen	A 26 cfs diversion along the Upper Wood River will receive a new fish screen to exclude native fish from being entrained in the associated irrigation canals. This project complements past screening projects completed along the Upper Wood River.	50,744	Klamath
219-4001	Trout Unlimited Inc	Threemile-Crane Creek Reconnect Phase 1	The project will reconnect approximately one mile of Crane Creek into its historic configuration through the Bureau of Reclamations (BOR) property. This project is the kick-off to a large multi-phased approach to restore and reconnect critical habitat for the Upper Klamath Lake bull trout population.	119,530	Klamath
219-4004	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation	Gilchrist Wildlife Undercrossing	Five miles of Highway 97 will be fenced (both sides) to funnel wildlife to two undercrossings as part of Oregon Department of Transportion's (ODOT) highway extension project near Gilchrist.	93,148	Klamath
219-4005	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Muddy Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project	A multitude of benefits will be achieved along Muddy Creek below juniper reservoir, including providing fish passage at three barriers and improving instream and riparian habitats through channel modification, planting and fencing.	238,341	Lake

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order Continued

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-4000	Tumalo Irrigation District	Tumalo Feed Canal Phase 6	The District continues its effort towards water conservation through irrigation canal piping. This phase will complete piping on their Feed canal, and start piping onto the lateral network which will culminate to 4.72 cfs conserved water on Tumalo Creek and 1,169 acre feet conserved water on Crescent Creek.	250,000	Deschutes
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,295,477**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
		None			
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**1,295,477**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
219-4006	Wasco SWCD	Thompson Dam and Ditch Removal	225,500	Wasco
219-4007	Crook SWCD	Mesic Habitat Restoration for Paulina Sage Grouse	404,288	Crook

Region 4 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-4012	Trout Unlimited Inc	Sprague River Levee Removal	This project will allow contracted engineers to develop inundation scenarios and anticipated habitat and water quality benefits from the potential removal of four miles of levees along the Sprague River affecting 500 acres.	64,838	Klamath
219-4009	Crook SWCD	Crooked River Watershed Sage Grouse Conservation III	The Crook SWCD is the lead entity working to enroll private landowners into candidate conservation agreement with assurances (CCAA) to specifically develop site specific plans (SSP) in Crook and Deschutes Counties. This continued work will allow for plan development across 150,000 acres.	66,577	Crook
219-4011	Upper Deschutes WC	Deschutes Riparian Restoration at Riverbend Park	Technical assistance funding will result in construction-ready design plans to improve fish and wildlife habitat along 1,600 ft. of streambank located in a high public use section of the Deschutes River in Bend.	27,300	Deschutes
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**158,715**	

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-4010	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Middle Mainstem Columbia Restoration Action Plan	The Lower Columbia Esturay Partnership (LCEP) will lead a variety of partners to develop a restoration inventory and action plan for the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam to the John Day Dam to fill knowledge gaps and jumpstart restoration activities in this area.	74,998	Hood River
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**233,713**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
219-4008	Hood River SWCD	Eastside Lateral Pipeline Design	74,498	Hood River

Region 4 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

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 *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount**	**County**
		None			
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**0**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount**	**County**
		None			
Region 4 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**1,454,192**	**15.76%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**9,226,487**	

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4000-16321
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Tumalo Feed Canal Phase 6
Applicant: Tumalo Irrigation District
Region: Central Oregon
County: Deschutes
OWEB Request: $250,000
Total Cost: $6,744,746

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Tumalo Creek and the Deschutes River originate in the Cascade mountains in Central Oregon. Both suffer from low summer streamflows that have been identified as a major factor limiting fish habitat and water quality in the Deschutes River and tributaries. In addition to low flows, Tumalo Irrigation District (TID) experiences major loss of water due to basalt canals. TID has made a significant commitment to the health of the watershed and water conservation through the Tumalo Feed Canal Conservation Project. This phase of the project will eliminate 6,300 length-feet of the open Tumalo Feed Canal and seven laterals into leak-free piping; eliminating seepage losses and creating new senior instream water rights in Tumalo Creek and the Deschutes River during the summer and Crescent Creek, Little Deschutes River and Upper Deschutes River during the winter. OWEB funds will be used to match Federal, State and District funds to purchase materials.This project is the final phase of the Tumalo Feed Canal (Phase VI.) This phase will pipe 6,300 ft of the Tumalo Feed Canal in addition to seven laterals totaling 70,812 length-feet: Gill, Lacy, Highline, Parkhurst, Steele, Rock Springs, and 2 Rivers Laterals. Phase VI alone will conserve 4.72 cfs of water to be returned to Tumalo Creek and 1,169 acre-feet in Crescent Creek during the storage season (total of 2,851 acre-feet.) 100 percent of the publicly funded conserved water will be protected instream through a new senior water right held by the State of Oregon.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This phase 6 project builds on successful implementation of previous phases, which has permanently protected senior water rights instream in Tumalo and Crescent Creeks.
- The project is timely and design ready to implement.
- The District has a strong track record of completing projects on time and securing a final order from the Oregon Water Resources Departments (OWRD) Allocation of Conserved Water Program to permanently protect senior water rights instream.
- This project addresses streamflow, which is an identified limiting factor for the ESA-listed Oregon spotted frog within its critical habitat area.

Concerns

- Piping open-ditch canals that provide open-water availability and established riparian vegetation will have immediate negative impacts to local wildlife. However, these water resources and subsequent habitats are occurring in non-natural settings.

- The letters of support provided are outdated and not directly connected to this phase of the project.
- Since the District's flowmeter at their diversion on Tumalo Creek does not function at all times, it is unclear how the District can ensure protected water stays instream if the mechanism to monitor stream flow is not consistently functioning.

Concluding Analysis

This project is the final phase in piping the District's Feed Canal, which is part of a long-term strategy to pipe the District's entire conveyance infrastructure. Previous phases were successful at permanently protecting senior water rights instream in Tumalo and Crescent Creeks. While these projects carry a high price tag, the District has formed strong partnerships with other state and federal agencies contributing to this effort. The recent ESA listing of the Oregon spotted frog has elevated the need and timeliness to protect water instream. The ecological value from permanently protecting senior water rights instream in high priority streams provides a significant cost benefit for the investment. The applicant is strongly encouraged to ensure the flow meter at Tumalo Creek diversion is functioning properly so there is an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure protected water stays instream.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$250,000

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$250,000

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4001-16337

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Threemile-Crane Creek Reconnect Phase 1

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $119,530

Total Cost: $193,586

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Threemile Creek is a tributary to Crane Creek. Both creeks originate on the eastern slope of the Cascades and flow south to Fourmile Creek and ultimately Upper Klamath Lake. Threemile Creek is home to an isolated, but rapidly expanding population of ESA listed bull trout. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Bull Trout Recovery Plan identifies poor habitat quality in the lower section of both creeks as an impact limiting population recovery. The Recovery Plan identifies two priority recovery actions for this population 1) restoring habitat in lower Threemile and Crane Creeks and 2) reconnecting them to nearby unoccupied habitat and to Upper Klamath Lake. To implement these priority recovery actions, Trout Unlimited (TU) and it's partners will complete a comprehensive restoration project with two primary components. First, TU will remove Threemile and Crane Creeks from a series of irrigation ditches, return them to their historic channels, and reconnect them to adjacent critical bull trout habitat. Second, TU will complete an instream water transfer to ensure reliable flows in the restored channels (the water transfer is not part of the scope of the OWEB funding request). This project will restore habitat, improve water quality, and ensure reliable hydrologic connectivity to unoccupied critical habitat for the benefit of threatened bull trout. Restored channels, wetlands and water quality will also improve habitat and connectivity for threatened Oregon spotted frog, redband trout, endangered suckers and downstream anadromous fish populations.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is a direct result of a previous OWEB Technical Assistance grant, which yielded a thorough and detailed report that is the basis and foundation for proposed restoration.
- The project will provide habitat value for ESA-listed bull trout and Oregon spotted frog, in addition to other native species, such as redband trout, waterfowl, and lamprey.
- The project ties into other local restoration efforts, specifically those occurring upstream along Threemile Creek on USFS land and downstream along Fourmile Creek.
- The water quality monitoring component utilizing data loggers should yield technically sound and useful data.
- This current phase is ready to go as Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) (landowner) is moving forward with its internal review process to permit the project.
- The ecological benefit to be gained by reconnecting Crane Creek to its historic channel with existing riparian vegetation is strong versus overall project cost is high.

Concerns

- The application is difficult to follow; specifically the different phases of the overall project are unclear. It would be helpful to have clear and detailed maps showing phase I only.
- The riparian fencing component is not well articulated; for example, the application failed to document where the fence will be installed on the landscape and what type of land management the fence will serve. Additional information on future land use would be helpful project context.
- The application lacks detail on construction preparation, specifically fish salvage and erosion control mechanisms are unclear. The applicant is encouraged to work with ODFW when planning implementation.
- The budget lacks detail regarding construction and construction oversight. The application would benefit from more detail about all construction items. Without a detailed cost breakdown, it is difficult to evaluate whether project costs are reasonable.
- The water rights transfer of up to 5.75 cfs has potential to provide benefits; however, the application lacks detail on this project component. Additional information regarding the water source and point-of-diversion is needed to understand potential water savings.

Concluding Analysis

This proposed project will reconnect approximately one mile of Crane Creek into its historic channel configuration through BOR land. Designs were in conceptual phase at the time of application; implementation-ready designs will be completed by fall 2018. This project will address limiting factors identified in the Upper Klamath Lake Bull Trout Recovery plan, and will have significant ecological benefit. The project represents a well-coordinated effort with the various partners involved, particularly with regards to potential benefits and threats to the Oregon spotted frog. This project is the first phase of a proposed multi-phase effort to reconnect stream corridors on Crane and Threemile Creek which in turn will allow fish in these streams to access high quality habitat in Fourmile Creek.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

$119,530

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$119,530

Staff Conditions

Prior to first payment, please provide the following to OWEB's project manager: 1.) Final design plans, 2.) A map showing the location of the riparian fence to be installed, and 3.) A grazing management plan detailing how the land adjacent to the project will be managed to uphold the ecological value to be gained through restoration.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4002-16354
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Wood River Ditch Fish Screen
Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc
Region: Central Oregon
County: Klamath
OWEB Request: $50,744
Total Cost: $230,885

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) The project proposes to install a new fish screen at the Wood River Ditch (Pump Ditch) point of diversion, located on the Wood River, Klamath Country, Oregon at river mile 17.6. 2) This diversion is located in important rearing and spawning habitat for Redband Trout, Bull Trout, and Lamprey. Additionally, anadromous fish are scheduled to return to the upper Klamath basin upon removal of the Klamath River dams and if left unscreened, this diversion will become a source of mortality for salmon and steelhead as well. A rotary drum fish screen was installed at the site in the late 1990s, but it no longer prevents entrainment of native fish species in the irrigation infrastructure. Installing a new fish screen will eliminate this source of mortality for native fish populations. 3) A new fish screen will be installed at the point of diversion to eliminate entrainment. 4) Project partners include Trout Unlimited, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the private landowner, and the water users.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will replace a high priority, non-functional fish screen on the Upper Wood River.
- The project site is adjacent to critical spawning areas for redband trout and complements fish passage and screening restoration actions in adjacent sites on the Wood River and Annie and Sun Creeks.
- The project objectives are clear and attainable.
- Project designs will be completed by ODFW in the Fall 2018. ODFW's participation signifies a strong partnership and critical need for native fish.
- Project partners have surveyed the diversion channel and documented fish behind the current screen, which provides evidence that the current screen is dysfunctional.
- The application has letters of support from the landowner and water users of this diversion.
- A recently completed screen on a downstream diversion provides assurance that the applicant has successfully completed similar projects.
- A new fish screen on this ditch may demonstrate how fish screening and water conveyance can work together in a meaningful way for other diversions in the Wood River valley.

Concerns

- While not related to the fish screen, a flowmeter installed at the pump station would provide valuable

information regarding rate and duty of use.

Concluding Analysis

This project proposes a new fish screen on the 26-cfs Wood River diversion ditch along the Upper Wood River. Screening this large diversion will ensure no anadromous salmonids will be entrained in the irrigation ditch should the downstream dam removal project proceed on the Klamath River. Protecting native fish from entrainment in irrigation ditches will provide significant ecological benefit for the cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$50,744

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$50,744

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4003-16356

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Warner Forest Health Phase II

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: $543,714

Total Cost: $2,916,704

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Phase II North Warner Forest Health project area includes the Crooked, Mud, and Honey Creek Watersheds in Lake County Oregon. This landscape scale project began in 2016 in an effort to address limiting factors associated with overstocked, diseased, and insect infested timber stands, all at risk of catastrophic fire due to years of fire suppression. This multi-ownership project focused on 20 private property owners and the Fremont- Winema National Forest. Thousands of acres have already been thinned, with many more in contract for 2018 on private and public land. Landowner outreach has led to additional property owners coming on board seeking opportunity to reduce risk of fire and improve the health of their timber stands. To date, 10 new landowners would like to begin forest health treatments in dry forest stands through small tree thinning and slash treatments. Each treatment is designed to reduce ladder fuels and reduce risk of fire. Behind this effort stands the support of 8 federal, state, and county agencies and 7 non-governmental partners. The overall goal of this partnership is to collaborate across ownership boundaries to implement forest health treatments with a goal of creating a seamless, healthy forest landscapes resilient to natural disturbance. Collaboration on both private and federal land will lead to healthy forests, and properly functioning watersheds.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This Phase II proposal will provide a seamless transition from the current phase I project that is achieving expected goals and objectives.
- A strong partnership with representation from various local, state, and federal agencies ensures continuity across ownership boundaries to achieve resilient landscape-scale forest health, wildlife habitat, and native plant enhancement.
- Private landowners are fully committed and ready to go. Positive phase 1 results encouraged additional landowners to participate in phase II.
- Positive economic benefits relating to job opportunities in rural Lake County will be realized.
- Various multiple-use forest end products, including bio-fuel and bio-char, are being considered.
- This project provides an opportunity to work with the local community and demonstrate the positive role of fire on the landscape.
- This project complements previous restoration efforts completed by the watershed council and partners in these subbasins, including fish passage and aquatic restoration projects.

Concerns

- Some parts of the application are hard-to-follow, for example, it is unclear how various fund sources will be allocated.
- The use of fire as a project objective carries significant risk and liability that must be considered and addressed in the landowner agreements. More detail on how the applicant and partners will address this would have been helpful. Managing this risk is a top priority for the partnership and the landowners have a wealth of entities with the appropriate expertise to help them.
- It appears through work being completed on phase I that revenue may be generated from the forest treatments. The application would benefit from additional detail on this revenue and the potential to reinvest those funds in phase II work.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal is the second phase of continued landscape-scale forestry treatments across ownerships in the North Warner mountain area in Lake County. Phase II consists of 8,000 acres of total treatment, spanning legacy ponderosa pine, aspen, and sagebrush-steppe edges where juniper encroachment is occurring. The overall goals and objectives are both bold and innovative, representing a commitment from the many stakeholders to create forest resiliency and improved habitat conditions in this landscape. While the approach for timber cutting seems well vetted through the various stakeholders, the treatment of slash and debris presents its own challenges and opportunity. The various tools being considered, including fire, bio-fuel, and bio-char, provide unique opportunities to address this challenge. Also, stakeholders will work closely with the broader community to ascertain what methodology works best for all involved. The framework and approach offers the potential of being applied in other forest landscapes in Oregon and beyond.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$543,714

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$543,714

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4004-16378
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Gilchrist Wildlife Undercrossing
Applicant: Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation
Region: Central Oregon
County: Klamath
OWEB Request: $93,148
Total Cost: $252,748

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Gilchrist Wildlife Undercrossing project is designed to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions while providing permeability for wildlife along a five-mile stretch of US 97 just north of Gilchrist in Central Oregon. US 97 is a main highway running north-south through Oregon along the east side of the Cascade Mountains from California to Washington. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has documented mule deer and elk movement across US 97 during migration season through historical carcass collection records and telemetry studies (Coe et al. 2015). It is expected that deer and elk use the Cascade Mountains for summer range and migrate east across US 97 to the eastern portions of the Deschutes National Forest, or further, for their winter range. Wildlife-vehicle collisions account for 20% of known mule deer fatalities along US 97. In addition to mule deer, the high desert supports a high concentration of American elk, bobcat, mountain fox, coyote, mountain lion, and grey wolf. Some animals make daily movements across US 97, where the highway bisects an individual's range, while other animals make seasonal movements. The large number of wildlife have resulted in numerous wildlife-vehicle collisions, particularly during the fall migration season.In response to the safety issue posed by wildlife-vehicle collisions, ODOT is installing a wildlife underpass for mule deer and elk along US 97 at MP 180. There is already an existing bridge at MP 183.3 that wildlife are using to cross the highway. Due to limited funds, ODOT is unable to pay for the five miles of wildlife fencing to funnel wildlife to the two wildlife undercrossings. As such, partners in Central Oregon, including the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Hunter's Association, US Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Wildlife Foundation are partnering to raise funds to purchase and install wildlife fencing for this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant thoroughly articulates components and successful aspects of a wildlife fence previously installed along Highway 97. These lessons learned are incorporated into this proposed project.
- Data regarding wildlife-vehicle collision in the project area and the map in the application provides sound justification and need for the wildlife fencing.
- The project goals and objectives are clear.
- The project has strong partners, including a commitment from the Oregon Hunters' Association to provide fence maintenance and ODFW and ODOT will be involved in implementation.

Concerns

- The application would benefit from more detail on the underpass being developed by ODOT that could also be shown as match to this project.

Concluding Analysis

The project will install wildlife fence for five miles along both sides of Highway 97 near Gilchrist, create one new underpass, and use an existing underpass to funnel wildlife. These restoration activities have a unique direct connection to a watershed benefit. Similar to a culvert impeding fish passage to important habitat for their survival, Highway 97 acts as a barrier for wildlife to effectively express their life cycles.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$93,148

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$93,148

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4005-16400

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Muddy Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: $238,341

Total Cost: $347,041

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Muddy Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement project is located in the Goose Lake Watershed, ten miles west of Lakeview. This project focuses on restoring fish passage for Goose Lake redband trout in the lower Muddy Creek system where an existing reservoir, constructed in 1965 prevents fish from utilizing the lower five miles of the stream, and ultimately reaching Cottonwood Creek and Goose Lake. Concurrenlty, several other small barriers (2 culverts, 2 earthen dams) will be addressed to provide passage as well. The second part of this project will improve habitat conditions throughout the stream reach by improving stream flow conveyance by adding sinuosity to the stream and defining the creek bed, stabilizing headcuts, and installing woody material for shade, stability, and complexity. Finally, this project will install riparian fencing and willow stakes/clumps in key locations where grazing impacts have degraded the stream system. This project will greatly improve current stream conditions and enhance a fishery that has not functioned since the mid-sixties. Project partners include: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, KV Bar Ranch and the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The approach and techniques described in this application address previous review comments and provides a meaningful solution that will enhance habitat for aquatic species and improve water quality.
- The project will address fish passage throughout the entire property, and improve instream and riparian conditions.
- The project is well supported by ODFW and USFWS Partners program; and the landowner's commitment is documented through their support letter and contributions.
- The grazing management plan is valuable to understand how the land will be managed after the project. A healthy bunchgrass community noted during the review site visit demonstrates the landowner's commitment to sound grazing practices.
- Using an inverted siphon is site-appropriate and a sound technical solution.

Concerns

- Some of the project elements were only conceptually designed at time of application, making it

difficult to ascertain final project outcomes and appropriate budgets.

- The proposal notes many outcomes; however, some are not articulated as thoroughly as others. For example, the riparian fence component is challenging to understand where installation will occur.
- While a contextual map is provided in the application, more detail on how this project specifically fits into the broader effort in the Goose Lake basin streams would be helpful.
- The application states the reservoir spills-over on an average of seven out of ten years, but did not provide supporting documentation of this. The application also fails to describe the hydrology below the spillway, specifically regarding suitability for fish given uncertain hydrological conditions. As a result, it is unclear whether this investment will have lasting effects to the target watershed benefit. More detail regarding spillway operations and local hydrology would be helpful context.
- It is challenging to follow the project's budget relative to its objectives due to some inaccuracies, specifically around the line items on final design and construction oversight, which are listed twice.

Concluding Analysis

The holistic approach encompassing the entire property from the reservoir downstream to the Muddy Creek road crossing addresses multiple fish barriers, and improves instream and riparian conditions. The project team has a technically sound approach for restoration and is well-suited to deliver on the restoration actions stated. The project will have a significant degree of environmental uplift for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$238,341

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$238,341

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4006-16404
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Thompson Dam and Ditch Removal
Applicant: Wasco SWCD
Region: Central Oregon
County: Wasco
OWEB Request: $225,500
Total Cost: $333,532

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Thompson Dam and Ditch Removal project is located in Tygh Valley, Oregon, roughly 30 miles south of The Dalles in Central Wasco County. The dam is located on Badger Creek, a tributary in the White River Watershed that extends into the Badger Wilderness. This project is needed to remove a unscreened fish passage barrier on Badger Creek to benefit native redband trout. This project has secure match funding through the USDA NRCD White River RCPP funding. The RCPP project is providing match funding to remove 5 dams in total. Once completed, only one fish barrier will remain I the Tygh / Badger Creek watersheds. This project will remove a channel spanning, unscreened fish passage barrier and replace it with three direct stream diversions and a well. It will also convert 70 acres of flood irrigation to pivot irrigations. Project Partners include, Wasco County SWCD, Wasco County Fairgrounds, USDA NRCS and three private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Removing this fish barrier on Badger Creek will open miles of quality habitat for redband trout.
- This project will complement other dam-removal projects along adjacent streams in the White River drainage.
- The applicant's approach of utilizing the NRCS' RCPP program to address on-farm efficiencies, and connecting this work with the stream restoration component, is a strategic approach.
- The project is well-supported by all the stakeholders involved.
- Converting from flood-to-sprinkler will have water savings.

Concerns

- There is a lack of designs for the removal of the existing channel-spanning structure on Badger Creek. Detail regarding how the channel and banks will be restored would be helpful. Without implementation ready designs, the applicant is unlikely to secure permits.
- The applicant has two existing dam-removal projects in the Tygh Valley area with continued delays. It is unclear whether the applicant has capacity to complete the proposed project and should complete the existing projects with OWEB prior to committing to this additional workload.
- More detail regarding the water rights and water-rights transfer would be helpful, including whether the applicant will use the instream transfer as mitigation to offset a new groundwater permit.

- The budget includes lump sums not reflective of true costs making it hard to determine whether costs are reasonable.
- The project timeline may be overly ambitious given similar-type projects are often delayed.
- It is unclear how the instream benefit is calculated and how it will be realized.

Concluding Analysis

This project is located on Badger Creek and removes a diversion dam to provide access for miles of quality redband trout habitat. Water savings from converting flood to sprinkler irrigation provides significant watershed benefits, yet there is no commitment of permanently protecting this water instream. While there is significant fisheries value to removing this barrier, the project impact is limited without the instream water protection. If application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address the identified information gaps, including project designs, information on water rights and water rights transfer, and budget details.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4007-16408

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mesic Habitat Restoration for Paulina Sage Grouse

Applicant: Crook SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: $404,288

Total Cost: $1,401,661

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Our project area is situated in the upper reaches of the larger Crooked River Watershed, near the town of Paulina. The project incluides riparian corridors and wet meadows that provide mesic habitat during the late brood rearing stage of the sage grouse life cycle. In the Crook and Deschutes CCAA area, the vast majority of mesic habitat is privately owned and with agriculture as its primary land use. In order to access this land and address water resource issues it is critical to capitalize on the enthusiasm of willing landowners to improve mesic habitat essential for species recovery. Channel and floodplain modification, poor land management practices, noxious weed invasion and declining forest health are contributing to the Beaver Creek watershed's current state. Providing off stream livestock water, improving forage conditions, and improving floodplain connectivity will restore instream, wetland, and riparian habitats which are disproportionately important to sage grouse and other species in this arid landscape. This application proposes restoration actions that fall under the umbrella of sage grouse conservation but will provide watershed scale benefits by restoring floodplain connections, restoring fish and wildlife habitat, improving water quality, increasing drought resiliency and improving native plant community condition. OWEB funds will be used to enhance mesic habitat by implementing instream habitat improvements, riparian fencing, livestock water pipeline, off-stream water development, riparian plantings, and adding headgates to irrigation systems. Noxious weed treatment up-slope will compliment work underway by our partners and provide benefits to nesting habitat. The private landowners participating in this project are motivated to affect positive change on their property and to resources downstream. NRCS, CRWMA, CRWC, ODF, BLM, USFS, USFWS, and ODFW are all contributing to the project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The instream actions proposed will improve channel and floodplain conditions.
- The riparian fencing component will aid in recovery of riparian and emergent vegetation.
- The project budget is well described and detailed.
- The approach of addressing multiple resource concerns will maximize benefits to the aquatic and riparian habitats through active restoration and better livestock distribution.
- The applicant has strong relationships with the large-acreage landowners, whose properties offer habitat value for conservation and restoration objectives.
- The restoration need of Beaver Creek is described well.

- While the project actions are largely focused on instream and floodplain processes, these may provide ancillary benefits to sage-grouse.

Concerns

- The watershed benefit from the proposed reservoir construction on one of the ranches is unclear. The connection of this reservoir development to the proposed OWEB project elements on Beaver Creek, and whether it has value to benefit fish, wildlife and water quality, is not well-articulated in the application.
- The project elements, specifically roughened riffles and beaver dam analogues (BDA's), are only conceptually designed. Without more design detail and a hydrological analysis, the value of these proposed structures on the target watershed resources, specifically sage-grouse, is unclear.
- The need to address the diversion is not described well, and does not provide adequate justification for this project to be a priority.
- The budget line item for additional engineering services is not likely to be adequate given the large number of roughened riffles, BDA's, and diversion/screening needs.
- Project outcomes are unclear, for example, the number of pools created and length of fence to be installed is inconsistent in the application.
- The project cost-benefit is limited because existing site conditions are highly degraded and will require significant investment to achieve meaningful ecological benefit. The application has little discussion on how these lands will be managed post project implementation. More detail on the landowners' goals and objectives and future adaptive management to promote ecological conditions would be helpful.
- Information on whether any of these landowners have site-specific plans (SSP) as part of a CCAA with the District and if these projects are a direct result of those plans would provide helpful context.

Concluding Analysis

This project will implement a variety of restoration actions and livestock distribution intended to improve mesic habitat conditions. The landowners are highly engaged in conservation work largely around sage-grouse habitat restoration. Due to the large-acreage ownership, the District and landowners have significant opportunity to provide substantial resource benefit. It is unclear how the proposed restoration elements will create and/or enhance mesic habitat. The review site visit provided helpful understanding of limiting factors for sage-grouse, particularly for late-season brood-rearing habitat. More detail is needed on how floodplain enhancement benefits this late-season, brood-rearing habitat for sage-grouse to understand how this project provides ecological benefits for this species. Without information on post implementation land-use/grazing management strategies, it is unclear whether all three ranches will have similar tactics and approaches to uphold the restoration investment. The applicant may benefit from a technical assistance grant that would result in clearly articulated design details and prioritize actions across these large landscapes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4008-16373
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Eastside Lateral Pipeline Design
Applicant: Hood River SWCD
Region: Central Oregon
County: Hood River
OWEB Request: $74,498
Total Cost: $543,818

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This water conservation/pipeline design project will take place within the East Fork Irrigation District (EFID) near Hood River, Oregon. EFID serves approximately 975 patrons on 9,600 acres of agricultural and rural residential land. During peak irrigation (early July through mid-September) in an average summer, EFID diverts approximately 110 cfs from the East Fork Hood River, which amounts to about 75% of the East Fork Hood River's flow. Much of EFID's distribution system is still open canal, which results in an estimated 30 cfs of water loss during summer months. This has a significant impact on spawning and rearing habitat availability for spring Chinook, coho, and winter steelhead. The proposed work will include a cultural resource assessment and pipeline design for the Eastside Lateral Canal, a 5.9-mile unlined ditch that begins near Swyers Drive (45.6123/-121.5073) and ends near Old Dalles Drive (45.6740, -121.4859). The canal serves about one-third of the district (~40 cfs) and has 14 end spills that lose an estimated average of 10 cfs. The design would include final construction drawings and specifications for the pipeline and turn-outs to sub-lateral lines and individual patrons. The completed design will support implementation of this project, which has received funding for the first phase of construction from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS).Project partners include EFID, Hood River Watershed Group (project manager), Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District (applicant/fiscal sponsor), CTWS (funder), NRCS (technical assistance), and Farmers Conservation Alliance (technical assistance).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Piping six miles of open-ditch canal will potentially save 10 cfs and have strong ecological value if this water is conserved instream.
- This project complements previous investments the East Fork Irrigation District (EFID) and partners made to implement projects that achieve fish passage and flow-restoration targets.
- Appropriate partners are e engaged in this work, and the applicant has successfully implemented similar projects.
- The project is implementation ready.
- The water quality concerns are well-described and justify the importance of the benefits the proposed piping will provide.

Concerns

- The overall project costs are high for a design only project. It is unclear whether the $450,000 match from CTWS is for actual design work or future restoration efforts. The application would benefit from a breakdown of costs for the proposed design elements to understand the overall budget and determine whether costs are reasonable.
- It is unclear whether the benefits to Chinook are as significant as described in the application or are overstated.
- The application lacks information regarding how evaporation and seepage losses are calculated in the overall water conservation estimate. More detail regarding this would be helpful to understand the project's potential impact.

Concluding Analysis

This proposed technical assistance project will aid in construction-ready designs to pipe six miles of open-ditch conveyance for the EFID. The project outcome may provide strong ecological uplift by resulting in water quantity and quality benefits; however, these benefits are not clearly articulated in the application. If this application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address the information gaps, including project costs, overall water saving capability, and a description of the mechanisms to calculate those water savings.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4009-16381

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Crooked River Watershed Sage Grouse Conservation III

Applicant: Crook SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: $66,577

Total Cost: $87,980

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project location is on private rangelands within the Crook and Deschutes Counties CCAA where ranching operations are occurring on greater sage grouse (hereafter sage grouse) habitat. The USFWS's 2015 determination to not list the greater sage-grouse was based largely on signed letters of intent to enroll in a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) and the associated enrolled acres. To support the USFWS decision SSPs must be completed for the enrolled acres and required practices implemented by 2020. This project addresses the need to develop site specific plans (SSPs) in order to provide landowners with management plans for reducing threats and improving ecosystem function on sage grouse habitat. The magnitude, complexity, and short time frame of this project make it Crook County SWCD's number one priority. The SSPs will assist federal agencies in the determining sage-grouse habitat trends in accordance with population recovery objectives while providing certainty that the impacts of ranching operations on private property have no negative effects on grouse.OWEB funds will pay Crook SWCD's in-house range specialist and a CCAA technician to continue developing and writing SSPs. Staff will work with ranch managers to prepare them for enrollment in a CCAA based on their customized SSP. OWEB funds will directly help landowners develop plans to improve and protect sage steppe habitat through tailored management plans and stewardship practices. This phase of planning will inventory upland and riparian habitat covering over 150,000 acres. The partners involved will be: landowners; Crook County SWCD; NRCS; and USFWS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The results from previous OWEB phase I and II investments are described well.
- The applicant clearly articulates the need for this technical assistance.
- Crook SWCD (CSWCD) identified this project as its highest priority.
- CSWCD recently added staff that furthers their capacity to achieve the proposed outcomes, and CSWCD has a proven track record of successfully preparing site specific plans (SSPs).
- Future implementation of the resulting SSPs will benefit sage grouse, and has ancillary benefits to other natural resources as well.
- USFWS strongly supports this effort.

Concerns

- The application states that plans will include ownerships in Deschutes and Crook County. However, no support letter is provided from the Deschutes SWCD indicating how coordination will occur.
- Completing a 150,000-acre SSP may be overly ambitious.

Concluding Analysis

This project enables CSWCD to continue developing SSP's for landowners enrolled in the CCAA. SSP development is essential to address sage-grouse conservation on private ownership. The value realized from implementing projects identified in SSP's will have multiple resource benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$66,577

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$66,577

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4010-16333

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Middle Mainstem Columbia Restoration Action Plan

Applicant: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Region: Central Oregon

County: Hood River

OWEB Request: $74,998

Total Cost: $95,217

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) requests $74,993 to develop a restoration inventory and action plan for the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam to the John Day Dam to fill knowledge gaps and jumpstart restoration activities in this area. The mainstem mid-Columbia River historically provided essential rearing, migration, and refuge habitat for nine ESA-listed species of Pacific salmon and steelhead. Critical historical mainstem habitats included complex riparian shorelines, nearshore and shallow water areas, side channels, tributary confluences, and areas of groundwater upwelling or other thermal refuges. Many of these habitats have been flooded by the dams, cut off from the mainstem, and hardened or greatly simplified by the transportation corridor and urban and industrial development. In 2013, a restoration project inventory for the Washington side of the mainstem, from the White Salmon River up to the Snake River confluence, was developed by the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, but this process has not been replicated on the Oregon side of the mainstem, leaving a gap of information on restoration opportunities. To fill this gap, we propose to update the literature review and salmonid life stage habitat preference criteria; survey the Oregon shoreline condition of the mainstem Columbia; catalog existing habitat types; identify restoration opportunities and compile them into a geodatabase; prioritize the identified restoration projects; and develop concept designs and an implementation plan for the top ranked projects. This entire process will be overseen by a stakeholder group, including key watershed councils and tribal, local, state, and federal representatives.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant addresses previous grant review concerns.
- The project outcomes include a well-vetted restoration plan.
- This project complements a similar effort undertaken on the Washington side of the Columbia River. Providing a plan for the Oregon side will aid in meaningful restoration of the mainstem Columbia River through this reach.
- The applicant is filling a known data gap and engaging the right partners within their geographic scope.
- The applicant is well-suited to fulfill the proposed goals and objectives and has demonstrated experience in successfully developing and implementing restoration efforts in the Lower Columbia River.
- The application provides references for credible scientific research.

Concerns

- Restoration opportunities are limited in this area.
- Projects developed as a result of this plan may have a lower priority when compared to opportunities in adjacent tributaries.
- It is unclear if this plan will incorporate how the rivers' hydropower facilities are managed. Mainstem Columbia River management is complex and actions, such as court-mandated hydro releases, are out of local control. The application would benefit from additional detail on how future restoration projects will take this into consideration.

Concluding Analysis

This project will fill a gap on the Oregon side of the Columbia River that lacks a local restoration plan. While restoration opportunities may be few and pose challenges to implement, there is value in understanding what opportunities exist. This is a beneficial first step to ascertain what types of ecological services can be restored.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,998

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4011-16324

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Deschutes Riparian Restoration at Riverbend Park

Applicant: Upper Deschutes WC

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: $27,300

Total Cost: $73,300

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed technical assistance funding will be used to develop an implementation-ready set of plans and specifications for approximately 1,600 feet / 0.3 mile of riparian restoration and protection along the Deschutes River in Bend. The site is located along the heavily-used Deschutes River Trail on the west side of the river, immediately downstream of where Reed Market Road crosses the river. Riparian and wetland habitat in this reach has been severely degraded over the past several decades as increased recreational use of the river has resulted in user-created river access points, trampling, erosion and loss of habitat. The funding will be used to support staff and consultant time to develop a restoration and protection design for the site, including riparian revegetation, in-stream wood placement, creation of designated river access sites, signage and permanent fencing to protect the restored areas. The design process will include public involvement and will be co-managed by the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council (UDWC) and the Bend Park and Recreation District (BPRD). The project is part of a 2018 Memorandum of Understanding between UDWC and BPRD that calls for restoration and protection of habitat at multiple BPRD-owned sites along the Deschutes River in Bend.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant clearly articulated the need to address fish and wildlife habitat and riparian function in the application, as well as during the site visit.
- This section of river has significant public use; therefore, it provides a high potential for public awareness and demonstration opportunities.
- The applicant and BPRD have a long history of implementing and protecting restoration investments along the Deschutes River through Bend. They are well suited to deliver the project's goals and objectives.
- BPRD has the necessary resources to respond adaptively to manage a future restoration investment, including the ability and infrastructure to irrigate future plantings.

Concerns

- Since this site is heavily used by the public, fish and wildlife value is low and the restoration potential is limited.

- The application states this project is a high priority as a result of a BPRD reconnaissance along the Deschutes River through Bend, but the summary report resulting from this work is not included in the application.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance project will result in construction-ready plans that enhance fish and wildlife habitat along a heavily used section of the Deschutes River through Bend. Design information resulting from this technical assistance work can be transferred to future efforts. While the scale of impact of a restoration project will be limited, conditions will continue to deteriorate due to public impacts and future restoration costs will escalate. The resulting implementation project will have a considerable amount of public awareness and demonstration value.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$27,300

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$27,300

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4012-16393
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Sprague River Levee Removal
Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc
Region: Central Oregon
County: Klamath
OWEB Request: $64,838
Total Cost: $89,838

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) The proposed project involves removing a levee along four miles of the Sprague River, Klamath County, Oregon. 2) The Sprague River between the town of Sprague River and Chiloquin has been extensively modified. Channel straightening, dredging, and floodplain levees have altered channel processes and the quality and quantity of aquatic habitat. Floodplain levees restrict connection between the Sprague River channel and its floodplain, reducing the frequency and diversity of nursery habitat available for juvenile endangered suckers and other native fish species. Levees also confine flood flows to a narrow area, which differs from the broad floodplain that was historically available. The proposed project intends to remove levees along four miles of the Sprague River to restore connection between the active channel and the adjacent floodplain. 3) Trout Unlimited proposes to retain an experienced engineering firm to evaluate options for restoring floodplain connectivity at the project site. Specifically, project partners are interested in determining inundation intervals under different levee removal scenarios and a variety of river flows (e.g., full removal versus removal of specific sections of levee), acquiring cost estimates for the different scenarios, and investigating whether additional off-channel habitats should be constructed (e.g., backwater channels). This will allow project partners to determine the most ecologically-beneficial and cost-effective restoration option moving forward. 4) Project partners include Trout Unlimited, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the private landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This reach of the Sprague River is critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout and Lost River shortnose suckers.
- Removing the levee and reconnecting the Sprague River with its floodplain will have multiple resource benefits for native fish and wildlife.
- The future restoration project will filter phosphorous-laden sediment in the floodplain, eliminating its transport to Upper Klamath Lake, which will provide significant water quality benefits.
- The hydrologic analysis and investigation into floodplain inundation under various levee removal options will provide a well-rounded understanding of the restoration potential. A nearby stream gage will provide accurate flow information to support this work.
- Projects partners are fully engaged.
- The inclusion of the scope of work from the engineering firm is beneficial to understanding all the tasks associated with this effort.

Concerns

- The contract engineer cost is listed as one lump sum in the budget. While a bid letter is attached to the application, it does not provide the engineer's hourly rate or estimated hours, which makes it difficult to evaluate whether costs are reasonable. The budget would benefit from an itemization of each phase identified in the engineer's scope of work.

Concluding Analysis

This project will evaluate and document floodplain restoration options for this site along the Sprague River, including potential levee removal. There is a significant restoration potential at this site because a wide variety of ecological uplift could be realized through levee removal, which will benefit native fish and wildlife and water quality.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$64,838

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

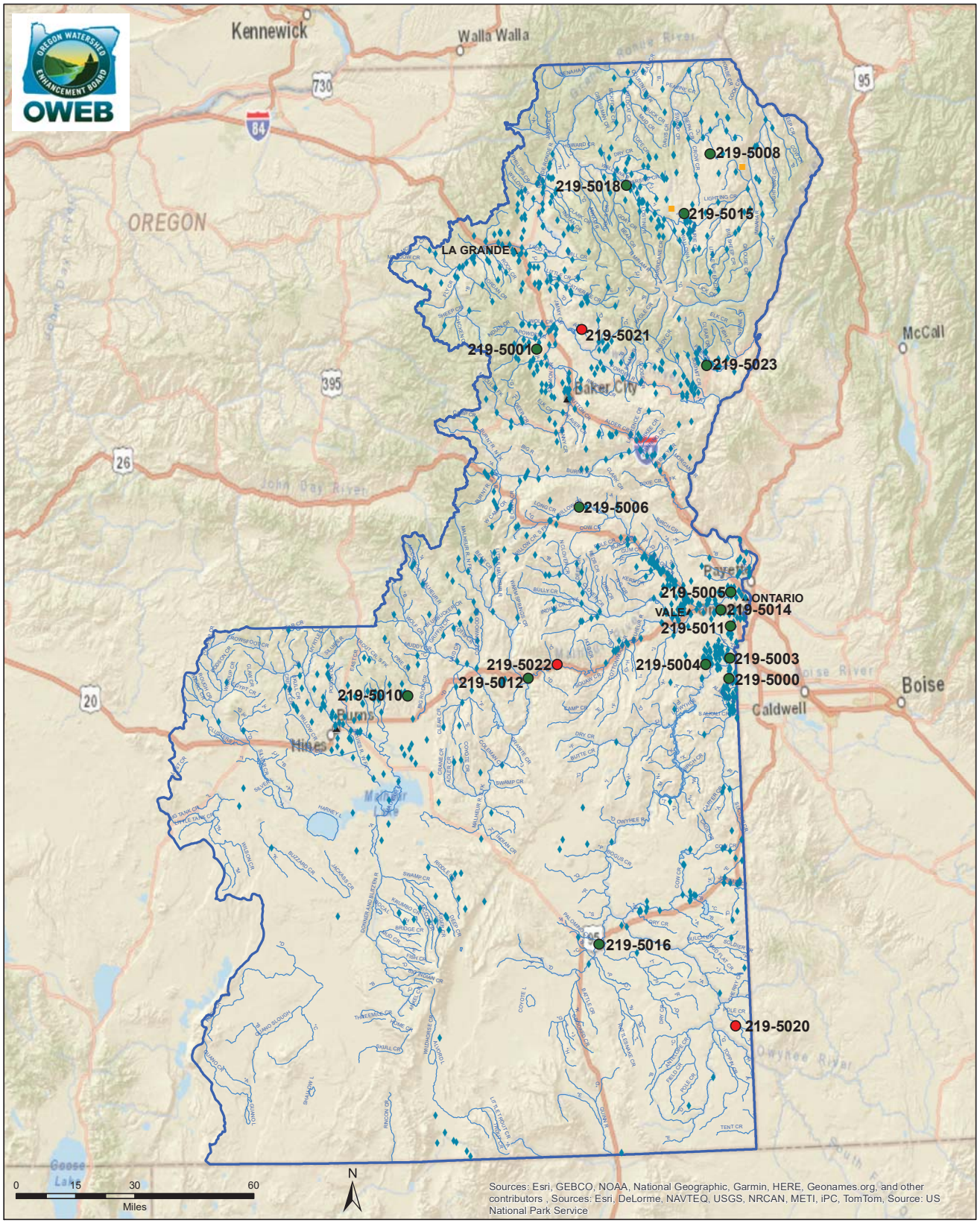
Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$64,838

Staff Conditions

None

Eastern Oregon - Region 5 Spring 2018 Funding Recommendations



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ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wills 20180925

Funding Recommendations

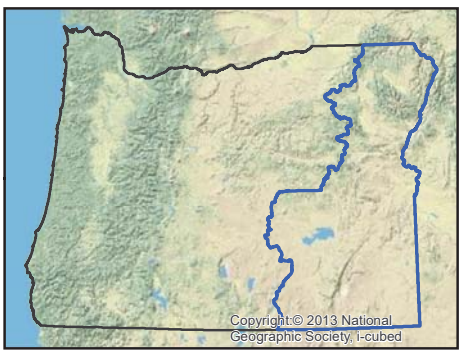
- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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



Region 5 - Eastern Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-5015	Wallowa SWCD	North Prairie Phase II	Irrigation improvements will be made on Upper Prairie Creek, a tribuary of the Wallowa River near Enterprise, Oregon. This will improve water quality for native steelhead and Chinook salmon populations.	325,666	Wallowa
219-5006	Malheur WC	Getting Will-o-wee in the RCPP	Willow Creek will be restored above the Malheur Reservoir by stabilizing streambanks, installing streamside native vegetation, and addressing fish passage at an irrigation diversion. This will benefit Columbia spotted frog, redband trout, and sage-grouse habitat.	120,775	Malheur
219-5003	Malheur SWCD	Island In the Stream	Flood irrigation will be converted to sprinkler irrigation on the Owyhee River near Ontario, Oregon, which will improve water quality by reducing runoff.	57,642	Malheur
219-5001	Baker Valley SWCD	Crop Circle Irrigation	This project in Baker County will convert 517 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation, which will improve water quality and achieve water quantity efficiencies in the North Powder River.	180,092	Baker
219-5004	Owyhee WC	Finishing Up Fletcher Water Quality Improvement	Located near Adrian, Oregon, this project addresses water quality by converting flood irrigation located on steep slopes with high erosion rates to sprinker irrigation. Implementation will complement previous projects in the Fletcher Gulch priority area for water quality improvements.	51,435	Malheur
219-5000	Baker Valley SWCD	Around the Bend Water Quality Imrpovement	Flood irrigation will be converted to sprinkler irrigation near the Snake River, which implements recommendations for improving water quality in this area by reducing erosion.	83,135	Malheur
219-5005	Malheur WC	Grand Canyon 3	Irrigation improvements near Ontario, Oregon will eliminate accelerated erosion, which will improve water quality in the Malheur River watershed.	32,123	Malheur
219-5011	Malheur SWCD	In For The Haul	Runoff into the Shoestring Canal and the Malheur River will be eliminated by installing irrigation improvements located on steep slopes with high erosion rates, which will improve water quality.	33,266	Malheur
219-5008	Wallowa Resources	North Zumwalt Prairie Integrated Invasive Grass Management	Four hundred acres of medusahead and other noxious weeds will be treated and reseeded with native plants on Zumalt Priarie in Wallowa County. This will benefit essential habitat for breeding and migratory raptors, such as grassland-dependent ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk and prairie falcon, Spalding's catchfly and Wallowa needlegrass.	96,354	Wallowa

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order Continued

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-5012	Malheur WC	Solving the Rambling River Blues of the North Fork Malheur: Phase III	Streamside areas along the North Fork of the Malheur River near Juntura, Oregon will be improved by restoring native vegetation to stabilize the eroding streambank and controlling cattle stream access. This leverages previous OWEB investments, and will improve water quality and aquatic habitat for redband trout.	41,754	Malheur
219-5014	Malheur SWCD	Bench Pad, The Next Step Down	Irrigation improvements will eliminate runoff and improve water quality in the Malheur River watershed near Ontario, Oregon.	25,756	Malheur
219-5010	Owyhee WC	Rock Creek Upland Restoration Project	Sage-grouse habitat and native plant communities near Burns, Oregon will be improved by: (1) Western juniper treatment in upland and streamside areas, (2) off stream watering facilities installed to improve livestock distribution and allow rotational grazing, (3) excluding cattle from two springs to protect water quality and native vegetation, and (4) creating an exclosure around an aspen stand to protect it from overgrazing by cattle and elk, allowing the stand to regenerate.	176,908	Harney
219-5016	Malheur SWCD	Area 23	Invasive cheatgrass will be treated on 640 acres and replaced with native plant seeds along Crooked Creek, oustide of Jordan Valley to improve wildlife habitat and reduce wildfire risk . Equipment will also be installed to facilitate rotational grazing to pull livestock and wildlife away from Crooked Creek, which will protect streamside habitat.	55,476	Malheur
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,280,382**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
		None			
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**1,280,382**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
219-5002	Burnt River SWCD	Bootjack Irrigation Efficiency	109,353	Baker
219-5007	Malheur WC	Creating Habitat in the Southside Neighborhood of the Malheur River	43,599	Malheur
219-5009	Malheur WC	Cusick Creek: The Restoration Continues:Phase III	61,080	Union
219-5013	Wallowa Resources	Broady Creek Steelhead Barrier Removal	65,397	Wallowa
219-5017	Wallowa Resources	2018 Upper Wallowa River Restoration Project	204,051	Wallowa

Region 5 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-5018	Nez Perce Tribe	Lostine Wetland and Side Channel Complex	Restoration plans will be designed for the Lostine River in Wallowa County to restore stream and floodplain connectivity and function, as well as create emergent wetlands. This will benefit Chinook, steelhead-rearing habitat, recently introduced coho, bull trout, Columbia spotted frog, and lamprey.	60,275	Wallowa
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**60,275**	

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-5020	Owyhee WC	A Difficult Survey and Design	Topographic survey and design of an irrigation and livestock watering system in the Owyhee Uplands areas between the Owyhee and Middle Owyhee Rivers will provide information for an alternatives analysis and selection for the most cost-effective approach to improving Sage Grouse and wildlife habitat through livestock grazing management and drought resiliency enhancement of wet-meadow mesic areas.	28,930	Malheur
219-5021	Malheur WC	Cusick Creek: The Restoration Continues Phase II	Topographic survey and site analysis will be completed to produce a 60% design on Cusick Creek, which flows into Thief Valley Reservoir in the Powder River basin. This phased effort to enhance a wet-meadow complex and reconnect the floodplain will improve late-season, brood-rearing habitat for sage-grouse in a core habitat location.	29,488	Union
219-5022	Burns Paiute Tribe	Hwy 20 Wildlife Crossings Feasibility Study	A landscape-scale assessment, alternatives analysis, and project designs will be completed to address high wildlife mortality from vehicular collisions along U.S. Highway 20 between Juntura and Harper, Oregon, in the Malheur watershed.	73,875	Malheur
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**192,568**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
219-5019	Eagle Valley SWCD	Foresee Erosion T-A	26,840	Baker

Region 5 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
219-5023	Eagle Valley SWCD	Pine Creek Assessment	Stakeholder engagement will complete assessments of diversions in the Pine Creek watershed, a high priority area for bull trout recovery, to evaluate and prioritize future opportunities with a focus on large scale projects.	78,710	Baker
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**78,710**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount**	**County**
		None			
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**78,710**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount**	**County**
		None			
Region 5 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**1,419,367**	**15.38%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**9,226,487**	

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5000-16303

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Around the Bend Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $83,135

Total Cost: $171,669

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Around the Bend WQ Improvement project is located ½ mile SE of Adrian in the Big Bend area. OWC in cooperation with Big Bend landowners have established an informal priority area to help improve water quality in the Snake River. This project joins 18 other completed OWEB small and large grant projects involving irrigation system conversion aimed at improving water quality in the Snake River. This project proposes to convert 58 flood Irrigated farmland acres in the Big Bend area to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 2-pivot systems and associated irrigation infrastructure. Flood irrigation conversion will eliminate tailwater containing sediment, nutrients, and bacteria from flowing into the South Alkali Drain and the Snake River. Project partners include Owyhee Watershed Council and Ishida Farms.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project complements numerous irrigation conversion projects implemented in the Big Bend area and the lower Owyhee basin.
- Implementation is likely to eliminate 20 to 60 tons of sediment per acre, reducing sediment, nutrients, and bacteria loading to the South Alkali drain which flows directly into the Snake River. The project site is approximately one-half mile from the Snake River.
- By working with the Big Bend landowners, OWC is filling a programmatic void since NRCS does not fund any EQIP projects in this area.
- The landowner is highly engaged with the project and is likely to sustain the ecological benefit over the long term.
- The application was well written, the budget was comprehensive and detailed, and the need for the project was thoroughly described.
- The application incorporated conveyance piping to Russet Road, enabling future irrigation conversion in that area.

Concerns

- While the Alkali drain is being monitored, this project does not include monitoring so it will be difficult to quantify the water quality benefit.
- The cost is relatively high for the ecological benefit.

Concluding Analysis

The Big Bend area is east of the Snake River near Adrian on the Idaho border. Owyhee Watershed Council (OWC) and local landowners have implemented projects on approximately 530 acres in the project vicinity. Currently, runoff flows into the South Alkali drain, one of several drains monitored monthly during irrigation season by Malheur SWCD. While it is not feasible to intensively monitor all drainsheds due to the high number of drains, improved water quality measured at South Alkali and other nearby drains is indicative of likely project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$83,125

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$83,125

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5001-16310
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Crop Circle Irrigation
Applicant: Baker Valley SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $180,092
Total Cost: $470,488

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project site is located in Baker County, near Haines Oregon and has historically flood irrigated 517 acres of pasture and hay ground. The irrigation water used at the project site is diverted from the North Powder River (a native fish bearing stream), to the Mansfield ditch where it is diverted at the project site. All tail water from the flood irrigated acres returns to the Powder River through Little Muddy Creek, only 2.3 miles from the project location, submitting additional debris, sediment, organic and inorganic material into the Powder River Watershed. In addition to water poor water quality, the landowner is supporting an inefficient form of irrigation. Through the installation of five center pivots, the landowner would convert 517 acres to a more efficient form of irrigation. The landowner will use only what can be held by the soil and what is required to support the crop being irrigated, leaving additional water in the North Powder River supporting aquatic habitat and native fish species. The landowner has realized the watershed issues that are present, and contacted the Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) seeking assistance to improve irrigation practices by converting to sprinkler irrigation. Project partners include the Baker Valley SWCD and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The amount of water needed to irrigate the fields will be reduced from 11.6 cfs to 2.5 cfs. If it can be documented, the reduction in applied water is significant.
- The project encompasses 517 acres, resulting in a favorable benefit/cost ratio.
- Irrigation return flows will be eliminated, providing water quality benefits as runoff into Little Muddy Creek and the Powder River will be eliminated.
- Irrigation ditches will be leveled, reducing erosion from the fields.
- The landowner is highly engaged in the project which increases the likelihood of success and long-term maintenance.

Concerns

- The project is not in an identified NRCS-priority area.

Concluding Analysis

Currently, tailwater from flood irrigation returns to the Powder River, which is 303(d)-listed for several pollutants. Baker County has few irrigation conversion projects mostly due to the antiquated conveyance systems and lack of partner funding. This project will be an excellent demonstration for improving efficiency due to its highly visible location. Since it is not in an NRCS priority area, EQIP funding is not available. Water quality will be improved since irrigation runoff to the Powder River will be eliminated; however, the estimated reduction in irrigation water withdrawal from 11.6 cfs to 2.5 cfs should be documented, including the ultimate disposition of the unused water. With the new system, the pivots are sized to use only 2.5 cfs and cannot withdraw larger volumes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$180,092

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$180,092

Staff Conditions

Fund with Conditions. In the Project Completion Report, provide documentation of the reduced volume of water withdrawn and the disposition of the unused water.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5002-16316
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Bootjack Irrigation Efficiency
Applicant: Burnt River SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $109,353
Total Cost: $185,320

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project site is located near Unity, Oregon within the Burnt River Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The Thompson ditch, an open ditch delivery system, spans 1.5 miles from its point of diversion (POD) in the West Fork of the Burnt River, to where it is currently utilized through flood irrigation on 149 acres. A survey of the ditch completed with the local NRCS office found that considerable water loss is occurring throughout the entire reach of the ditch: about 224 gallons per minute (GPM) was diverted into the ditch at the head gate and 10 GPM was observed at the delivery location at the end of the ditch. To address water loss in the Thompson ditch, this project proposes to convert one mile of open ditch to a pressurized piped irrigation system. In addition to an antiquated and inefficient delivery system, this project will also address increased sediment inputs into the Burnt River Watershed by converting 14 acres of flood irrigated pasture to sprinkler irrigation under pivot.The landowner has realized these watershed issues present at the project location and has contacted the Burnt River SWCD seeking assistance to improve irrigation efficiency by piping one mile of open ditch and installing one three tower pivot converting 14 acres of flood irrigated pasture to sprinkler irrigation. Project partners include the Burnt River SWCD and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Piping the ditch will prevent significant evaporation and seepage on 5,420 feet of earthen ditch.
- Fish mortality from entrainment in Thompson Ditch will be eliminated.
- The Thompson Ditch crosses land owned by several landowners who provided written notice supporting the installation of conveyance pipe. While none of these landowners divert from the ditch, they support the ecological goals of the project.
- Water quality will be improved by eliminating flood irrigation runoff from a 14-acre field through conversion to sprinkler-pivot.
- NRCS provided designs for the pipeline.

Concerns

- The .19 cfs savings at the pivot location provides low ecological benefit for the cost.
- The application should have included input from ODFW regarding fish and aquatic benefits for the West Fork of the Burnt River.

- The required size of the pivot was unclear. It appears that a pivot sized for 30 acres is only irrigating 14 acres.
- While the pipe will be sized for the water right, and there are no other users on the ditch, it is unclear whether water will remain in the West Fork of the Burnt River.

Concluding Analysis

The application lacked clarity and it was difficult to understand some project elements. The landowner has water rights to divert the entire West Fork of the Burnt River into Thompson Ditch. Conveyance pipe will only be installed on private land and not on USFS land where the diversion is located. Since there are no other users on the ditch, the remaining flow should remain in the West Fork of the Burnt River; however, it was unclear whether this is the case. A significant portion of the OWEB-requested budget (70%) is for the HDPE conveyance pipe, which also provides the most ecological uplift. The project potentially has merit but needs additional clarification of aquatic benefits and water savings.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5003-16325
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Island In the Stream
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $57,642
Total Cost: $230,420

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed project is located immediately adjacent to the Owyhee River, 19 miles from Ontario (just north of Owyhee Junction) in the North Alkali Creek- Snake River Watershed (1705010311) (Please see Location Map). The Malheur SWCD is requesting $94,993 to fund the conversion of 133 flood/furrow irrigated acres to sprinkler irrigation. The conversion to sprinkle irrigation will consolidate three existing fields (and a small portion of a fourth) under a single center pivot equipped with a swing arm/corner catcher and an end gun. The center pivot will irrigate 100 acres, the swing arm and end gun will allow the irrigation of an additional 33 acres. 2,700 feet of open ditch will be eliminated (piped) and six acres of field will be planted for wildlife forage. Current furrow irrigation practices result in increased sediment and nutrient loading to the Owyhee and Snake Rivers. The conversion to sprinkle irrigation will eliminate sediment and nutrient loading from these fields and will increase water conservation efficiency. OWEB funds will be used to purchase pipe, pumps, bridges, flow meter and other materials, and to help pay for a water rights transfer and 5% indirect costs. Matching funds include the landowner's direct purchase of the pivot and the installation of the piping to remove the ditch, and donated staff hours from Malheur SWCD. Project partners include the landowner, Malheur SWCD, Oregon DEQ (319 water quality monitoring), and Owyhee Irrigation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant responded directly to concerns raised in the previous review.
- The landowner is highly engaged with the project and is likely to maintain the ecological benefits over the long term.
- Project implementation has significant water quality benefits achieved by eliminating a highly turbid discharge.
- The project complements many other irrigation conversion projects in the Owyhee Junction and Adrian area.

Concerns

- No concerns were noted.

Concluding Analysis

This application was previously submitted but lacked essential detail to warrant funding. The following concerns were addressed: the need for a 60-hp floating pump station is to accommodate the additional sprinkler capacity; and the open irrigation ditch will now be piped, eliminating concerns about runoff entering the ditch. The project will consolidate three fields under a single pivot. Water quality data was included with the application demonstrating water quality improvement to Bishop Drain as a result of similar previously implemented projects in the drainshed. Flow in Bishop Drain bifurcates and enters the Owyhee River at two locations. Bishop Drain is one of the drains contributing large volumes of sediment and runoff to the Owyhee River. The project is situated adjacent to the Last Chance sediment pond project which will be constructed in 2018. The project is likely to improve water quality in Bishop Drain and the Owyhee River.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$57,642

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$57,642

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5004-16329

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Finishing Up Fletcher Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $51,435

Total Cost: $145,877

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Finishing up Fletcher WQ Improvement project is located approximately 10 miles northwest of Adrian, in the Fletcher Gulch Priority Area. This project proposes to convert 57 acres of flood irrigated cropland to sprinkler irrigation by installing the following components: 3 pivot systems, big gun sprinklers and associated conveyance infrastructure. This project ties into a previously installed OWEB project 214-5076 “Upper Fletcher Gulch WQ Improvement”. Irrigation tailwater from the site contains sediment, nutrients and bacteria which flow into Fletcher Drain, Old Owyhee Canal and the Lower Owyhee River. Installing sprinkler systems will eliminate flood irrigation tailwater in drain system and continue the water quality improvement projects already completed in the priority area. Project partners include: Owyhee Watershed Council and the Landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project will complete flood-to-sprinkler irrigation conversion by the North Canal in the Fletcher Gulch Priority area.
- Implementation follows ODA’s priorities and has significant water quality benefits. The project is on steep slopes with accelerated runoff rates. Tailwater flows into Fletcher Drain and eventually into the Owyhee River. Converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation eliminates that runoff. The project ties into an existing pump station previously funded by OWEB.
- Graphs summarizing monitoring data show nutrient and sediment inputs to Fletcher drain have been significantly reduced from similar projects implemented in the Fletcher Gulch priority area.

Concerns

- Pivot #3 appears to include an area with buildings and trees; however, discussion at the site visit confirmed that the old building and trees will be removed prior to project installation.

Concluding Analysis

The application clearly depicted the problem and provided detailed maps and budget. The site visit confirmed steep slopes with accelerated erosion rates. The project is located in the 970-acre Fletcher

Gulch Priority Area designated by NRCS and local partners. Installation of the OWEB-funded Fletcher Gulch lateral enabled landowners to convert from flood to pressurized sprinkler irrigation. To date, over 76% of the Fletcher Gulch Priority area is already converted from flood to sprinkler irrigation; this project increases the converted sprinkler acreage to 83% of the Fletcher Gulch Priority Area.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$51,435

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$51,435

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5005-16338
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Grand Canyon 3
Applicant: Malheur WC
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $32,123
Total Cost: $47,473

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Grand Canyon 3 project is approximately 1.5 miles NE of Ontario and ¼ north of the Malheur River. Currently an earthen irrigation lateral is used to deliver irrigation water from the Oregon Slope down to a pivot below Foothill road. The area where the lateral descends from the top of the hill to the bottom of the hill is experiencing severe erosion on steep slopes with highly erodible soils. This erosion problem worsens every year and with each natural storm event and causes sediment and nutrients to flow into the Malheur River. The solution is to replace the earthen irrigation delivery lateral with 1,880 feet of 10-inch buried pipeline and associated control structures. Project partners are: Malheur Watershed Council, Owyhee Irrigation District and the Private landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Implementation will reduce the amount of sediment delivery into the Malheur River, which is 1,340 feet away.
- The project will provide the ability to convert from pump to gravity-pressure in the irrigated field.
- The budget was detailed and clearly explained.
- The water quality benefit is immediate. The severe erosion and down-cutting occurring above Canyon 3 Road will cease.

Concerns

- It was unclear whether Malheur County should have been more involved in the project. The portion of the project relating to the road culvert seems to be a County infrastructure issue rather than a habitat or water quality issue.
- The water quality benefit is difficult to measure, making it difficult to determine whether the project has a favorable benefit/cost ratio.

Concluding Analysis

The application provided a good description of the watershed problem. The site visit confirmed the affected area experiences severe down-cutting. Irrigation water delivered through a gulley causes soil erosion and transports sediment to a county culvert, which drains directly to the Malheur River. By piping

the lateral, the gulley will no longer be used as irrigation water conveyance, eliminating sediment delivered to the road culvert. It was also verified that there is sufficient pressure in the new lateral to eliminate the current irrigation pumps in the field. The Owyhee Irrigation District will install the 1,880 foot 10-inch pipe to replace the earthen lateral causing the erosion problem. Malheur County will install the culvert. Implementation eliminates sediment from entering the Malheur River providing significant, although unmeasurable, water quality benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$32,123

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$32,123

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5006-16339
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Getting Will-o-wee in the RCPP
Applicant: Malheur WC
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $120,775
Total Cost: $164,107

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Getting Will-o-wee in the RCPP project is 8.5 miles East of Ironside on Willow Creek. This project is in core priority Sage Grouse Habitat and in a priority 2 High Desert RCPP HUC12. This section of Willow Creek lacks crucial riparian vegetation due to loss of water table, is experiencing streambank instability and lacks redband trout passage at 4 irrigation diversion locations. This project is phase I in a two-phase approach to stabilize the streambanks and replace 4 pushup style diversions with permanent fish friendly structures. Phase I will restore approximately 5,950 feet of streambank through the installation of 48 Vertical Post Structures, 13 rock riffles, 1 new fish passage approved pump irrigation diversion, and 450 willow cluster plantings. Project Partners include: Trout Unlimited, Malheur WSC, Malheur SWCD, Private Landowner, NRCS

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- NRCS RCPP funding is secured.
- The project complements many OWEB projects previously implemented in the Ironside and upper Willow Creek area. Banks of Green and other riparian improvement projects are upstream. Many acres of juniper were also removed in the upper watershed.
- Project implementation will benefit riparian vegetation, improving habitat value for sage-grouse and redband trout. The manager is committed to changing practices to avoid haying in the riparian area.
- Current grazing management in the project area is light, causing no impacts to existing willows.
- The project provides an excellent demonstration opportunity in the upper Willow Creek area. It is readily accessed along a County road.
- The designs ensure a high rate of willow recruitment.
- The project encompasses both sides of Willow Creek. The proposed objectives are appropriate for the site. Aquatic species will benefit from the proposed floodplain reconnection and improved channel sinuosity achieved from the project.

Concerns

- Without a CREP buffer, livestock could trample the plantings. However, NRCS is planning a spring development, off-stream water, and a grazing plan which should provide the landowner with more options. Fencing Willow Creek after the project is implemented would be problematic once the channel is braided.

Concluding Analysis

The project is located in core sage-grouse habitat and is a high priority for the High Desert RCPP and NRCS. This section of Willow Creek lacks sufficient riparian vegetation due to a downward trend in the water table. Malheur WC is proposing a two-phase effort to improve riparian conditions. While there was concern that the push-up dam removal was in the second phase rather than the first, It was determined that the channel profile needs to be modified before engineered designs can be prepared for new irrigation diversions.

The application provided detailed maps, designs and photos. The project addresses improving critical riparian vegetation and streambank function by reconnecting the floodplain, enhancing aquatic conditions especially for redband trout. Designs for the project were prepared through a previous OWEB technical assistance grant. Expanding the wetted width of the riparian area benefits sage-grouse by providing late-season, perennial bunchgrass whose seeds are essential for brood-rearing.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$120,775

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$120,775

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5007-16340

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Creating Habitat in the Southside Neighborhood of the Malheur River

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $43,599

Total Cost: $66,274

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Location: Malheur River, river mile 55. 1 3/4 air miles to downtown Harper.2) The banks in the project reach are 8-10 feet high and unstable. The channel is migrating several feet at a time with each high flow event. The 2017 spring runoff was particularly bad. There is little to no riparian vegetation at the site and the aquatic habitat is is very simple, no pools, hiding cover or woody debris. The river does not meet water quality standards for temperature, sediment and nutrients.3) Install 80 large trees with rootwads to protect the toe along 780 feet of eroding bank. Place 60 boulder 3-4 feet in diameter in the same area to serve as ballast. Plant 195 vertical bundles of willows and 156 cottonwood posts to provide vertical structure.4) Partners are the landowner, RSI engineering, and the Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location has potential demonstration value for nearby landowners.
- The landowner purchased the property two years ago and is motivated to address bank erosion.
- Wood placement in the floodplain has multiple benefits, including food web development and floodplain roughness. The project demonstrates a good use for juniper carcasses.

Concerns

- The adjacent field is a winter feeding area. Unless access is controlled, survival of willows and cottonwoods will likely be compromised.
- If the area is grazed, the timing needs to be during the cold-browse period.
- The project lacks a sufficient schematic and design. It is unclear whether enough trees are proposed and where fencing will be located.
- Jack-strawed tree carcasses are unlikely to protect plantings from cattle damage.
- A grazing plan or scheme for the proposed treatment area is needed.

Concluding Analysis

The site visit indicated that restoration is needed for this section of the Malheur River which suffers from

significant bank erosion adversely affecting water quality and instream habitat. Vertical banks are eight to ten feet high and channel migration is occurring with subsequent high-flow events. While this section of the river was historically altered by dikes and levees, the levees have eroded away on this site. Historic high flows in spring 2017 accelerated channel migration at this site.
It is unclear from the application the extent to which natural processes can be restored on this section of the river, and therefore, whether bank treatments will be effective over the long term. In addition to the concerns noted above, the proposed treatment is planned for one side of the river, but not the opposite side. It is unclear if proposed actions will adversely affect vegetation. While there are potential benefits with this application, additional detail and design is needed to warrant funding

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5008-16342

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Zumwalt Prairie Integrated Invasive Grass Management

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: $96,354

Total Cost: $238,544

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Zumwalt Prairie, located in Wallowa County, is regionally significant for its ecological diversity, high quality grazing habitat, scenic vistas, and location as headwaters to biologically important streams such as Joseph Creek. The North Zumwalt is at risk from noxious weeds, especially annual invasive grasses such as Medusahead rye. We are proposing a truly integrated management strategy- involving thatch removal by prescribed burning, targeted grazing, pre-emergent herbicide, restricted grazing, hand-pulling, and re-vegetation to address the growing threat to the Zumwalt. Our partners in the region, especially The Nature Conservancy, private landowners, and Wallowa County Vegetation Department, among others, are working with us to put more time and resources into this important effort.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application was well written and the proposed actions present a sound strategy towards restoration.
- The two proposed seed mixes are beneficial. One seed mix has a larger percentage of native grasses more appropriate for use on areas where soils, aspect and topography are more conducive to successful germination rates. The other seed mix containing sheep fescue is more appropriate for sites with poorer or rocky soils on south or west-facing slopes where establishment may be more challenging.
- The proposal builds off successful grants where monitoring has demonstrated improving trends.
- Engaged landowners are actively participating with Wallowa Resources.
- The proposed actions address the causes of disturbance, rather than just treating a symptom.

Concerns

- Given that medusahead infestation is often caused by poor grazing practices, the application should include grazing plans, and should consider incorporating rest periods.
- Assurance is needed that there will be adequate rest or a vegetation density test indicating roots are established.
- It is unclear from the application whether the sheep fescue seed mix will be limited to use in appropriate areas.

Concluding Analysis

This application continues an on-going effort that targets and treats noxious weeds on multiple properties on the Zumwalt Prairie, which is regionally significant for its ecological diversity and high quality habitat. Medusahead is the primary annual grass threat to the Zumwalt Prairie. Protecting the native bunchgrass plant community will maintain wildlife habitat and prevent shallow-rooted non-native annuals from establishing. The proposed integrated strategy includes burning, herbicide treatments, hand-pulling, targeted or restricted grazing and revegetation. The contractors have successfully treated invasive weeds using this strategy. Temporary fencing is included to facilitate work on smaller-acreage pastures; however, grazing plans are needed to insure the viability of treatment sites.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
9 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$96,354

Review Team Conditions

Prior to treating burn/spray/seed sites, submit grazing plans that include post-treatment rest.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$96,354

Staff Conditions

Prior to treating burn/spray/seed sites, submit grazing plans that include post-treatment rest.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5009-16344

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Cusick Creek: The Restoration Continues:Phase III

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: $61,080

Total Cost: $77,477

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Cusick Creek is located approx 30 miles North of Baker City and approx 10 miles from North Powder. The Cusick Creek watershed drains approximately 14 square miles or 9, I 00 acres of land and flows into Thief Valley Reservoir on the Powder River. The project site is within sage grouse core habitat.2) Reach 3 of Cusick Creek has 4 areas of steep vertical banks, inadequate vegetation , and lacks diverse aquatic habitat. Livestock management is having detrimental affects on the vegetation because the cattle are in the creek area during the hot months. The creek is the only source of water during this time.3) We will install 4 wood revetments that use trees 20 feet long and 24 inches in diameter with 55 rocks for ballast. We will place trees in 8 other places to provide aquatic habitat. There will be a total 90 pieces of wood in a reach about 2,000 feet long. We will create a riparian pasture by building 1875 feet of cross fence and supply water to that pasture and an adjacent pasture with 2 trough. We will install a solar pumping station and bury 1,000 feet of 2-inch pipe to supply water to the troughs. The pump and pipeline will connect to an existing water supply.4) Partners are the landowner, RSI engineering and the Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is complementary to previously implemented projects, including Phase I that occurred downstream of this site on Cusick Creek to improve riparian conditions.
- The project provides the opportunity to better manage livestock by installing cross fencing and off-stream water.
- Streambank conditions will improve. Implementation addresses down-cutting that has occurred in several locations.

Concerns

- With respect to project phases, the project sequencing is confusing.
- The application lacks designs, which would provide reviewers with the technical details required to determine whether the proposed solution will achieve project objectives.
- A grazing plan is needed regarding timing, livestock numbers, and duration.
- A specification sheet for the pump is needed to verify if it has the capacity to convey water adequately to the proposed troughs.

- Fish presence in Cusick Creek was not noted. Knowing the aquatic species present in Cusick Creek, which flows directly into Thief Valley Reservoir, is necessary to determine the ecological benefit of the project.

Concluding Analysis

The project has potential to improve riparian and upland conditions in this area of Cusick Creek, which is core sage-grouse habitat. Restoration of riparian and wet meadow areas benefits sage-grouse by providing late-season, brood-rearing habitat. Livestock watering directly on Cusick Creek exacerbates the decline in riparian conditions. It was noted that livestock pressure has been reduced significantly by the landowners, and that vegetation is responding well where the landowner implemented Phase I downstream of the project site. The proposed off-stream water will keep livestock away from the riparian area and help improve riparian vegetation and condition.
The applicant also submitted a technical assistance application for a section of Cusick Creek below this proposed project area. The phase 3 restoration project also included a significant budget for design. The designs for phases 2 and 3 should be combined into a single technical assistance project, followed by restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5010-16349

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Rock Creek Upland Restoration Project

Applicant: Harney SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: $176,908

Total Cost: $512,904

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) This project takes place on 3,269 acres of private property in the northern Harney Basin approximately 20 miles East of Burns, along Rock Creek and Pine Creek. Half of the project area is located within Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH) for sage-grouse. 2)The watershed concerns to be addressed include Western Juniper encroachment throughout the upland and riparian areas, loss of desired riparian species, loss of flora and fauna species richness and diversity, loss of stream bank stability, and overland erosion of uplands.3)Proposed work includes: removing western juniper throughout the property including upland and riparian areas, installation of off stream watering facilities which will allow for better distribution of livestock and will enable rotational grazing, fencing two springs to protect water quality and native vegetation, and creating an exclosure around an aspen stand to protect it from overgrazing by cattle and elk, allowing the stand to regenerate.4) Project partners include the landowner and the Harney Soil and Water Conservation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The property has a new landowner who successfully implemented previous OWEB projects on other properties and has high motivation for restoration.
- The proposed work schedule is outside sage-grouse nesting season (May 15 – July 15).
- A grazing plan will be included with the project completion report.
- The rangeland has a good mix and diversity of sagebrush-steppe upland plants.
- Implementation will benefit sage-grouse habitat and water resources.
- Grazing will change from season-long to every-other year rest rotation.

Concerns

- Using a skidder can potentially promote increased noxious weed establishment. Skidder piling also pushes excess dirt into debris piles making pile-burning problematic.
- The application lacked a description of long-term management practices to prevent re-establishment of juniper on the site.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project will be implemented by an engaged landowner and enhances sage-grouse habitat, aspen regeneration, mountain-mahogany, and native upland vegetation. Uneven grazing distribution will be addressed by developing a spring and installing troughs. By adding off-stream watering sources, season-long grazing will be eliminated. This property will benefit from some disturbance to stimulate the establishment of early seral species; however, skidder use should be limited to frozen conditions.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
12 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$176,908

Review Team Conditions

A skidder is to be used only when ground is frozen, otherwise use an excavator. Provide two growing seasons of rest after seeding.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$176,908

Staff Conditions

A skidder is to be used only when ground is frozen, otherwise use an excavator. Provide two growing seasons of rest after seeding.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5011-16355
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: In For The Haul
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $33,266
Total Cost: $90,341

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Approximately 10 miles south of Ontario, above the Shoestring Canal, This proposed project drains into the Shoestring Canal.2)This project is located 10 miles SW of Ontario and sits on the edge of the bench ground. The 24-acre property is currently flood irrigated with gated pipe and broken concrete ditches on steep 5 to 12% slopes. The major cause of erosion is poor irrigation efficiency with steep slopes. Much of the irrigated acreage in the watershed has slopes exceeding 1.5%. Installation of pressurized pipeline along with on-farm irrigation system improvements will effectively treat runoff.3) Install a pivot to treat 21 acres with a flow meter4) Partner will include landowner

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Water quality benefits are high given the steep slopes with a high risk of erosion.
- The application provided meaningful responses to previous review team comments, which aided in better understanding the project.
- This is a high priority for ODA.
- The benefit/cost ratio is favorable.

Concerns

- The application does not adequately describe the water quality problem; the estimated 20 tons per-acre of sediment is likely much lower than the actual rate.
- The application does not describe how the pivot will use 25% less energy than the current irrigation system.

Concluding Analysis

The project site is not in an EQIP priority area and is therefore ineligible for NRCS cost-share. By installing a pivot-sprinkler in lieu of gated pipe, runoff will be eliminated, providing significant water quality benefits for a reasonable cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$33,266

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$33,266

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5012-16359 **Project Type:** Restoration

Project Name: Solving the Rambling River Blues of the North Fork Malheur: Phase III

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon **County:** Malheur

OWEB Request: $41,754 **Total Cost:** $54,226

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Project Location: The project reach is on the NF of the Malheur River approximately 500 feet from the river's mouth. Lat/long 43.754, -118.0782) Need: Riparian vegetation is not in good condition at the site. There is not enough woody species present to modify water temperature and improve aquatic habitat. The banks have been trampled and are eroding which is contributing to excessive sediment entering the stream. The North Fork is listed by DEQ for not attaining water quality standards and because it lacks aquatic habitat According to ODFW, redband trout use the area.3) We will install 5,313 feet of fence approximately 35 feet from the southern stream bank. And we will plant mostly willows and dogwood at 1,300 locations on the banks edge. Techniques will include bundles, cluster planting and clump planting. Post planting mostly with cottonwood and tree willows to provide vertical structure to the site. Approximately 1,060 posts will be planted. We will construct 3 water gaps to allow for livestock watering.4) Partners: OWEB, Landowner, and Malheur WSC

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project implementation will address the lack of shrub and tree cover on the North Fork of the Malheur.
- This is a straightforward project with good budget detail and anticipated outcome.
- Landowner does quality work and implements adaptive management, making modifications when needed and learning from past failures.
- The length of riparian area treated is significant given the 5,300-foot footprint.
- The project connects with others implemented by the landowner. The North Fork Riparian (214-5070) is downstream of this project and has been successful. In addition, Juntura Pipeline & Riparian project (217-5046) was recently completed with high success rates on the plantings viewed during the site visit.
- The project costs are reasonable for the ecological benefits achieved.

Concerns

- Only one side of the riparian area will be treated; however, there is already some existing vegetation on the other side. Beulah Dam also controls the amount of flow into North Fork of the Malheur.
- The proposed buffer width is relatively narrow (15’ – 20’) adjacent to the hay ground.

Concluding Analysis

Redband trout use the North Fork year-round. This project continues ongoing restoration efforts implemented by the landowner and is complementary to several projects. Due to the narrow buffer size in some places, enrolling in CREP is not a possibility; however, the proposed buffer will address the lack of shade, woody debris species and aquatic habitat. Willow and dogwood plantings will help reduce bank erosion and slumping which is also being exacerbated by the bridge constriction on Highway 20.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
10 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$41,754

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$41,754

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5013-16362

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Broady Creek Steelhead Barrier Removal

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: $65,397

Total Cost: $137,380

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) The Broady Creek Watershed is located in northeast Oregon in Wallowa County, north of the town of Enterprise. The creek is in the headwaters of the Lower Grande Ronde River subbasin which flows into the Snake River.2) Broady Creek offers cold water habitat for juvenile and adult steelhead salmon in a subbasin where many streams are water quality limited. Information from ODFW in the 1960s shows Broady Creek as being a major steelhead spawning stream. Road construction and logging that occurred in the decades since resulted in degradation of that spawning and rearing habitat. 3) This project places half of the longest and most impactful road in the watershed, FSR 4600-505 (aka “the Broady Road”), into storage which results in removing four aquatic organism passage barriers in Broady Creek, East Fork Broady Creek and West Fork Broady Creek, as well as implementing storm damage risk reduction (SDRR) measures to reduce current and potential future impacts to spawning and rearing habitat in Broady Creek. Specifically, three arches that are partial barriers to juvenile steelhead and a trash rack on a fourth arch will be removed to provide uninterrupted access to 2.7 miles of upstream habitat. 4.5 miles of SDRR work along FSR 4600-505 will remove 24 additional ditch relief and side drainage culverts. 4) The Forest Service is partnering with Wallowa Resources, the Nez Perce tribe and OWEB to implement this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has high energy and enthusiasm from the USFS and Wallowa Resources.
- Broady Creek is a known ESA-listed steelhead stronghold that is on the decline.

Concerns

- The provided design and proposed budget seemed inadequate. The forest engineer needs to substantiate the design. The amount of cubic yards that needs to be removed needs to be quantified.
- Providing photos with the application would have improved understanding of the need for the project.
- The project was presented as a barrier removal. However, from the site visit the lower culvert is a bottomless arch and seemed to be functioning. The trash rack appears to be a barrier and should be removed.

- Removing the culverts may actually exacerbate sediment deposition by creating excess sediment during the removal process. There are no designated end-haul sites and the excess soil (over 300 dump trucks estimated from one site) will be spread on the road. During a rain event, material spread on the road may wash into Broady Creek and create significant water quality issues. This potentially may be more harmful to fish habitat, and the application did not address how the design would mitigate this potential issue.
- The existing road seemed to be in good shape. It is rocked and was constructed well.

Concluding Analysis

Steelhead passage on Broady Creek is largely flow-dependent. There are known barriers including the trash rack where juveniles can get entrained. Access to the upstream habitat is important. The application seems premature in that it was unclear whether removing all the shallow and deep culverts is necessary, and if so, how sediment transport will be addressed. The budget needs to include all necessary equipment required to complete the project, including unit costs and estimated hours needed for project completion.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5014-16367
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Bench Pad, The Next Step Down
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $24,876
Total Cost: $141,156

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1. The proposed project is located 7 miles from Ontario, Oregon at 923 Onion Avenue on two fields for a total of 41.2 acres of flood irrigated bottom ground.2. Runoff from the two fields enter into a drain that then dumps into the Nevada Ditch with nutrients and sediment, that enters the Malheur River, then the Snake River3. The landowner will install two pivots, 4 big guns to irrigate the corners for zero runoff on 39.05 acres and continue to flood 1.53 acres and .62 planted to crested wheatgrass4. Partners will include the landowner, OWEB and the Malheur SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on prior investment by tying into an existing buried mainline.
- Implementation will eliminate using gated pipe, which causes excess erosion from the flooded fields.
- Transportation of sediments, nutrients, bacteria and farm chemicals in runoff to the Nevada Ditch, and ultimately the Malheur River, will be mostly eliminated. Implementation follows recommendations set forth in the Malheur River TMDL (2004).
- The project's location provides an opportunity to demonstrate conversion from flood irrigation in an area of the Malheur basin that does not have many pivots.

Concerns

- None

Concluding Analysis

The project is close to Ontario and not in a designated EQIP priority area for NRCS. The Morgan Avenue watershed receives irrigation water from the North Canal in an open-canal system that is then distributed to various laterals. This project complements a previously implemented project where the landowner converted 39 acres of steep farmground from flood to sprinkler irrigation on an adjacent field. Eliminating runoff from this field into the Nevada Ditch has significant water quality benefits and is a high priority action for ODA.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
11 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$24,876

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount
$25,756

Staff Conditions

Fund increased. Add $880 for a water right transfer and associated indirect costs.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5015-16386
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: North Prairie Phase II
Applicant: Wallowa SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Wallowa
OWEB Request: $325,666
Total Cost: $1,860,001

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will is located north east of Enterprise, 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) for sediment and other parameters. There are steelhead and Chinook salmon populations in the Wallowa River thus the need to improve the water quality. There are 2 phases to the project. Phase 1 of a pipeline is primarily the main conveyance to the irrigators in North Prairie creek and supply water to 100 acres (2 landowners). The second phase will begin where is crosses North Prairie Creek and supply water to 1912 acres (14 landowners). The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be providing technical and financial assistance to the project. Wallowa Lake Irrigation District's patrons will be providing financial assistance and some inkind work as needed. The Wallowa SWCD will manage the grant and maintain the financial spreadsheet for all partners to review.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project implementation will reduce flow by up to 30 cfs in Farmers Ditch.
- Prior piping projects have been successful, but the primarily benefited users at the point of application; this project will eliminate discharges of pollutants into 303(d) listed water bodies.
- The irrigation conveyance pipe will serve 1,912 acres of agricultural land.
- The project will have significant water quality benefits and reduce tail-water to Prairie Creek.
- Once this project is completed, approximately 75% of the irrigated area of Prairie Creek will have piped irrigation conveyance. The irrigated portion of the Prairie Creek watershed is approximately 15,000 acres.
- Water savings can be stored in Wallowa Lake and supplement flow during critical periods in the Wallowa River, providing fisheries benefit.
- The Wallowa Lake Irrigation District was recently formed. A change in leadership provided motivation to do these larger projects.
- Previous concerns regarding the reason for the ditch to remain open were explained during the site visit. It will be left in place for flood control and wildlife benefit, but not used for irrigation

Concerns

- No concerns were noted.

Concluding Analysis

Phase I of this project was previously submitted in the fall of 2017 and not recommended for funding. Since then, the NRCS provided funding for Phase I, which will install 2.8 miles of conveyance piping for 100 acres, and for design of Phase II. This project addresses Phase II, which will install 7.4 miles of pipe. The application was well written and detailed. Prairie Creek has ESA-listed spring Chinook and steelhead. The project is located in upper Prairie Creek where OWEB previously awarded nearly $850,000 for 8 spur-ditch piping projects. Recent monitoring indicates an improving trend in water quality in Prairie Creek. By providing pressurized pipelines in lieu of spur ditches, excess water will not need to be conveyed through ditches to Prairie Creek.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$325,666

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$325,666

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5016-16389
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Area 23
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $55,476
Total Cost: $131,021

Project Abstract *(from application)*

) Project location : Outside Jordan Valley, near Rome Oregon along Crooked Creek. 2) Watershed Issue: Bromus tectorum, known as drooping brome or cheatgrass, is a winter annual grass has become invasive in the Owyhee Watershed. This invasive weed provides poor habitat for all species of wildlife. Lack of water in the upper reaches of the rangeland has caused the cattle to congregate in the lower reaches, over utilizing Crooked Creek for water and forage. 3) Proposed Solution: NRCS installed a well last year and will install the solar system and two troughs to help spread livestock out and water availability for wildlife on top of the plateau. The SWCD and the landowner are proposing to spray 640 acres of Plateau by air, and then re-seed with 15 pounds per acre of a grass seed mixture (3640 # of crested wheatgrass, 1400 #, sandberg wheat grass and 560# of Thurbers Needlegrass) with a rangeland drill and tractor, followed by with two years of rest. This follows the Malheur County Weed Management (Gary Page) recommendation for controlling cheatgrass invasions. We are proposing to install 3 troughs fed by 6448 feet of pipeline from an existing NRCS well and installing a cistern (underground storage tank) between the well and NRCS first stock tank. Install 3 bird escape ladders. 4) No effectiveness monitoring is planned.5) OWEB funds will be used to buy chemicals, grass seed mix, 3 troughs, cistern, and project management. The landowner and NRCS are cost-share partners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The well was installed previously with NRCS cost-share funding. Once the cisterns and troughs are installed, a rotational grazing system keeping livestock away from the riparian area can be implemented.
- The site visit revealed that there would be significant benefit to the riparian area by providing alternate water sources away from Crooked Creek.
- The application proposes two seasons of grazing rest post-seeding to ensure seed establishment.
- The landowners are enthusiastic about improving rangeland conditions.
- Core sage-grouse habitat is nearby and sage-grouse are present in the general vicinity of the project.

Concerns

- The application has inconsistent descriptions of the seed mix. The abstract included Thurber's needlegrass and the uploaded seed mix sheet substituted this with Ladak alfalfa.

- The budget lacked clarity and had some inconsistencies. The pipe installation cost appears inadequate; the miscellaneous item for trough fittings appears excessive; 2 cisterns are in the budget, but only 1 is included in the application; and the seed mix budget is nearly $15,000 higher than the submitted bid.
- No grazing plan was included.
- Without designs, it was unclear how much water is available from the well to convey to the troughs and cistern.

Concluding Analysis

Located about 10 miles south of Rome, this project is in general sage-grouse habitat with core habitat a few miles to the north. Much of the surrounding landscape was burned by major fires over the last decade; however, the project area has not experienced any major fires. The property is adjacent to BLM land with a high concentration of sagebrush; eliminating cheatgrass will lower the potential for wildfire to spread. The landowners recently purchased the property and have been working to improve habitat conditions. Portions were seeded with forage kochia and crested wheatgrass, but germination rates were poor because of extreme drought experienced from 2013-2015. Implementation of rotational grazing will benefit upland vegetation and the Crooked Creek riparian area. Budget inconsistencies will be addressed through verification of project expenses during the course of the project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
13 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$55,476

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$55,476

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5017-16398

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: 2018 Upper Wallowa River Restoration Project

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: $204,051

Total Cost: $358,697

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Upper Wallowa River project area encompasses 1 1/2 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, small businesses, and Wallowa Lake State Park. This area is a large attraction for tourists and important to the Wallowa County economy. The project area provides important habitat for salmonid species, including spawning and rearing area for Kokanee salmon (Oncorhynchus nerka) as the river is a direct input to Wallowa Lake. The area also provides habitat for Bull trout (Salvelinus confluentus), although no spawning activity has been observed. Natural floodplain function along the reach has been degraded by anthropogenic encroachment and development, thereby reducing the habitat quality and quality. This restoration project will:1) enhance and restore habitat for Kokanee salmon, bull trout and Sockeye (if the Wallowa Lake dam is rebuilt);2) improve habitat while protecting private and public property from the effects of catastrophic flooding by maintaining or improving bank stability;3) capitalize on its location to create significant opportunities for outreach to the general public; Wallowa Lake State Park hosts over half a million people per year; and4) serve as a model for floodplain restoration in semi-developed areas that is FEMA and NOAA compliant. While there are significant habitat benefits, this project is not of paramount ecological importance. We do believe the combined habitat and social benefits provide a profound opportunity to showcase a constructive win/win example for the coexistence of people and nature. Project partners include ODFW, OPRD, 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

- This is an opportunity to reactivate the floodplain within the project area.
- The project's location at Wallowa Lake State Park will be highly visible and provide an opportunity to demonstrate restoration practices to a diverse audience.
- Private landowners above the bridge will have the opportunity to use the design and obtain coverage under the DSL permit.
- The proposed restoration will benefit kokanee and bull trout.

Concerns

- The budget and project sequencing are unclear.
- Components quantified in the budget did not match with other parts of the application. For example, 77 proposed wood/boulder structures each contain two logs (154 total logs) and 3 boulders (231 total boulders); however the budget only requests funding for 72 total logs and 134 boulders.
- The planting plan lacks irrigation and plant protection.
- The cost per-tree for large wood installation is high. However, it was unclear if the unit cost is per log or per log structure.
- The excavation rate at $11.94/cubic yard is high.
- Mobilization was included in the budget, but there is no equipment listed and unit costs were not provided.
- Sockeye habitat benefits are unclear since the status of re-introduction is unknown.
- The previous application stated that the bridge would be replaced by ODOT and that OPRD would then responsible for future maintenance. However, it is not clear that the bridge replacement is still being planned.

Concluding Analysis

The project was submitted in fall 2017 and was not recommended for funding. Planned restoration will occur below Marina Bridge, which is not full-spanning. Bridge supports impede transportation of cobbles and sediment further down the Wallowa River and into Wallowa Lake. While work is proposed below the bridge, it is unclear whether the bridge supports will interfere with sediment transport, and whether bridge replacement needs to occur prior to ascertaining the impact of proposed restoration downstream. However, reducing the size of the parking lot at the State Park to implement proposed restoration work is beneficial. While the project has potential to benefit aquatic species in the Wallowa River, more information is required to make that determination.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5018-16328

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lostine Wetland and Side Channel Complex

Applicant: Nez Perce Tribe

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: $60,275

Total Cost: $102,090

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This proposed project is located on a private ranch adjacent to the Lostine River, approximately 3 miles east of the town of Wallowa, Wallowa County, Oregon. The property is currently under two separate permanent easements totaling over 450 acres encompassing the main stem Lostine River, adjacent floodplain and riparian forest, and agricultural land. The landowner, the Wallowa Land Trust and project partners are seeking funds to restore stream and floodplain connectivity and function as well as create emergent wetland where deemed appropriate within the project area. Old channel and meander scrolls exist throughout the proposed project area illuminating the historic Lostine River channel, side channel and wetland network. The previous landowner kept much of the floodplain and dis-connected side channels protected from livestock grazing leaving old scrolls largely intact. This prior and current management allows for a more passive restoration approach including the removal or partial breach of existing levees. The current landowner maintains a long term commitment to restoration, protection and enhancement of resources. The NEOR Recovery Plan, the Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan (GRSBP), the Wallowa Atlas restoration prioritization process (Wallowa Atlas), and the Wallowa County Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan (WCSHRP), all identify this reach of the Lostine River as deficient for habitat quantity and quality, water quality, stream complexity, and floodplain connectivity. Species which will benefit include ESA listed spring/summer Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull Trout, Columbia Spotted Frog and others. With the collaboration of the landowner, the Wallowa Land Trust, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Grande Ronde Model Watershed, and the Nez Perce Tribe (sponsor), this project seeks technical assistance monies to survey, permit and design a floodplain and side channel re-integration project that will create or re-inundating emergent wetland communities.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The partnership involved with this project is likely to succeed as it has proven effective on past projects.
- The proposed design concept makes use of natural hydrologic conditions and includes detailed background on natural conditions to scope the proposed design.
- The previous easement and pivot investments will not be affected by the enhanced floodplain and wetland; the easement envisioned restoration in the riparian zone and set aside land for this purpose.
- Reconnecting the cottonwood galleries will provide high ecological uplift.

Concerns

- No concerns were noted.

Concluding Analysis

The floodplain reconnection and enhanced wetland has been part of a long-term vision for the site for over 15 years. The recently installed pivots funded by an OWRD SB 839 grant are not in the area proposed for the wetland and will not affect the restoration site. The proposed wetland area was never leveled or excavated and is now hydrologically disconnected by dikes. Numerous juniper are present on the site. Beaver reintroduction is also being considered in the design. Overall, the site is suitable for passive restoration.
The Lostine River is culturally significant to the Nez Perce Tribe for its salmonid habitat. Project implementation will have a positive impact on ESA-listed species such as Snake River steelhead, bull trout, Chinook salmon, Columbia spotted frog and re-introduced coho. Life stages for salmonids are limited due to lack of pool and backwater habitat, which the project will address. The project is complementary to many previous efforts implemented by the landowner.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$60,275

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$60,275

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5019-16331
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Foresee Erosion T-A
Applicant: Eagle Valley SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $26,840
Total Cost: $33,763

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Located on Eagle Creek near Richland, Oregon in Baker County the project site is 2.5 miles from the point Eagle Creek enters the Powder River and is in a direct interrelationship with the Powder River Watershed. The landscape of this project consists of fenced 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. The landowner has four sites of eroding bank totaling 1,100 feet that will be surveyed and designed through this project. Located only 2.5 miles from the Powder River and 1 mile from the Brownlee Reservoir, reducing the amount of sediment and debris entering into the watershed will benefit water quality and fish habitat.Once this technical assistance grant is completed, the restoration portion of this project will resolve watershed issues of; erosion, sedimentation, degrading fish habitat, flood risk to surrounding landowners and will improve upland/riparian land management and instream impacts to water quality listed in the USFWS Habitat Recovery Plan. The landowner came to the Eagle Valley SWCD proposing to develop a 100% construction ready design to anchor native tree revetments to the bank, install root wads and riparian plantings to restore proper bank stabilization.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- There is confidence in the engineer providing the technical designs.
- Proposed designs include the incorporation of native vegetation and rootwads.

Concerns

- The length of the stream reach to be analyzed was unclear. It appeared that the project would only focus on hot spots experiencing the most severe bank erosion.
- The application lacked detail and discussion around proposed treatments and their potential impact and unintended consequences to adjacent stream reaches.
- It was not clear if the landowner also owns land on the adjacent bank of Eagle Creek. It is unclear whether a future solution will adversely affect downstream and adjacent landowners who have not been contacted about the project.
- If funding for this project is not secured, boulders and large volumes of rock may be installed to address erosion, providing a less desirable solution to the natural resource problems.

- In order to address the areas of bank erosion, a wider stream corridor is needed, requiring a more holistic approach to the design than that contemplated in the application.

Concluding Analysis

Eagle Creek's critical bull trout habitat was compromised by recent severe high-flow events in an altered landscape. A restoration application to install logs, root wads, willow plantings and revetments submitted in Fall 2017 was not recommended for funding. The review team recommended the applicant submit a technical assistance grant to obtain more in-depth designs. The landowner's motivation is to address erosion occurring at several areas where portions of the field in agricultural production are being lost. Due to a previous high-flow event in 2010, fences had to be moved further back in the field west of Eagle Creek.

The project's objective is to develop a 100% construction-ready design that addresses 1,100 feet of eroding bank. While a solution to the present bank erosion is needed, the design will need to address impacts to adjacent properties and a more holistic approach addressing the causes rather than the symptoms of bank erosion.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5020-16335
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: A Difficult Survey and Design
Applicant: Owyhee WC
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $28,930
Total Cost: $42,380

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project will take place approximately 38 air miles South of Jordan Valley on Browns and Difficulty Ridges between the Owyhee and Middle Owyhee Rivers. Four years ago, the private landowner approached OWC and DSL with a rough draft plan to enhance sage grouse habitat through expansion of a wet-meadow and improving grazing management across a 15,748-acre sage steppe area in the Owyhee Uplands. Due to the remote nature and geographic complexities of implementing such a large-scale restoration project, all parties agreed a project wide topographic survey, alternatives analysis, and project design was necessary before selecting a restoration implementation plan. The proposed work will include a full topographic survey of the proposed livestock watering and wet-meadow irrigation pipelines. A topographic survey will allow the stakeholder group to analyze all alternatives and design options before selecting the most cost-effective and purposeful approach to restoring wet-meadow habitat and grazing management across the 15,748-acre project area. Project partners include: Owyhee Watershed Council, Private Landowner, Oregon Department of State Lands, Trout Unlimited, NRCS, USFWS

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A reliable pipeline will enable the permittee to implement rotational grazing. Dispersed water sources will help distribute livestock more evenly, resulting in more even grazing patterns promoting vigor and diversity in the native upland vegetation.
- Grazing deferment will be for three years.
- There are strong partnerships including DSL, Trout Unlimited (TU) and NRCS. The appropriate partners are involved to provide necessary project oversight.
- Project funding for implementation is secured.

Concerns

- The proposal lacked clarity around the wet-meadow concept, its proposed function and habitat value.
- The application failed to address the benefit(s) of the future restoration project(s) on sage-grouse brood-rearing habitat.
- There was no grazing plan included. It would have been helpful to understand how future land use and restoration work together to achieve the desired ecological outcomes.

Concluding Analysis

The project is in a remote area of southeast Oregon surrounded by core sage-grouse habitat. Sage-grouse habitat will be enhanced by expanding wet-meadow habitat and improved grazing management. If the water right needs to be changed, OWRD can consider beneficial use for wildlife. DSL will provide in-house cultural resource surveys on the trough pipeline route and trough locations. Due to the remote nature and geographic complexities, a topographic survey is needed for the livestock watering and wet-meadow irrigation pipeline.
The area proposed for future restoration is located in the Three Forks Conservation Opportunity Area, which is one of the largest blocks of high-quality sagebrush habitat. An engineered design will provide the project partners with alternatives to determine a final design. Appropriate partners including USFWS, ODFW, OWRD, NRCS, DSL, TU, Owyhee Watershed Council and the landowner will be involved in reviewing the final design. While the grazing plan was not included, it seems logical that technical design and location of future troughs needs to be determined prior to developing a final grazing plan. Future implementation will improve upland vegetation in sage-grouse habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$28,930

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5021-16341

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Cusick Creek: The Restoration Continues Phase II

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: $29,488

Total Cost: $36,688

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1) Cusick Creek is located approx 30 miles North of Baker City and approx 10 miles from North Powder. The Cusick Creek watershed drains approximately 14 square miles or 9, I 00 acres of land and flows into Thief Valley Reservoir on the Powder River.2) The upper reaches of Cusick Creek are confined to a moderately narrow canyon and due to past land management practices has become more incised with moderated to severe bank erosion. Fish habitat and the properly functioning condition of the stream have been greatly compromised in these reaches. The lower reach has been restored to a functioning stream. This proposal is the start of Phase II. The previous surveys did not extend this far upstream.3) We are applying for funds to hire an engineer to complete a survey, horologic analysis, develop alternatives, and to develop a 60% design from the selected alternatives.4) Partners are the landowner, Malheur WSC, RSI engineering, and design reviewers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The previously implemented phase is functioning well.
- The project area is located in general sage-grouse habitat that is surrounded by core habitat; future restoration in the riparian area will improve brood-rearing habitat.
- A future restoration project provides opportunity for restoration success in the Powder basin, an area with limited landowner participation in similar projects.

Concerns

- There is uncertainty regarding the status of the post-grazing plan after restoration.

Concluding Analysis

The first phase of the project is enrolled in CREP and is properly managed. A site visit to the previous project indicated vegetation has responded well and channel width is narrowing. Installed cages and plantings are functioning with excellent survival and growth. Past grazing and headcut propagation combined with a highly unstable hydrograph ranging from 2 cfs to 1,258 cfs has resulted in channel

instability.
Project designs will help further restoration efforts along Cusick Creek. This is the second phase of a three-phase effort. This project is complementary to the other phases. Implementation will address channel instability, riparian vegetation and hydrologic analyses. The design will be a combination of hard and soft techniques. Additional improvement to the riparian area will be beneficial to sage-grouse and improve wet meadow habitat by reconnecting the floodplain.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$29,488

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5022-16394

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Hwy 20 Wildlife Crossings Feasibility Study

Applicant: Burns Paiute Tribe

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $73,875

Total Cost: $93,414

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed project is located along U.S. Highway 20 between Juntura and Harper, Oregon, in the Malheur watershed. U.S. Highway 20, which lacks dedicated elements to facilitate wildlife and habitat connectivity, fragments important habitats in the watershed by imposing a large physical barrier to wildlife and habitat connectivity. This fragmentation results in impaired ecosystem function and services, impairs connectivity and the ability of species to access important resources along the Malheur River riparian corridor, and results in myriad wildlife-vehicle collisions. U.S. Highway 20 currently imposes limitations on wildlife population movement and resource access, ecosystem function and processes, and watershed function and resiliency. In addition, current conditions in the proposed project area pose important safety risks to people and wildlife alike caused by vehicle collisions. For these reasons, facilitating steps to design remediation addressing these limitations is warranted. In order to identify remediation countermeasures, the following steps will be implemented: 1) development of a landscape-scale assessment of wildlife and habitat connectivity and limiting factors to wildlife and habitat connectivity, 2) feasibility assessment and alternatives analysis of potential countermeasure alternatives to address connectivity and vehicle collisions, 3) selection and prioritization of countermeasures with collaboration of state agencies and stakeholders, and 4) preparation of preliminary design, cost estimates, and an implementation plan of selected countermeasures. This work will be developed through a close collaborative partnership and support from the Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, Oregon Hunters Association, Audubon Society, and Oregon Natural Desert Association.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project's geography addresses a section of highway 20 with an unusually high number of wildlife/vehicle collisions.
- Obtaining site-specific topography for locations of frequent collisions will aid in planning for off-stream water projects.

Concerns

- The application lacked clarity regarding consideration of highway management alternatives, such as flashing lights, warning signs and a lower speed limit, that can be implemented without a this

technical assessment.

- It is unclear whether ODOT is willing or able to implement the proposed solutions from the technical analysis.
- ODFW was not listed as one of the entities to help approve the design. Their participation is essential to ensure the technical soundness of approaches that deal with wildlife populations and migration
- The application does not list all of the “red hot” zones and appears to be only addressing the Jonesboro ranch area.
- The application does not provide information about wildlife habitat and migration corridors.

Concluding Analysis

Highway 20 is the main travel corridor between Bend and Boise. The section of Highway 20 addressed in this application experiences unusually high wildlife/vehicle collisions. The analysis will inform potential placement of off-stream water, which has been successful in another location with similar collisions. Since areas of collisions are known and wildlife migration patterns and habitat connectivity are not documented, the applicant should consider highway infrastructure improvements that facilitate wildlife passage.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$73,875

Review Team Conditions

ODFW needs to participate in design development and approval.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5023-16334
Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement
Project Name: Pine Creek Assessment
Applicant: Eagle Valley SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $78,710
Total Cost: $107,350

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Pine Creek Watershed located near Halfway, Oregon is a high priority area for bull trout recovery actions listed in the 2015 Mid-Columbia Recovery Unit Implementation Plan for Bull Trout (Recovery Plan). Restoring fish passage within migratory corridors of the Pine Creek Watershed is emphasized in the Recovery Plan and “Connectivity Impairment” is listed as a primary threat for bull trout in the Pine Creek/Indian/Wildhorse core area. The Connectivity Impairment threat focuses on dewatering, entrainment (loss through irrigation withdrawals), and passage barriers caused by water diversions and impeded connectivity between spawning populations and feeding, migration, overwintering (FMO) habitats. Many irrigation diversions located within the Pine Creek Watershed are antiquated, unscreened and present seasonal barriers to native migratory fish, are difficult to maintain, and have been damaged by high water events, harming critical Bull Trout habitat. This stakeholder engagement grant proposes to complete a comprehensive assessment of water diversion/delivery systems diverting five cubic feet per second (cfs) or greater within the Pine Creek Watershed that can be used as a tool to evaluate and rank future point of diversion (POD) consolidations and ditch piping projects. Outreach efforts were completed early in 2018 by the Eagle Valley SWCD, reaching out to 18 ditch users on qualifying diversions for this assessment ensuring project interest and participation (see Letters of Support). This assessment will provide valuable information for funding entities to develop priority areas and to focus on large scale projects. Project partners will include Idaho Power Company (IPC), Eagle Valley SWCD, OWRD and NRCS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed stakeholder engagement is an essential first step to address limiting factors affecting bull trout populations, specifically fish passage and instream flow restoration associated with diversions.
- A previous outreach effort and diversion survey identified multiple landowners who are willing to install fish-friendly diversions and/or consolidate points-of-diversions (POD’s).
- The project will assist landowners and participating partners in identifying potential funding opportunities for implementation in the future.
- The SWCD is the most appropriate entity to work with reluctant landowners.

Concerns

- No concerns were articulated.

Concluding Analysis

East Pine Creek has the largest population of bull trout in the Pine Creek basin. To achieve the most ecological benefit, this targeted approach will engage landowners who divert more than 4 cfs, which includes 23 of the 202 diversions in the watershed.

This stakeholder engagement will provide a comprehensive assessment of these diversions to determine where to invest partner funding. It will help identify and rank future POD consolidations and ditch piping projects. The appropriate partners are involved with this project and include Idaho Power, NRCS, OWRD and Eagle Valley SWCD. Implementation of fish-friendly diversions is vital to bull trout recovery in the Pine Creek basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount
$78,710

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

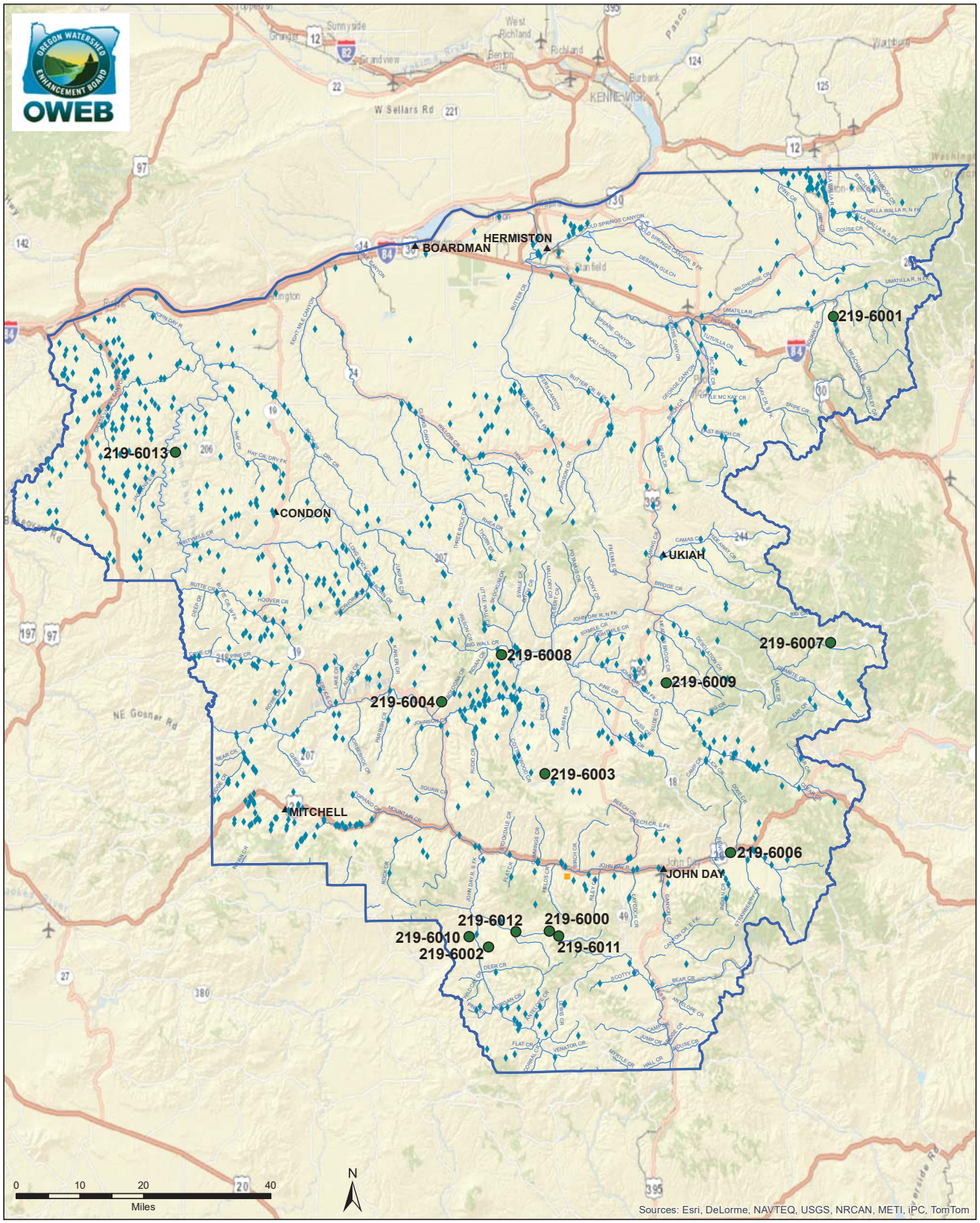
Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$78,710

Staff Conditions

None

Mid-Columbia - Region 6 Spring 2018 Funding Recommendations



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ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wills 20180925

Funding Recommendations

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

Previous Grants - 1998-2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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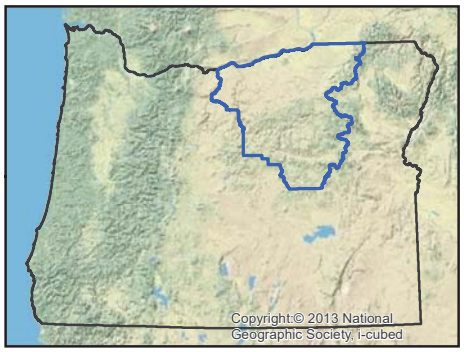
(503) 986-0178
http://oregon.gov/OWEB/



Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-6001	Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation	Meacham Creek Bonifer Reach Floodplain Restoration and In-stream Habitat Enhancement Project Area 2	Building on prior restoration done on an important native fish stream in Umatilla County, this project will improve habitat and increase Meacham Creek by ~3/4 miles.	403,059	Umatilla
219-6006	Grant SWCD	Upper John Day River Fish Passage Improvement Project Phase II	Replacing two irrigation push-up dams with fish-friendly diversions, this project improves a pump station and creates habitat for native fish in the upper main stem John Day River.	331,747	Grant
219-6007	North Fork John Day WC	Trail Creek Bridge	This project replaces a culvert that currently stops fish from swimming upstream with a bridge, opening up over 25 miles of critical high-elevation habitat for native fish.	273,943	Grant
219-6009	North Fork John Day WC	Lick Creek Restoration	Building on previous restoration actions to protect Lick Creek, this project constructs almost a mile of riparian fence along Upper Lick Creek and develops four upland water sources for livestock and wildlife.	19,710	Grant
219-6000	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Murderers Creek Upland Water	Develops 17 water sources for livestock and wildlife in the uplands on over 14,000 acres, and complements proposed riparian exclusion fencing on both Murderer's and Deer Creek.	30,629	Grant
219-6003	Monument SWCD	Boag Creek Uplands Restoration	This project clears an entire basin of invasive juniper, monitors water temperature and flow where it joins Cottonwood Creek. This project complements an additional juniper removal in adjacent drainages.	264,500	Grant
219-6008	Monument SWCD	Top Ranch Integrated Resource Management	This project removes 194 acres of juniper, installs 1½ miles of riparian fencing on both sides of Fern Creek, installs cross fencing and develops three upland water sources for livestock and wildlife use.	144,812	Grant

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order Continued

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-6004	Bridge Creek WC	Bologna Creek Watershed Improvement 1	This project will remove 740 acres of juniper, spray for weeds and reseed 72 acres and develop one spring for water in the uplands used by both livestock and wildlife.	190,702	Grant
219-6002	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Magic Lantern Upland Initiative	This project removes 200 acres of juniper, builds buck and pole fence to protect an aspen grove, and develops one water source for wildlife and livestock.	65,999	Grant
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,725,101**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
		None			
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**1,725,101**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
219-6005	Gilliam SWCD	Hewes Diversion Removal and Channel Restoration	92,402	

Region 6 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-6011	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Tex Creek Riparian Design	Exploring restoration alternatives, this Technical Assistance grant will develop engineered designs and initiate permitting to open up and improve over four miles of fish habitat on Tex Creek in Grant county.	74,800	Grant
219-6010	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Wind Creek Restoration Assessment	This technical assistance grant will develop a restoration assessment and restoration plan for 15 miles of critical fish habitat in the Wind Creek watershed. It would also fund a required survey that locates any historic cultural sites prior to a 500 acre juniper removal project.	58,719	Grant
219-6012	Cascade Pacific RC&D	South Fork Cooperative Data Collection	A critical component of the collaborative Coordinated Resource Management Planning group, this proposal will gather important upland and riparian information in the lower South Fork John Day Basin.	44,533	Grant
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**178,052**	

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
		None			
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**178,052**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
		None		

Region 6 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering - May 2018

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
219-6013	Gilliam SWCD	Lower John Day RCPP Stakeholder Engagement	Coordinating a landscape-scale restoration proposal that covers over 210 miles of important native fish streams, this stakeholder engagement proposal will invite all people who live or own property in multiple basins to meet and discuss resource concerns and conservation options. Technical staff will follow up by visiting each property to further discuss conservation alternatives and provide landowners with maps of their property.	46,734	Gilliam
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**46,734**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount**	**County**
		None			
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**46,734**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount**	**County**
219-6014	Blue Mountain Land Trust	Building a Community Vision for the North Bank of the Umatilla River		17,081	Umatilla
Region 6 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**1,949,887**	**21.13%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**9,226,487**	

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6000-16301
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Murderers Creek Upland Water
Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $30,629
Total Cost: $75,724

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, and also the Murderers Creek Wild Horse Management Unit. 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 7 of 17 off-channel water sources, strategically placed throughout 2 of the allotment pastures, across 14,000 acres. The permittee will develop 10, and we are requesting assistance from OWEB to develop the remaining 7. 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

- The permittee is working with the USFS, is very motivated and is investing resources to expand the project scope. This provides a high level of confidence in the long-term sustainability and maintenance of the project.
- Combined with proposed riparian fencing, this project provides strong ecological benefits by helping to keep livestock and feral horses in the uplands and away from important steelhead streams.
- By staying within the footprint of the original spring developments, the existing NEPA approval will suffice and simplify the permitting obligations of the project.
- The application includes photos of each site which are keyed to the spring site inventory data sheet.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Murderer’s Creek as a high priority location for restoration with the associated components ranked as medium priority actions.

Concerns

- The application did not provide specific design specs for the spring developments; however, USFS guidelines will be followed, including that troughs will be well-anchored, inlets and outlets protected,

wildlife escape ramps installed, and trees strategically felled to protect spring box sources.

- Under ODFW's current restoration prioritization process, funding for riparian fencing is uncertain.
- Some of the prior evaluation's concerns were not adequately addressed, including clarifying the role of the watershed council, the lack of conceptual designs for the spring developments, and managing work in challenging terrain.
- The application would have been stronger if the map also linked to the photos and the inventory.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmittal from last cycle, and although not all of the prior submittals evaluation comments were addressed, the application was improved with more photos that were keyed to the spring inventory document. Having strategically placed upland water sources will help alleviate riparian damage and result in ecological benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$30,629

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Staff contacted the ODFW fencing program lead and at this time, it is not known where this site will rank; however, it is on the list and is in a priority area for steelhead recovery.

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$30,629

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6001-16322

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Meacham Creek Bonifer Reach Floodplain Restoration and In-stream Habitat Enhancement Project Area 2

Applicant: Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $403,059

Total Cost: $784,152

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located on Meacham Creek, a major tributary to the Umatilla River, at approximately river miles 3.25-4.05. Over the past 150 years, the Meacham Creek floodplain has been systematically degraded through removal of riparian vegetation and constriction of the stream channel largely as a result of railroad operations. The confined and straightened channel of Meacham Creek lacks floodplain connectivity and habitat complexity for Endangered Species Act-listed Middle Columbia summer steelhead and Columbia River bull trout, as well as Chinook salmon and Pacific lamprey that utilize the watershed. In order to remedy the factors impacting the Meacham Creek floodplain, the CTUIR is proposing to reconnect a relic channel in a currently inactive portion of the floodplain in order to increase floodplain connectivity, off-channel habitat, sinuosity, and habitat complexity. Additionally, large wood will be added to the reach in engineered jams and single pieces to increase in-stream habitat complexity, aggrade the existing channel, and add floodplain roughness. This proposed project is the third year of implementation of a 4-5 year larger, phased project. The CTUIR is partnering with several agencies on this work including Bonneville Power Administration, OWEB, US Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries' Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on restoration that started in 2011, on an important steelhead and Chinook stream, ultimately resulting in over four miles of improved, critical cold-water habitat.
- The property is in tribal ownership, and is likely to remain protected.
- Designs incorporate lessons learned from previous phases and allow for a more passive approach with less disturbance.
- The project is based on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla's First Foods philosophy of restoring natural resource process and function to collectively improve foods and habitat, important to their culture.
- The establishment of riparian vegetation on the first project phase was successful, with healthy cottonwood galleries and willows.

- Extensive monitoring (fish, water quality and floodplain/groundwater connection) has been and continues to be done on this site. This will provide important information on effectiveness of restoration techniques implemented over more than a ten year period.
- Restoration is being done upstream to downstream, so flows can move seed sources, gravels, and wood to new sites.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Meacham Creek watershed as a high priority location for restoration with the associated restoration components ranked as high/highest priority actions.

Concerns

- The application would have been easier to understand with the inclusion of a high-elevation overview of the proposed project site, alongside the other upstream phases.
- With the more passive approach, it was unclear which channels will have water during low flow periods.

Concluding Analysis

This project is a continuation of a comprehensive, large-scale restoration on a stream that is critical habitat to not only steelhead and Chinook but also Pacific lamprey, cold-water mussels and other important aquatic species. The previous phases show the applicant has both the technical expertise and the capacity to succeed in a project of this size. The hybrid passive approach to reconnecting floodplains and adding complexity to channel habitat could inform future restoration in similar settings, as well as the ongoing, comprehensive monitoring done since before the first project was installed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$403,059

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$403,059

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6002-16323
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Magic Lantern Upland Initiative
Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $65,999
Total Cost: $84,369

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Magic Lantern Creek is a tributary of the Wild and Scenic South Fork John Day River, located on the Rockpile Ranch, owned by Mike Phillips. The Rockpile Ranch is working with ODFW to enhance Mule Deer habitat in this area of the Murderers Creek Mule Deer Initiative, and Sustainable Northwest to remove over 150 acres of Western Juniper, and supply this Juniper to a sawmill. The Ranch has requested that the South Fork John Day Watershed Council assist in the continuation of removing additional Juniper, protection of one acre Aspen stand, and development of 1 spring source. OWEB funds are being requested in order to construct approximately 800 feet of a protective buck and pole fence, labor and materials to install one upland water development, and contracted services to remove 150 acres of Juniper.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on significant juniper work done by the landowner, including using a portable mill, a practice that, if economically feasible, could encourage additional juniper removal projects.
- The project proposes to utilize juniper to produce the buck and poles used in the aspen fence, if it proves cost-effective and is within the budgeted $7/per pole.
- The project site was identified as a site that would benefit from protection in the OWEB-funded technical assistance aspen inventory.
- The project benefits wildlife, is in the ODFW Mule Deer Initiative Area, and is also an important elk wintering area.
- Good management of the native grasses and shrubs was observed on the site visit.
- The landowner has successfully used a drip torch to keep young junipers from re-establishing.
- The project complements similar work being done on the neighboring ODFW Philip Schneider Wildlife Area.
- The application included specifics on the juniper removal that were clear and easy to understand.
- Magic Lantern Creek watershed is noted as a priority area in ODFW's Mule Deer Initiative plan.

Concerns

- The grazing plan lacks details needed to determine how it complements the proposed restoration work.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds on an innovative approach by milling the juniper on site, and includes a sound plan to maintain project benefits over the long-term. On the site visit, the land manager was enthusiastic about the project and it was clear his goal is to improve wildlife habitat and return the landscape to resilient health. This is the first time the landowner has approached the watershed council for assistance in restoration and is the result of the Council's efforts to reinvigorate the Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) in the South Fork John Day River Basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
9 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$65,999

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$65,999

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6003-16347
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Boag Creek Uplands Restoration
Applicant: Monument SWCD
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $264,500
Total Cost: $373,091

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Boag Creek is a perennial, non-fish bearing tributary of Cottonwood Creek located in northwest Grant County approximately 13 miles south of the town of Monument, Oregon. Cottonwood Creek is a critical spawning and rearing habitat stream for ESA listed (Threatened) Middle-Columbia River steelhead that drains into the North Fork John Day River. Monument SWCD's Cottonwood Creek Focus Area Action Plan has identified the Boag Creek drainage as likely to adversely affect water quality through the Water Quality Land Condition Assessment with western juniper encroachment being a contributing factor to this classification. This project will see to hand cutting and piling of juniper across the entire 1,032-acre Boag Creek watershed. Water temperature and flow monitoring will occur prior to treatment and continue for two years following the juniper removal to evaluate the effectiveness of the watershed scale juniper removal. An additional 885-acres of juniper control will be conducted in adjacent drainages through matching funds provide by the Title II grant program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Recent studies have shown juniper removal to result in greater water quantity and quality while also benefitting wildlife habitat and rangeland health. Partners for the project include the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service, Malheur National Forest, Monument SWCD, private landowners, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project proposes a ridgetop-to-ridgetop approach, strategically identifying sites where juniper removal will provide the highest ecological benefit on a landscape scale.
- By removing juniper and allowing native grasses and shrubs to proliferate, sediment generation into Cottonwood Creek will be reduced and water quality improved.
- This project complements work in the Cottonwood Creek watershed, including:
  o An ODA Focus Area;
  o The OWEB funded CAST (Cottonwood Action to Stabilize Temperature) project;
  o The OWEB funded Technical Assistance Cottonwood Creek Sediment Control project; and
  o Restoration and monitoring being done upstream on Fox Creek.
- The property includes Cottonwood Creek and is all riparian fenced and in great condition - including at the confluence of Boag Creek and Cottonwood Creek.
- Although Boag Creek is a non-fish bearing tributary at this time, it provides critical cold water to Cottonwood Creek, important habitat for ESA-listed steelhead.

- Temperature and flow monitoring is already being installed at the mouth of Boag Creek to establish baseline conditions. If this project is awarded, follow-up monitoring will continue to gage trends after juniper is reduced on the landscape.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Cottonwood Creek watershed as a high priority location for restoration with the associated restoration component ranked as a high priority action.

Concerns

- The smaller of the two land holdings is currently for sale with no assurance it will be included as part of this project.

Concluding Analysis

The application is well-written and clearly states objectives and describes how they will be met. On the site visit in July, it was clear the property was well-managed and abundant cold water was observed coming out of Boag Creek. Removing juniper can only serve to increase these habitat benefits for both wildlife in the uplands and instream for aquatic species using Cottonwood Creek. This project also builds and complements the benefits of extensive and ongoing planning, monitoring, and restoration efforts in the watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$264,500

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$264,500

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6004-16364

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bologna Creek Watershed Improvement 1

Applicant: Bridge Creek WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $190,702

Total Cost: $308,672

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Bologna Creek watershed is a smaller watershed within the LJD-Kahler Creek HUC in northeast Wheeler County. The increase of western juniper has created a decline in desirable shrubs and herbaceous vegetation in the watershed. Decreased infiltration and increased runoff reduce water quantity and quality during critical times of the year. The project will remove 740 acres of western juniper, treat 72 acres of weeds, primarily medusahead, reseed 72 acres and develop one spring. An additional 119 acres of forest stand improvement, 55 acres of juniper and two spring developments will be completed through the NRCS EQIP program.Partners include the four private landowners in the watershed, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is supported by an effective partnership with leverage from all four landowners in the watershed, NRCS and USFS.
- The project builds on past and planned restoration in this watershed.
- The project implements a whole watershed approach which will result in proportionate ecological benefits.
- Three of the four landowners are in the process of enrolling their riparian areas in CREP.
- The upper basin understories are healthy with native grasses and shrubs; the lower basin has good cottonwood galleries in the riparian areas.
- Removing juniper is likely to improve flow conditions on Bologna Creek, an identified steelhead stream.
- Three of the four landowners are new to restoration; this project could expand future restoration opportunities.
- Prescribed fire will be used post-project to help keep juniper from expanding out of appropriate sites in the future.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Bologna Creek as a medium priority location for restoration with the associated components ranked as the highest restoration actions.

Concerns

- The grazing management plans provided were not legible.

- The terrain is steep and challenging to work in.
- The application lacked discussion on flow monitoring to measure the effectiveness of juniper removal.

Concluding Analysis

Bologna Creek is a steelhead stream that suffers from low flows from mid-summer to late fall. Removing juniper at a watershed scale is likely to provide additional and sustained flows that will allow steelhead to escape warm temperatures in the John Day River and gain access to good quality habitat higher in the drainage. Successful restoration in this basin could result in additional projects by these landowners in the future, including collaboration with the Umatilla Forest Collaborative on restoration work planned in the headwaters of this watershed. The review team suggested juniper being cut in and adjacent to the riparian areas could be dropped in the stream channel to increase habitat complexity.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$190,702

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$190,702

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6005-16376

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Hewes Diversion Removal And Channel Restoration

Applicant: Gilliam SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Gilliam

OWEB Request: $92,402

Total Cost: $216,467

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The project is located in Gilliam County 16 miles north of Condon in the Lower Rock Creek Watershed. The project is on Rock Creek approximately 20 miles upstream from the confluence with the John Day River. During high flows, steelhead enter the abandoned Hewes diversion dam and become trapped as flows recede resulting in threatened species fatalities. Additionally, high flows strike the concrete structure and careen into the eastern streambank introducing large amounts of sediment into the system. Rock Creek is an important lower basin steelhead spawning and rearing stream in the Lower John Day. This project proposes to completely remove the concrete diversion structure; enhance side channel habitat by placing large wood structures, boulder clusters and regrade the disturbed channel to natural stream form. Banks will be sloped back, seeded and planted. Project partners include Gilliam County SWCD, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Confederated Tribes of the Warms Springs, and two local Gilliam County landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- There is good collaboration between state agencies, tribes, and the landowner.
- The project gives the creek an opportunity to attain new equilibrium and reconnect with the floodplain.
- The site is enrolled in CREP, and therefore is protected while it is under contract.
- Permits are secured and 80% designs are provided with the application.
- Riparian planting is well-explained and appropriately budgeted.
- Most of the previous evaluation concerns were addressed and the applicant secured additional leverage.
- The project complements previous restoration done on Rock Creek.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Rock Creek in the lower John Day Basin as a moderate location for restoration with the identified actions ranking from medium up to the highest priority level.

Concerns

- The design of the side channel led to concern about possible fish entrapment during low flows.

- There is lack of clarity about water rights, including: 1) even though it is a junior right, whether it would be leased instream if not utilized; 2) whether there will be a future irrigation diversion constructed and if so, what type of structure will be necessary to divert the water; and 3) whether future work would impact the proposed restoration.
- Wood structures are likely to be dry during low flow periods, which could accelerate rotting; using juniper may mitigate some of that concern.
- This is an extremely arid site for riparian vegetation and there is uncertainty about the likelihood of 75% plant survival.
- Removing the concrete structure was wholly supported; however the designs are still over-engineered.
- ODFW's one-year entrapment data for this site was inconclusive about numbers of steelhead being stranded in the concrete structure.
- The design appears to shorten the main stem channel, potentially increasing erosive force.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal is a resubmittal, following an OWEB-funded technical assistance grant for designs. On the site visit, it appeared that the project could simply remove the concrete structure; however the landowner was concerned about losing more land to erosion and the resulting impacts to the identified wetland. Removing the abandoned concrete diversion structure was overwhelmingly supported, but there were still enough questions about the overall design, the water rights, and any potential future diversion structures to not recommend funding at this time. The application would have been stronger with more justification for riparian and channel work, more clarity on the water right, and a clear description of anticipated stream processes and potential impact to habitat improvements.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6006-16379

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper John Day River Fish Passage Improvement Project Phase II

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $341,750

Total Cost: $432,273

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project is located in the Upper John Day Basin between John Day and Prairie City. Two annually constructed gravel push-up dams are installed each year; the Diversion Ditch is used to divert 7.9 cfs of water from the John Day River to serve 317 acres; the Bradford Ditch is used to divert 2.46 cfs of water from the John Day River to serve 157 acres. The associated water rights priority dates range from 1867 to 1952, supporting both pasture and hay production. A pump station which supplies the adjacent Prairie Wood Products mill with industrial water also uses the dam as a pumping hole. These diversions can impede fish passage for some life stages of salmonoids under low flow conditions and contribute to annual disturbances of the stream bed, banks and riparian vegetation within their operational footprint. The project river reach is also accessed seasonally by livestock, limiting full expression of riparian hard wood establishment and growth. The proposed project will replace each diversion with low head structures consisting of engineered rock riffles and submerged inlet boxes to create consistent fish passage opportunities for all life stages through the structure and remove the annual channel disturbance required by push-up dam operations. The pump station will be upgraded for efficiency and affixed with ODFW fish screens. Large wood features will be incorporated to provide fish habitat and the stream corridor will be fully fenced to remove livestock disturbance. Project partners include the landowner, Bureau of Reclamation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warms Springs Reservation of Oregon.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well written – the “what” and “why” of the project are clearly stated.
- The project builds on previous restoration in this reach of the John Day River, and is the second of three phases planned to address all ten diversions on the property. Once all phases have been completed, 14 miles of important steelhead and Chinook spawning and rearing habitat will be accessible.
- The type of irrigation diversion structure proposed is well liked by landowners because of the decreased need for maintenance and the ability to better manage water rights with flow measuring devices incorporated into the design.
- Roughened channel diversions will eliminate the need for constructing push-up dams.
- The channel is overwidened in the push-up dam areas; the removal of the dams would not only address passage, but improve channel morphology and water temperatures.

- This is in an aquatic habitat transition zone (lower end of Chinook rearing areas) and is a high priority for ODFW.
- The fencing component of the project adds to other reaches already excluding livestock grazing from riparian areas on this property.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies this area of the upper John Day River main stem as a high priority location for restoration with the associated restoration components ranked as the high/highest actions.

Concerns

- Relative to the pump station component of the design:
  - What are the water rights and priority dates for the industrial pump site?
  - Why is a new pump necessary for a business site that isn't operational?
  - What are the specific ecological benefits from this component of the project?
- The budget includes costs for 30" pipe for both diversion sites; however, the related water rights vary. Sizing to each water right would have provided a more accurate budget line item.
- The designs would have been stronger with more detail added for the roughened riffles and the integrated pump hole.

Concluding Analysis

This project is phase two of a three-phase project that will remove fish passage barriers to all life stages of steelhead and Chinook, as well as other aquatic species, opening access to over 14 miles of habitat on the upper main stem John Day River. The application was well written and easy to understand, except for the pump station component. The industrial site in question is not operational at this time; the other two diversion sites were clearly explained and provide high ecological benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

2 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

$331,747

Review Team Conditions

Reduce budget line item for pump station in the amount of $10,000 and exclude new pump and associated pipe from eligible costs.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$331,747

Staff Conditions

Reduce pump station line item in budget by $10,000 and shift pump and associated pipe to match.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6007-16390
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Trail Creek Bridge
Applicant: North Fork John Day WC
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $273,943
Total Cost: $1,177,593

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Located in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, North of the rural town of Granite in NE Grant County, Trail Creek is a headwater tributary to the North Fork of the John Day River in Grant County. One failing and undersized culvert currently impedes fish passage to potential spawning and rearing habitat. This Culvert is located at the intersection of County Road 52 and Trail Creek, just before the confluence with the North Fork. Identified as a priority in the pending Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Trail Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan (WRAP), this culvert will be replaced with a full bridge structure, which will incorporate natural streambed configuration, floodplain access, and virtually no impact from road traffic or artificial structures to stream function. Combined, 25.4 miles of high-elevation steelhead, bull trout, redband trout, and Chinook salmon habitat will be opened up by this project. The NFJDWC is partnering with the Wallowa Whitman National Forest, who is providing matching funds for this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is a straight-forward project correcting an undersized and failing culvert.
- If the culvert fails a significant amount of sediment will be flushed instream and into the North Fork John Day River.
- This is the first barrier upstream of the confluence with the North Fork John Day River.
- Timing is critical - secured federal match funding for implementation is available through 2020.
- The project opens 25 miles of habitat for steelhead, bull trout, redband trout, and Chinook salmon .
- The application includes a thorough discussion on alternatives and the rationale for the selected option.
- Comprehensive designs are included in the application.
- The project is identified as a high priority in the new Trail Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan (WRAP).
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Trail Creek watershed as a high priority location for restoration with the associated restoration component ranked as a highest priority action.

Concerns

- There are higher priority culverts to address higher in the watershed.
- The culvert is only a barrier during high flows.

- Culvert replacement appears to be more a priority for highway transport rather than fish passage.

Concluding Analysis

This straight-forward project will open up miles of critical cold-water habitat for listed steelhead, Chinook and Bull trout, which is especially important with the change in climate regimes. The USFS partners have a proven track record of successfully implementing projects. They have a working relationship with the North Fork John Day Watershed Council and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$273,943

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$273,943

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6008-16410

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Top Ranch Integrated Resource Management

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $144,812

Total Cost: $208,520

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Top Ranch is located in northwest Grant County, Oregon approximately 7 miles north of the town of Monument. It is situated within the Fern Creek and Indian Creek watersheds, both of which are tributaries of Big Wall Creek. Big Wall Creek is a major tributary of the North Fork John Day River that provides critical spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed (Threatened) Middle-Columbia River steelhead. Western portions of Top Ranch are overstocked with timber species, which negatively affects forest health, reduces water availability, and increases the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Western juniper is encroaching across other portions of the ranch negatively impacting the herbaceous understory and water quality/quantity. Fern Creek runs through Top Ranch and currently lacks any exclusion from livestock. The current manager of Top Ranch has implemented many integrated resource improvements over the last 5 years but wishes to accelerate the level of restoration across the ranch. This project will implement 194 acres of juniper cutting, install 1.5 miles of riparian fencing on both sides of Fern Creek (15,584 feet), install a 6,242-foot cross fence, and develop 3 upland water sources (i.e., springs). This will complement 437 acres of forest stand improvements that Top Ranch is conducting as match funding. Partners for the project include Top Ranch, Monument SWCD, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The land manager has a holistic vision, an enthusiastic approach, and a long-term commitment to restoration.
- The application is well-written and clear.
- The project has multiple ecological benefits, including:
  - Wildlife benefiting from a varied landscape of diverse vegetation, cover and open space, and upland water sources in an arid ecosystem.
  - Increased resiliency across the landscape, and improved likelihood to withstand the impacts of wildfire
  - Removing livestock access to Fern Creek improves water quality.
- The project builds on and complements prior restoration done by the ranch manager on the property.
- The forest thinning component will follow ODF's thinning prescription.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Wall Creek watershed as a medium priority location for restoration with the associated restoration components ranked as medium, high and unranked actions.

Concerns

- The photos in the application did not clearly depict the problem to be addressed: the “pre-commercial thin” forest photos appeared to show monoculture stands and the “overstocked” forest photos appeared to be healthy forest stands.
- It was unclear whether the revenues generated from commercial thinning were factored in to the unit cost.

Concluding Analysis

Even with a well-written application, the site visit was necessary to understand the ecological benefit that will result from this landscape-scale project. The property is located in a wildfire prone area and the ranch manager has and continues to do projects to help the land become resilient enough to survive and in some cases benefit from the natural fire regime. This is the first time this absentee landowner has participated in an OWEB application to accelerate the improving restoration trajectory.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$144,812

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$144,812

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6009-16412
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Lick Creek Restoration
Applicant: North Fork John Day WC
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $19,710
Total Cost: $35,071

Project Abstract *(from application)*

1)This restoration proposal is located along Lick Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork John Day River (HUC # 17070203) in Northern Grant County. Lick Creek, located in the Big Creek subwatershed (HUC # 1707020303), 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. 2) 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.3) This project will build 5,174 ft of riparian fence along upper Lick Creek, and develop 4 springs with troughs for upland livestock watering.4) Partners for this proposed project are The Burnettes, Ritter Land Management Team (RLMT), North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resubmitted application addresses concerns from the prior evaluation and is much improved, providing more detail in the narrative, budget and maps.
- The project complements previous restoration actions to protect over 2.7 miles of Lick Creek, a noted steelhead stream.
- The landowner has successfully completed restoration work in the past and continues to improve the health of his lands for both livestock and wildlife.
- A grazing management strategy is included with the application.

Concerns

- The county road culvert for Lick Creek, near the confluence with the Middle Fork John Day River, could be a fish passage barrier and needs replacing.

Concluding Analysis

The cost benefit on this project was compelling. For a minimal request, this project will provide improved

water quality and riparian vegetation. The landowner has a good reputation for successfully completing restoration projects and is enthusiastic about improving the health of the landscape. A local livestock producer, this well-respected landowner can help others to see the benefits of restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$19,710

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$19,710

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6010-16336

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Wind Creek Restoration Assessment

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $63,669

Total Cost: $292,282

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Wind Creek Watershed is a tributary of the South Fork John Day River, located just downstream of the Izee Falls. There are 32 stream miles in the Wind Creek Watershed, which includes 25 miles of critical Mid-Columbia Steelhead habitat stream. The South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC) was approached by the Rockpile Ranch to assist in creating a restoration plan for their portion of Wind Creek. In the interest of the South Fork Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP), and whole watershed restoration efforts, the SFJDWC reached out to the Ochoco National Forest (ONF), and the Prineville BLM to gauge interest in prioritizing restoration efforts in the Wind Creek Watershed, beginning with a detailed assessment. The ONF is completing data collection for their Sunflower Allotment Management Plan (AMP). Which is used to facilitate management of the range resource on National Forest System Lands. The Sunflower AMP encompasses the Sunflower and Wind Creek Watersheds. The ONF expressed interest in additional assessment of current condition and assistance in prioritization of restoration actions in Wind Creek, stating that they did have some data gaps in Congleton Creek and regarding passage barriers. The Prineville BLM had assessed site potential of Frazier Creek, a tributary of Wind Creek, in 2001, prior to the Corner Creek Fire, and are unsure of the site potential today. The ONF also has proposed Juniper removal areas as a part of their Sunflower AMP. They do not have the staff or funding to complete the cultural surveys needed to remove the Juniper.We are requesting support from OWEB to contract a restoration assessment for 15 miles of critical habitat in the Wind Creek watershed to assess current condition and produce a prioritized restoration plan for aquatic and upland habitat, to advise the South Fork John Day CRMP efforts. We are also requesting support for contracted cultural surveys for 500 acres of Juniper Removal.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will result in a prioritized list of restoration actions, covering an entire watershed and incorporating private and public lands.
- The technical assistance proposal represents a new opportunity as the current landowner has not previously collaborated on restoration projects.
- Wind Creek provides 15 miles of critical intact steelhead habitat.
- The project builds on and supports the momentum created from the reinvigorated Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) team covering the South Fork John Day River Basin.

- Partner commitment to the project is strong, indicating a high likelihood of success.
- The technical assistance effort is well-timed, with federal partners already in the planning stage for restoration in the headwaters.
- The contractor has experience with this type of stream assessment. The deliverables received from prior projects are comprehensive and useful in restoration planning.
- Wind Creek ranks as a high-priority area for restoration in the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan.

Concerns

- The application does not include any information relating to a dam breach, which was noted in the $4,500 line item related to the HEC-RAS analysis.
- The majority of the match is from USFS for prior assessment on adjacent public lands in the headwaters.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal is a direct result of outreach to landowners and federal partners through the Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) effort in the South Fork John Day Watershed. This landowner has not previously partnered on restoration; however, the property is in excellent condition from good management of the uplands. Assisting the BLM by funding the cultural resources for ½ the juniper cut will also result in stronger partner relationships and accelerate restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$58,719

Review Team Conditions

Fund with Conditions – reduced budget line items of HEC-RAS analysis and adjust indirect accordingly.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$58,719

Staff Conditions

Fund with Conditions – reduced budget line items of HEC-RAS and adjust indirect cost accordingly.

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6011-16374
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Tex Creek Riparian Design
Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $74,800
Total Cost: $93,852

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed project is on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife property on Tex Creek, a tributary of Murderers Creek. This project is a result of the South Fork John Day Passage Barrier Inventory, performed by retired ODFW District Fish Biologist Jeff Neal, and funded by OWEB, grant # 216-6031. The inventory identified 31 full or partial barriers in the Murderers Creek Watershed. Murderers Creek is the largest tributary of the South Fork John Day with 66.5 miles of Steelhead Critical Habitat flowing from east to west. It contains 14 tributaries designated as Steelhead Critical Habitat. The tributary of focus for this proposal is Tex Creek.The passage barrier inventory identified a dry channel at the mouth of Tex Creek which occurs only between July 1 and the return of substantial fall rains each year. 1,850 feet of dry channel results. This eliminates all rearing throughout the site and creates a barrier for juvenile steelhead seeking thermal refuge or migrating down to Murderers Cr. This section lost all riparian vegetation in the past but is now fenced and recovering. Active channel width is 13.5 ft. The channel has no large wood and cannot retain enough fine sediment to seal. 4.12 miles of upstream habitat gain ifcorrected. Jeff Neal recommended creating sediment retention structures within the existing channel. He ranked this passage barrier 3rd highest based on the relative benefit to the fish population and site specific considerations.This portion of Murderers Creek Critical Habitat has also been fenced under OWEB Grant #216-6057.We are requesting support from OWEB to perform detailed design assessment which will identify actions that will increase sediments, improve floodplain connectivity, maintain connected perennial flow, disperse hydrologic energy, and increase the large wood component in Tex Creek.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project proposal is well written and has clear goals and objectives.
- The project is a result of an OWEB funded passage barrier inventory – this site ranked as a high priority project for steelhead recovery.
- The project builds on other restoration in area, such as riparian exclusion fencing.
- Restoring access to over 4 miles of habitat and enabling beavers to expand upstream make this a great opportunity.
- Developing methods to improve connectivity on subsurface flows will be beneficial and replicable in other areas faced with similar limiting factors.

- Restoration in Tex Creek is identified as a high priority location and action in the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan.

Concerns

- The application did not reference historic data available for this watershed.
- Large wood is recommended, but could cause flow to go subsurface.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance proposal results from a fish passage barrier inventory that identified and ranked locations for restoration to improve steelhead habitat. The analysis and design deliverables will result in restoration projects at the site and the information gleaned will be useful in other locations with similar subsurface flow issues. ODFW is a strong supporter of the project and will be an integral partner in both design and resulting restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 3

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-2018 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6012-16397

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Fork Cooperative Data Collection

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $44,533

Total Cost: $96,428

Project Abstract *(from application)*

South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC) is requesting $44,532 to support community engagement, field data collection, and data analysis for Malheur National Forest's Bark project area and adjacent Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area (PWSWA) in the lower South Fork John Day watershed. Data collection and outreach activities proposed in this application are part of a larger initiative by partners of the South Fork John Day Collaborative to perform landscape-scale action planning and implementation across ownership boundaries in Grant County, Oregon. SFJDWC, with guidance from Malheur National Forest and PWSWA managers, will use OWEB funds to gather vital stream and groundwater-dependent ecosystem data that both agencies are unable to collect with small staffing. SFJDWC will also use OWEB dollars to perform community outreach. Outreach activities will recruit greater project buy-in by ensuring an array of groups have a voice throughout the pre-planning process. Assistance with fieldwork and data processing will relieve Forest Service & ODFW staff, expedite NEPA analysis for Bark, and ensure that South Fork John Day Collaborative partners have ample data to perform landscape scale and cross-ownership restoration planning. Project partners are PWSWA, Malheur & Ochoco National Forests, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, private landowners, permitees, Dayville Grazing Association, Cummins Ditch Association & SFJDWC.Note: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) refers to the United States' environmental law that requires the Forest Service to identify all potential environmental effects of proposed actions.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Acquiring data on stream temperature, stream class and any noted disturbance or barriers will be valuable.
- Obtaining data on water chemistry will be useful in restoration and fish and wildlife management, since water chemistry appears to be a unique factor in this basin.
- The proposed methodology is technically sound and will incorporate ODFW and USFS data collection protocols.
- There is a need for baseline data within this watershed.
- The project appears to be ready to implement and has a high likelihood of success.
- An effective outreach plan is included in the application.

- The project area has an overall medium-high ranking in the Mid-Columbia Recovery Plan – Deer Creek is ranked moderate; the majority of the project footprint is on Murderer's Creek and tributaries and it is ranked as high protection and restoration benefit areas for steelhead.

Concerns

- The meaning of the word BARK is unclear. The application would have been easier to read with an initial explanation.
- The budget may be inadequate for the amount of work described.
- It is unclear if the work would be contracted out, if the council would hire additional staff, or if the council currently has the capacity to get work done.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal is the result of significant outreach by the applicant through the reinvigorated Coordinated Resource Management Planning team (CRMP) in the South Fork John Day River Basin. Resulting information from this project will help facilitate landscape-scale restoration across federal, state and private land boundaries – something just beginning to be done in this watershed and resulting in significant impacts to the environment and restoration economy. There has been significant research done in the South Fork John Day Watershed by ODFW and universities. Observations by both entities have noted the seemingly unique water chemistry in this watershed, but baseline data is needed before further analysis can be made.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$44,533

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$44,533

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6013-16370

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Lower John Day RCPP Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Gilliam SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Gilliam

OWEB Request: $46,734

Total Cost: $63,849

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The proposed Lower John Day Integrated Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) area spans over 518,000 acres in north-central Oregon and drains into the Lower John Day River. This area includes the Hay Creek/Scott Canyon, Ferry Canyon, Thirtymile, and Butte Creek Watersheds. Floodplains, riparian areas, and upland conditions in the RCPP area have been altered by historic farming practices, livestock grazing, and transportation corridors. The most influential effort to address these resource concerns has been with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through which program uncertainty has the potential to convert over 45,300 acres of grassland to dryland agriculture production over the next 10 years. This conversion could have devastating consequences for the approximately 210 miles of the RCPP area has been identified as critical habitat for ESA listed Steelhead. To address these issues a NRCS RCPP proposal is being drafted for the project boundary as a landscape-scale restoration planning effort. To address these needs, our partnership plans to: 1.) Facilitate regular meetings with stakeholders to discuss their resource concerns and potential conservation options throughout the process. 2.) We will visit each participating stakeholder's property and provide them with conservation alternatives 3.) Lastly, create an action plan, including relevant maps, findings, and potential strategies and projects. The Gilliam – East John Day Watershed Council will partner with the Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District, the NRCS, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Fresh Water Trust, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and multiple participating landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal complements a NRCS RCPP project.
- The project prioritizes landowners owning property containing steelhead habitat.
- The application included a detailed plan for outreach with initial group meetings, following up with individual personalized visits.
- The proactive approach offers alternatives to address the possibility of 43,500 acres coming out of the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).
- The project footprint includes over 140 landowners – many are landowners not typically involved with conservation or restoration and that live outside the county.
- The proposal adopts a ridgetop-to-ridgetop approach and will result in a comprehensive action plan.

- The project has extensive partnerships with the right people involved.
- The project incorporates a NRCS CIS area, an ODA Focus Area, a Water Resources Place Based Planning area, and portions of an OWEB-funded Strategic Action Plan geography.
- Thirtymile is a high-priority area noted in the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan.

Concerns

- A minor concern is that the budget is lean on materials and supplies for the amount of outreach proposed.
- The application would have been stronger had it listed various NRCS practices offered as alternatives to CRP.
- The application does not address the need to connect farmers to available no-till equipment.
- The project does not include direct mailing to landowners, which is particularly important for the 33 landowners that have over 1 mile of stream on their property.

Concluding Analysis

Conservation Reserve Program acres coming out of contract is a serious concern in Eastern Oregon that could negatively impact soil health and water quality. This pro-active proposal will engage both those farming the landscape as well as absentee owners in conversations that offer alternatives and solutions to keep the land healthy.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount
$46,734

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$46,734

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6014-16391

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Building a community vision for the north bank of the Umatilla River

Applicant: Blue Mountain Land Trust

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $17,081

Total Cost: $36,681

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Blue Mountain Land Trust and the City of Pendleton will conduct a series of public meetings to develop a vision for the restoration of vacant land along the floodplain of the Umatilla River within the city. This represents a unique opportunity to protect and restore wildlife habitat and riparian function in an urban area. Additional stakeholders include the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, the Pendleton Downtown Association, the Pendleton Bird Club, and landowners within and along the riverfront area.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This reach of the Umatilla River would benefit from restoration and protection along the north bank floodplain.
- The amount of landowners proposed for involvement seems manageable. Besides the City of Pendleton, there are only 4-6 landowners along this reach.
- Protecting floodplains and providing fish and wildlife habitat, even in urban areas, provides ecological benefits.
- The Land Trust Alliance is making a significant contribution to help offset the cost of facilitation.

Concerns

- Visioning outcomes are vague in the application.
- The application lacks a clear plan on how riverside landowners or the general public would be contacted or engaged.
- The application was not clear on the local watershed council's role or what their match would provide.
- There is uncertainty whether the resulting vision will provide ecological benefit. The final plan might focus on bike paths, parks, mitigating the impacts of the transient population, or similar issues,-- which are not appropriate uses of OWEB funding.
- The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan ranks this section of the Umatilla River as a very low priority area for restoration.

Concluding Analysis

Restoration and protection along this reach of the Umatilla River is a worthy goal, but OWEB funding is premature at this point of project development. An OWEB stakeholder engagement grant may be more appropriate following the initial visioning process once next steps for the riverfront are clearly delineated by the city and the public if the vision is for ecological restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Oregon
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, OWEB Grant Program Manager
Ivan Gall, Oregon Water Resources Department Field Services Division Administrator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Overview of legal options available for protecting water instream
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

The board discussion on Open Solicitation grants at the April, 2018 board meeting included questions about ecological benefits of water conservation projects. While many such projects benefit water quality by reducing erosion from irrigation infrastructure and practices, the board sought greater clarity about options available to protect water instream and directed the Open Solicitation Subcommittee to discuss the issue and report back to the board.

II. Background

The Open Solicitation Subcommittee at its June meeting invited Ivan Gall, Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) Field Services Division Administrator, to discuss various options available for protecting water instream. The options include the Allocation of Conserved Water program, water use reporting, and in-stream leases and transfers. The subcommittee recommended inviting Mr. Gall to a future board meeting for further discussion.

III. Presentation Topics

The following topics will be presented to the board for discussion:

1. Leasing and the Allocation of Conserved Water statute – describe the limitations of these programs to help the board better understand when they are viable options for landowners.
2. Measurement – describe OWRD's measurement requirements and how a potential OWEB grant requirement to report flow measurement could be consistent with OWRD's reporting program.
3. Forbearance – describe the level of assurance that OWEB can expect that water will remain in-stream as a result of forbearance agreements with or without leasing options.

4. Permanent instream transfers – an alternative to the above options, permanent instream transfers allow landowners to permanently transfer water rights instream.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

October 16-17, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting
Strategic Plan Update H-1 – Tracking and Staff Capacity

This report provides a general update about the agency's strategic plan.

Background

In June, 2018, the board approved a new strategic plan. At this and upcoming meetings, staff will provide both general updates on plan progress, and more detailed updates as needed on specific priority areas.

Strategic Plan Progress Tracking

Staff have developed a template to track quarterly progress on strategic plan priorities (Attachment A). Staff will provide an overview of the template and ask for board feedback on structure and content at the October board meeting.

Staff Capacity to Implement the Strategic Plan

At the June board meeting, members expressed an interest in better understanding how staff will manage workload associated with the new strategic plan implementation. While some components of the strategic plan are new, others are a shift in direction that does not necessarily increase staff workload. Below are examples of both, and how staff propose to address either shifts or increases in workload. Places where increased resources are needed (staff, grants, contracting dollars) are indicated by a caret symbol: **^**. Across the priorities, where staff are engaged in implementing strategies, many of the strategies are staged to match staff workload capacity.

Priority 1 – Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

- OWEB is providing content to the Oregon Lottery as they implement the public advertising campaign that kicked off in late September. OWEB has a staff team guiding the process. All technical story, billboard, and advertising materials are developed by Lottery and their contractors (see agenda item P-1 for more information). OWEB will help make this content available locally.
- In addition, the Oregon Conservation Partnership has a strong focus on this work, and OWEB staff continue to provide grant and story information to the partnership as they work with local grantees to develop and market stories

Priority 2 – Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of all Oregonians

- **^** OWEB will hire a contractor to assist with implementation of this priority, particularly around the training needed for staff and board. In addition, OWEB will reach out to partners who have already completed diversity, equity, and inclusion work to learn from their experiences.
- A staff team has been developed and both staff and board will be participating in trainings to get up to speed on this topic over the coming years.

Priority 3 – Community capacity and strategic partnerships to achieve healthy watersheds

- **^** In June, the board approved a grant that will bring additional expertise to work on capacity-related components of this priority. Additional contracting funds have been requested through a policy option package in the 2019-21 biennium to assist with capacity monitoring efforts.

- Staff from both the capacity and monitoring programs will help to lead this effort. This work is built into their work plans for the coming years.
- **^** OWEB is requesting increased staffing in the 2019 legislative session for the Focused Investment Partnership Program.

Priority 4 – Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

- This is a primary responsibility of the executive director, in coordination with the board.
- **^** To assist with this effort, OWEB brought an Oregon fellow on staff over the summer to help map the funding landscape in Oregon. Staff will be reviewing his extensive report to begin identifying next steps for this priority.
- **^** In addition, for the 'new and creative funding sources' strategy, in June the board provided a grant to bring additional expertise to help the Governor's office and natural resource agencies to work on 'Preparing a Secure, Safe and Resilient Water Future for All Oregonian's', which is a 100-year investment program for water infrastructure. Staff participate as a part of the interagency team for this effort (see agenda item I for additional information).

Priority 5 – The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

- **^** The board's approval of the new 'stakeholder engagement' grant will provide funding directly to grantees to improve connections with working lands owners related to conservation work.
- **^** OWEB is proposing a total of $10 million in Policy Option Package requests for the 2019-21 biennium to begin implementation of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. This request includes additional staff to implement the program.
- Partners from the agriculture and conservation communities will be working with OWEB to support implementation of this priority.

Priority 6 – Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

- **^** OWEB received two additional staff positions focused on conservation outcomes in the 2017 legislative session and will be asking for those positions again through a policy option package in the 2019 legislative session. Much of the work under this priority has been initiated and is built in as a part of staff workload, with overall implementation staged to match staff capacity.
- In addition, some of the strategies to address this priority will be reflected in how OWEB prioritizes grants for local partners, such as the 'telling the restoration story' targeted grant offering (see agenda item P-5 for more information).

Priority 7 – Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

- **^** As noted above, OWEB is requesting increased staffing in the 2019 legislative session for the Focused Investment Partnership Program.
- Largely, however, this is a cross-cutting priority that will involve board direction to staff for grant investments, and work across all agency program areas.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov; or 503-986-0180.

Attachments

A. Strategic Plan Tracking Spreadsheet

OWEB Strategic Plan Progress

QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE – July-October 2018

Priority 1 - Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds					
Strategies	1. Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration, and community successes of watershed investments	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions) - Coordinated with Oregon Lottery on a state-wide watershed awareness campaign featuring the people, places, and projects that demonstrate Oregon's Conservation ethic. The campaign will launch in fall 2018, and OWEB partners will be able to use materials throughout 2019 and beyond. The campaign includes one TV commercial, two billboards along the I-5 corridor, online videos, and web content: https://www.oregonlottery.org/watersheds - Provided Oregon Lottery campaign materials to partners and grantees to promote watershed awareness in their communities.	So That: (outputs) - Local partners are trained and have access to media and tools. - Local conservation organizations have meaningful connection to local media. - Each region has access to public engagement strategies that reach non-traditional audiences. - Oregon Lottery media campaigns have new stories every year of watershed work and progress.	To Make This Difference: (outcomes) - Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches. - Successes are celebrated at the local and state level through use of appropriate tools. - More Oregonians: o are aware of the impacts of their investment in their watershed; o understand why healthy watersheds matter to their family and community; o understand their role in keeping their watershed healthy.	Near-term measure: - Stakeholder and regional diversity featured in Oregon Lottery campaign materials. Potential impact measure: - Increase in public conversation about watersheds and people's role in keeping them healthy. - Increase recognition of landowner connection to healthy watersheds. - Broader representation/greater variation of populations represented in the Oregon watershed stories.
	2. Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches				
Priority 2 - Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians					
Strategies	1. Listen, learn and gather Information about diverse populations	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions) - Convened a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) cross-sectional team that meets monthly; developed draft team charter with purpose and objectives. - Provided unconscious bias training to staff at the quarterly all-staff meeting in early September 2018. - Sent 8 staff to in-depth DEI trainings. - Initiated internal conversations about how to gather demographic information from grantees. - Met with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and The Nature Conservancy to learn about available resources and explore ways to partner on DEI work. - "First Foods" presentation at June 2018 OWEB Board Meeting to increase cultural awareness.	So That: (outputs) - OWEB board and staff have been trained in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). - OWEB has DEI capacity. - OWEB grantees and partners have access to DEI tools and resources. - DEI are incorporated into OWEB grant programs, as appropriate. - OWEB staff and board develop awareness of how social, economic, and cultural differences impact individuals, organizations and business practices. - OWEB staff and board share a common understanding of OWEB's unique relationship with tribes. - Board and staff regularly engage with underrepresented partnerships and stakeholder groups to support DEI work.	To Make This Difference: (outcomes) - New and varied populations are engaged in watershed restoration - Grantees and partners actively use DEI tools and resources to recruit a greater diversity of staff, board members and volunteers. - Increased engagement of under-represented communities in OWEB grant programs and programs of our stakeholders. - OWEB, state agencies, and other funders consider opportunities to fund natural resource projects with a DEI lens.	Near-term measure: - Trainings and professional development opportunities in which the staff and board participate. Potential impact measure: - Increased awareness by grantees of gaps in community representation. - Increased representation of Grantees and partners from diverse communities on boards, staff, and as volunteers. - Increased funding provided to culturally diverse stakeholders and populations.
	2. Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table				
	3. Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)				

Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds					
Strategies	1. Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding	We Do This: (actions) - Initiated scoping to develop an evaluation framework for past council and SWCD capacity investments; evaluation will be informed by insights from the FIP Partnership Learning Project.	So That: (outputs) - Data exists to better understand the impacts of OWEB's capacity investments - Help exists for local groups to define their restoration 'community' for purposes of partnership/community capacity investments. - A suite of alternative options exists to invest in capacity to support conservation outcomes. - New mechanisms are available for watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts to report on outcomes of capacity funding. - A set of streamlined cross-agency processes exist to more effectively implement restoration projects. - Local capacity strengths and gaps are identified to address and implement large-scale conservation solutions.	To Make This Difference: (outcomes) - Partners access best community capacity and strategic practices and approaches. - OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds. - Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity. - Lessons learned from past capacity investments inform funding decisions. - Restoration projects involving multiple agencies are implemented more efficiently and effectively - State-federal agencies increase participation in strategic partnerships.	Near-term measure: - Actions taken to advance strategy Potential impact measure: - Increase in indicators of capacity for entities. - Increased restoration project effectiveness from cross-agency efforts. - Increase in funding for capacity by funders other than OWEB.
	2. Champion best approaches to build organizational, community, and partnership capacity	- Currently evaluating recommendations from Phases 1 and 2 of FIP Partnership Learning Project. - Grant initiated with Portland State University/Willamette Partnership to explore collaborative capacity.			
	3. Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships	- In discussions w/ Oregon Department of Environmental Quality about potential investment of Clean Water State Revolving Fund resources to address failing septic systems with Department of Environmental Quality. - Coordinating with NRCS to determine alignment between USDA's NWQI Drinking Water Protection pilot program with OWEB and other state-agency programs. - Met with Oregon Department of Forestry to discuss interagency partnerships during annual coordination meeting. - Facilitation of the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership program with NRCS, DEQ, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Agriculture, including annual meeting of agency directors. - Presentation of OWEB Strategic Plan to four of six Regional Review Teams, including dialogue around Priority 3 and OWEB's interest in supporting interagency collaboration where appropriate.			
Priority 4 - Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio					
Strategies	1. Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision	We Do This: (actions) - An initial assessment was completed to map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state to identify areas of potential alignment. - Met with agency directors to begin discussing opportunities for a coordinated mitigation approach for the state.	So That: (outputs) - OWEB has a clear understanding of its role in coordinating funding. - OWEB and other state and federal agencies have developed a system for formal communication and coordination around grants and other investments. - OWEB and partners have a coordinated outreach strategy for increasing watershed investments by state agencies, foundations, and corporations. - Foundations and corporations are informed about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon and understand the additional community benefits of restoration projects. - Foundations and corporations know OWEB, how the agency's investments work, and how they	To Make This Difference: (outcomes) - Agencies have a shared vision about how to invest strategically in restoration. - Oregon has a comprehensive analysis of the state's natural and built infrastructure to direct future investments. - Foundations and corporations are partners in watershed funding efforts. - Foundations and corporations increase their investment in restoration. - Natural resources companies are implementing watershed health work that is also environmentally sustainable.	Near-term measure: - Increase in the use of new and diverse funding sources by grantees. Potential impact measure: - Increase in grantees cash match amount and diversity of cash match in projects. - Increase in new and diverse funding sources. - Increase in creative funding mechanisms and strategies. - Increased high-quality conservation and restoration projects are funded without OWEB investment. - Increased funding for bold and innovative, non-traditional investments.
	2. Align common investment areas with private foundations	- An initial assessment was completed to map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state to identify areas of potential alignment.			
	3. Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector	- An initial assessment was completed to map the landscape of natural resource funding around the state to identify areas of potential alignment.			
	4. Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources	- Participated in the Natural and Working Lands Work Group convened by the Governor's Carbon Policy Office. - Began rollout to multiple stakeholders of Oregon's 100-year Water Infrastructure Vision: "Preparing for a Safe, Secure and Resilient Water Future for all Oregonians." The vision integrates both built and water infrastructure as a coordinated policy approach towards long-term planning and investment.			

			can partner. - Foundations and corporations understand the importance of investing in healthy watersheds - Foundations and corporations consider restoration investments in their investment portfolios. - Oregon companies that depend on healthy watersheds are aware of the opportunity to invest in watershed health.		
Priority 5 - The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health					
Strategies	1. Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This:</u> (actions) - Released proposed rules for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program for public comment, including statement of need and fiscal impact. - Solicited Letters of Interest from eligible entities for the OAHP working land conservation covenant and easement program, received 28 letters of interest from 11 organizations around the state. - Funding for OAHP is included in OWEB's agency request budget.	<u>So That:</u> (outputs) - Landowner engagement strategies and tools are developed and used by local conservation organizations - Strategies and stories are being utilized to reach owners and managers of working lands who are not currently working with local organizations. - Local organizations have the technical assistance to address gaps in implementing working land conservation projects. - Examples of successful working lands conservation projects are available for local organizations to use. - New partners are engaged with owners and operators of working lands to increase conservation. - The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission has administrative rules and stable funding for the OAHP to protect working lands. - Local capacity exists to implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.	<u>To Make This Difference:</u> (outcomes) - Generations of landowners continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability. - Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future. - Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands. - Sustained vitality of Oregon's natural resources industries.	<u>Near-term measure:</u> - Percentage of landowners identified within Strategic Implementation Areas that receive technical assistance. <u>Potential impact measure:</u> - Increased conservation awareness amongst owners and managers of working lands. - A better understanding of conservation participation, barriers and incentives for working lands owners. - Expanded relationships with agriculture and forestry associations. - Increased engagement of owners and managers of working lands conservation projects. - Increased working lands conservation projects on farm, ranch, and forest lands. - Expanded working lands partnerships improve habitat and water quality. - Expanded funding opportunities exist for working lands conservation.
	2. Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners				
	3. Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands				
	4. Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands	- Launched Strategic Implementation Area technical assistance grant program to engage private landowners in streamside management for water quality; five grant awards disbursed to soil and water conservation districts to work with private landowners in priority watersheds identified by ODA's agricultural water quality program.			
	5. Develop engagement strategies for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations				
Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness					
	1. Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This:</u> (actions) - "Telling the Restoration Story" targeted offering opened; currently working with seven partners to develop stories. - Continued work with Conservation Effectiveness Partnership to describe the effectiveness of cumulative conservation and restoration actions with local and agency partners, completed a new fact sheet on Prairie Creek and updated Wilson River fact sheet.	<u>So That:</u> (outputs) - Additional technical resources—such as guidance and tools—are developed and/or made accessible to monitoring practitioners. - Priorities are proactively established and clearly articulated to plan for adequate monitoring	<u>To Make This Difference:</u> (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,	<u>Near-term measure:</u> - Number of communication tools developed through staff, grants or partnerships. <u>Potential impact measure:</u> - Increased public awareness about

Strategies	2. Invest in monitoring over the long term	- In coordination with Bonneville Environmental Foundation, initiated work to develop a progress tracking report to evaluate outputs and outcomes of Focused Investment Partnerships. - As a follow up to Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program effectiveness monitoring study, working with CREP technicians throughout Oregon to develop a monitoring approach for contract performance tracking.	resources that describe restoration investment outcomes. - Monitoring practitioners focus efforts on priority monitoring needs. - A network of experts is available to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects. - Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level. - A dedicated process exists for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described. - Strategic monitoring projects receive long-term funding.	local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring. - Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning. - Evaluation of impact, not just effort, is practiced broadly. - Impacts on ecological, economic and social factors are considered as a part of successful monitoring efforts. - Partners are using results-based restoration 'stories' to share conservation successes and lessons learned. - Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared. - Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed and regional scales. - Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs.	the outcomes and effects of watershed restoration and why it matters to Oregonians - Increased utilization of effective and strategic monitoring practices by grantees and partners - Improved restoration and monitoring actions on the ground to meet local and state needs. - Increase in local organizations that integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning. - Increased engagement and support of restoration and conservation activities. - 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.
	3. Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring	- Made refinements to on-line monitoring application resulting from application guidance development process that included focus groups and surveys with OWEB staff, review team members and grantees. - Presented webinar "OWEB On-line Monitoring Application Tutorial" in partnership with Network of Oregon Watershed Councils with 33 participants; posted on OWEB website. - Leading interagency process to develop guidance for Strategic Implementation Area monitoring associated with ODA's agricultural water quality program in partnership with ODA, DEQ and ODFW.			
	4. Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners	- Working with Intensively Monitored Watersheds network to plan a regional workshop to share results of research and monitoring.			
	5. Define monitoring priorities				
	6. Develop and promote a monitoring framework				

Priority 7 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

Strategies	1. Invest in landscape restoration over the long term	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This:</u> (actions) - Launched a new grant solicitation for the Focused Investment Partnerships program and invited new partnerships to apply; completed review team meetings for all eligible applications. - Presentation of OWEB Strategic Plan to four Regional Review Teams, including dialogue around Priority 7 and OWEB's interest in supporting experimentation where appropriate.	<u>So That:</u> (outputs) - OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community. - OWEB and partners have a better understanding of how restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health. - OWEB's landscape-scale granting involves effective partnerships around the state.	<u>To Make This Difference:</u> (outcomes) - Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway. - OWEB's investment approaches recognize the dual conservation and economic drivers and benefits of watershed actions, where appropriate. - Diverse, non-traditional projects and activities that contribute to watershed health are now funded that weren't previously. - Conservation communities value an experimental approach to learning and innovation. - Conservation communities become comfortable with properties and projects that show potential, even if the work is not demonstrated based on demonstrated past performance. - OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk - OWEB encourages a culture of innovation.	<u>Near-term measure:</u> - Percentage of board-identified ecological priority areas that are covered by a Strategic Action Plan. <u>Potential impact measure:</u> - Increased strategic watershed restoration footprint statewide. - Increased money for innovative watershed work from diverse funding sources. - Increased learning from bold and innovative actions so future decisions result in healthy watersheds in Oregon - New players or sectors—such as healthcare providers—engaged to invest in watershed restoration, enhancement and protection.
	2. Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies				
	3. Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission	- Presentation of OWEB Strategic Plan to four Regional Review Teams, including dialogue around Priority 7 and OWEB's interest in supporting experimentation where appropriate.			

October 16-17, 2018 OWEB Board Meeting
Strategic Plan Update H-2 – Board Subcommittees

This report provides a general update about the agency's strategic plan.

Background

In June, 2018, the board approved a new strategic plan. At this and upcoming meetings, staff will provide both general updates on plan progress, and more detailed updates as needed on specific priority areas.

Board Subcommittees and Strategic Plan

To ensure staff are on track for strategic plan implementation, priorities will be assigned to one or multiple subcommittees for tracking and more in-depth dialogue about plan implementation. Priorities will be reviewed with subcommittees as listed below. Where priorities are in bold, that subcommittee will provide primary review. Some priorities will have discussions in multiple subcommittees.

Capacity Subcommittee

- ✓ Priority 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians
- ✓ Priority 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

Executive Subcommittee

- ✓ Priority 1: Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds
- ✓ Priority 4: Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio
- ✓ Priority 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

Open Solicitation Subcommittee

- ✓ Priority 5: The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health (also OAH Commission)
- ✓ Priority 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

Monitoring Subcommittee

- ✓ Priority 6: Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness
- ✓ Priority 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds
- ✓ Priority 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

Focused Investment Subcommittee

- ✓ Priority 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds
- ✓ Priority 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov; or 503-986-0180.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I– Oregon's Secure, Safe and Resilient Water Future
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report briefs the board on an emerging state initiative, supported by the Governor's Office, to develop and implement a 100-year vision for Oregon's water future.

II. Background

Oregon is known for its clean and relatively abundant water. However, development, climate change, population dynamics, and lack of ongoing investment in clean water stress the quality of water in our rivers and streams, create significant water scarcity in the summer and fall seasons, and increase the potential for water infrastructure failures and public health impacts.

III. Oregon's Vision for Secure, Safe and Resilient Water Future

The Governor's office, with support from agencies including OWEB, Oregon Water Resources Department, and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, has begun scoping of a vision for Oregon's water future. The intent of this 100-year vision is to address changes in climate and population dynamics in ways that enable Oregon to steward its water resources to ensure clean and abundant water for the state's people, economy, and environment. Strategic investments will result in resilient natural and built water systems across the state to support safe and healthy communities, vibrant local economies and a healthy environment (Attachment A).

Earlier this year, directors of the state natural resources agencies and the Governor's Natural Resources Office (GNRO) re-convened Core Team—a deputy-level roundtable previously created in the early years of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds—to further develop the water vision. Core Team also is inventorying known information about Oregon's water assets and the current condition of natural and built water systems, along with gaps in this information, to help identify the nature and extent of the problem and need. This work will help develop funding strategies for the future.

IV. How OWEB is Involved

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden is working closely with GNRO and other agencies to advance the water vision, including outreach to legislators and a range of interest groups. Deputy Director Renee Davis is a member of Core Team, and serves on the inventory sub-group of the team. Finally, at the June 2018 meeting, the board awarded

funding via the Governor's Priorities line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to help support this work (Attachment B). The water vision specifically connects to Strategy 4.4: Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources.

V. Next Steps

Governor Brown has selected Oregon's Vision for a Secure, Safe and Resilient Water Future as a one of her natural resources priorities for the 2019-21 biennium. As the Governor's Office reviews agency request budgets, the Governor's staff will work with agencies to identify necessary and appropriate policy option packages for inclusion in the Governor's budget that will advance this initiative.

In the meantime, outreach and coalition-building will continue, led by GNRO and agency directors, and Core Team will continue work on the inventory of built and natural infrastructure and water assets. Staff will provide periodic updates to the board as progress is made and new developments occur.

VI. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

A. *Preparing a Secure, Safe & Resilient Water Future for All Oregonians* 2-pager
B. Memo from Jason Miner, Governor's Natural Resources Policy Manager, to the board

Preparing a Secure, Safe & Resilient Water Future for All Oregonians

The need for a 100-year program for generations to come

Premise:

Oregon is known for its clean and relatively abundant water. However, development, climate change, population dynamics and lack of ongoing investment in clean water stress the quality of water in our rivers and streams, create significant water scarcity in the summer and fall seasons, and increase the potential for water infrastructure failures and public health impacts. Oregon's local economies and communities are increasingly vulnerable to drought, floods and fires. These realities place Oregon's quality of life, natural resources and economic future at risk.

Vision:

To address changes in climate and population dynamics, Oregon will steward its water resources to ensure clean and abundant water for our people, our economy and our environment, now and for future generations. Strategic investments and policies will result in resilient natural and built water systems across the state to support safe and healthy communities, vibrant local economies and a healthy environment.

This strategic approach will answer questions, including:

- What is the current state of Oregon's water supply and water quality?
- Considering climate change and population shifts, where are the most vulnerable communities and areas in most need of improved access to clean water?
- How do we ensure that Oregon's water systems (natural and built) are safe, sound and resilient to carry us into the future?

Goals:

- HEALTH: Secure, safe, accessible, and healthy water for current and future generations of Oregonians
- ECONOMY: Provide clean ground and surface water for current and future economic vitality for all Oregonians
- ENVIRONMENT: Ensure native fish and wildlife have access to the cool, clean water they need to thrive
- SAFETY: Strengthen resiliency in the face of natural hazards such as floods and drought

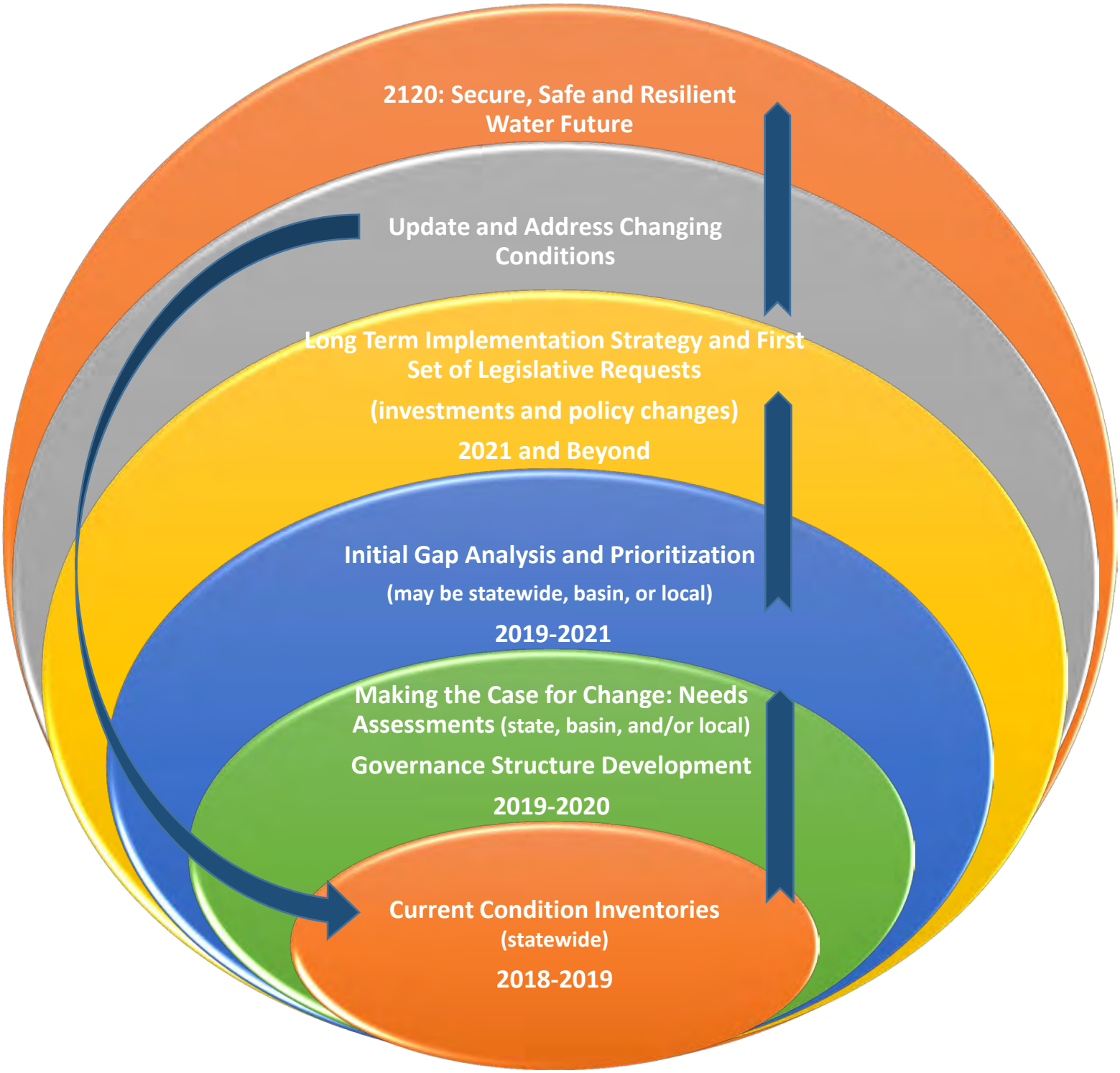
Approach:

To have a lasting impact, we must work in a broad coalition on a multi-year effort to assess the current condition of green and built water systems to help identify the nature and extent of the problem and need. This will help us to develop funding and policy strategies for the future. Our efforts must be broad and comprehensive in scope reaching all sectors, addressing a range of needs and taking into consideration overall watershed health, including but not limited to:

- ✓ Surface and ground water supply for communities and agriculture, and in-stream water for fish and wildlife
- ✓ Water infrastructure safety, resiliency and preparedness
- ✓ Clean water for healthy watersheds that support communities, businesses, agriculture, fish and wildlife
- ✓ Statewide and basin specific information and education on water needs and issue

Preparing a Secure, Safe & Resilient Water Future for All Oregonians:

The need for a 100-year program for generations to come



Kate Brown
Governor

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 13, 2018

To: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

From: Jason Miner, Natural Resource Policy Manager, Governor Kate Brown's Office

Subject: Board award for the Governor's Priority line item

Governor Brown's Natural Resource Office appreciates that the OWEB Board has approved our request for $65,450 from the board's Governor's Priority line item in the agency's 2017-2019 spending plan to support the Governor's efforts to ensure a secure and resilient water future for all Oregonians.

Grants made under this award will ultimately support increased on-the-ground restoration work across Oregon. Specifically, the funding will support work that helps us better understand the context for change in water infrastructure, including what has been accomplished in other areas, and helping to better define and frame Oregon's water infrastructure as it relates to community resilience, economy, and health.

These investments will also provide us a better understanding of which public and private entities are working where, and why, and helping develop a shared vision and path forward on this important issue.

Jason Miner
Natural Resources Policy Manager

Oregon
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – Spending Plan Timeline and Strategic Plan
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will discuss the process for building and approving the 2019-21 OWEB Spending Plan and initiate a conversation with the board about the tie between the spending plan and OWEB's 2018 strategic plan.

II. Background

After the Oregon Legislature approves OWEB's budget at the beginning of each biennium, the board considers and approves a spending plan for the distribution of grant funding. The OWEB Spending Plan guides the agency's grant investments for the biennium. Available funding for the board to distribute includes Measure 76 Lottery, federal, and salmon license plate revenues, with the bulk from Measure 76 and the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). The Oregon Legislature routinely allocates PCSRF funding based on estimated federal grant awards over two years.

At its July 2017 meeting, the board adopted a 2017-2019 Spending Plan totaling $96.7 million. In June 2018, the Board revised the spending plan to include additional recapture and PCSRF funding (Attachment A), for a total spending plan of $108.9 million.

Since 2000, approximately one-third of OWEB's funding (both for grants and operations) has been provided through the competitive PCSRF grant process, which is offered by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries. PCSRF has contributed just over $222 million to Oregon for salmon and steelhead recovery efforts. The board and the state's Legislature have used PCSRF funding to support watershed restoration-related actions and for staffing in state agencies. PCSRF has significantly enhanced OWEB's expenditures through grants in salmon and steelhead recovery areas around the state.

III. Strategic Plan Timeline

The 2019-21 spending plan will be approved by the Board in July 2019. In preparation for that approval, the following steps will occur:

- In October 2018, the board will discuss the overall timeline and the connection between the spending plan, Long-Term Investment Strategy and the 2018 Strategic Plan, including an initial review of percent targets from previous board conversations (Attachment C).

- In January 2019, based on initial conversations in October, the board will provide an indication of the percentages it would like to include for Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, Operating Capacity, and Other grant categories.

- Between the January and April board meetings, staff and the subcommittees will convene to discuss funding options for specific grant types within each category.

- In April 2019, staff will present on each of the grant types within each category (e.g., restoration, FIP capacity-building, etc.) and propose an investment amount for each grant type based on the overall percentages indicated by the board in January. At that time, the board will provide feedback on the funding amounts for each grant type.

- In July 2019, staff will present the 2019-21 Spending Plan as a slate of final recommendations for the board's approval.

- In July 2020, the board will consider additional funds for the spending plan from PCSRF and recapture, similar to the approval at the June 2018 board meeting.

IV. Connection to Strategic Plan and Long Term Investment Strategy

The board is currently operating under both the Long Term Investment Strategy (approved in 2013, provided as Attachment B) and the 2018 Strategic Plan (summary provided at the front of the board book). At the October board meeting, staff will lead a discussion of how these two documents should guide development of the next spending plan to provide a clear indication of how staff should consider use of these documents to establish overall percentages for Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, Operating Capacity, and Other categories in the plan.

V. Recommendation

This is a discussion item only.

Attachments

A. Spending Plan
B. Long Term Investment Strategy
C. Spending Plan Percentages

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

	OWEB SPENDING PLAN	Oct 2018 additions	Spending Plan as of Oct 2018	TOTAL Board Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan after To-Date Awards	Oct 2018 Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after Oct 2018 awards
1	**Open Solicitation:**						
2	Restoration (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands)		33.000	17.060	15.940	7.972	7.968
3	Technical Assistance						
4	Restoration TA		4.000	1.844	2.156	0.792	1.364
5	CREP TA (includes NRCS & ODF funds)		1.435	1.435	0.000		0.000
6	Stakeholder Engagement		0.700	0.169	0.531	0.463	0.068
7	Monitoring grants		3.100	1.784	1.316		1.316
8	Land and Water Acquisition						
9	Acquisition (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands)		9.900	6.630	3.270		3.270
10	Acquisition Technical Assistance		0.600	0.150	0.450		0.450
11	Weed Grants		3.000	3.000	0.000		0.000
12	Small Grants		3.150	3.150	0.000		0.000
13	Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring		1.587	0.556	1.031		1.031
14	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**60.472**	**35.778**	**24.694**	**9.227**	**15.467**
15	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**62.44%**				
16	**Focused Investments:**						
17	Deschutes		4.000	4.000	0.000		0.000
18	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat		2.445	2.445	0.000		0.000
19	Harney Basin Wetlands		1.970	1.970	0.000		0.000
20	Sage Grouse		2.355	2.355	0.000		0.000
21	Ashland Forest All-Lands		2.340	2.340	0.000		0.000
22	Upper Grande Ronde		2.417	2.417	0.000		0.000
23	Development FIPs		1.150	0.572	0.578		0.578
24	FI Effectiveness Monitoring		0.750	0.750	0.000		0.000
25	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**17.427**	**16.849**	**0.578**	**0.000**	**0.578**
26	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**17.99%**				
27	**Operating Capacity:**						
28	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD) incl. NRCS+LCWC		14.598	14.598	0.000		0.000
29	Statewide org partnership support	0.050	0.500	0.450	0.050	0.050	0.000
30	Organizational Collaborative Grants		0.400	0.400	0.000		0.000
31	**TOTAL**	**0.050**	**15.498**	**15.448**	**0.050**	**0.050**	**0.000**
32	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**16.00%**				
33	**Other:**						
34	CREP		0.750	0.750	0.000		0.000
35	Governor's Priorities		1.000	0.941	0.059	0.060	-0.001
36	Strategic Implementation Areas		1.200	1.200	0.000		0.000
37	Strategic Plan Implementation Grants		0.500	0.500	0.000		0.000
38	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**3.450**	**3.391**	**0.059**	**0.060**	**-0.001**
39	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**3.56%**				
40	**TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan**	**0.050**	**96.847**	**71.466**	**25.381**	**9.337**	**16.044**
41	**OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION**						
42	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF		10.450	10.450	0.000		0.000
43	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		0.309	0.309	0.000		0.000
44	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF		0.500	0.500	0.000		0.000
45	PSMFC-IMW		0.729	0.729	0.000		0.000
46	PSMFC-Coho Habitat Tools		0.166	0.166	0.000		0.000
52	ODOT		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
47	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**12.154**	**12.154**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
48	**TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds**	**0.050**	**109.001**	**83.620**	**25.381**	**9.337**	**16.044**

OWEB Strategic Direction and Principles

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

Goals

Goals from OWEB's 2010 Strategic Plan

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

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

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

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

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

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

Long-Term Investment Strategy

OWEB's Framework for Grant Investments

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

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

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

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

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

OWEB

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

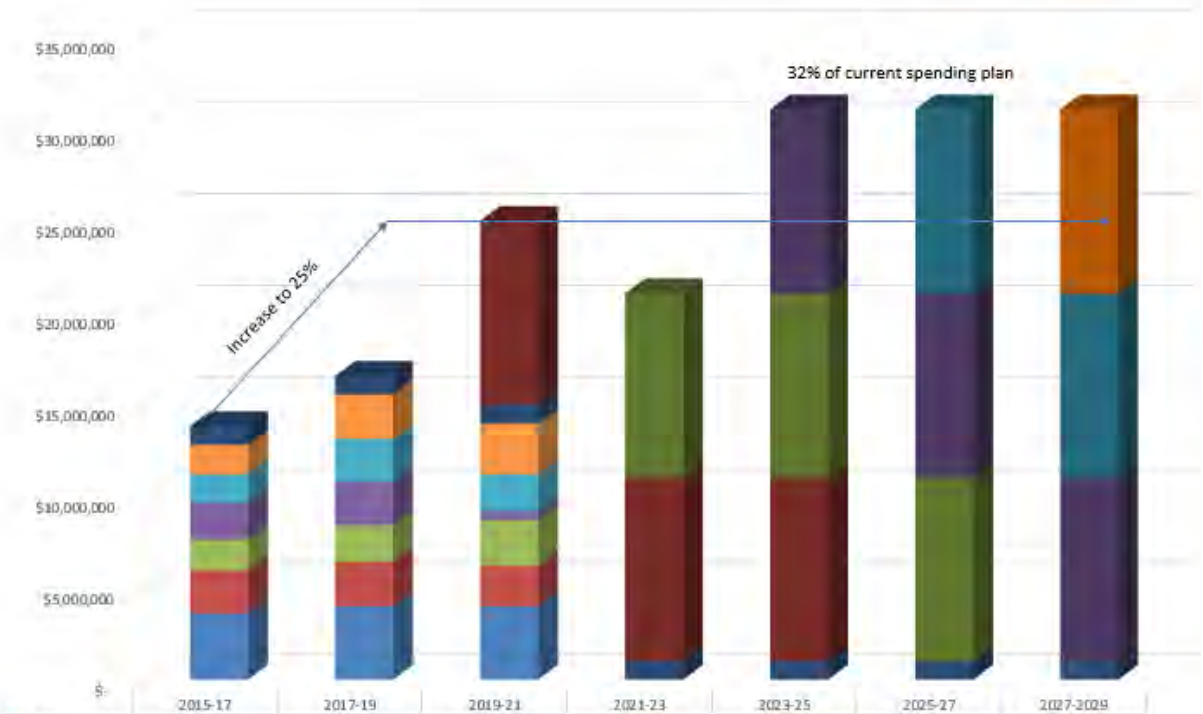
Operating Principles

Operating Principles to Enhance OWEB Team Work

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

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

Focused Investment Projections at 25% of Spending Plan



	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27	2027-2029
FIP 2027 (25%)							$10,000,000
FIP 2025 (25%)						$10,000,000	$10,000,000
FIP 2023 (25%)					$10,000,000	$10,000,000	$10,000,000
FIP 2021 (25%)				$10,000,000	$10,000,000	$10,000,000	
FIP 2019 (25%)			$10,000,000	$10,000,000	$10,000,000		
FIP Capacity	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000
Grande Ronde	$1,601,460	$2,416,500	$2,777,000				
Ashland Forests	$1,543,800	$2,340,000	$2,000,000				
Sage-Grouse	$2,019,030	$2,355,250	$473,732				
Harney Wetlands	$1,655,400	$1,970,000	$2,500,000				
Willamette	$2,351,100	$2,430,000	$2,180,000				
Deschutes	$3,600,000	$4,000,000	$4,000,000				

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – Land Acquisitions
October 16 - 17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This item includes two requests: A) to extend the closing date for the Botts Marsh acquisition; and B) to approve the conveyance of the Yamhill Oaks Preserve from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

II. Botts Marsh Extension

A. Program Requirements

All land acquisition grants awarded by the board are conditioned on general and project-specific due diligence requirements, which must be met by the grantees before funds are released for the land transactions.

In the event that a grantee does not satisfy the conditions of a board funding award, including closing the transaction within 18 months of the award, the board may authorize continued encumbrance of all or part of the awarded funds, or rescind the award in accordance with OAR 695-045-0200.

B. Extension Request

The Botts Marsh land acquisition project (Grant No. 217-9901) was funded by the board at its April 2017 meeting. In accordance with the 18-month rule for closing, the Botts Marsh transaction must close by October 26, 2018. The grantee, Lower Nehalem Community Trust (LNCT), has completed some of the due diligence required by OWEB's funding conditions, but as a result of project delays, will be unable to meet all of the funding conditions by the closing deadline.

The Botts Marsh transaction has been delayed by a variety of factors, including receipt of land use approvals required for the transaction and appraisal issues.

LNCT has indicated that it will complete all due diligence and submit it to OWEB for review by October. Additional time will be needed before closing the transaction, to allow for DOJ review, revisions to documents if required, and final administrative steps.

III. Yamhill Oaks Preserve Conveyance

A. Program Requirements

Conveyances of property previously purchased with OWEB funds must comply with ORS 541.960 and OAR 695-045-0210, which include but are not limited to the requirements that conveyances be made subject to board approval and shall not result in profit. The board may require conditions on a conveyance to ensure consistency with the intent of the grant, ensure the ability of the party receiving the land to carry out obligations under the grant, and address conveyance proceeds.

B. Conveyance Request

The board awarded land acquisition grant funds to TNC for the purchase of two parcels in Yamhill County, referred to as the Nielsen and Pugh parcels. TNC purchased the Nielsen parcel in 2008 and the Pugh parcel in 2013. The parcels are part of TNC's Yamhill Oaks Preserve. TNC and Yamhill SWCD have proposed the transfer of the Yamhill Oaks Preserve, including the OWEB-funded parcels, to Yamhill SWCD. TNC has indicated that the other funders involved in the initial purchases are preparing to approve the conveyance.

TNC's request for approval to convey the parcels states that TNC regularly assesses its land ownership to determine how it can best advance its broader conservation strategies and larger scale outcomes. The request states that TNC explores opportunities to partner with strong local conservation organizations to effectively own and manage protected land to maximize conservation results. TNC identified Yamhill SWCD as a strong local conservation partner to assume ownership of the Yamhill Oaks Preserve. Yamhill SWCD has indicated it is willing to own and manage the preserve.

C. Staff Review

At staff request, Yamhill SWCD submitted an acquisition application with the organizational capacity sections completed so staff could evaluate the capacity of the SWCD to manage the property to ensure the conservation values of the property are protected.

Yamhill SWCD has been providing long-term land protection services to landowners within Yamhill County since 2002. While Yamhill SWCD has not acquired any properties through OWEB's acquisition program, it does have experience acquiring property through other programs including the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Fund. The proposed conveyance aligns well with the mission of the organization. Yamhill SWCD staff have sufficient expertise and processes in place to ensure the conservation values of the property are protected.

Staff have prepared a draft conveyance agreement, to be signed by OWEB, TNC, and Yamhill SWCD. The purpose of the agreement is to ensure compliance with applicable statutes and rules, establish the circumstances of the transaction, document Yamhill SWCD's assumption of responsibilities under the grant agreements and conservation easements, and establish other understandings including but not limited to approvals that must be obtained from the other funders.

IV. Staff Recommendation

A. Botts Marsh Extension

Staff recommend the board extend the closing deadline to October 31, 2019 for Botts Marsh (OWEB Grant No. 217-9901), with all other conditions of the project to remain unchanged.

B. Yamhill Oaks Preserve Conveyance

Staff recommend the board approve the conveyance of the Yamhill Oaks Preserve (OWEB Grant Nos. 208-108 and 212-108) from The Nature Conservancy to the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District conditioned on staff and Department of Justice approval of the final form of all conveyance-related documents.

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item M-1 – Tide Gate Partnership
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides a summary and update of the Tide Gate Partnership. The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) has developed and is managing a website for the partnership - www.oregontidegates.org

II. Background

The Tide Gate Partnership formed in September 2016 to address the growing challenge of aging tide gates and associated infrastructure in coastal Oregon. The partnership includes conservation and agriculture organizations, state, federal, and local agencies, counties, and landowners who are focused on supporting resilient coastal communities, protecting landscapes that support local economies, and enhancing the ecological function of estuarine resources for fish and wildlife.

As tide gates age, the roads, businesses, homes, agricultural lands, and other areas that the tide gates were built to protect become more vulnerable to flooding and intense winter storms. In order to understand the extent of the issue and consider strategies that address the aging infrastructure, the partnership developed the elements outlined below and described in detail in Attachment A.

III. Progress Update

Partnership Structure: The Tide Gate Discussion Map (Attachment B) depicts the structure of the partnership and identifies the communication pathways among groups and with other audiences. With a grant from OWEB, the AOC assists partnership facilitation and outreach.

Local Outreach: In December 2017, AOC facilitated four tide gate listening sessions in Coos Bay, Newport, Tillamook, and Clatskanie. These meetings were sponsored by the local conservation organization, the Oregon Farm Bureau and the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and were hosted by county commissioners. State and federal agency staff observed the discussion. A summary report of the sessions is provided as Attachment C.

Tide Gate Inventory: In May 2018, OWEB entered into an agreement with the Institute of Natural Resources (INR) to develop a statewide inventory. INR will 1) compile and reconcile existing tide gate inventories; 2) identify geographies where no inventory

exists and develop/implement a process to complete inventories in those areas using publicly available information; and 3) develop a database framework of partnership-directed parameters. The framework has been developed. INR is currently reconciling existing local inventories. The inventory should be complete by December 31, 2018.

Decision Support Tool: The purpose of this tool has been discussed by the partnership, but work will not begin until the inventory is finished and an analysis of the desired tool functionality is complete.

Regulatory Toolbox: OWEB has facilitated three full-day workshops with ODFW and NOAA staff to clearly identify agency authorities and roles associated with tide gate regulatory requirements and permitting. The two agencies have made significant progress in both communication and regulatory streamlining. A fourth meeting in October will include the Department of State Lands and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Engineering Toolbox: The partnership has discussed the need for additional design options. AOC conducted interviews with agency engineers and private contractors doing tide gate repair and replacement work along the west coast to better understand potential barriers, challenges, and strategies for tide gate projects in Oregon. The engineering conversation will be informed by the completed inventory and the work of the regulatory work group.

On-the-Ground Projects: The steering committee has discussed the potential to pilot work products as they are developed. Of particular interest is piloting a streamlined regulatory approach, once developed.

IV. Next Steps

- ✓ AOC will facilitate follow-up outreach meetings over the winter of 2018/2019 to show progress and give landowners an opportunity to provide additional input.
- ✓ INR will complete the tide gate inventory by the end of calendar year 2018.
- ✓ After completion of the inventory, the partners will discuss desired functionality, and research existing frameworks that could be used or modified.
- ✓ The regulatory work group will continue the regulatory streamlining conversation and explore how a team approach to coordinated review would be structured. The work group will expand to other permitting bodies as well.
- ✓ After completion of the inventory and regulatory work, the engineering work group will convene to discuss options for pursuing alternative engineering options.

Attachments

A. Oregon Tide Gate and Infrastructure Discussion Summary
B. Tide Gate Discussion Map
C. Outreach Meetings Summary Report

OREGON TIDE GATE AND INFRASTRUCTURE DISCUSSION SUMMARY

The Oregon Tide Gate and Infrastructure Discussion supports resilient coastal communities by reducing risks from coastal hazards, protecting landscapes that support local economies, and enhancing ecological function of estuarine resources for fish and wildlife.

This Discussion addresses the growing challenge of aging tide gates and associated infrastructure in coastal Oregon. If tide gates fail, roads, businesses, homes, and agricultural lands become more vulnerable to flooding and intense winter storms. Areas once managed by tide gates are at risk of becoming unmanaged wetlands. Currently, no statewide inventory of tide gates exists, nor is there a data-driven tool to help communities prioritize where tide gate repair or replacement would be most beneficial. In addition, engineering solutions are limited, and landowners are often hesitant to work with government agencies for fear of scrutiny and regulatory repercussions.

A well-designed and managed tide gate strikes the delicate balance of protecting developed land from tidal inundation while managing tidal flows to allow migration of native fish, and maintain water quality and ecological function in the estuary. The elements outlined below work to support this balance by developing a suite of tools to assist landowners, communities, and others to improve and replace tide gates where necessary.

Traditional tide gate design
photo: Beaver Slough Drainage District

What is a Tide Gate?

In Oregon, tide gates are commonly used to control water in tidally influenced areas along the coast and lower portions of the Columbia River Basin. Traditionally, tide gates are constructed by integrating one-way doors (i.e. the tide gate) into a dike. Freshwater drains from streams above the tide gate during outgoing tides. Water pressure from incoming tides close the gate, protecting agriculture, infrastructure, and other developed landscapes from tidal inundations. Unfortunately, preventing inundation can also slow or prevent tidal flows into the estuaries, which can impede the migration of native fish, diminish water quality, and reduce estuarine ecological functions.

Currently, discussion participants include landowners, state and federal agencies (ODFW, OWEB, ODA, DSL, ODOT, Regional Solutions, NOAA-Fisheries, NRCS), agricultural organizations (Cattlemen, Farm Bureau, Dairy Farmers, Water Resources Congress), counties, and conservation organizations (watershed councils, conservation districts, The Nature Conservancy, land trusts, Wild Salmon Center, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, and The Freshwater Trust). Participants plan to reach out to tribes and other interested groups as the project moves forward.

DISCUSSION ELEMENTS

1. **LOCAL OUTREACH -** Engaging local landowners, tribes, communities and others is critical, as their voluntary participation is essential to achieving long term ecological, economic, and community resilience goals. To learn directly from landowners and local communities, partners will convene meetings beginning in September 2017 along the coast and Lower Columbia River to receive feedback on the ideas contained in this document. Stakeholder representatives will use this information to develop, promote, and begin to implement solutions.

2. **TIDE GATE INVENTORY -** While some communities have completed tide gate inventories, a state-wide inventory does not exist. An inventory will better identify the number, location, upstream resources, and condition of existing tide gates, providing a framework to consider risks, benefits, costs, and

appropriate solutions. The inventory will utilize publicly available information, including existing inventories, Google Earth imagery, and the knowledge of interested local landowners and partners. Once a baseline inventory is complete, landowners will be offered an opportunity to voluntarily request a tide gate survey to learn more about the type, size, condition, and estimates for repair or replacement. Sites will be surveyed only with landowner permission.

3. **INTERACTIVE DECISION SUPPORT TOOL -** The decision support tool will be an interactive, online tool that provides a flexible and systematic approach for identifying priority project sites from a multitude of perspectives. The tool may be used by funders, local governments, restoration partners, and others to prioritize project sites at a local, regional, or coast-wide scale based on a variety of user-defined ecological, economic, and community desired outcomes. For the tool to identify priorities around agriculture, economic development benefits, community benefits, flood reduction, community resiliency, infrastructure, water quality, ecosystem function, fish habitat, and other factors, data for those indicators must be available and incorporated into the tool. It is expected that the tool will have the ability to expand as additional data sets become available. Privacy concerns will be addressed as a part of the tool's design.

4. **ENGINEERING TOOLBOX -** The Engineering Toolbox is intended to address engineering-related issues associated with tide gate repair and replacement projects. A predominant issue surrounding tide gate projects is that the patented Muted Tidal Regulator (MTR) is one of the only replacement alternatives that currently meet fish passage requirements. With limited manufacturing and costs that are out of reach for many drainage districts and landowners, new engineering designs are needed that meet fish passage requirements. The process will explore opportunities to encourage engineering entrepreneurship to bring additional, owner-friendly technologies to the market. It also proposes to explore opportunities to expand implementation of the existing MTR technology.

   Tide gate improvement or replacement projects can take time to implement. Presently, project demand and lack of funding exceed the ability to complete projects before existing infrastructure fails. The discussion will also explore interim measures that could be approved and implemented to avoid catastrophic failure of existing tide gate infrastructure. Similarly, methods to keep landowners engaged and interested in pursuing projects on their properties will be investigated.

5. **REGULATORY TOOLBOX -** Discussions with local, state, and federal agencies will explore regulatory assurances for landowners who volunteer for tide gate improvement projects. Assurances may include recognition for associated habitat improvements and compliance with applicable environmental regulations. Assurances can provide landowners who implement habitat improvements or other conservation work on their land with protections under the Endangered Species Act or other regulations. As part of the Regulatory Toolbox, discussions will be initiated with landowners during local outreach meetings to obtain valuable input on desired regulatory assurances for consideration by state and federal partners to ensure consistency among and within agencies to streamline and bring predictability to regulatory permitting and associated costs.

6. **ON-THE-GROUND PROJECTS -** On-the-ground demonstration projects will help explore, demonstrate, and document the partnerships and new approaches for tide gate projects. Projects will also help identify lessons learned and considerations for planning and implementing future tide gate repair and replacement.

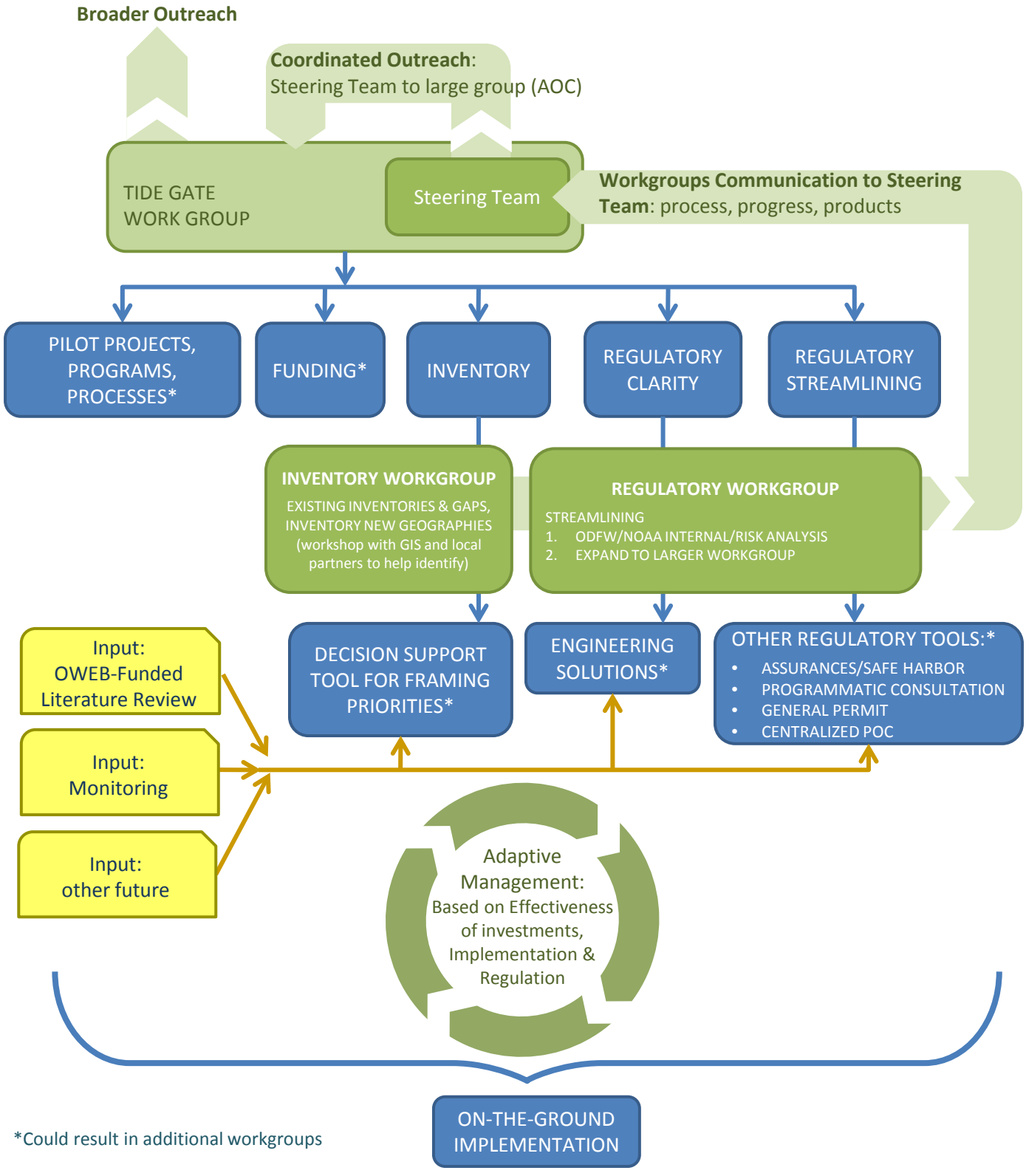
To begin implementing the Discussion Elements, partners seek state and federal grant funding and are initiating conversations with not-for-profit foundations and other interested organizations.

TIDE GATE DISCUSSION MAP

ATTACHMENT B

6/28/2018

Topics | Work Groups | Inputs



*Could result in additional workgroups

Oregon's Failing Tide Gates

Report to the Tide Gate Work Group from the December 2017 Listening Sessions

Hosted by

Introduction

This report was prepared by the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC). It is a compilation of what was heard at the four-listening session held in Newport on Dec. 11th, Tillamook on Dec. 12th, Coquille on Dec. 14th and Clatskanie on Dec. 15th 2017. This report also contains ideas developed by AOC staff for the OWEB Work Group's consideration derived from the advice received.

All meetings were well attended. Participants included landowners, agriculture and conservation organizations, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, tribes and elected representatives at the local and state level.

Engaging local landowners, tide gate owners, communities and others was critical, as voluntary participation is essential to achieving long-term economic, ecological and community resilience goals regarding failing tide gates.

Extensive notes from the input received were taken by AOC staff at each meeting. Themes were developed and categorized from the Worst Fears, Best

Outcomes and Specific Advice received. Advice/themes that came forward in multiple meetings were also identified. There is no priority order to the Themes. The six themes led to developing Ideas for Consideration by the OWEB Work Group that are contained in this document.

AOC wishes to specifically thank Lincoln, Tillamook, Coos and Columbia counties for convening these listening sessions. Thanks also to those that participated for your passion and particularly your advice on what actions should be taken to address failing tide gates.

Meeting Themes Heard at the Listening Sessions

Theme 1: Improving working relationships and outreach with landowners

- Recognize the importance of agriculture and water quality, not just the habitat. Landowners need a greater say on what works best for their properties. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Agencies should work more collaboratively with landowners to achieve outcomes for the landowner and fish habitat values. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Include landowners early in the process of repairing and replacing failing tide gates.
- When property is sold, tide gates should be identified in the property description so there are no potential hidden pitfalls for the new owner.
- Provide more information and education for landowners with tide gates on options for them to repair or replace tide gates. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Agencies need to have more empathy for landowners needs and goals for their property. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Landowners need technical support from a group or individual that can help write grants to secure additional funding for tide gate replacements.
- Tide gate owners include cities, counties and other entities as well as agricultural producers.

Ideas for consideration by the Work Group

1. **Recognize the importance of agriculture** in the repair and replacement of tide gates. Develop approaches that ensure **landowners have a greater say** in what happens on their property and this can be done if the agencies take a more empathetic and collaborative approach. This includes effects not only on the existing

property but adjacent landowners who may be impacted or benefited from repairing or replacing a tide gate.

2. Agencies should **develop information and education materials and training** for landowners with tide gates that outline options for them to repair or replace tide gates. All information should be developed in a manner that is easy to follow and understand. Some examples include:
   - Clearly outline what can be done under maintenance and repair and what is required to replace a tide gate.
   - Clarify what landowners can do to clean ditches behind tide gates to insure properly functioning systems.
   - Clarify where mitigation is required and not required during maintenance activities.

3. **Develop a local list of groups, individuals and contractors** that can help a landowner through the process of securing permits, deciding which design options to use and secure needed funding.

Theme 2: Tide Gate Inventory

- Complete an inventory of tide gates and in particular who owns the tide gate and is responsible for maintenance, repair and replacement of the tide gate. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- There are jurisdictional/ownership issues around tide gates that need to be resolved/addressed. For some tide gates, it is unclear who owns and who is responsible for maintenance. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Inventory will help decision-makers/legislators understand scale/scope of issue.
- Recognize that tide gate owners include cities, counties and other entities as well as agricultural producers – needs to be reflected in inventory.

Ideas for consideration by the Work Group

1. **Conduct a comprehensive inventory of all tide gates** using publicly available information. Following the inventory, work with landowners who are willing to voluntarily participate to better understand the current condition of their tide gates. This will help to **develop a list of tide gates needed to be repaired or replaced.**

2. **Clarify tide gate ownership** for those tide gates where there is confusion about who owns and is responsible for tide gate maintenance.

Theme 3: Funding

- Funding should be flexible to adapt to new science as it comes along and recognize a landowner's needs.
- Strong need to develop a collaborative funding process between agencies to spread limited dollars farther. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Prioritization approach needs to take into account differing agency missions and requirements in order to be effective.
- Clarify what constitutes maintenance vs repair/replacement. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Funding options should take into account different sizes of tide gates, public benefits funding and dollars available for removal of tide gates where landowners wish to remove them.
- Develop a funding system to help landowners who need cost share assistance to replace expensive tide gates. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- If public benefits are required for tide gate repair or replacement, then public dollars should help pay for those public benefits. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Secure funding for landowners to replace or remove a tide gate that have no fish benefits.
- NRCS should develop a funding system for Oregon tide gates similar to what is occurring in Washington and California.

Ideas for consideration by the Work Group

1. **Review what other states are doing** to fund the repair or replacement of failing tide gates to determine what might work in Oregon that we are not currently doing.

2. **Develop funding opportunities** for tide gates that need to be replaced that are not a high priority for fish passage, but have other strong public benefits like protection of transportation or community infrastructure, water quality or flood reduction.

3. Since it is clear that there is now and will be a growing need to repair or replace tide gates now and into the future, there needs to be a **task force convened to develop funding strategies** to assist landowners with public benefits derived from them participating in this effort for both the legislature and congressional funding opportunities.

Theme 4: Engineering Options

- Agencies should certify/approve more contractors or designs to repair and replace tide gates.
- Need more engineering options to fix/repair tide gates vs essentially one option that is very expensive. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Recognize sea level rise in engineering solutions so we don't have to come back and replace tide gates because sea level rise wasn't considered
- Regulatory agencies should help with alternate solutions vs one size fits all approach. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- There needs to be cheaper solutions made available that can pass agency muster. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Fish-friendly tide gates may not be needed in all cases.
- Need clear definition of the difference between an 'irrigation control structure' and a tide gate.

Ideas for consideration by the Work Group

1. **Review what other states are doing** to develop new engineering solutions to repair or replace failing tide gates to determine what might work in Oregon that we are not currently doing.

2. **Develop an agency (federal and state) approved list of various tide gate options** that can be used under different circumstances from small replacements to large replacements. Consider a variety of options that include **low-cost engineering options** that expand designs available to landowners and options available to contractors.

Theme 5: Regulations, permitting, and streamlining

- Agencies should not set the regulatory bar so high that it can't be achieved with a landowner's consent.
- Develop a General Type Permit for tide gate replacements. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Work with landowners to approve permits in advance (pre-approval process) so landowners don't have to wait so long to secure the necessary permits when a tide gate needs replacement. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Establish a lead agency or single point of contact at state and federal level to help be an advocate or an ombudsman to help landowners through regulatory maze. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Increase agency alignment for requirements to repair or replace tide gates; improves consistency and makes process more streamlined for applicants (**multiple meeting responses)**
- Develop a simplified permit for emergency repairs. Some agencies already have system in place so use their model. **(multiple meeting responses)**

- Provide opportunities for landowners to have regulatory certainty when they replace a tide gate that they have met regulatory requirements. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Identify permitting approach that minimizes risk to landowners so a landowner is willing to participate.
- Evaluate need for fines. Work with landowners to achieve objectives of both parties.
- Fish passage regulations can be onerous and costly to a landowner and it is recommended the legislature review the impacts and costs of ODFW's OAR's and the ORS concerning this issue. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Maintenance and repair practices of a drainage system that is not converting the land use but maintaining the existing land use is historic and should not require mitigation. **(multiple meeting responses)**

Ideas for consideration by the Work Group

1. **Establish an 'ombudsmans' office** to assist tide gate owners in navigating the relevant permitting and other requirements for tide gate repair and replacement, as well as permits required to address associated infrastructure (levies, interior gates, ditches, etc.)

2. Research ways to provide **'permitting in advance'** of the need to replace a tide gate so tide gate owners can quickly replace gates when the need arises.

3. **Review what other states are doing** to streamline regulatory approaches to repair or replace failing tide gates to determine what might work in Oregon that we are not currently doing.

4. **Analyze state agency statutes and rules** affecting tide gates to look for efficiencies and ways to reduce costs of compliance with repair or replacement of tide gates. With federal agencies support, task force could also review federal requirements for streamlining options. Ensure **regulations are applied consistently** up and down the coast and lower Columbia River.

5. Assess the feasibility of a **one-stop General Permit** that streamlines the permitting processes for repairing or replacing tide gates.

6. Develop a streamlined **simplified permit for an emergency repair**. Need to define an emergency repair so it is clear when an emergency repair can take place.

7. **Develop a Safe Harbor certificate or Habitat Conservation Plan** so that once a project is completed to agency satisfaction, the landowner is protected for a certain period of time from further requirements. Look for pilot locations to test this model.

8. **Review rules and regulations** affecting a landowner's ability to clean and maintain ditches behind tide gates to ensure proper flow of water in the system.

9. Identify and agree to have one state agency and one federal agency as the **primary point of contact** for a landowner wishing to repair or replace a tide gate. They would be responsible for shepherding the landowner through the permitting process.

Theme 6: On-the-Ground Projects

- Once projects are implemented, need a safe harbor provision or regulatory assurances to protect against having to replace tide gates prior to failure. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Need to be able to clean out ditches behind tide gates because if you don't tide gates don't function properly. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Clarify manmade ditches vs natural ditches (former streams) and what is allowed for cleaning/maintaining these ditches.
- Landowners need clear expectations and desired outcomes in order to participate. **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Develop a set of guidelines and information sheets that are clear and can help landowners weave their way through the process to repair or replace a tide gate **(multiple meeting responses)**
- Tide gate replacements, failures and removals can have effects on surrounding landowners that need to be considered.

Oregon
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item M-2 – Follow-Up from Tide Gate Literature Review
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides a summary and update of OWEB's next steps resulting from the findings and recommendations from the Tide Gate Literature Review Report.

II. Background

The board's Monitoring Subcommittee and staff have identified tide gate restoration investments as a priority area to investigate via programmatic effectiveness monitoring. Tide gate restoration encompasses projects that remove tide gates, and also projects that replace tide gates with fish-friendly designs. Tide gate restoration projects can be costly and complex to design and implement. In addition, natural resource experts have raised concerns about the aging tide gate infrastructure in the state (see Agenda Item M-1). Oregon has seen an increasing number of failing tide gates and a growing need for tide gate restoration projects.

Due to these emerging issues, OWEB identified the need to compile existing knowledge and information about the effects of tide gate restoration projects, including findings from existing monitoring of these projects. In January 2018, staff and partners from Oregon State University (OSU) presented to the board the results of a literature review of existing materials from the Pacific Northwest that describes the effects of tide gate restoration projects. This presentation summarized the key findings and lessons learned from this review and proposed recommendations based on findings of the literature review. The Tide Gate Literature Review Report is available on OWEB's website at: https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/data-reporting/EM/Pages/Tide-Gates.aspx.

III. Progress Update

In the context of this work, OWEB's role is twofold:

1) As a funder of on-the-ground tide gate restoration, technical assistance, and monitoring, the agency is interested in ensuring we help share learnings from past investments to inform the quality and success of future projects; and

2) As one of multiple agency and local partners in the Tide Gate Partnership, the agency can assist with the convening of discussions around priority topics.

With these roles in mind, staff reviewed the range of recommendations from the OSU report, compiling these into a detailed table organized by several themes: planning, implementation of restoration actions, monitoring, and communications/other. The recommendations then were 1) categorized by appropriate lead and 2) phased by logical timing, considering dependencies such as coordination with partners, necessary outreach/communication, etc. Likely audiences for follow-up regarding technical findings and recommendations include restoration practitioners and review team members. In addition, staff have internally discussed which of these findings and recommendations are most applicable to the efforts of the Tide Gate Partnership.

In September 2018, staff met with the board's Monitoring Subcommittee to review the high-level findings and recommendations from the OSU report, and outline proposed next steps that staff tentatively identified as priorities for near-term implementation. Subcommittee members provided feedback about areas of focus during the next year, as outlined in Section IV below.

IV. Next Steps

Priority next steps identified by staff and affirmed by the Monitoring Subcommittee focus on communicating key findings and considerations when planning, designing and monitoring tide gate restoration projects on the Oregon Coast. Specifically, staff will undertake the following work in the coming year:

1) Developing a lessons learned/considerations document(s), based on findings from past investments and informed by the OSU literature review, for restoration practitioners and review teams;
2) In coordination with the Tide Gate Partnership, gathering information about other tide gate programs (e.g., State of Washington's Farm, Fish, Flood initiative, hydrodynamic modeling work); and
3) In coordination with agency and local partners, continue to explore opportunities to invest in the monitoring of tide gate projects and scope additional monitoring needs.

In addition to these next steps that will be pursued by staff, the Tide Gate Partnership is planning for a presentation to that group by Dr. Jon Souder about the tide gate literature review findings in Fall 2018.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Conservation Partnership Request
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Oregon's Conservation Partnership's (Partnership) accomplishments to date for the biennium and provides a funding recommendation for the remainder of the Partnership's biennial grant.

II. Background

The Partnership includes The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC), Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD), Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), and Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network (OCEAN). These separate organizations collaborate to deliver technical support, member services, program development, training, and outreach to their stakeholders.

For the 2017-2019 biennium, OWEB staff proposed increased funding for the Partnership to increase its delivery of services to its stakeholders. The total recommended award by staff was $500,000. At the July 2017 meeting, the board awarded $450,000, with the requirement that the staff provide an update to the board prior to awarding the Partnership the remaining $50,000 of funding.

III. Accomplishments

The Partnership has been working to increase communication and coordination among the organizations with meetings of the executive directors and the boards. The Partnership has also been working to increase the delivery of services to stakeholders and staff will provide an overview of accomplishments at the board meeting. Highlights include:

- Delivery of three-day CONNECT conference in Seaside with 332 individuals and 69 sessions involving Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), watershed councils, and land trusts from across the state.
- Distribution of the annual State of the Lands report.
- Worked collaboratively with stakeholders to execute an earned media strategy featuring April OWEB grant awards and highlighting the importance of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

- Held monthly 'Third Thursday' training webinars for watershed councils, SWCDs, and land trust staff. Topics included:
    - How to think like an OWEB reviewer
    - Developing your core message
    - Using media
    - Lessons in collaboration
    - AmeriCorps program
    - Cultural resource protection
    - Databases for river and watershed groups.

The Partnership has many additional activities planned for the biennium, including the CONNECT 2019 conference, monthly webinars, regional meetings with stakeholders, continued media efforts, and engaging with OWEB and local partners to celebrate 20 years of conservation in Oregon.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award an additional $50,000 to the Partnership in grant #218-8006-15907 for a total award of $500,000 for the biennium.

Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Governor's Priorities, Post-Fire Response
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff request the board support immediate technical assistance needs required for a local response to catastrophic wildfire impacts to watershed health on private lands as a result of wildfires in north-central Oregon. Normal project delivery mechanisms through OWEB's Open Solicitation Technical Assistance (TA) offering are not suited to the rapid response the situation requires. Based on conversations with Governor Brown's office, funds would be drawn from the Governor's Priorities line item in the spending plan.

The north-central Oregon fires require a quick and proactive response to prevent further impacts to the watersheds, including impacts to ESA-listed salmon and steelhead.

II. Background

North-central Oregon experienced an extreme fire season in 2018. Fires in Wasco, Sherman, and Gilliam counties burned over 307,000 acres. Attachment A provides a description of the larger fires that occurred the across the counties. Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) are working closely with local, state, and federal partners to coordinate resources to address the damage caused by these fires. Primary concerns are soil erosion on crop and rangeland, loss of riparian and upland vegetation, damaged fences that protect sensitive areas from livestock damage, potential for invasive species colonization of disturbed sites, and damaged forestland that will impact watershed functions.

The fires impacted both public and private lands. On the federal lands impacted by the fire, Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) teams move swiftly to assess and implement immediate actions to protect and minimize detrimental impacts from fires and wet season runoff. While BAER coordinates with other federal agencies and private landowners, there is not a similar rapid response designed to assess impacts and verify the burn severity and intensity in order to prioritize and develop actions to meet the restoration needs on private lands.

Although OWEB does not currently have a program designed to quickly respond to natural disasters, it does have a rich history of such responsiveness, including assistance with drought and salmon fishery closures.

III. Proposal

The SWCDs will work with private landowners affected in the fires to inventory damage to natural resources and develop conservation plans. This will include landowner engagement through events and media, coordination with partner agencies, site visits to conduct inventory, GIS mapping and analysis, and project prioritization. The SWCDs will assist landowners in weighing alternatives and choosing the best restoration plans to address critical post-fire recovery needs and direct them to appropriate funding opportunities.

IV. Recommendation

Staff requests that 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 north-central Oregon fires on private lands in an amount not to exceed $60,000, to be taken from the Governor's Priorities line item in the spending plan.

Attachments

A. Description of 2018 wildfires in north-central Orgon.

Description of Wildfires in North-Central Oregon

The **Boxcar Fire** was a wildfire that started near the town of Maupin, in Wasco County. The fire started on June 21, 2018 due to a lightning strike and burned 100,207 acres due to dry, windy conditions.

The **Substation Fire** started near The Dalles in the late afternoon on July 17, 2018. Strong winds caused the fire to grow rapidly, with the fire moving over 18 miles in days. Agricultural and recreational areas suffered heavy damage and by July 18 Oregon Governor Kate Brown had declared a state of emergency, which included calling the Oregon National Guard to assist with fighting the fire. As of July 23, the fire had destroyed 78,425 acres across Wasco and Sherman Counties.

The **Long Hollow Fire** was first reported on July 26, 2018, at 4:45 pm in a field southeast of Dufur, in Wasco County. The fire was started by farm equipment. Dry temperatures and strong winds led to the fire's rapid growth into the evening into the canyon of the Deschutes River. A portion of the river and Highway 216 were closed as a result. The Long Hollow Fire burned 34,097 acres in both Wasco and Sherman Counties.

The **South Valley Fire** was a wildfire that started west of the town of Dufur in Wasco County. The fire grew fast, burning almost 3,500 acres by the first evening. Level three evacuations were put in place and Governor Kate Brown call into action the emergency conflagration act as a result of the fire, sending resources. The South Valley Fire burned 20,043 acres and caused the evacuation of 400 people and threatened 100 homes.

The **Stubblefield Fire** was a wildfire that started six miles west of Condon in Gilliam County. The fire was started on August 17th due to a lightning strike and burned 54,221 acres due to dry, windy conditions. The rugged John Day Canyons in the Ferry Canyon and Thirtymile watersheds limited the ability of fire crews to efficiently contain the fire. This led to ~10% of the Thirtymile watershed and ~25% of the Ferry Canyon watershed being burned. Both of these watersheds contain Endangered Species Act (ESA) critical habitat for steelhead. Without fire restoration this habitat may be compromised due to winter weather and invasive species colonization.

The **Lonerock Fire** was a wildfire that started seven miles northwest of Lonerock in Gilliam County. The fire was started on August 17th due to a lightning strike and burned 5,055 acres due to dry, windy conditions. The rugged John Day Canyons in the Rock Creek watershed limited the ability of fire crews to efficiently contain the fire. This led to ~3.5 miles of Lonerock Creek being burned. Lonerock Creek is listed as ESA critical habitat for steelhead.

The **Jackknife Fire** was a wildfire that started east of the town of Grass Valley, in Sherman County near the John Day River. The fire started on June 21, 2018 due to a lightning strike and burned 15,590 acres due to dry, windy conditions.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD January 15, 2019

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
October 16, 2018 Board Meeting

Curry Public Library
94341 3rd Street
Gold Beach, OR 97444

MINUTES: Some agenda items are discussed out of order.
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://youtu.be/jLS2JsaMp3M).

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Kile, Molly
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
McAlister, Liza Jane
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason

ABSENT
Buckmaster, Bruce
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT
Board of Forestry

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Appel, Lisa
Barnes, Darika
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Fetcho, Ken
Greer, Sue
Grenbemer, Mark
Hartstein, Eric
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT
Beamer, Kelley
Beeken, Max
Brooks, Perry
Colby, John
Coordes, Regan
Desmond, Jim
Dunne, Mel
Freitas, Anna
Gall, Ivan
Gilbert, Amanda
Harper, Drew
Klock, Clair
Lutz, Haley
Preeg-Riggsby, Terri
Purpura, Holly
Siebert, Paul
Timchak, Kelly
Wahl, Mary
Weber, Gregory

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser. In the absence of Co-Chair Randy Labbe, OWEB Board Member Jason Robison accepted co-chair responsibilities for this meeting.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:01:15)
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 June Meeting Minutes (Audio = 0:44:40)
The minutes of the June 27, 2018 meeting in Cascade Locks were presented to the board for approval.

> Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the minutes from the June 27, 2018 meeting in Cascade Locks. The motion was seconded by Laura Masterson. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:45:55)

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 0:47:00)
Representatives from the Monitoring, Focused Investments, and Operating Capacity subcommittees provided updates to the full board on current subcommittee topics and activities.

D. Public Comment (Audio = 0:58:10)
There was no public comment.

E. Council Capacity Grants Guidance (Audio = 0:58:25)
Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff presented a review of the staff-proposed revisions to OWEB's Council Capacity Grants guidance document. Shaff requested board action to approve those revisions.

> Co-Chair Jason Robison moved the board approve the changes to the 2019-2021 council capacity grant program and guidance document as described in Attachment B to the Council Capacity Grant Guidance Updates staff report. The motion was second by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:14:55)

F. Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (Audio = 1:15:30)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB's Regional Program Representatives presented the Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering. Williams provided a summary of the project application review process and evaluation criteria, a summary of projects submitted and recommended, and other additional information on the grant offering, including projects proposed for Salmon License Plate funding. Each of the Program Representatives highlighted a project from their region that demonstrated excellence in meeting the evaluation criteria.

> Due to the absence of a quorum for awarding grant funds, no motion was offered. Voting board members present indicated unanimous support to approve the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment D to the Spring 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering. A vote will be held during a conference call scheduled for Friday, October 19 at 11:00 a.m. when a quorum of the board members can be present. (Audio = 3:00:00)

P. Director's Update (Audio = 3:02:10)
P-1: OWEB 20th Anniversary
Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff briefed the board about OWEB's 20th anniversary promotions that are being coordinated with Oregon Lottery throughout 2019, including a television commercial, billboards, and a landing page on the Lottery website which highlights its beneficiaries to demonstrate the impact of Lottery revenues. Shaff presented the commercial and some project videos from the website. She also discussed some of the events being organized for the board, staff, and stakeholders to celebrate the 20th anniversary over the

next year at board meetings and around the state. Member Molly Kile suggested inviting restoration workers to come and celebrate at the Capitol.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden asked the board members to view and share these videos and then provided a brief update on OWEB's new logo, which will be launched in 2019.

P-6: Salmon License Plates (Audio = 3:41:00)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden informed the board that OWEB and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will be working with the Oregon Department of Transportation's Department of Motor Vehicles and the Oregon Lottery to develop and promote a new design for the 20-year-old salmon license plate. Loftsgaarden said she will keep the board informed of progress on this project at the next two board meetings, and will request an endorsement in July from the board and in September from the Parks Commission, with a public campaign to launch the plates in October and November.

P-2: OAHP Update (Audio = 3:48:55)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on the work of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission since the June board meeting, which included rulemaking activities and a solicitation for letters of interest from eligible organizations who have viable conservation easement or covenant grant projects that could apply for funding under the draft proposed rules. Williams reviewed OWEB's budget request for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program and the next steps for the commission.

P-3: Annual Performance Progress Report (APPR) (Audio = 3:55:25)
Deputy Director Renee Davis provided an overview of OWEB's APPR to the Oregon Legislature and the 12 Key Performance Measures that indicate the agency's performance and outcomes compared with its targets.

P-4: Online Systems (Audio = 4:07:15)
Deputy Director Renee Davis updated the board about OWEB's online grant application system and described the extensive improvements that have been made to the system's functionality during the last year.

G. Board Discussion with Oregon Water Resources Department (Audio = 4:15:30)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Oregon Water Resources Department Field Services Division Administrator Ivan Gall addressed the board on legal options available for protecting water instream, including water measurement, water leasing, forbearance agreements, and permanent instream transfers.

H. Strategic Plan Update (Audio = 5:13:45)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden reported to the board on progress made on strategic plan implementation and a broad overview of how staff will communicate on this issue going forward.

H-1: Tracking and Staff Capacity (Audio = 5:14:30)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden walked the board through a template developed by staff to track quarterly progress on each of the eight strategic plan priorities and asked for board feedback on the structure and content.

H-2: Board Subcommittees (Audio = 5:36:30)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden discussed how staff and board would like to establish regular check-ins with board subcommittees at their meetings for strategic plan priorities that are within their purview, with some overlap among committees, to continue to push and monitor progress in implementing OWEB's strategic plan.

I. Secure, Safe, and Resilient Water Future (Audio = 5:46:00)
Deputy Director Renee Davis updated the board on the Governor's emerging state initiative to ensure resiliency in water systems across the state with a 100-year vision. Davis explained her involvement on the Core Team—a deputy-level roundtable previously created in the early years of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds—to further develop the water vision and continue work on the inventory of built and natural infrastructure and water assets, Director Loftsgaarden's leadership role in this initiative, and how the effort connects to OWEB's strategic plan.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
October 17, 2018 Board Meeting

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(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://youtu.be/9MwQeHxdiUs).

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Brandt, Stephen
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Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Kile, Molly
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
McAlister, Liza Jane
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Appel, Lisa
Barnes, Darika
Davis, Renee
Fetcho, Ken
Greer, Sue
Hartstein, Eric
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT
Beamer, Kelley
Boyer, Barbara
Coordes, Regan
Freitas, Anna
Klock, Clair
Minster, Erin
Ojua, Larry
Schmierer, Ann
Swanson, Matt
Timchak, Kelly

ABSENT
Buckmaster, Bruce
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT
Board of Forestry

J. 2019-2021 Spending Plan (Audio = 0:01:15)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden led the board through initial discussions around developing the 2019-2021 Spending Plan, and initiated a conversation with the board about the tie between the spending plan and OWEB's 2018 strategic plan.

K. Public Comment (Audio = 1:05:45)
The board was addressed by Clair Klock from Klock Farm and the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District to promote clean ground water and surface water in uplands area projects and to support the Governor's concept of the 100-year Water Vision.

The board was also addressed by Erin Minster from the Curry Soil and Water Conservation District and Curry Watershed Partnership, who came to thank the board for their support of the Oregon State Weed Board program.

L. Land Acquisitions (Audio = 1:13:20)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams brought before the board a request to transfer ownership of two parcels of land in Yamhill County, known as the Yamhill Oaks Preserve, which were acquired through past Land Acquisition grant awards, from ownership by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to ownership by the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Williams also asked the board to consider an extension of the grant agreement associated with the Botts Marsh acquisition project.

Public Comment:
Jim Desmond, executive director for TNC in Oregon, came before the board to support approval for the conveyance of Yamhill Oaks Preserve from TNC to Yamhill SWCD. Desmond said TNC will also transfer funds in a stewardship endowment for the property to Yamhill SWCD.

Larry Ojua from the Yamhill SWCD also voiced approval for the conveyance of Yamhill Oaks Preserve from TNC to Yamhill SWCD and discussed the integrity of the operations, staff, board, and future of the Yamhill SWCD, which was endorsed in an organizational capacity review by OWEB staff. Barbara Boyer, chair of the SWCD board, also voiced her support for the conveyance of Yamhill Oaks Preserve from TNC to Yamhill SWCD

> Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board extend the closing deadline to October 31, 2019 for the Botts Marsh project (OWEB grant # 217-9901), with all other conditions of the project to remain unchanged The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:40:40)
>
> Laura Masterson moved the board approve conveyance of the Yamhill Oaks Preserve (OWEB grant #208-108 and #212-108) from The Nature Conservancy to the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District, conditioned on staff and Department of Justice approval of the final form of all conveyance-related documents. The motion was seconded by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:53:20)

M. Tide Gates Programs (Audio = 1:54:30)
Deputy Director Renee Davis provided a framework for the agenda item.

M-1: Tide Gate Partnership (Audio = 1:57:45)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden explained the Tide Gate Partnership and updated the board on the partnership's activities. She briefly highlighted the items the partnership is working on, and how they connect directly and indirectly to the work of OWEB.

M-2: Follow up From the Tide Gate Literature Review (Audio = 2:08:10)
Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho reminded the board about the findings and recommendations from a recent literature review of tide gate restoration projects by Oregon State University. They then presented next steps for communicating key findings and considerations of the review to landowners, restoration practitioners, review teams, and partner organizations working on tide gates and increasing understanding about the results and outcomes of tide gate investments.

N. Conservation Partnership Funding Request (Audio = 2:40:35)
Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff reviewed for the board the Oregon Conservation Partnership's (Partnership) accomplishments to date for the biennium. The Partnership includes The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC), Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD), Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), and Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network (OCEAN). These separate organizations collaborate with the assistance of OWEB funding to deliver technical support, member services, program development, training, and outreach to their stakeholders who are largely OWEB grantees. Shaff recommended the board approve funding the $50,000 remainder of the Partnership's biennial grant.

Public Comment: (Audio = 2:43:50)
Kelley Beamer from COLT, Kelly Timchak from NOWC, Terry Preeg Riggsby from OCEAN, and Anna Freitas from OACD came before the board to provide an overview of the partnership and how the organizations work together to support their request for the $50,000 remainder of the Partnership's biennial grant.

> Due to the absence of a quorum for awarding grant funds, no motion was offered. Voting board members present indicated unanimous support to award an additional $50,000 to the Conservation Partnership in OWEB grant #218-8006-15907, for a total award of $500,000 for the biennium. A vote will be held during a conference call scheduled for Friday, October 19 at 11:00 a.m. when a quorum of the board members can be present. (Audio = 3:01:50)

O. Governor's Priorities (Audio = 3:02:25)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein requested the board provide Governor's Priority funding for post-fire technical assistance.

O-1: Governor's Priorities – Post Fire Response (Audio = 3:02:50)
Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein requested the board provide up to $60,000 in Governor's Priority funding for post-fire technical assistance in north-central Oregon counties impacted by an extreme fire season.

O-2: Governor's Priorities – Post Fire Response in Wasco County (Audio = 3:12:08)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams requested the board provide an emergency bridge loan to the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District, to be reimbursed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service for post-fire technical assistance

> Due to the absence of a quorum for awarding grant funds, no motion was offered. Voting board members present indicated unanimous support to delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into grant agreements to implement technical assistance activities to identify and develop responses to immediate watershed health needs caused by the north-central Oregon fires on private lands in an amount not to exceed $60,000, to be taken from the Governor's Priorities line item in the 2017-19 spending plan. A vote will be held during a conference call scheduled for Friday, October 19 at 11:00 a.m. when a quorum of the board members can be present. (Audio = 3:18:30)
>
> Board members present also indicated unanimous support to add $10,000 of recaptured funds to the Governor's Priority line item of the 2017-2019 spending plan, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into a grant agreement with Wasco SWCD to

cover fees, closing costs, and interest on a loan to implement post-fire restoration, in an amount not to exceed $10,000, to be taken from the Governor's Priorities line item in the spending plan. A vote will be held during a conference call scheduled for Friday, October 19 at 11:00 a.m. when a quorum of the board members can be present. (Audio = 3:19:10)

P. Director's Update (Audio = 3:19:50)

P-5: Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring – "Telling the Restoration Story"

Deputy Director Renee Davis presented information about the current status of a new grant offering intended to help OWEB and grantees better communicate data findings and outcomes from investments in various types of restoration. Davis talked about the restoration stories in progress and expectations around the next steps for issuing grant agreements this fall and completed products in 2019.

Q. Other Business (Audio = 3:30:15)

The board co-chairs will respond to a public comment letter from Craig Patterson and invited other board members to provide feedback to the co-chairs.

Executive Director Loftsgaarden invited board members and public to attend a day at the Oregon State Capitol on February 22 to celebrate 20 years of conservation.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m. by Co-Chair Neuhauser. (Audio = 3:32:00)